

## From the Commander



First I'd like to say how proud I am to be installed as Post Commander of Ballard Eagleson Post 3063. As I write this I am getting ready for the Department of Washington 99th State Convention in Vancouver, Wash. where I officially become Post Commander. I look forward to our upcoming year. We have many exciting items at hand. There are, and will be, many opportunities for all hands to be involved. Please don't be shy; get involved and join in. If you have a question please ask. I am of the school of thought that the only dumb question is the one not asked.

Thank you to Commander Pete Krawitz for your two years of leadership and "always moving forward" mentality that you brought to our post. I'd also like to say a special thank you to Jan (Pete's mother) who is always going above and beyond with her help; and the unsung heroes – the House Committee and Trustees. Maybe not every member understands your duties or functions, but those that do are extremely grateful. That also applies to the entire leadership team. And last, but surely not least, is Quartermaster and District 2 Senior Vice Commander Harold Rodenberger who is the post's backbone. Without his conscientious efforts, our post just wouldn't be the squared-away post it is.

Thank you all. I look forward to working with each and every one of you. - *Joe Tiffany*

## Farewell From the Outgoing Commander



This will be the last column I write as Post Commander. I first wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all once more for giving me the opportunity to lead the post for the last two years. It's been a very fulfilling and challenging experience. I appreciate the willingness of many of the post members to try some new things, like modified meeting formats and leveraging more technology in our operations. Now, it's time to hand off the gavel to Joe Tiffany, who I'm confident will bring a fresh perspective to the podium. I look forward to supporting Joe and the new leadership team.

Over the last 24 months, we've been able to work together to become the largest post in the Seattle District. We've built stronger ties with other VSOs, community groups, and local businesses. We are also slowly working on improving our business continuity practices and leveraging technology which will help make running the post more accessible for our current and future officers.

We have some exciting projects on the horizon and we'll need all of the help we can get. Whether you've been a member of the post for 40 years or 4 months, there are various post officer positions and committees that could use your expertise. Talk to members of the leadership team if you are interested in helping out in any capacity.

While I have moved a bit further away, I still plan to stick with post 3063 for the foreseeable future, the community that welcomed me and my family to Ballard 5 years ago. It's a community that I'm very proud to be a part of. *Yours in Comradeship, Pete Krawitz*

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The **Ballard Eagleson Patriot** is published by the newsletter editor for Post 3063, Seattle, WA. This official newsletter is an authorized publication for members of Post 3063. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the newsletter editor. Its contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the VFW.

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Commander: Joe Tiffany

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Officer of the Day: Anthony Rose

3-Year Trustee: Nestor Tamayao

2-Year Trustee: Jon Guncay

1-Year Trustee: Russ Seelig

Service Officer: Joseph Mesa

Guard: Anthony Rose

Newsletter Editor: Alyson Teeter

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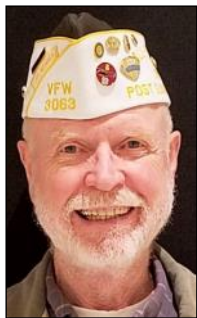
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## Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



Welcome to our new VFW year. Last year was a busy and productive one with the building remodel (detailed elsewhere in this paper) high on our priority list. We are moving into the new year with enthusiasm, determined to keep this project high in our sights as we as a post, narrow down the alternatives and arrive at a decision that will benefit the VFW, other veterans organizations, our community and, most of all, our members, present and future.

Congratulations to our new officers who were installed May 2 at the business meeting and took office last week, after our Washington State Commander was installed. I am confident they will continue the fine work of their predecessors and continue to lead the post toward our goals.

When I think back over the 2018-19 year, several

things deserve special mention. Again this year, thanks to all who brought in new members, we achieved 100 percent membership. This time reaching that 100% mark by December 31st thus setting a new record for our post.

Our Post 3063 Auxiliary is enjoying a revival. President Donna is supported by a good slate of officers but they are still looking for active additions to their rolls so if you have qualified family members, please encourage them to join our auxiliary.

Our outgoing service officer, Leo Potts, raised money to take a group of veterans to Washington, D.C. to tour the military monuments and take a cruise on the Potomac River. Since he and Suzanne are moving to Spain in the fall, he has been helping our incoming service officer, Joseph Mesa, learn the ropes and continue to provide the same outstanding service to our members and other veterans that Leo, and before

him, Gail Engler, have provided.

