

VFW *The Veterans' Voice*

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Edmonds VFW Post 8870

September 2023 - Vol. 21 No.2

PO Box 701, Edmonds, WA 98020 - 425-245-8545

Commander, Duane Bowman

commander@vfw8870.org

Newsletter Editor, Mike Denton, mikedenton44@gmail.com

Post Calendar

Staff Meeting: First Wed., **4:30 PM American Legion Hall (or online via Zoom)**

Post Meetings: Third Wed., **6:00 PM American Legion Hall (or online via Zoom)**

Post Auxiliary Meeting: (Questions: call or email Jo Boyett, 206-818-4212, joaboyett@cs.com)

Post meetings - Edmonds American Legion Hall (or online via "Zoom")

(Look for invitations with the link from which to join the meeting via Zoom in your email.)

Next Post Meeting Wednesday Sept. 20, Supper at 5:00 Meeting starts 6:00 PM



VFW Post 8870 is All American!



At the District 1 School of Instruction held at Post 2100 in Everett on September 15, Edmonds Post 8870 was among those receiving the "All American" award. The All American award goes to Posts who meet or exceed requirements laid out for such things as membership growth and participation in a wide variety of VFW activities, such as Poppy distribution, and various Relief Fund efforts, above and beyond those required of "All State" status.

Of course, this award is for the past VFW year's performance, so immediate Past Commander Carl Kurfess will wear the red & black All American cover, as would Jim Traner as Quartermaster for that period, were he still with us.

In the photo, District 1 Commander Terry Stenson, and Department of Washington Commander Craig Dougherty present the certificate to Commander Duane Bowman.

Well Done All!

August Post Meeting

Speaker: Dennis Gibb – On Formerly Incarcerated Veterans



Comrade Gibb, who served as a scout helicopter pilot in Vietnam and after a long career in the financial services, now works at Edmonds College, helping formerly incarcerated veterans to reestablish their lives following release. He presently works with some 40 such vets at the College who are furthering their education.

Dennis spoke to the Post meeting to propose that we add a new piece to our relief fund beneficiaries in the form of assistance to some of his formerly incarcerated veteran clients at the college. He proposed starting with one such veteran who would be selected from the college group in consultation with the Relief Committee. Dennis sees this assistance as aimed at helping getting these vets into housing and other basic needs until they are gainfully employed and able to function on their own. The post leadership has approved this proposal and will present the plan to the membership at the September meeting. We would begin with one veteran in the program and limit the support to one year.

The Ceremony was performed for Draping The Charter in memory of our beloved Comrade Jim Traner & Comrade Reagan's portrait of Jim displayed.

The minutes from the July meeting were read. The minutes were approved by the membership.

The Quartermasters report was reviewed and approved by the membership.

District 1. The District meeting will be on 09/09/2023 @ Post 2100 in Everett. Following the meeting there will be a School of Instruction that will go over the responsibilities/duties of Post officers.

New Business:

Comrade Joe Gray was nominated by Rose Gilliland to fill the vacant Quartermaster position. The nomination was 2nd by Brian Rowe. Upon a vote of the membership Joe Gray was elected as the new Post Quartermaster.

The following appointments were made by Post Commander Duane Bowman.

Office of the Day: Jeff McKinney
Membership : Jeff McKinney
Judge Advocate: Rose Gilliland

It was proposed by Dennis Peterson that we move \$2,000.00 from the Post Foundation Fund to the Post General Fund. By a vote of the membership the funds will be transferred by the Quartermaster.

The scholarships awarded in 2023 will be named the "Jim Traner Scholarship" in honor of Comrade Jim Traner.



In the photo above at left, Charlie Gaul displays a leaded glass ornament he created honoring Traner's Vietnam unit, the 11th Armored Cavalry.

Never Forget: September 11, 2001



On Monday, September 11, Several members of VFW Post 8870 attended the annual “Never Forget” observance at the 9/11 Memorial next to the downtown fire stations.

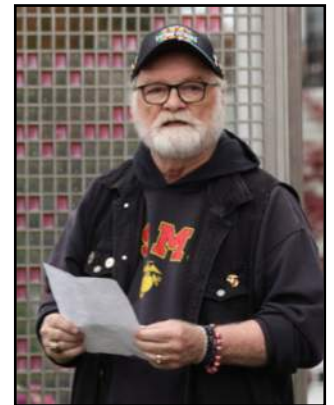
Among those who spoke at the event was Post 8870 member & USMC Veteran Michael Reagan who recalled a private meeting he and a fellow Marine had with President George W. Bush and First lady Laura Bush in February 2002 to present portraits Reagan had drawn of the two:

“The President of the United States walked up to me... looks at me in the face and he says, ‘They just killed 3,000 of our people and I am very angry.’ He was crying...the

president of the United States. All I could think in the back of my head was, ‘Something’s gonna change,’ and it has.”

