

## From the Commander

By Nestor Tamayao



I bet many of you are thinking what I am – “It’s May already!”

The post will be busy this month with installation of newly elected officers, the Social and Memorial Day activities. For me, May also marks the fact that my tenure as your commander is coming to a close next month.

While many equate May to the Memorial Day holiday, for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, there is a day that has significance as it was the VFW that had it recognized. That day is May 1st, Loyalty Day. The day provides an opportunity for all American citizens to reaffirm their loyalty. Patriotic rallies, parades, public meetings, school programs and other activities are some examples

that show citizens’ patriotism and loyalty to our government.

Loyalty Day’s roots are not recent. The idea to hold patriotic rallies started in 1930 to offset the Communist rallies that were held on May Day. The VFW’s involvement began with the adoption of a resolution at the VFW National Convention in 1949 to make May 1 as Loyalty Day. In 1954, the resolution was introduced in Congress and approved in 1955. It was officially recognized with the adoption of Public Law 529 in 1958.

Memorial Day gives the opportunity to honor the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It was known first as Decoration Day as the day graves of fallen Civil War soldiers were decorated. The name

Memorial Day came into use in 1882. The name was declared by federal law in 1967. Some confuse Memorial Day with Veterans Day. While Memorial Day remembers those who died while serving, Veterans Day honors everyone who has served in the armed services.

The month of May provides citizens the opportunities to participate in activities that reflect continuing loyalty to America and honoring those who gave their lives to maintain our cherished freedoms. If you are not able to attend an organized activity on Memorial Day, you can pause for a moment of silence at 3:00 p.m. on that day to honor those who have died in service to the nation, as The National Moment of Remembrance Act of 2000 encourages.

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## Donation Request From Chef Kay Seelig

Our kitchen needs a few things. If you would be willing to donate any of the following to the VFW kitchen that would be fantastic: very large rice cooker, stand mixer, food processor, chef’s and paring knives, and a 15 quart (at least) stock pot with basket liner and lid.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Harold Rodenberger at [quartermaster@vfwseattle.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfwseattle.org).



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Commander: Nestor Tamayao

Sr Vice Commander: Pete Krawitz

Jr Vice Commander: Joe Tiffany

Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger

Adjutant: Pete Krawitz

Judge Advocate: John Hoglund

Chaplain: Bill Griffith

Surgeon: Justin Mamallo

Officer of the Day: Mike Mahar

3-Year Trustee: Aaron Stoltz

2-Year Trustee: James Williams

1-Year Trustee: Russ Seelig

Service Officer: Gail Engler

Guard: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Alyson Teeter

#### Contact Us:

Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063

2812 NW Market St.

Seattle, WA 98107

206-782-8618

[editor@vfwseattle.org](mailto:editor@vfwseattle.org)

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## Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



Our recent warmer weather has accelerated my feeling of renewal that happens every spring.

The older I get the more I appreciate the sense of renewal that happens this time of year. When I was younger, the days rolled by one by one, weeks took a full week to pass and tomorrows seemed endless.

Now, as the passing days, weeks and months total nearly four score years of living on this earth, my days spin by quickly. Sunday barely gets going before Saturday pops up and the months pass like weeks did in years past.

I think the apparent speed is caused by accumulating memories that blend current observations with the old. I seldom see a genuinely new thing unless I search for it. The temptation is to go with the same old emotions, fit new sights into the old and categorize the passing scene as, "the same old, same old." Only if I set out to find a new shape, color or idea nearly hidden in the smoke screen of old memories can I find something that stimulates

a new question or thought.

Not saying that old memories are bad, just that they should be used with discretion. As I get older I find refuge in some of those old memories of gentler and happier times when time passed slower and multiple blinking, beeping, speaking and vibrating electronic things weren't competing for my attention.

This time of year brings renewal to our VFW Post as well. Joint installation of our new officers and those of our Auxiliary will be held this Thursday, 5/4/17, with our Department Junior Vice Commander, Linda Fairbank, presiding. Linda will be installed as our VFW Department Senior Vice Commander next month at our state convention.

Our Post Honor Guard Captain and Chief Librarian, Bill Hoeller, finds it necessary to step down to take care of pressing family matters. Bill has done a wonderful job but must move on and he will be sorely missed.

Joe Fitzgerald is stepping into the position of Honor Guard Captain. We receive requests for our honor guard to perform, especially graveside or me-

morial services, but we need more people to field a proper team even when some members have other commitments. If you are interested in serving on our honor guard, please contact Joe at 206-777-5364 or [j.fitzgerald1@comcast.net](mailto:j.fitzgerald1@comcast.net).

