

# VFW



*Ballard Eagleson Patriot*  
Post 3063, Ballard, WA  
March-April 2015

**Veterans of Foreign Wars No One Does More for Veterans**

## Upcoming Events Mar-Aug 2015

March 5, 7:00 PM Business Meeting  
March 19, 6:00 PM Social Evening/Dinner  
April 2, 7:00 PM Business Meeting  
April 16, 6:00 PM Social Evening/Dinner  
May 2, 11:30 AM District 2 Meeting  
May 7, 7:00 PM Business Meeting  
May 21, 6:00 PM Social Evening/Dinner  
June 4, 7:00 PM; Business Meeting  
June 18, 6:00 PM Social Evening/Dinner  
July 2, 7:00 PM Business Meeting  
July 16, 6:00 PM Social Evening/Dinner  
August 6, 7:00 PM Business Meeting  
August 20, 6:00 PM Social Evening/Dinner

## Social Evening Programs

The Membership Committee of Post 3063 announces the beginning of a series of monthly informative and entertaining programs at each social evening (third Thursday of the month) following the dinner. The first program, March 19 at 7:00 PM, will provide information on how acupuncture can help veterans. Brenda Loew, M.Ac., EAMP, professionally licensed since 1991, has a family practice in Seattle specializing in Japanese-style palpation-based acupuncture. She has been teaching post-graduate acupuncture programs for over 20 years.

Brenda is currently an adjunct faculty member at Bastyr Center for Natural Health as well as at Wu Hsing Tao School in Seattle, Middle Way Acupuncture Institute in Mt. Vernon, WA and Pacific Rim College in Victoria, B.C. and teaches at other venues through the U.S. and Canada. She co-founded and is a team leader at [Seattle Acupuncture for Veterans Clinic](#), a free community acupuncture clinic for active military, veterans and their families. She can be reached at [gentleacupuncture@earthlink.net](mailto:gentleacupuncture@earthlink.net) and her full resume can be accessed at [www.stillpointhealth.net/brenda-loew.html](http://www.stillpointhealth.net/brenda-loew.html). Her colleague, Christian Curtis and a clinic client, Ray Rickey, a WWII veteran who has been helped by acupuncture, will be part of the program.

## Commander's Letter



Hopefully you all have more or less recovered from our heartbreaking super bowl defeat. As we absorbed our pain, accompanied by the occasional hangover and/or heartburn induced by nachos and hot wings, we again should remind ourselves that most of the planet wishes they had our problems.

On the other side of the world, Islamic terrorists (I'll say it even if some highly placed individuals won't) are making unannounced visitations on villages and inflicting depravities on innocent civilians reminiscent of the Dark Ages. That's not happening here, and likely never will as long as we're vigilant thanks to the endeavors of our veterans such as yourselves.

## Quartermaster's Update



The inaugural issue of our resurrected newsletter was impressive as was the response. Kudos to Editor Charles for getting us off to a great start.

In this issue I'd like to tell you a little about the administration of your post.

About halfway through our VFW year we stand at 126 members, having had 12 deaths but gaining 15 new members. Of those 126 members, four have not paid dues since 2013 so will be dropped from the rolls this June. If you are one of those delinquent members please bring your account up to date. If you need monetary assistance please call 206-972-2135.

Eighty-seven of our members have email addresses and 15 are known to have none. Of the remaining 24, some are out of the area and some are just plain out of contact. If you receive this by USPS and have an email address please email us at [vfw3063@earthlink.net](mailto:vfw3063@earthlink.net) or call the number above so we can add your name to the email list.