Our Post 3063 Honor/Color Guard participated in many ceremonies, including a graveside service for our 106-year old WWII member, Joe Small, when we braved a snowstorm to render proper honors to our departed comrade.

**Remember the picnic scheduled for August at the Seelig's place on Lake Serene.** It promises to be a good time for all. Hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks furnished, bring anything else you want to eat or drink.

Happy Fourth of July! **Remember, the business meeting in July is postponed from the 4th to the 11th.**

Finally, THANK YOU for being a member of our post! It is only through your continued membership that we can support veterans' goals at all levels, from local to national.

## Group Travels to DC, Visits Memorials

You may remember the March Irish Stew Fundraiser spearheaded by Comrade Leo Potts, who had the goal of sending a group of veterans to Washington, D.C. to view war memorials.

After months of fundraising and logistical planning, he reached his goal when a group of nine VFW Post 3063 members, one DAV member, and a few spouses departed on their trip May 17.

Over the course of the trip, the group visited various war memorials, to include the Korean War Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, and the Marine Corps War Memorial. They also enjoyed a Potomac River Cruise.

According to Comrade Potts, the trip was a resounding success and he hopes to make it an annual occurrence.



The D.C. travel group gathers for a picture at the airport.

## Relay Restaurant Group Feeds Veterans on Memorial Day

On Memorial Day more than 20 employees – including the owners and chefs – from the nationally known Relay Restaurant Group fed approximately 40 veterans and family members from the local Ballard community.

General Manager Michael Lund reached out to VFW Post 3063 in late April with the offer and that they wanted to hear “the amazing stories from people who helped make our country the amazing one it is today.” The post leadership team immediately said yes to the proposal.

The Memorial Day event started with a honor guard detail and an address from Commander Pete Krawitz. The front of the house staff showed off their serving skills while the kitchen staff showed off their culinary skills. They also had a free raffle for gift cards redeemable at the group’s restaurants: Joule, Revel or Trove.

The Relay team provided a large assortment of picnic-themed food – from barbecue chicken to cornbread and potato salad – all with a gourmet flare. According to Lund, the menu came together that morning and they had fun being spontaneous.



Relay Restaurant Group employees serve post members and families a delicious meal.

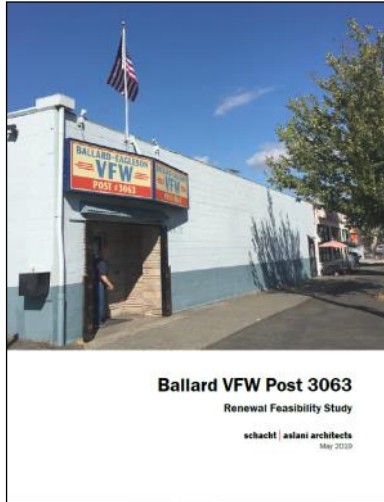
## Building Update: Architect Consultants Wrap Up Building Study

By Comrade Pete Krawitz

As you probably are aware, the house committee has finished up their work with the consultants from Schacht-Aslani Architects. The 165-page report highlights the current state of the building and various building improvement options ranging from minor refurbishment to a complex redevelopment and even relocation. I'm going to be brief in my summary for the article, however, if you are interested in reading the full report, please e-mail [adjutant@vfwseattle.org](mailto:adjutant@vfwseattle.org) or stop by the office and ask Harold.

There was one option that we, as the House Committee, also developed. Option Zero. The cost of doing nothing. If our current building upkeep costs vs income are any indication of the future, we are on a likely trajectory to be in a difficult financial situation in the next 20-30 years. This is assuming no major building system failures (i.e. roof or plumbing).

Bottom line is we need to do something. At a minimum, there are some structural, electrical, and plumbing works that need to happen if we want to ensure our building to continue to be a safe place for our members and the community. Our hall is our primary source of income, we need to take care of it. As you'd imag-



ine, none of this work will be cheap. Estimates, even for the most minor of renovations, will be in the range of \$600K - \$1M.

At our last meeting, the post voted to allow the house committee to engage in a multi-phase plan to see if it's financially feasible to conduct a major renovation of the post. The first phase will be to develop a "business plan". If the return on investment is compelling enough, we'll move into the second phase where we'll focus on fundraising feasibility. Our goal is to fundraise 100% of the renovation costs. The third phase would be the actual fundraising. The fourth phase, assuming all of the other phases were successful, will be the actual renovation project planning and the subsequent renovation.