We are looking for someone to serve as our post librarian. Since we have an honor system library, the duties are not time consuming. If you have an interest in books and would like to maintain our library, please let me know.

This month we will visit the VA Hospital to host a bingo night on May 23, 2017 and again on Memorial Day when we will visit with and hand out goodies to patients.

Remember, "new" is a big part of "reNEWal." Sometimes I am reluctant to step out of my daily routine but I need to "embrace renewal," not only of the natural world around me, but also of the brain. If I let them, new sights and changing scenes can bring new thoughts and memories, rejuvenating a tired old brain and getting our new VFW year off to a running start.



## Post Elects 2017-2018 Officers

Post 3063 members elected their 2017-2018 officers during the April business meeting April 6, 2017. The following individuals were elected into the leadership positions:

**Commander:** Pete Krawitz

**Sr. Vice Commander:** Joe Tiffany

**Jr. Vice Commander:** Joe Fitzgerald

**Chaplain:** Bill Griffith

**Quartermaster:** Harold Rodenberger

**1-Year Trustee:** James Williams

**2-Year Trustee:** Aaron Stoltz

**3-Year Trustee:** Russ Seelig

**1-Year House Committee:** Gail Engler

**2-Year House Committee:** Doug Maines

**3-Year House Committee:** Jordan Houghton

First nominations were made in March, followed by second nominations and an election in April. Installation at the post is scheduled for the May business meeting, but officers do not take office until the department commander is installed. The installation of the state officers is usually the last weekend in June so Post 3063 (and district) officers take over July 1st.

Appointed officers will be announced at the May business meeting.

## Post and Sea Cadet Corps Recognize Jessica Chacko's Service

*By Alyson M. Teeter*

You may recognize Jessica Chacko's name: she's a high schooler who has volunteered with Post 3063 at the Seattle VA Medical Center and she represented Post 3063 at the district level for the Voice of Democracy Essay Contest, where she placed third. Jessica also serves as a petty officer third class with the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps based out of Naval Station Everett.

As a way to recognize these efforts, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Post 3063 decided to award her with a VFW Sea Cadet Medal. The medal is granted for outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership ability. Post 3063 Sr. Vice Commander Pete Krawitz formally presented the medal to Jessica, with her family and friends in attendance, at the monthly post social April 20, 2017.

The post greatly appreciates Jessica's dedication to serving veterans. Thank you, Jessica!



Pete Krawitz, Post 3063 Sr. Vice Commander, presents the VFW Sea Cadet Medal to Jessica Chacko, April 20, 2017.



# Museum of Flight Profile of New Member, Bob Drew

By Steve Dennis, Museum of Flight's Aloft Magazine ([May/June 2014 edition](#))

If you have a question at home, you can consult Bing or Google. If you have a question at The Museum of Flight, you can consult knowledgeable docents like Bob Drew. Bob is not just a fountain of Museum of Flight information, but he offers the perspective of a veteran pilot who has logged over 9,000 hours in more than 75 aircraft types. Many of those aircraft (think P-38 Lightning, P-51 Mustang, A-4 Skyhawk, F-86 Sabre and F-104 Starfighter) are on display at the Museum.

Bob first flew more than 70 years ago. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1943 and by mid-1945 was flying P-38 missions from the Philippines during the waning months of World War II. Missions as far as Formosa (now Taiwan) meant long hours in the narrow cockpit. In 1946, back from active duty, he joined the California National Guard flying P-51s and, later, F-86 Sabres.

Bob always enjoyed trying new aircraft, even if they weren't part of his assignment. He had a friend in the Naval Reserve flying Corsairs who wanted to try Bob's P-51. One weekend, the Naval pilot flew up and swapped planes with Bob so they could each experiment with the other's hardware. In 1952, he joined Douglas Aircraft Company as a flight test engineer flying AD-5, 6 and 7 Skyraiders. He later moved to engineer flight test in the F4D Skyray program, where he contributed to the refinement of the innovative, delta winged interceptor. Though its 1956 to 1962 service life was short, Bob believes the aircraft contributed much to the development of new concepts during that period. It held world records for both speed and time to climb and Bob is justifiably proud of his contribution to that development.

The Skyray test work often took him to Edwards Air Force Base and the Navy's Patuxent River Naval Air Test Center where he was exposed to aircraft and crews from other manufacturers. While he was a "Douglas" guy, the collegial atmosphere at the test facilities gave him the opportunity to log time in "non-Douglas" aircraft. It was a "you can fly mine if I can fly yours" at-

mosphere.