Speaking of email, every month we get bounced emails from our email list. Sometimes this happens because of a clerical error but usually it means that the member has changed email addresses and not notified us. We want to keep you informed of what's happening at your post so please let us know if you change your contact information including USPS address, email address or phone number. Yours in comradeship, Harold

To submit items to the newsletter, send an email to [editor@macander.com](mailto:editor@macander.com) or mail to the Post at 2812 NW Market St., Ballard, WA 98107. Material must be received five days before the end of even numbered months



## Ia Drang Valley, November 1965



A total of 242 men of the 7th Cavalry were killed in the Ia Drang Valley between the 14th and 18th of November 1965. David Vancellette was in C Company, 2nd Battalion and died at LZ Albany on November 17th. I know this because a few days

later a frantic call went out from the Army Mortuary in Oakland CA for burial escort volunteers. I volunteered and was quickly trained and assigned to escort David to Oxford, MA.

After arrival the undertaker took me over to David's parents' house, We went in, sat down at the kitchen table and started talking. The father insisted he wanted to view the body. However, the Army had sealed the coffin and given me instructions to keep it closed. The father was insistent and no matter what I said, he still wanted to view the body. The undertaker, who knew David, stepped in and offered to do this identification and the father reluctantly agreed. We went back to the funeral home and opened the casket. I'll spare you what we found. However, nothing was identifiable by sight. We went back to the parents; the undertaker said the body was definitely David as I nodded in agreement.

It's coming up on the 50th anniversary of this battle and I often think about David and the time when we were soldiers. [Bill Griffith]

The Post Membership Committee is discussing taking a booth at the [Greenwood Car Show](#) to distribute poppies and perhaps recruit some new members. The event this year is Saturday, June 27th from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 PM. Any supplies such as a table, chairs, brochures etc. have to be off-loaded at the show by 6:00 AM. Breakdown of the setup must be after 4:00 PM.

If we do this, we will need volunteers to setup, staff the booth and for takedown. The booth needs two people at all times to allow for restroom breaks, etc. Assuming two shifts of four hours each plus the setup and takedown and at a minimum two people per shift in reserve for last minute problems, we need at least 12 volunteers, although the reserve would only be called in if needed. If you are able and willing to help, contact Harold Rodenberger at 206-972-2135 or email [VFW3063@earthlink.net](mailto:VFW3063@earthlink.net).

## 2014-2015 Post Officers

Commander - Aaron Stoltz  
 Sr Vice Commander - James Williams  
 Jr Vice Commander - Nestor Tamayao  
 Quartermaster - Harold Rodenberger  
 Chaplain - Tony Parks  
 Trustees - Russ Seelig, Gail Engler,  
 Jimmie Souther  
 Adjutant/Service Officer - John Hoglund

## Service Officer Updates

The Work Source Veterans Services Orientation meetings will be held on the first and third Tuesdays in Renton, at 2707 I Street NE, Auburn, WA 98002, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM to acquaint any vets with experts on vet services for employment, intervention needs and resources—all vets are invited to access these meetings. Also remember you can access veteran help by dialing 211, telling the operator you are a veteran and what assistance you are looking for. These operators are trained to refer the veteran to the right office.

The State VFW reported the services and benefits the national VFW has brought to vets across the USA—such as \$650,000 from Sportsclips for Help a Hero Scholarships, Operation Uplink providing 5,764 December overseas call connections, and over 7.5 million service members served since 2006 on Free Call Days, December Grants for Unmet Needs and Families of more than \$22,000, and Military Assistance Program grants for 26 events (including our own Christmas party for the HHC 81st ABCT) involving over 15,000 attendees and 7 new units being adopted. We can all be proud of the efforts our VFW provides to vets and active service members. [John Hoglund]

## March-April Birthday Greetings\*

Guy Amburgy	Robert Kettle
Bennett Anderson	Johnnie Lamm
Charles Anderson	Carl Lothrop
Richard Ast	Orville Mall
Robert Bornemeier	Justin Mamallo
John Fisher	W. R. Mattock
Joseph Fitzgerald	William Mattson
Donald Goudy	James Raymond
William Griffith	John Routhier
Herbert Leake	John Simpson
Jordon Houghton	Jesse Starkman
Thomas Jenkins	Aaron Stoltz
William Jonsson	Jason Tauscher

## In Memoriam: Ellis N. Kieling, USMC

**Save the Date:** Friday, May 8, 2015, at 7:30 PM the Student Veterans Association of Seattle Central College will host a Warrior Scholar Fund Raiser at the Seattle Elks Lodge #92, 3011 Queen Anne Ave. North.

