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From the Commander



Comrades:

Success in spite of adversity.

As we come to the end of 2020 and hopefully what will become the beginning of the end to the pandemic, I want to wish all of you a Happy and wonderful New Year, surrounded by those who mean the most to you.

This has been a difficult year especially since March, for all of us, but I am most confident that with the ever increasing availability of the vaccinations, happy days will indeed be here again sooner than later! We will eventually be moving beyond the Covid restrictions, but for now there is still a need to stay the course with masking, social distancing, etc. for what will hopefully be just a bit longer. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch them with a six foot pole" would become a national policy - but here we are!

The pandemic, as difficult as it has been, has served to make us look at new or different ways for the Post to meet or exceed the goals that are set at the beginning of each VFW year.

COMMANDER'S HOLIDAY COMMENTARY, cont. pg. 3

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

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VFW Post 3063

Ballard Eagleson Patriot

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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 Fitzgerald
Sr Vice Commander: Bryce White
Jr Vice Commander: Alyson Teeter
Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger
Adjutant: Marleen Madding
Judge Advocate: Dan Stokke
Chaplain: Aaron Stoltz
Surgeon: Robert Lehman
Officer of the Day: VACANT
3-Year Trustee: Joe Tiffany
2-Year Trustee: Nestor Tamayao
1-Year Trustee: Dan Stokke
Service Officer: Joseph Mesa
Guard: VACANT
Newsletter Editor: Alyson Teeter

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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



Due to the holidays, I wrote this update during the winter equinox, the shortest day of the year. Here in northwestern Washington, there were only about eight hours and twenty-five minutes of daylight. Our typical winter weather of overcast skies made the day seem even darker. Like this short day, most of this past year has seemed dark and dreary. Despite those dark days we carried on with our mission, knowing that the days ahead would be brighter and warmer.

During this past quarter, we continued our business meetings via Zoom. If you haven't connected on that platform, please join our meeting on January 7th. See Zoom instructions elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website.

Chef Kay and helpers made wonderful dinners for our social nights. The Thanksgiving dinner set a record at 85 dinners prepared, but the Christmas dinner smashed that record with 102 dinners for members and guests. A special thanks to 1SG Britt Anderson, of our adopted unit, who donated three whole tenderloins and to Hope who donated 25 dozen farm-fresh eggs.

Because of the virus, our hall has been empty, but during December members of Seattle Stand Down as-

sembled and wrapped Christmas presents for needy veterans and their families in our community. Members of the leadership team from our adopted National Guard unit (A Co, 181st BSB) did the same for needy unit members and their families. It was good to see our hall being used for such worthy causes.

It's been a difficult year for VFW programs, but your post honored students who competed in the VFW Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen programs. Our first-place winners advanced to District level for further competition. We also submitted our entries for Police Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year for judging at higher headquarters.

Our Relief Fund contributed funds to the SeaTac USO, Fisher House at the VA Medical Center, members of our post in distress, and to needy personnel in our two adopted National Guard units.

Another hearty "Thank You" to all who assembled poppies. We shipped back to headquarters about 95,000 completed poppies.

As we look forward to the Year of the Ox and brighter times, please join me in applying lessons learned from these dark days by resolving to treasure relationships, show more patience and kindness and further support our fellow veterans and their families.

Happy New Year, 2021!

Commander's Holiday Commentary cont. from page 1

Zoom has enabled us to continue with our business meetings, The Bidding Owl resulted in our fundraiser being far more successful than anyone thought, the Honor/Color guard has successfully pursued a grant that will allow it to "march" right along (sorry) better than ever, and Kay and the kitchen staff have developed a system that keeps the operation in compliance with the Governor's requirements and still serve tremendous meals to 80-100 people each month. Through the efforts of many, the post successfully assembled in excess of 90,000 Buddy Poppies that will generate another \$2,000 for the post. And these are just some of the main accomplishments!

Lastly, with regard New Year's Day, Mark Twain once said, "Now is the accepted time to make your annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual." For me, my New Year's resolution list usually starts with the desire to lose between 10 and three thousand pounds! Hopefully you all can do better!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU! Here's a special message from our command team: <https://tinyurl.com/y9wx92dn>.

Joe Fitzgerald

Post 3063 Commander

Tamayao Presented National Assistant IG Hat



Chef Kay's Crew Prepares Record Number of Social Meals

Chef Kay and her dedicated crew of chefs, takeout preparers and food deliverers fed a record 85 people for November and then another record 102 people for December. All meals are takeout style, for donation only, and so delicious!

