

November 2016

From the Commander

By Nestor Tamayao



The month of November is always one I look forward to. Not

because of Thanksgiving or the fact that the Christmas (buying) season begins the day after; but because of Veterans Day. Each year, we have an opportunity to give appreciation to veterans and to commemorate those veterans and their legacy who are no longer among us.

It has always irked me a bit that at this time of year, I am inundated with "Veterans Day sales." And fewer activities and events to observe Veterans Day. On a regional level, however, The City of Auburn's Veterans Day parade is recognized as the largest west of the Missis-

sippi. On a national level, there are numerous events and activities recognizing veterans in Washington, D.C. Although fewer events than 30 or 40 years ago, at least we still have those celebrations.

One of my fondest times during my Army Reserve career was giving Veterans Day speeches at neighborhood elementary, middle and high schools. Regardless of what grade level, the students were attentive and appreciative and truly wanted to learn more about Veterans Day and what it means. Some young students were at awe with my Class-A uniform and wanted to know what the ribbons and medals were for (and what all those "lifer" stripes meant on my sleeve!) Teachers and administrators would come to me afterward to let me know

they were also veterans or relate a story about veterans in their family. All this was gratifying on a personal level, and also rewarding that I was able to tell the veteran's story on a day that honors all veterans.

So on Veterans Day, celebrate it in your own way. It can be a simple "Thank you" to a veteran, a "Thank you to active duty military personnel, or just a quiet reflection for those veterans who may be a prisoner-of-war or missing in action.

It may seem to some as a cliché, but "freedom is not free." And because of the acts and sacrifices of veterans, we continue to maintain our freedom.

Enjoy Veterans Day, comrades.

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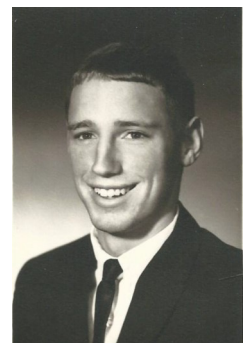
Ballard Eighteen becomes Ballard Nineteen

We recently received an email from local writer and Ballard High School graduate, Jerry E. Smith, who is researching and writing a book on the eighteen (now nineteen) students from Ballard High School who were killed in Vietnam. **A ceremony to add Doug Zeller to the Vietnam Memorial Plaque is scheduled**

Nov. 10, 4 p.m. at Ballard High School. The following is an excerpt from that email.

I contacted Ballard High School Principal Keven Wynkoop and asked him whether there were a list or roster of the Ballard High School students killed in Vietnam. Keven photographed the Vietnam Memorial Plaque

which is on display in the school and emailed me the photographs showing



Then Ballard High School student, Doug Zeller.



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Commander: Nestor Tamayao

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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

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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



November marks the beginning of an important

holiday period in our American culture. This month brings Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

On Veterans Day we will be visiting the VA Hospital, distributing poppies, and attending cemetery ceremonies and other Veterans Day activities. If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please drop our commander or me an email so we can fill you in on the details.

Ballard Nineteen cont. from page 1

the names of the eighteen men whom had been killed. Three of them were boys I had personally known. Thus the "The Ballard Eighteen" began. I spent hours of research at the Ballard High School Library, the Suzzallo Library at the University of Washington, online with the Texas Tech University Vietnam Archives, and many other online sites, telephone calls, and emails searching for and contacting family

An anonymous donor contacted me and made a National Home challenge for the December meeting. He will match all December National Home donations in excess of \$100 so save up and let's make a record contribution to our VFW National Home during the December meeting.

Our own Chuck Murrell will be inducted into the VA Hospital Wall of Heroes on November 9, 2016. Congratulations, Chuck! If you'd like to attend, the ceremony will be at 11:00 a.m. in the Healing Garden. Ask at the Information Desk if you need directions.

Don't forget the special program honoring our

World War II veteran members during the social meeting on Nov. 17.

Finally, November is a good time to remember to be thankful for the many good things in our lives. Even though we all have our troubles and rough spots in life, compared to people in most parts of the world we are living lives blessed with many freedoms and protections. As for me, I'm thankful for the many good and helpful members of our post and the officers who do so much to keep this post moving forward. Thank You!

members of the "Eighteen."

By the beginning of 2016 I thought that I was close to being finished and decided to do a final edit with each of the families of the "Eighteen," giving them an opportunity to review and fact-check my work. While I was at the home of Tom and Dianne Riordan they said that they thought that student Doug Zeller was killed in Vietnam. I explained that

Doug was not listed on the Vietnam Memorial Plaque, so he must have survived. I promised them that I would do some additional research on Doug Zeller and find out what had happened to him.