Bob recalls having pilots, like Alan Shepard and Deke Slayton, flying chase planes for his test flights. They and others like them gained later notoriety as astronauts. Much to his wife's chagrin, his need for speed drew Bob into the Air Rac-



Bob with a P-51 in the South Pacific in 1945. (Courtesy Bob Drew)

ing circuit, where he flew 15 different custom-designed racers during a long racing career. Bob liked speed on the ground as well. He discovered a big Cadillac engine that could be squeezed into his 1955 robin's egg blue Thunderbird convertible. He had the engine installed and claims he was able to reach 140 miles per hour at Dry Lake speed courses.

In 2000, a friend encouraged Bob to join The Museum of Flight docent corp. "They told me I had to take docent training to qualify," Bob reports. "I thought I knew a great deal about aviation until I took that class. It was quite an education!"

After 14 years as a docent, he still looks forward to his Wednesday shift. "I just enjoy all the great people who work here, and I particularly like working the T. A. Wilson Great Gallery and the J. Elroy McCaw Personal Courage Wing. So many of the plane types I've flown are on display in those areas."

The Museum is fortunate Bob has the same number of takeoffs as landings, all of which he was able to walk away from. Bob has contributed 3,100 volunteer hours during his tenure and, despite his 90 years, shows no sign of slowing down.

**(Bob Drew still volunteers so be sure to say hello if you're at the museum on a Wednesday.)**



## Members Away From Home: Georgia Warrix

The 1190 Transportation Surface Brigade, located in Baton Rouge, La., is my current duty assignment. The unit is an Army Reserve unit administratively controlled under the Deployment Support Command to sustain the current affiliation within the Army Reserve component. Operational control remains with the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC); the Brigade's Active component affiliation.

The 1190 Transportation Surface Brigade's current mission command consist of three battalions and 14 detachments. During Presidential and Congressional Call-Up, the brigade itself would assume mission command of all active component battalions aligned in the Gulfport states currently operating under SDDC. Their mission is to manage and oversee all port operations within these area vessel ports.

Just one of the gulf vessel ports during Operation Enduring Freedom moved approximately 330 vessels toward the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This year, the 1190 Transportation Surface Brigade has personnel deploying to various areas in the Middle East, participating in port operations in Texas and maintaining their evaluated training markers in Army Reserve exercises.



Post member, Georgia Warrix, is currently stationed in Baton Rouge, La.

## The Auxiliary Corner

The time has come when I must ask for some help from all of the good ladies and gentlemen in this wonderful organization to step forward and give VFW Post 3063's Auxiliary some needed help with membership. Ask your wives, husbands, daughters, sons and friends if they would like to join this organization and help support our service men and woman.

Our group gets together every first and third Thursday of the month. On the first Thursday we have our meetings at 5:30 p.m. and we serve a light dinner. On the third Thursday we have our social and we serve a great dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Feel free to contact me at 206-412-7384 if you have any questions or if I can help in any way. **Sincerely, Margaret Philips, Post 3063 Auxiliary President**

Pierce County ★ King County  
Kitsap County ★ Thurston County

**AT THE TACOMA DOME EXHIBITION HALL**

**13 MAY 2017**  
**9AM-3PM**

**FREE** **FREE**

**This event will provide**

- Community Services
- Apprenticeship/Training and vocational opportunities/ Jobs
- VA Benefits
- Female Veterans Resources
- Legal Services
- Financial Education/ Assistance
- Homeless Services/ At Risk
- Housing and home ownership
- Educational Benefits
- Disability Claims/ Benefits
- Medical Screenings and Dental Resources
- Alternative Therapies
- Justice Involved Reintegration Services
- Transition Services



# Upcoming Events

**May 4, 2017, 7 p.m.** - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting and Installation of Officers: Sandwiches and chips. Cake with coffee/tea after the installation.

**May 13, 2017, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** - Veteran Resource Fair at the Tacoma Dome (Event is free)

**May 18, 2017, 6:30 p.m.** - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner: Shrimp, corn on the cob, fingerling potatoes, cole slaw, roll with butter and dessert. **Guest Speaker: TBD** (\$3 for members, \$5 for guests)

**Memorial Day 2017** - Volunteer opportunities will be announced at <http://vfwseattle.org/>.

*Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for business meetings and social dinners.*

### **May Birthday Greetings!**

***Members receive a free social dinner in their birthday month***

- Miles Coble
- Bob Ferguell
- Michael Morris
- Le Roy Rhode
- Jann Skotdal
- Travis Wise

## New member spotlight:



Mike Brunstad, U.S. Army veteran, gained his eligibility from Vietnam.



Anthony Buch, U.S. Navy veteran, gained his eligibility from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## April's Guest Speaker



Jim Fuda, director of Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound, discussed his work with the Department of Justice and other countries during the post's monthly social April 20, 2017.