It's an amazing treat to eat a Chef Kay meal each month and our post is so appreciative of Kay and her crew's efforts.

Thank you to Comrade Marleen Madding for taking the behind-the-scenes photos!



From left to right: Chef Kay makes the stuffing for Thanksgiving dinner, Jessica Chacko had the fun job of torching the Crème Brulee for December's meal, Linda Stokke chops shallots in December and Comrade Commander Joe Fitzgerald gathers deliveries for November's meals.

Caring for Those In Need During the Holiday Season

Post 3063 leadership joined forces with their adopted unit, the Washington National Guard's A Co. 181st Brigade Support Battalion, Dec. 18. The post donated \$1,000 in gift cards to HHC and A Co. 181 BSB's soldiers and their families. We're looking forward to hosting the company commander, CPT Jackson Meeker, during our January business meeting where he'll tell us more about the BSB's mission.

The post also donated its hall for the Seattle Stand Down Dec. 19; volunteers wrapped toys for veteran families.



From Left to Right: 1SG Britt Anderson, Comrade Aly Teeter, Comrade Harold Rodenberger, Comrade Joe Fitzgerald and CPT Jackson Meeker stop for a photo during their care package building Dec. 17, 2020.



Seattle Stand Down volunteers start to wrap gifts for veterans' families Dec. 18, 2020.



Past Commander Oscar Borchelt Turns 100

By Harold Rodenberger

Our post helped Past Commander Borchelt celebrate his 100th birthday on Nov. 19, 2020. Because of the pandemic, we were unable to visit Oscar to celebrate in person, but we sent a red, white and blue flower arrangement and wished him well.

Oscar said to thank everyone in the post for remembering his big birthday. His grandson, who took the photo, said Oscar was ecstatic that we remembered him and to receive the flowers.



Above: Oscar with his flowers from VFW Post 3063 on his birthday.
Right: Comrade Borchelt's amazing shadow box!

Comrade Borchelt was our post commander for seven years, from 1991-1998, and was active in our post until the past few years when advancing age and retreating eyesight restricted his driving. He lives at his home in Maple Valley where he sometimes (during warm weather) still works in his yard.

Congratulations, Oscar, on your 100th birthday and may you celebrate many more!



VA Releases COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced Dec. 15 publication of its dynamic VA COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan, being executed at 37 sites across the country.

VA began vaccinating Veterans and frontline employees this week, following the Food and Drug Administration's Dec. 11 decision to issue an Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

The distribution plan addresses vaccinations for Veterans, staff and other federal partners including a prioritization framework for identifying the population(s) at highest risk to receive the vaccine. The plan will be updated over the next two weeks to reflect final recommendations and specifications from

FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on COVID-19 vaccines authorized through FDA's Emergency Use Authorization process – and will continue be updated as FDA approves new vaccines.

The plan covers vaccine distribution in the United States, Puerto Rico, and U.S. territories where VA provides health care to Veterans, as well as vaccine safety monitoring and vaccine reporting as required by the CDC and Operation Warp Speed.

Veterans seeking additional information should visit the VA Coronavirus Vaccine FAQs webpage at va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/, contact their care team or visit their facility website.

Officer Spotlight: Jr. Vice Commander Alyson Teeter

This is a recurring column that highlights the 2020-2021 post officers.

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

As the Jr. Vice, I'm essentially the back-up to the back-up commander (Sr. Vice). It's been great working with Joe and Bryce while trying to keep the post moving along during Covid. I'm hoping to get our adopted unit program on the right track this year and we've started out great by assembling care packages together in December. I'm also the webmaster and newsletter editor so communication is a priority.

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

I joined in 2015 after I left my position as a VA and DoD caseworker for a politician. My youngest child was born that year and as a new stay-at-home

parent, I felt the need to find my new tribe. I've loved connecting with fellow veterans here in the Ballard and Fremont area! After a few years of serving as Adjutant and on the House Committee, this is my first year on the command track as Jr. Vice.

What do you enjoy most about belonging to the VFW?

Making meaningful connections in this day and age of social media is really important to me and the VFW has provided an outlet for that. I've learned a lot from my friends at the VFW, especially Harold, who I consider a mentor. There's a core group of folks who work tirelessly to

keep the post going and I'd love to see that group expand. Just know that if you become more involved, you too can make meaningful connections and help veterans in the process!