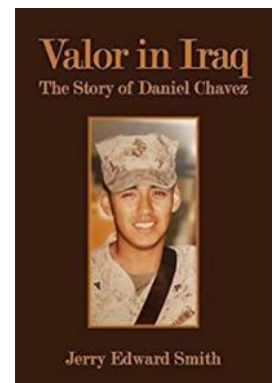
It's an exciting time to be part of this post, however, this is a lot of work and we'll need all of the help we can get if we want to ensure a project like this is successful. We'll be looking for volunteers for various committees in the near future. Stop by during our business meetings to learn more or send a message to [adjutant@vfwseattle.org](mailto:adjutant@vfwseattle.org).

## Ballard 19 Author Publishes New Book About Local OIF Hero

The Post 3063 Adjutant received a tip from local writer of the "The Ballard 19", Jerry Smith, that he recently published a book called "Valor in Iraq." It documents the story of a 2003 Ballard High School graduate, Daniel Chavez, who died fighting for his country in Iraq.

Here's a link to an article about the book, which is available on Amazon: <https://www.ballardtalisman.com/news/2019/06/13/vietnam-veteran-documents-the-story-about-war-hero/>.

All proceeds go to the Daniel Chavez Scholarship at Ballard High School.



## Comrade Rodenberger Awarded State's Veteran of the Year



We're proud to announce that Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger was named the **VFW Department of Washington's Veteran of the Year** at the 2019 State Conference!

Congratulations Comrade Rodenberger, **it's so well deserved!**

District 2 Commander Carl "Chris" Christophersen wrote a congratulatory message that includes Comrade Rodenberger's list of accomplishments. Read it at <http://vfwseattle.org/index.php/2019/06/27/comrade-rodenberger-awarded-states-veteran-of-the-year/>.

## 2019-2020 Officers Installed During May Business Meeting

Past Commander Nestor Tamayao installed the 2019-2020 slate of elected and appointed officers of VFW Post 3063 on May 2. Congratulations and good luck to the new leadership team!

**Commander:** Joe Tiffany  
**Sr. Vice Commander:** Joe Fitzgerald  
**Jr. Vice Commander:** Bryce White  
**Quartermaster:** Harold Rodenberger  
**Adjutant:** Alyson Teeter

**Judge Advocate:** Dan Stokke  
**Chaplain:** Aaron Stoltz  
**Surgeon:** Tiffany Cavin  
**Officer of the Day:** Anthony Rose  
**Service Officer:** Joseph Mesa  
**Guard:** Anthony Rose  
**1-Year Trustee:** Russ Seelig  
**2-Year Trustee:** Jon Guncay  
**3-Year Trustee:** Nestor Tamayao  
**1-Year House Committee:** Jordan Houghton  
**2-Year House Committee:** Alyson Teeter  
**3-Year House Committee:** Pete Krawitz



Incoming officers are installed at the May 2, 2019 business meeting.

## Volunteer at the Ballard Seafood Fest, Ballard Farmer's Market

Commander Joe Tiffany is looking for **volunteers to represent the post at a booth during the Ballard Seafood Fest July 13-14, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Volunteers will talk about our post's mission, recruit new members, and distribute Buddy Poppies. If you're interested in volunteering, call or text Commander Tiffany at 206-619-9521.

Comrade Tiffany Cavin organized a handful of members to distribute Buddy Poppies and flags at the Ballard Farmer's Market April 28, and it was a great success! There are plans to make this a monthly event so if you're interested in volunteering, contact [adjutant@vfwseattle.org](mailto:adjutant@vfwseattle.org).



## New Member Spotlight: Comrade Joseph Mesa

*This is a recurring column that highlights new VFW Post 3063 members. Comrade Joseph Mesa joined the post in February 2019. Comrade Mesa is also the post's new service officer.*

**What motivated you to join the VFW?** My motivation to join the VFW was not entirely wanting to be affiliated with any veterans group. It just so happened I was walking by the post and decided to drop in. Harold happened to be in the office and I struck up a conversation with him. During our conversation, I stated I was in need of submitting a service connected disability primarily a PTSD claim. I had been struggling with memories of my Vietnam combat experience. He recommended I contact Leo Potts who was the service officer and so I did. Leo was extremely open and encouraged me not only to apply but also register as a Vietnam Veteran with VA as well as seeking mental counseling available with VA. Our discussions led to my interest in assisting other Veterans in any way I could and he informed me that the post would need a service officer soon since he was leaving in September. I could go on about our extended conversation regarding my decision to take on the responsibility of the post's service officer but I'll do that at a later date if anyone is interested.