Unfortunately, I learned that Doug Zeller was indeed killed in Vietnam but not listed on the Ballard High School Vietnam Memorial Plaque. So "The Ballard Eighteen" became "The Ballard Nineteen."



Post provides honor guard for Mariano Berona's funeral

By Harold Rodenberger

Three members of our Ballard Eagleson Honor Guard attended a funeral at Acacia Memorial Park and Funeral Home on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2016. Together with other members of VFW District 2, they rendered VFW funeral honors to Mariano Berona, who was 98 years old, a member and past commander of Post 6599, and a District 2 Veteran of the Year.

Comrade Berona was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and retired from the US Army in 1962 as a sergeant first class. Even though the graveside service was held in a pouring rain, over 100 family and other mourners attended as an active Army Honor

Guard fired the gun salute, played Taps, and performed a rare six-person fold of the US Flag for presentation to the next of kin.



From left, Harold Rodenberger, Bill Hoeller, and Joe Fitzgerald rendered VFW funeral honors to Mariano Berona on Oct. 15.

Shredding truck visits Post 3063, more visits planned



Bill Hoeller, Gail Engler, and Pete Krawitz help shred documents Oct. 2, 2016 during a community shredding event in the post parking lot. During the three hours the truck was there the post shredded about 600 pounds of sensitive documents brought in by post members. The post will plan another shredding event next summer, so save wear and tear on your home shredder and save those old documents, ledgers, and check books for a professional shredding operation. This shredder can handle staples, paper clips, smaller bull clamps, ledger books, and other bulky documents that won't go through a home shredder.



Officer Profile: Harold Rodenberger, Post 3063 Quartermaster

This is part of a series of profiles of the 2016-2017 Post 3063 officers.

Tell us about your new position and what you hope to accomplish during your term.

I was reelected as quartermaster this year and so will continue to serve our post, its members and officers as a sort of jack-of-all-trades, ready to do the many things that keep our post in operation and moving forward. During this year I hope to encourage and help our members become more active in post activities and to sign up new recruits to join our post.

How long have you belonged to Post 3063 and did you previously serve in an officer position?

I joined this post in 1982, not long after I retired from the Army. When the next election time rolled around I was elected to the office of junior vice commander followed by senior vice commander and then I served as commander during the 1985-86 year. After completion of that term I was appointed as adjutant and served in that office for eighteen years. In 2004 I was reelected as commander and served another four years in that position. In 2008 I was elected as chaplain and served in that office until elected as quartermaster in 2013 and have served in that office since.

What is your military background?

I enlisted in the Army Security Agency to attend Russian language school in April of 1959. After I was locked in they told me that because of my poor hearing I was not eligible for language training so I was sent to Morse Code school instead. Go figure. Hearing too bad for language training but I could listen to those ditty dahs all day. After serving two tours in Japan with the ASA I transferred to the Adjutant General Corps as an admin specialist, MOS 717, back in those days.

From Japan I was transferred to Ft Sam Houston, Texas, where I served in the Hospital Inspector's Office at Brooke Army Medical Center. Off to Vietnam where I was assigned to the AG's Office in MACV then to South Carolina as an advisor to the SC National Guard.

Next came another assignment to Japan, this time in Yokohama where I was the Detachment Sergeant of a Transportation Detachment whose members ran the Port of Yokohama at North Pier. While there I applied for the Army degree completion program and then took a break from the Army while attending Sofia University (a Jesuit affiliate of Seattle U and Gonzaga) in Tokyo for two years.

After graduation from Sophia I was assigned as First Sergeant of the Armed Forces Entrance and Examining Station here in Seattle and, with my family, lived for a while in the old Navy Capehart housing at Ft Lawton.

In 1976 I was selected to attend the relatively new US Army Sergeants Major Academy at Ft Bliss, TX, so left my family here and six months later graduated with Class 9 from USASMA and was assigned as an advisor to the National Guard Advisory Group at Ft MacArthur, CA, where I advised units in California and Arizona.

My last tour in the Army was with the US Southern Command in Panama where I was Chief of Admin Operations and also served as administrative member of the IG team inspecting MAAGs and Missions throughout Central and South America.

What do you enjoy most about belonging to the VFW?