Then U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Aly Teeter at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, with her commander on her O-3 promotion day, June 2006. F-4 Phantom and F-86 Sabre displays are in the background. Aly was a public affairs officer and counterpropaganda planner with 7th Air Force.

Post 3063 New Members

Noah Cordova

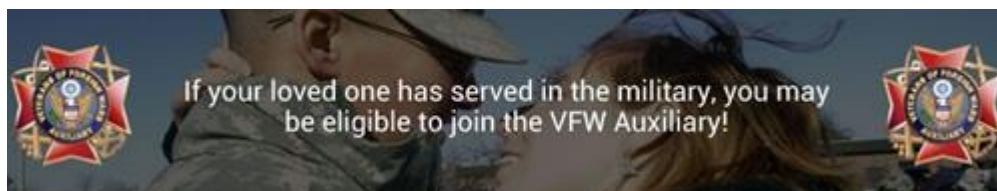
Army
Afghanistan and Iraq

Shennae Curtis

Navy
GWOT Expeditionary
Medal

Gabriel Whetsel

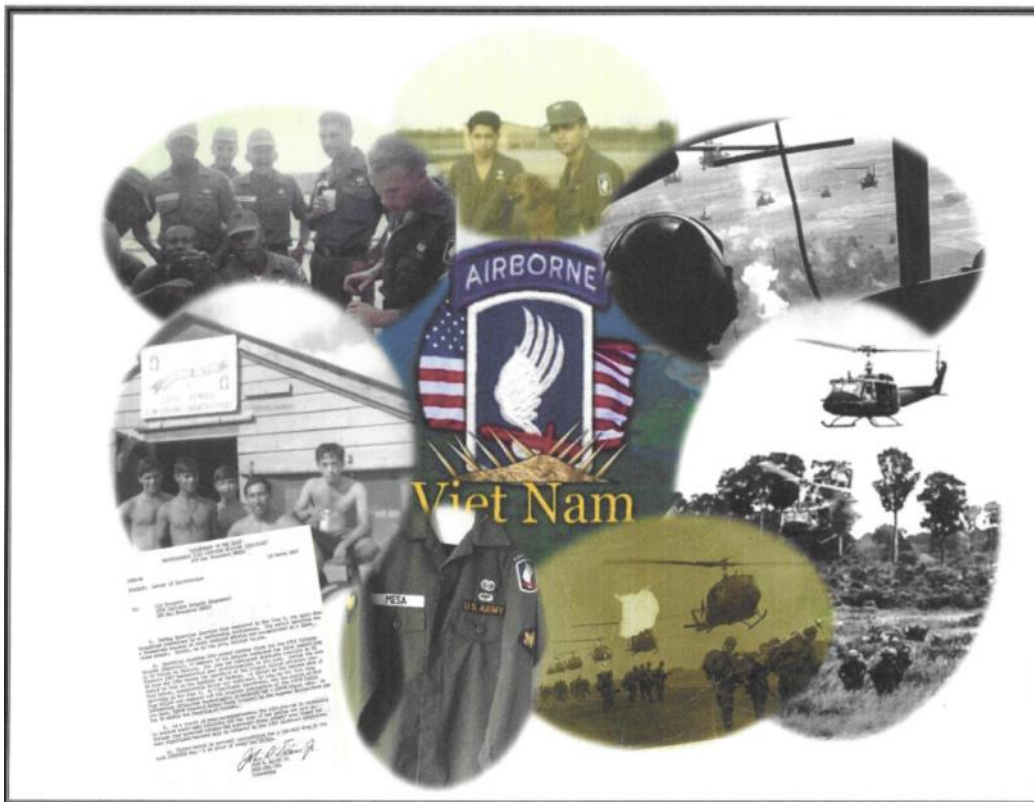
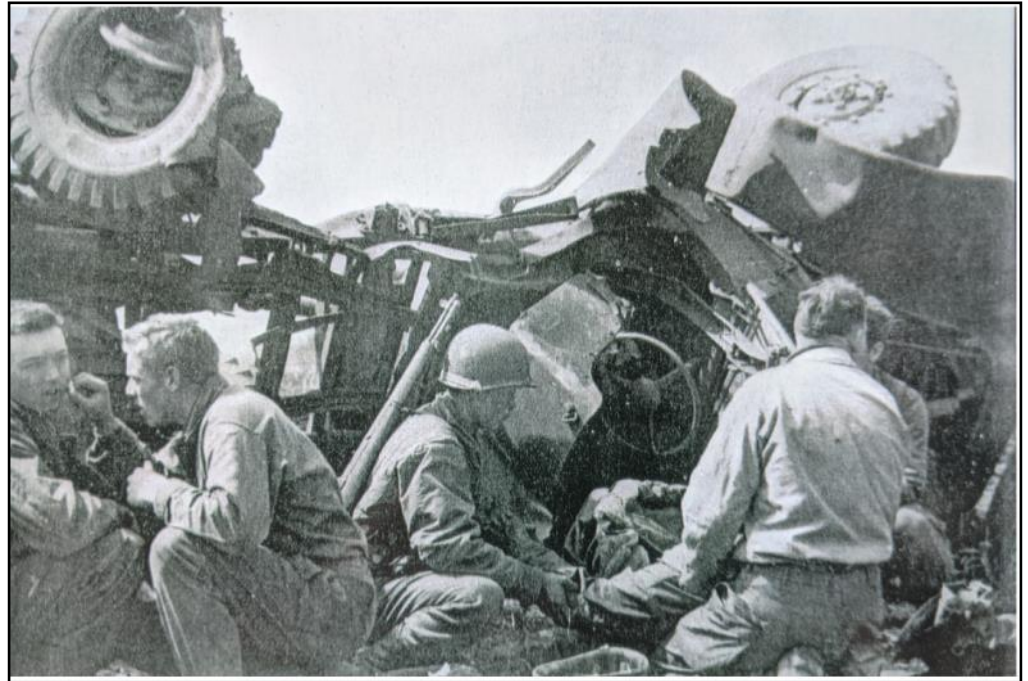
Army
Afghanistan and Iraq



