



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

October 2023 - Vol. 21 No.3

The Veterans' Voice

Edmonds VFW Post 8870

All American Post 2022-23

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")

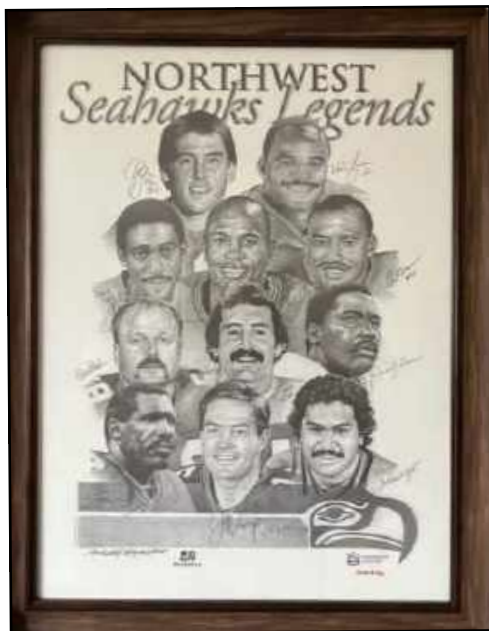
(Look for invitations with the link from which to join the meeting via Zoom in your email.)

Next Post Meeting Wednesday Oct. 18, Supper at 5:00 Meeting starts 6:00 PM

We will be dedicating "Traner's Corner"

VFW Post 8870 presents:

"Honor & Remember" Raffle



A reminder to all Post 8870 members: 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 again be distributed to the members at the October Post meeting. If you can't make the meeting contact Commander Duane (Commander@VFW 8870.com) and he will see that you get tickets.

We are offering 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!)

Turn in your sold ticket stubs and the money at the Post Meeting, or watch for the Commander's email on other scheduled opportunities.

This project needs everyone's participation

Drawing will be held at the VFW Holiday Party, December 16, 2023.

September Post Meeting

September Speaker



At the September Post meeting, Don Stapleton, who chairs our Youth Essay and Scholarship Committee, spoke about the annual VFW Youth Essay contests, which include the “Youth Essay” for grades 3-5, “Patriots Pen” grades 6-8 and “Voice of Democracy” for high school students.

The deadline for entries is Midnight, October 31, so if you know any eligible students, encourage them to get their entries in as soon as possible. Scholarship and cash awards total nearly \$ 3 million at the State and National Levels.

Minutes of Sept Post meeting

The Ceremony was performed for Undraping the Charter which was draped last month for Comrade Jim Traner.

The minutes from the August meeting were read and approved by the membership.

The Quartermasters report was reviewed and approved by the membership.

The Payment of expenses including website services, mailing expense, district dues, the meeting meal expenditures were approved by the membership:

Congratulations to immediate Past Post Commander Carl Kurfess and to all Post members for the Post's 2022-23 All American Post award. It was moved by Mike Denton/2nd by Bryan Rowe and approved by the membership that the Post should purchase a VFW “All American” Black hat for Carl in recognition of the achievement.

Tickets for the Post Honor & Remember raffle were handed out after today's meeting. Commander Duane Bowman will be at the American Legion hall from 4:30 to 5:30 every Wednesday to collect money or hand out more raffle tickets.

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

The next Post meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2023.



Buddy Poppies

Since Veterans Day falls on a Saturday this year, we are going to follow a different schedule for Buddy Poppy distribution. Many of our members are committed to other activities on the day of the holiday, so instead of our usual Friday & Saturday sessions we will staff tables on **Saturday, November 4 and Friday, November 10**, at QFC Edmonds (Westgate), QFC Mukilteo (Speedway) Town & Country Market, Mill Creek. Hours will be 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM



The more of us who are at these tables during the day, the more we raise for our Relief Fund. Please sign up at the Post meeting on Oct. 18 for one or more shifts. There will also be an on-line sign-up opportunity as well watch for email announcing the link. If you can't commit to full shifts, any time you can give to the cause is welcome. Friends and family are welcome to join our efforts as well.

Veterans Day Program

On Veterans Day, we will gather at the Edmonds Veterans Plaza for a ceremony to dedicate the newly inscribed concrete benches to the late Jim Traner and Comrade Ron Clyborne, who, together, led the effort to raise the funds and establish the Plaza as we see it today. We hope you will all join us.