I enjoy the camaraderie with brothers (and sisters) who have served in the armed forces but

I also try to remember that I need to give back to the older veterans and our community for the help and support they gave me during my years in the military. To complete the cycle, I must pass along to the younger military members and veterans that same help and support I received when I was younger.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell Post 3063 members?

To paraphrase Woody Guthrie, "this post is your post, this post is my post. . ." Our post can only survive and grow if we all contribute as much as we can to support the programs, serve as officers, work on committees and recruit new members. I know there are other things competing for your time but please remember that we can be the best VFW Post in Seattle, and even in Washington, if we all help to make it happen.

"Our post can only survive and grow if we all contribute as much as we can to support the programs, serve as officers, work on committees and recruit new members."



How the VFW stays tax-exempt: Community Service

By Harold Rodenberger

Since our founding as a federally chartered organization in 1899, our members have worked to help veterans and their families, to further patriotism and Americanism, and to help our communities. Because these goals are part of our mission the Internal Revenue Service has granted us tax-exempt status under the provisions of Section 501 (c) (19) of the tax code.

To maintain our tax-exempt status, each month we report community service performed by our members. Reports from the posts and districts are forwarded to and consolidated by the departments and from there forwarded to our national headquarters.

To make these reports more complete we ask that each of our members forward qualifying actions so as much as possible can be included each month.

You might be surprised to learn that many things you do should be included so please make a note to compile and forward your contributions in the following areas.

Community Service: Activities that benefit your community, parks or neighborhood such as:

- Recycling
- Picking up trash
- Beautification projects
- Monetary donations to a local park, farmers' market, or similar

Citizenship Education and Americanism: Participation in:

- Parades
- Patriotic holiday events
- Public ceremonies
- Presenting flags or educational materials
- Attending funerals
- POW/MIA activities
- Loyalty Day activities
- Legislative activities

- Flying the American Flag (please specify lighted or unlit)
- Participation in Color/Honor Guard activities or placing flags on veterans' graves

Aid to Others:

- Hospital and nursing home visits
- Visits with senior citizens or house-bound neighbors
- Donations of care packages
- Helping to organize a blood drive or individual donations of blood, platelets, or plasma
- Fundraising or assisting to build handicapped ramps or other home repairs and transporting others to doctors or hospital visits
- Donations of money or materials to the needy or thrift stores or other charitable organizations (please itemize so we can assign dollar values)
- Donations to homeless or to organizations that help the homeless and other charitable causes such as the USO, cancer society, March of Dimes, etc.

Youth Activities:

- Assisting at schools as guest speaker, volunteer coaching
- Donating money, materials or time to support Scouts, children's sports or band functions
- Helping with Special Olympics or other help for special students or children

Voice of Democracy, Youth Essay and Patriotic Art:

- Donations of time and money to locate, encourage and assist students to enter the VFW Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Youth Essay and Patriotic Art contests

Safety:

- Giving or attending classes or time and money spent to encourage safety, broken down by pedestrian, drug awareness, recreational, highway, fire or home safety

Military Assistance:

- Any support given to a military unit, individual, or family member
- Sponsoring or attending "welcome home" ceremonies and other ceremonies honoring the military



Upcoming Events

Nov. 3, 2016, 7 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting: Fried chicken and Jojos

Nov. 10, 4 p.m. - Ceremony to add Doug Zeller to the Ballard High School Vietnam Memorial Plaque, Ballard High School

Nov. 11, 2016 - Veterans Day: Buddy Poppy, VA Medical Center and Color Guard volunteer opportunities

Nov. 17, 2016, 6:30 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner and World War II Veteran Ceremony: Pot Roast prepared by Marco (\$3 for members, \$5 for guests)

November Birthday Greetings! (Free dinner in your birthday month)

Oscar Borchelt	James McArthur
Hugh Brechtel	Doug Maines
Donald Corning	Paul Pioli
Gail Engler	Leo Rapinan
John Hamilton	Richard Schwenke
Hans Heia	Jimmie Souther
James Kessler	Joe Tiffany
Norman Limric	Barry Zimmerman

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

New member spotlight: Le Roy "Dusty" Rhode



Le Roy "Dusty" Rhode is one of our new members. Dusty earned his eligibility for membership by serving with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam.

Welcome to our post, Dusty!

World War II Veteran Ceremony Nov. 17

During the Nov. 17 social Post 3063 will host a special program honoring its WWII veteran members. There will be a slide show, memorabilia, and WW II members will receive longevity pins. Please be there to recognize our members of the Greatest Generation!

Note: If you would like to display your memorabilia, please contact Harold Roderberger.