Service Flashback: Please Send Us Your Photos!

In August the newsletter editor started collecting wartime photos from post members. This is a great way to highlight our service and see a side of our members that isn't often shown. Please send your photos to Comrade Aly Teeter at editor@vfwseattle.org.

Comrade Wally Michl, then a U.S. Army soldier, is pictured second from the left here in a photo from North Korea in the fall of 1950. The truck was a 3/4 ton Weapons Carrier with C Battery, 8th Field Artillery Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. It hit a mine and Wally was right behind the vehicle when it happened. He notes that someone gave him this photo during a reunion many years after it was taken!



Comrade Joseph Mesa provided this photo collage of his Vietnam service. Joseph was a combat medic for the 173rd Airborne Brigade, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, from March 1966 to April 1967. He was involved in Operations Silver City, Yorktown, Cedar Falls and Junction City. For Operation Silver City, the 2nd Battalion was awarded a Presidential Citation. In Operation Junction City, the unit had its one combat jump while Joseph was assigned to it. Joseph noted, "I was thrust into combat operations just 9 months after graduating from High School. Still mentally dealing with the aftermath of my combat experience."

Upcoming Events

January 7, 2021, 7 p.m. – VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting
via Zoom and phone. [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5057012075?
pwd=K1ppc3RCNHRaYkhyNjFhb0w2dkdlQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5057012075?pwd=K1ppc3RCNHRaYkhyNjFhb0w2dkdlQT09)

Meeting ID: 505 701 2075, Password: Ballard306

By Phone: 253-215-8782, Password: 064533

January 21, 2021, 4:30 p.m. – VFW Post 3063 Take Out Social.

To make a reservation for food, contact Quartermaster

Rodenberger at quartermaster@vfwseattle.org.



Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063 is located in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle at 2812 NW Market St.

Reminder: Report Your Service

Do you volunteer, fly a flag, recycle, give blood, donate goods to charity, or any other activities that improve the community? The VFW needs to know this information! Submit community service info via the post's Community Service Reporting Form at <http://vfwseattle.org/index.php/resources/community-service-reporting/>. The Post Surgeon also uses some of this information for his monthly reports. Guidelines are available at <https://tinyurl.com/yy3udz8v>.

You Can Now Donate to the Post from Our Website

Donate to Post 3063 Veterans Relief Fund, Building Fund or National Home for Children

Donate



Just look for this block at vfwseattle.org and you can quickly donate to the Relief Fund, Building Fund or National Home for Children.