A year later, Reagan started the Fallen Heroes Project, a nonprofit that commemorates people who died during 9/11 and the War on Terror, including information on their military service (if applicable) and their personal lives. Since then, he has drawn more than 9,000 portraits, mostly of soldiers, police officers and firefighters who had died in service to our country

“9/11 means a lot to me,” Reagan said. “I walk by here every day, doesn’t matter what time of the day, and I stand here and think about all the people I’ve worked with. I love the firemen. I love the policemen. Everybody in Edmonds knows that. Because 9/11 changed this place. We’re here to honor you and the memory of a lot of firefighters who are no longer with us. I’m here to just do this project. Nothing else should matter on 9/11, other than 9/11.”



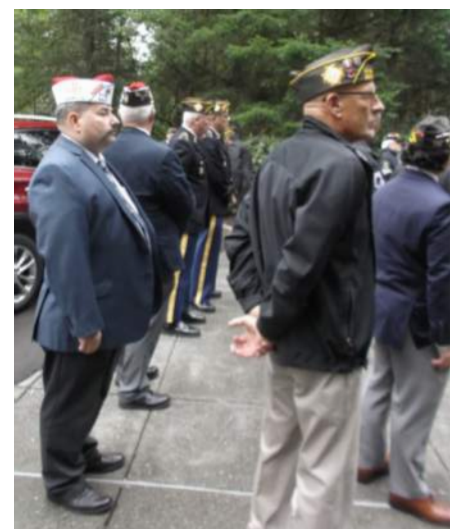
Traner Memorial Services Held

A memorial service was held on August 20 for Comrade Traner at the Edmonds Waterfront Center with a large group in attendance to remember Jim and support Terry and her family. Friends from Jim’s many affiliations around the Edmonds area, including representatives from VFW Post 8870, District 1 and Department, as well as many Rotarians and fellow fly fishers, were in attendance.



On July 29 he was interred in ceremonies at Mt. Tahoma National cemetery

At left, Comander Duane Bowman presents the flag to Terry Traner at the memorial service and at right, members of VFW are present



Haze Gray and Underway!

by Commander Duane Bowman

The Chief is always right



Recruiting at Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival



Past Commander Carl Kurfess represented the post at the VFW District 1 recruiting event during the Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival over the weekend of September 9-10.

VFW Post 2100 of Everett provides the logistics for this event and we have participated with them on it for the past few years.

In the photo at left, Past District 1 Commander Don Wischman is shown in front of the VFW booth..

A Few Reminders



VFW Auxilliary: All VFW members are asked to encourage their family members to join our Post Auxilliary. Their function is, in part, to support Post activities such as Poppy distribution, raffle ticket sales etc. Both organizations could use the help



Gold Star Mothers are collecting used books for JBLM. Members are urged to bring their used books for deposit in a collection bin, which will be located near the entrance of the Legion Hall.



VFW Polo Shirts: For those who ordered the new VFW polo shirts, they are now available. Bring your \$ 21.00 payment to the post meeting to pick up your shirt.

VFW Post 8870 presents:

“Honor & Remember” Raffle

This is your opportunity to help our Post support Veterans in need, by selling raffle tickets to your friends & family. Of course you may wish to win this one-of-a-kind image for your own wall at home!

Raffle tickets will be distributed to the members at the September Post meeting. If you can't make the meeting contact Commander Duane and we will get tickets to you. We will offer 500 tickets at \$ 10.00 each, to raise a total of \$ 5,000.00 for our ongoing Post operations.

Comrade Mike Reagan, is generously making this unique item available for our raffle. (In fact the whole project was Mike's idea!)

This project needs everyone's participation

Drawing will be held at the VFW Holiday Party, December 16, 2023.
Need not be present to win.



First Prize!
Signed and framed,
Original
SeaHawks Poster,
by our own famed Edmonds artist
Michael Reagan!
(USMC Vietnam combat veteran &
founder of the “Fallen Heroes” Project.)

(Actual frame may differ from that shown)

National POW/MIA Recognition Day. September 15

Over 81,000 Americans remain missing after fighting in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and more.

A Department of Defense division known as the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency works to locate, identify and return remains of the missing deceased to their families for burial.



Never Forget!



Its VFW student essay contest Time!

The contest is open to students residing in the Edmonds and Mukilteo School Districts. Students attending private schools or being home-schooled are eligible to enter the contest.

The Youth Essay Program is for students in grades 3-5. It requires an essay, not to exceed 250 words, that should address the topic, "What does the word "veteran" mean to you?" Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three essay winners in each of the three grade levels.

Students in grades 6-8 are eligible to enter the "Patriot's Pen" program. This requires a 300- to 400-word written essay on the topic, "How are you inspired by America?" Cash prizes are awarded for the first-, second- and third-place winning essays.

"Voice of Democracy," the third program, is an audio essay contest for students in grade 9-12. To enter, a student must prepare a three- to five-minute recording that addresses the topic, "What are the greatest attributes of our democracy?" Cash prizes will be awarded to the three entries judged to be the best.

The winning entries in each of the three contests will be forwarded to the VFW District level for further consideration.

Detailed instructions as well as an entry form that must accompany each submission can be obtained [online here](#). All contest entries, along with the completed entry form, must be submitted to VFW Post 8870 no later than Oct. 31, 2023. Youth Essay and Patriot Pen entries may be submitted online to scholarships@vfw8870.org or they can be mailed to VFW Post 8870, P.O. Box 701, Edmonds, WA

