



*Ballard Eagleson Patriot*  
Post 3063, Ballard, WA  
May-June 2015

### Quartermaster's Update

This newsletter brings us to the end of our VFW year. It has been an eventful year with many changes and improvements around the post. From the repair and remodel work upstairs to the catering service for our socials; from the new janitorial service to the consolidated electronics and internet package; from our new National Guard adopted unit to Buddy Poppy volunteers and VA hospital visitors and from our Facebook page to this newsletter itself, we see progress and improvements.

The coming year should bring more changes and improvements. We are working on a contract to have our building cleaned, prepped and painted. Gradually we are bringing the post lighting systems up to the highest standards of efficiency. Most importantly, and thanks to your input, we are developing plans to make our post more attractive to all our members and potential members. Our volunteers are very important in bringing about these changes and we owe them all a huge THANK YOU. With active participation from our members Ballard Eagleson Post will continue to grow.

If you would like to help grow our post membership, volunteer for community activities, visit elderly or disabled veterans in our area, distribute Buddy Poppies or become an assistant post maintenance person please let me or one of the other post officers know. We welcome volunteers to help with the many tasks that need to be done to help our post thrive. Yours in Comradeship, Harold.

### Upcoming Events

- May 2, 11:30 AM District 2 Lunch/Meeting
- May 7, 7:00 PM Business Meeting
- May 21, 5:30 PM Social Evening/Dinner
- June 4, 7:00 PM Business Meeting
- June 18, 5:30 PM Social Evening/Dinner
- July 2, 7:00 PM Business Meeting
- July 16, 5:30 PM Social Evening/Dinner
- August 6, 7:00 PM Business Meeting
- August 20, 5:30 PM Social Evening/Dinner
- September 3, 7:00 PM Business Meeting
- September 17, 5:30 PM Social Evening/Dinner
- October 1, 7:00 PM Business Meeting
- October 15, 5:30 PM Social Evening/Dinner

### Service Officer Notes

Are you interested in detail on any of your veteran benefits? You might consider calling the King County Veterans' Program at 206-296-7656 or visiting them at 2124 Fourth Avenue, 4th floor, Seattle or in Renton at 500 S.W. Seventh Street, Suite 100. Check out the King County Web site at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/socialservices/veterans/ContactUs.aspx>. Similar information on benefits is available from the VFW at [www.vfw.org/memberbenefits](http://www.vfw.org/memberbenefits)

Are you interested in filing a VA Medical Benefits Claim? I strongly suggest connecting to one of the trained experts in such claims at the 915 Second Avenue VFW office, Seattle, 206-341-8284.

At the most recent National Legislative Conference in Washington DC, the VFW made a number of key legislative stands and the Washington Voice of Democracy winner was presented a \$2,000 award for her participation. We were reminded of how the VFW supports many Youth programs today such as Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Youth Essay and Scouting programs--we can be proud of all that we stand for and do! [John Hoglund]

### Herb Leake's 95th



Herb (Herbert G.) Leake was born in 1920 in St. Charles, Missouri, making him the second oldest living member of Post 3063. His family followed the advice attributed to Horace Greeley of "Go West, Young Man," moving to Seattle when Herb was quite young. Herb's service during World War II began as a private in the U.S. Army

Infantry. Later he was promoted to 2nd Lt. At the end of the war Herb continued his military career in the National Guard. By his retirement from the Guard he had been promoted to Lt. Col.



At a Post 3063 Social dinner April 16, 2015, Herb celebrated his coming 95th Birthday with a crowd of well-wishers singing "Happy Birthday, Herb," while he cut a wonderfully delicious cake, encouraged by Ann, his wife of many years.

To submit information to this newsletter, contact the editor, Charles Anderson at [editor@vfwseattle.org](mailto:editor@vfwseattle.org)

**VFW**

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## Dear Veteran

The following letter addressed to "Dear Veteran" was routed to me for answer.

*I am an eighth grader at Salmon Bay School. In honor of Veterans' Day, we are writing to veterans of war in hope of learning more about your experience in the military. I would love to hear your story, so I will really appreciate it if you answer some of the following questions: When did you serve? What branch and what war were you in? How old were you when you started your service? Are you still in touch with anyone you met in the military? Did you have friends who died in the war? What was your worst and best moment? Do you wish you had never been involved in the military?*

I answered as follows:

First of all I would like to thank you for remembering the veterans of our country. I think I can speak for many if not most of them.

To begin, **war is an ugly thing** but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling of some who think that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he or she is willing to fight, or thinks that nothing is more important than his or her personal safety is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made so and kept so by the exertions of better men and women.