**\* Remember, you are entitled to a free dinner at the Post in your birthday month!**



## Korea, July 1953



In 1953, I was driving heavy dump truck for Charlie Company, Shore Party Battalion, 1st Marine Division, stationed just south of the Main Line of Resistance (MLR) north of the Inchon-Seoul area.

A Shore Party Battalion in the Marine Corps usually is charged with maintaining and supplying amphibious landing zones. By 1953, the Inchon landings were in the past so we kept our heavy equipment including trucks, graders, bulldozers and even a rock crusher busy building and repairing roads and similar operations.

In July of that year word came down that Operation Big Switch was to take place and we needed to put our equipment to work putting a crushed rock base over the muddy ground so a new tent city could be built to support the personnel handling the prisoner repatriations.

We worked long hours but still weren't finished when the prisoner exchanges began in August of 1953. During the actual repatriations, we had to quit working and stand quietly watching when a bus would come in from North Korea with our returning prisoners.

It was a sad sight to see the half-starved, sick and injured men come off the buses. Some were struggling by themselves and some were helping others cross back into UN controlled territory. Some of the returnees dropped to their knees and kissed the ground and some tore off the hated rags from North Korea. Some of the members of Charlie Company wept as we watched these poor souls come back to civilization.

As each man came back under control of the UN Command, he was asked if he wanted anything. One asked for a quart of milk and I remember one asking for ice cream. Some, just happy to be on the way home, didn't ask for anything.

Most of my memories of that period in Korea are in black and white but one Technicolor memory I treasure is when a British soldier come back and in response to the question said in his Cockney accent, "I got eighteen months of rum rations comin' and I want 'em right now." It sure brightened the gloom and even those with tears in their eyes couldn't help but smile. (Al Simpson)

## Navigating in Shoal Waters

After retiring from the Navy I passed the Coast Guard examination for Master and went to the waterfront looking for a job. I found one with a company that owned a fleet of vessels doing worldwide marine seismic geophysical surveys. After sailing for them for about three years, I agreed to run a vessel out of Prudhoe Bay doing surveys in the Beaufort Sea off the North Slope of Alaska.

The crew and I arrived by plane in Deadhorse and took a van out to the vessel. It was beached on a long gravel spit sticking out into Prudhoe Bay and frozen in for the winter. I didn't know any of the crew and they didn't know me, but all of them had worked together on the vessel before. This was first time I had sailed off the North Slope.

After thawing out the vessel and the ice breakup, we were ready to sail and begin our survey work. I backed off the gravel spit, turned the vessel and headed north alongside the spit toward open water.

There were no charts of any practical value showing accurate depths of water next to the spit, but I knew it was shallow. I went ahead slowly at perhaps 2 or 3 knots. For the first hundred yards everything was fine. I was feeling good about the whole deal, but I knew the crew on the vessel was sizing me up to see if I knew what I was doing.

There were several seagulls floating on the water. I looked at one directly ahead. As we closed I thought to myself, "There's something strange here; he's floating higher in the water than the rest." I grabbed my binoculars to get a better look, and that's when the adrenaline kicked in. I said, "HOLY S\_\_ T!" I could see the damn seagull's knee caps!