Veterans Stand Down Held



Representatives from all 8 posts in VFW District 1 were there. Edmonds was represented by Commander Duane Bowman and Jr. Vice Commander Carl Kurfess & Dennis Gibbs.

In the photo above, Commander Duane speaks with a veteran with Dennis Gibbs in the background. At right, Carl Kurfess is shown with District 1 Commandner Terry Stinson and other District 1 VFW representatives.

The Stand-Down was held on 9/5/2023 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There were approximately 60 different service providers available to Veterans, ranging from Legal services, Gear Issue, VA giving Flu shots and signing up Veterans to the VA. Food was provided by the Elks of Everett. Various Military providers were available including VFW. DAV and American Legion. VOA provided eye and hearing tests and reader glasses.

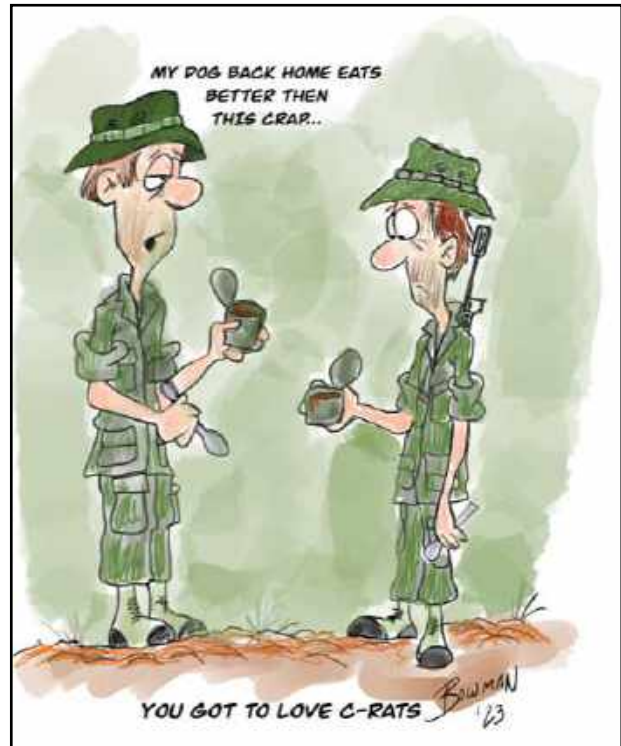


Nothing But the Best for Our Troops

by Duane Bowman (with text by Mike Denton

Meals for troops in the field have always been problematic. In earlier centuries, dried, or salt cured beef and pork with a variety of beans, some very hard break and whatever the troops could forage from the immediate vicinity were what comprised rations. No doubt the 'C' rations of WWII and beyond were an improvement. While I hear more recent vets do not have a really high opinion of the culinary quality of today's MREs, I expect they are something of an improvement as well.

Navy sailors of prior generations lived mostly on that same salt meat, beans, hard tack bread and oatmeal, sometimes supplemented with fresh meat and vegetables/fruit early in a voyage. Fortunately, those of us who served in the 20th century, when refrigeration became available aboard ship, fared considerably better.



From the October VFW Dispatch

The following appeared in the VFW Dispatch for October, which you should all have received via email, however there seems to be some concern over how well informed we are about the process of PACT Act claims, and some scams that are appearing, so it bears repeating:

PACT Act claim sharks are targeting veterans at unprecedented rates. If you've been on social media or checked your email inbox recently, you've no doubt received countless solicitations from law firms or agencies advertising their assistance with your VA claim in the wake of the PACT Act.

From our National Veterans Service experts, here are some important things to remember:

NEVER pay for claims assistance. Presumptive claims are straightforward and can easily be handled by any VA-accredited claims representative.

File a claim for any PACT Act conditions. Contact a VFW Accredited Service Officer today to discuss the PACT Act and what it means for you.

Hold off on committing to a Camp Lejeune lawsuit until VA publishes how the offset will affect your settlement and benefits.

If you've been fighting for years, you may think a PACT Act claim will be complicated. Good news: Presumptive claims are some of the simplest claims because VA is conceding that your illness happened because you went somewhere bad.

Stay up-to-date with the PACT Act and what it means for your claim by visiting PACTActInfo.org.