**What is your military background?** My military career began in October 1965 just 3 months after I graduated from high school. Basic Training was in Ft. Polk, medic training at Ft. Sam Houston, and airborne training at Ft. Benning. After my completion of airborne training, I was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade and was in-country April 1966. I was involved in multiple combat operations during my tour, all of which have affected me mentally many decades later. I guess the most famous combat operation I was involved in was Operation Junction City, which was the first and only combat airborne jump of the Vietnam conflict. I have been awarded the Parachutist Badge, Combat Medical Badge, Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign medal, Good Conduct, National De-

fense, and Marksman Badge.

**Civilian job, education, family, hobbies, or anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?** My ancestral lineage is primarily from the Pacific Island of Guam. My father served with the Navy during WWII and Korea. After my military service, I continued my upper education at Long Beach City College with an AA degree in Business and the University of Southern California with a Business Major emphasizing Accounting. I am the proud father of 2 sons and 3 daughters all of whom are college graduates. Also, I am the proud grandfather of 4 grandsons and 3 granddaughters ranging in ages 0 to 9.

**What do you hope to achieve being a member of the VFW?** My goal as the post's service officer is to continue the excellent foundation Leo has established and build on that foundation so as to provide knowledgeable, informative, and accurate information that will assist and aid all veterans and their families.

**Comrade Mesa's office hours at the post are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**



### Post 3063 New Members

**Bradley Brown**, Army,  
Afghanistan

**Robert O'Brien**, Army,  
Vietnam

**Jeffrey Cook**, Navy,  
Armed Forces Expedi-  
tionary Medal

**Patrick Ronan**, Navy,  
Armed Forces Expedi-  
tionary Medal

**John Deacon**, Army  
Vietnam

**Cole Russell**, Air Force,  
Afghanistan

**Derek Dimond**, Army,  
Iraq/Korea

**Matthew Santay**, Air  
Force, Afghanistan

**Wade Hetrick**, Air Force,  
Afghanistan



The VFW National Commander, BJ Lawrence, met with District 2 members during a visit to Rainier VFW Post 2289 April 27. Pictured left to right: Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger, then Sr. Vice Commander Joe Tiffany, National Commander Lawrence, and State Commander Linda Fairbank.

## First Annual Summer Picnic!

**When: Sunday, August 4th**

**Where: Seelig's on Lake Serene,  
4117 Shelby Rd, Lynnwood, WA 98087**

**What: Swimming, boating, fishing, eating,  
drinking, sunshine, badminton!**

**RSVP to Russ Seelig at 206-423-1150**



The Post 3063 Honor Guard presents the colors during the Relay Group Memorial Day Lunch at the post.



Comrades Tuft and Seelig distribute Buddy Poppies on Memorial Day at QFC.



Comrades Teeter and Basher joined the Run as One run around Green Lake April 13, 2019. It was a great opportunity to get to know our fellow veterans from Team RWB, the Mission Continues and Team Rubicon.

## Upcoming Events

**July 4, 2019** - VFW Post 3063 Auxiliary Buddy Poppy distribution at Shoreline Central Market. The July business meeting is cancelled so see you August 12 at Total Wine in Interbay!

**July 11, 2019, 7 p.m.** - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting. Food is served at 6 p.m. If you plan to attend and have new business to discuss, please submit your agenda item at <https://goo.gl/ww8kk4>.

**July 18, 2019, 6:30 p.m.** - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner. Open to post and auxiliary members, families, friends, and the community. \$5 suggested donation.

**August 4, 2019**- VFW Post 3063 First Annual Summer Picnic.

**September 14, 2019, 5 p.m.** - VFW Post 3063 Annual Spaghetti Fundraiser.

*Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for business meetings and social dinners. Social dinners are free for members who have birthdays in the same month. Additional events are listed at <http://vfwseattle.org/index.php/resources/event-calendar/>.*



*Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063 is located in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle at 2812 NW Market St. The office is open Thursdays and Saturdays 1-5 p.m.*

*We're on the web and Facebook! <http://www.vfwseattle.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost3063>*



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