March 7, 1950, was my seventeenth birthday. That morning I went down to the Marine Corps recruiter and joined the Marines. My father, who was a Marine veteran of WWII, signed for me. That night I left for boot camp in San Diego. There was no war at that time and after boot camp I went on to infantry training at Camp Pendleton. Just as I finished there the Korean War broke out.

Am I still in touch? Yes, I am still in touch with a few that are left but the list gets shorter and shorter as time passes.

Did you have friends who were killed during that war? Yes, unfortunately, too many. And I've lost some in the years that have passed since that time.

What was my worst moment? Whew, that is the hardest to answer but I'll give it a shot. When some pal dies from wounds with you holding his hand and telling him, "hang on, hang on," it is the worst of moments and it doesn't get easier the next time. It's very hard for me to write this without still shedding tears for those who paid the ultimate price but you deserve it so there it is.

My best moment has to be coming home on a troop ship and going under the Golden Gate Bridge and being back in the good ole U.S.A. **Wow, back home.**

Do you wish you had never been involved in the military? Well, I feel I'm a very fortunate Marine to have survived all the bad and sometimes the good. I am glad I had a small part in doing the right thing. It was a terrible time but we kept South Korea free from the Communists and they are still free today. Freedom is not free. It takes a steep toll but I and most of my buddies feel it was worth the effort. It's probably my proudest accomplishment.

I have good pals at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post here in Ballard on Market Street near the locks. I'm still somewhat involved with veteran things and I've never regretted my service to our country. I'd go again if I could. I want to thank you again and want you to know that I feel better knowing that some young people like yourself really do care enough to put forth an effort to find real stories and the real truth. God Bless. [Sergeant J. A. (AI) Simpson, USMC 1950-1963.]

### 2014-2015 Post Officers

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

### Birthday Greetings\*

Bob Ferguell	Erick Richardson
Dan Graves	Owen Ross
Christopher Kuhnert	Nestor Tamayao
Charles Murrell	Gerald Yager

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



## Old and New

### Who Was Lt. James M. Eagleson?

"Wild West Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars of Tacoma will conduct an initiation service at an open meeting of Lieut. James M. Eagleson Post in Roosevelt Veterans' Hall tomorrow night when Dr. James B. Eagleson, father of the former Seattle officer for whom the post is named, will be made a member of the order. William Herron, who served with Lieutenant Eagleson, also will be a member of the class of 15 candidates who will be initiated." [Seattle Daily Times, May 17, 1926]

Lt. Eagleson, whose portrait hangs in our Post hall, graduated in 1912 from Broadway High School. He entered that school in September 1908 from Central School. The tag line his classmates gave him was "The grass bends not, he treads on it so light."

James died February 19, 1919 at a military hospital in Newport News, Virginia of pneumonia after becoming ill on a transport vessel returning from France. His father, James B. Eagleson, organizer of Base Hospital Unit No. 50, composed almost completely of Seattle men, was returning from France on a separate ship. Both men crossed the Atlantic almost at the same time, neither knowing the other had left France. Major Eagleson had sent his wife a wireless telling her of his homecoming and received an answer while on board telling him of his son's illness.

The father, who arrived a day ahead of his son on the *Mercury*, rushed to Newport News and was able to be with his son for the last 24 hours before the end. Officers of the 69th Artillery, Lt. Eagleson's unit, had telegraphed to arrange for a military funeral, but Major Eagleson decided he preferred private services. James was survived by a wife and infant son, James Eagleson III.

Eagleson Hall on the Univ. of Washington campus is named for Lt. Eagleson's mother. Upon Dr. Eagleson's death, his wife donated his 1,000 volume medical library to Harborview Medical Center. [Charles Anderson]

### Student Veterans Association

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

At the event guests will be able to enjoy light refreshments, live music, and great camaraderie while supporting a worthwhile cause. A cash bar will be available.

The event proceeds go to the Student Veterans Scholarship fund. To purchase tickets go to <http://bpt.me/1169036>



**Hans Heia** was born in November of 1927 and joined our post in October, 1948. He gained his eligibility to join the VFW through service with the 66th AACS (Air and Airways Communication Service) Group with service in Newfoundland, Canada.

Comrade Heia told me that when his small group of soldiers was transferred to Newfoundland they flew in a B-17 from an airport in Maine. Since there were no passenger seats in those old birds the soldiers had to sit on 2x4's placed across the bomb bay doors. When they hit a heavy downdraft Hans said they thought they were going to go through the top of the B-17 but that was followed by a turbulent updraft when they were afraid they were going out through the bomb bay doors.

While he was stationed in Newfoundland, Hans and some of his friends visited the local cemetery where twelve American soldiers were buried. They had frozen to death during an earlier winter while stringing telephone wire to support the 66th AACS Group.

Back when Hans joined, Ballard Post 3063 was known as the "red hat" post and Hans still sometimes wears his red hat as a memento of those bygone days.