**HE WASN'T FLOATING, HE WAS STANDING ON THE BOTTOM!**

I immediately reached for the throttles to back down, but no sooner were my hands on the throttles than we were aground, stopped dead in the water. We hadn't been underway for 15 minutes, and now this? I stopped the engines. I glanced at a couple of the crew in the wheelhouse and they were rolling their eyes back into their heads, but not saying a word. I could only imagine what they were thinking, but at that moment I wished I were anywhere else on earth rather than being where I was. [Bill Hoeller]



## Thank You from One Less Mountain

The leadership team at One Less Mountain would like to thank Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063 for their support of the Fourth Seattle Stand Down. We served 326 homeless and at-risk veterans at Seattle Central College on December 11-12, 2014. This event would not have been possible without the support of community partners like your post. On behalf of the veterans we served, thank you. Our team is already beginning to plan the next event and we look forward to your participation. For more information, please contact Rebecca Murch, Executive Director, at [rmurch@theseattlestanddown.org](mailto:rmurch@theseattlestanddown.org) or visit our website <http://www.theseattlestanddown.org/> [Jaime Yslas]

## District Two Joint Memorial 2015

Approximately 50 members of District 2 met for a District Memorial and business meeting at the Ballard Eagleson Post on February 28. Seattle Post 6599 Auxiliary hosted the luncheon. The meeting included a solemn and moving ceremony dedicated to District Two Comrades and Sisters lost between February 20, 2014 and February 28, 2015.

### FISH'N TRIPS FOR HEROES

*Serving Wounded Warriors at Joint Base Lewis McCord*



Jeff Mason, a licensed Washington State Fishing Guide, gave a short presentation on his "Fish'n Trips for Heroes." Jeff provides free, guided fishing trips for Wounded Warriors while in the Warrior Transition Battalion at Joint Base Lewis McCord. He offers two to three fishing trips per week depending on the time of year and Mother Nature. Most trips are limited to one or two participants allowing focus on each individual's need. Annual trout fishing trips can have up to five family participants. Fishing Trips for Heroes is a 501(c)(3) organization supported entirely by donations. Contact Jeff Mason at 13825 72nd Avenue East, Puyallup, WA 98373, 253-732-6570.

## The Devil's Brigade



**Devil's Brigade to Receive Congressional Gold Medal:** Speaker of the House John Boehner announced that the U.S.-Canadian First Special Service Force, known as the "Devil's Brigade," will be presented with the Congressional Gold Medal in a Feb. 3 ceremony inside the U.S. Capitol. According to press reports, the Devil's Brigade was similar to today's Green Berets. They operated primarily in Italy and southern France and were responsible for 12,000 German casualties and captured 7,000 prisoners. The Congressional Gold Medal is the nation's highest award for distinguished achievement. [Source: VFW Action Corps Weekly, January 23, 2015]

Perhaps the best-known battle of the Force came in December 1942 when they took two heavily fortified German positions in the Italian mountains, one at Monte La Difensa and the other at Monte La Remetanea. Two German divisions defended these mountains. The Force had 1,800 troops at full strength, but only one regiment of 600 men took part in the attack on La Difensa after multiple assaults by regular troops had failed. After marching six hours to get in position and a brief overnight sleep, the Second Regiment climbed upwards at an angle of 65 degrees for 1,000 feet taking the Germans by surprise. Fifth Army Staff had guessed the battle would last between 4-5 days, but within two hours the Germans on La Difensa had retreated to La Remetanea. During the mountain campaign, the First Special Service Force suffered 77% casualties: 511 total, 91 dead, nine missing, 313 wounded with 116 exhaustion cases.

In 1968, a film starring William Holden, Cliff Robertson and Vince Edwards titled *The Devil's Brigade* focused on the Force's training and deployment to Italy.

A book by Robert H. Adleman & George H. Walton, called *The Devil's Brigade*, is an autobiography and historical reference for the First Special Service Force.

[Sources: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devil%27s\\_Brigade#Name.2C\\_insignia\\_and\\_uniforms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devil%27s_Brigade#Name.2C_insignia_and_uniforms) and <http://www.firstspecialserviceforce.net/> ]