**Jonathon Guncay** was born in December of 1985 and joined our post in February, 2014. He gained his eligibility to join the VFW through service with the Army in Iraq while serving as an MP (Military Policeman).

Jon tells of an interesting incident while he was in Iraq. It seems that one of his Iraqi counterparts was attracted to the female Lieutenant who was platoon leader of Jon's unit. After a few days of dickering Jon told the Iraqi that they would trade their Lieutenant for a donkey and a pot of tea.

Well, it wasn't long until the Iraqi showed up in camp with the tea and donkey. Needless to say some sparks flew when the lieutenant found out about the scheme but after the joke was revealed and the dust



settled they all shared the tea and took turns posing for pictures on the donkey.

Unfortunately the donkey didn't get the word that it was all in fun and when one of Jon's friends was astride the donkey someone slapped it on the hind end and it took off out the gate hell-bent for town with the MP on its back holding on for dear life, wearing body armor but without his weapon.

It turned out that none of the locals were gunning for MP's that day so the episode ended with all safe back in the compound. The Iraqi was disappointed that he had to return home with the donkey instead of a new wife but he wrote it off to the trials and tribulations of war. [Harold Rodenberger]



## Supernatural Clock

Tom Brown was Quartermaster of Post 3063 for many years.

He died "with his boots on" while still in office in the early summer of 2008. I remember the call that came from Archie, a mutual friend. My wife and I along with my sister and brother in law were in St George, Utah, on a vacation trip when Archie called to tell me that Tom had died.

I found out after we returned to Seattle that Tom had been mowing his lawn and apparently had stopped to take a rest or because he felt tired or ill. He stopped the mower but left it on the lawn, went to the house, took off his shoes at the door, as was his custom, and sat down in his easy chair. And that's where a friend found him later that evening.

He was 84 years old so no autopsy was done, but we suppose he died of a heart attack or perhaps a burst aneurysm. In any case, I'd like to go the way he did, quick and easy, although not right away, mind you.

His death caused a problem at the post because there was no Assistant Quartermaster and Tom took with him all the passwords and other knowledge of the day-to-day operation of the post.

Nestor Tamayao agreed to take over as Quartermaster and filled the position admirably for five years until I was elected and began my tenure in June of 2013.

I was helping Nestor bring the books up to date in the early part of 2013 when the "spring forward" date rolled around. While setting the clocks ahead I noticed that the clock in the office was already set to DST. I didn't think too much about it but later Nestor asked if I had set that clock. I told him no, I had only set the others in the Hall.

At that time, Nestor told me about the strange behavior of the clock in the office. It seems that every spring and fall the clock would already be set to the appropriate time the next time he came in. The other clocks in the Hall needed to be reset, but the one in the office always was set correctly. I did look at the office clock to confirm that it was a plain old inexpensive clock with no wireless link to the National Observatory's atomic clock or other fancy time-keeping function.

Well, I thought that to be a little strange but we hadn't changed the locks for many years, and there was no telling how many people had master keys and could have set the clock.

As a matter of updating the security of the building we changed all the locks soon thereafter.

In the fall of 2013, I noticed that the clock in the office was set back to Pacific Standard Time the next time I came in after the Saturday night changeover. Since the locks had recently been changed it was easy to check with all who had access. All denied being in the office let alone changing the clock.

Last year at changeover time to Daylight Saving Time and again at return to Standard Time the clock was changed. I called around again to confirm that no one had been in the office to change the clock. Yet it HAD been changed. We joked that Tom Brown was letting us know he still cared by coming around (in spirit) and setting the office clock.

This morning I was in the office at eleven o'clock and noticed that the clock had been set to Daylight Saving Time. The other clocks in the hall were still on Standard Time.

What a puzzle. The office has restricted access and only certain people have the key. The janitor has a key but he doesn't have access to the code to turn off the alarm. All who do have access deny resetting the clock, or even being in the office.

Well, Tom, thanks for setting the clock. It is rather hard to get off and back on the wall so I certainly appreciate you taking care of it. [Harold Rodenberger]



The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress is an online resource that may be of interest to veterans. This project "collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war." Contained in the archives are first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from World War I through Iraq.

In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) also are invited to share their valuable stories. Check out <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/html/search/search.html>

## Trivia Trove



Q. Why did old style outhouses have half-moons carved in the door?

A. Early privies were separate for men and women. The woman's privy had a crescent moon (lunar being feminine) carved in the door while men's privies had a sun (masculine) carving. When

country inns became less elegant, the men's outhouse was discontinued because of the proximity of the forests or bushes and only the outhouse with the crescent remained. [From *Puzzles and Essays from "The Exchange,"* by Charles R. Anderson (Haworth Information Press, 2003), p. 13.]