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From the Commander



We're BACK!

Yes, it's the start of a new year and the post is definitely back!

We will be conducting a full blown in person business meeting at the post on Thursday, July 1 at 7 p.m. for everyone who is fully vaccinated.

So any and everyone, come on down, COME ON DOWN! If for whatever reason you haven't been vaccinated, you can still attend via Zoom.

There's a lot of business to cover in our meeting, including our auxiliary, post awards and achievements and the recently concluded state convention.

We will also say farewell to Comrade Bryce White, Sr. Vice, who recently changed jobs and relocated back to Hawaii.

Hope to see you soon!

- Commander Joe Fitzgerald

We're on the web and Facebook! vfwseattle.org | facebook.com/vfwpost3063



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Commander: Joe Fitzgerald
Sr Vice Commander: Alyson Teeter
Jr Vice Commander: Bill Griffith
Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger
Adjutant: Shennae Curtis
Judge Advocate: Dan Stokke
Chaplain: Joseph Mesa
Surgeon: Robert Lehman
Officer of the Day: VACANT
3-Year Trustee: Robert O'Brien
2-Year Trustee: Joe Tiffany
1-Year Trustee: Nestor Tamayao
Service Officer: Joseph Mesa
Guard: VACANT
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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



Because I'll be at the VFW State Convention during the end of June, I'm writing this during the Summer Solstice. It seems only fitting, after going through the longest year since Vietnam, to be writing this during the longest day of the year. As when I left Vietnam about 55 years ago, I am relieved that this longest year is drawing to an end.

Thanks to all of you who have worn masks, learned to properly wash hands, and most importantly, gotten vaccinated. You have helped yourself and your fellow citizens to slow down this pandemic and slowly return to a more normal life. This pandemic caught us flatfooted but scientists learned, knowledge evolved, and we are still learning lessons.

One lesson we learned was that electronic attendance at meetings works, so starting this month, fully vaccinated members are encouraged to attend meetings in person. We will continue to offer the Zoom connection at all our meetings and members who are not vaccinated are encouraged to attend using this platform.

Another lesson learned was to reduce our food waste by operating the social dinners (third Thursdays) on a reservation basis.

If you want dinner, make a reservation. If you want to go through the line and take your dinner home, make a reservation. Reservations are easy, email quartermaster@vfwseattle.org, or text/call me at 206-972-2135 with your desired number of meals. Deadline is the Monday night before the Thursday Socials. Fully vaccinated are invited to dine in house. Others may go through the line and take their dinner home.

Our Service Officer, Joseph Mesa, continues to help veterans submit claims for benefits for disabilities incurred while serving their country. He can also give you information about survivor's assistance. If you or any other veteran you know needs help getting a claim together, please contact Joseph for an appointment at 206-488-8981. Membership in the VFW is not required.

Our post and VFW Posts worldwide depend on volunteers to keep veterans and other community assistance programs alive and functioning. We need leaders and workers for mentoring new members, helping with socials, working the phone tree, distributing Buddy Poppies, visiting the VA Hospital and shut-in vets, working membership, etc., etc. As the new VFW year starts this month, and as our new officers take the lead, please help our fellow veterans (and yourself) by attending meetings and volunteering to help your post thrive.

Ballard Eagleson Patriot Places Third in National Contest

Courtesy of VFW.org

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) announced the winners of the 2021 National Publications Contest April 30, 2021.

Covering the 2020 calendar year, this year's Publications Contest garnered 56 entries, surpassing last year's 39 submissions.

Entries for the contest derived from 35 Posts/Districts and 10 Departments. There were four submissions for the "Best Magazine" category and 12 submissions for "Best Feature Article." Of the 56 entries, 16 placed.

Two non-VFW-affiliated journalism professionals

served as judges for the competition. This is designed to guarantee impartiality and objectivity in the judging.



Comrade Teeter receives the national award certificate at the Annual Department Convention June 24, 2021. From left, National Commander Hal Roesch, Comrade Teeter, Department Commander Traci Williams, and Jim Daly, Washington Publications Committee Chair.

The VFW congratulates all entrants for their hard work and service to their respective members. The pool of entries this year proved to be very competitive. Awards will be mailed in June to each Department for distribution.

The winning publications for District/Post Publications, Small Frequency (printed 1-4 times per year):

Bronze Award: Ballard Eagleson Patriot, Post 3063, Department of Washington

Welcome, Post 3063 New Members!

Zachary Campbell

Navy
GWOT Expeditionary

Joel Hammer

Army
Gulf War

William Travers Jr.

Army
Vietnam

The Law of Unforeseen Circumstances

By Robert Lehman, MD

If you Google April 18, you get Paul Revere's famous ride, the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, and the opening of the first laundromat in 1934 in Texas. But one of the events with possibly the most important unintended consequence of the twentieth century does not even appear.

In 2006, now as a flight surgeon in San Antonio, a call came into the clinic that the 4-star General's office needed a physician to come to see them right away. Months passed, and I was called and invited to be the medical representative to "guard" the remaining members of Doolittle's Raiders during their Goblet Ceremony. For many years, the surviving members of Doolittle's Raiders would meet and drink a toast to their colleagues that had died during the previous year. Then, that Raider's goblet would be turned upside down. As the members to be in attendance were in their 80s and 90s, the USAF wanted a physician in attendance.

UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, cont. pg. 4

Between the Goblet Ceremony and the luncheon, I was with the Raiders in a hospitality room. In preparation for the ceremony, I had quickly read a book on the Raiders. As I asked Richard Cole (who recently died at 103 as the last of the Raider) to sign my book, I made the "smart ass" comment, "Sir, you really should have taken a flight surgeon with you." That led to a heated rebuttal of, "But we did. Dr. White was our flight surgeon." I argued back that this information is not in their books, and I was pointed to a man in the corner who was their official biographer. He in turn confirmed there was a flight surgeon on the mission, and gave me his name so that I could try to piece the story together further.

UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCE If my fellow flight surgeons had not refused the call from the General's office, I wouldn't have been asked to be the medical support for the Raiders, wouldn't have had the chance to talk to each of them individually, and find out about Dr. Tom White. More of that in a moment.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, destroying much of our fleet. The Japanese had determined that attacking Hawaii would prevent the United States from interfering in further Japanese plans in southeast Asia, the South Pacific and the Philippines.

* UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCE * Rather than preventing the United States from interfering with the Japanese plans, the United States declared war on Japan. Four days later, German and Italy declared war on the United States, and the United States was now firmly into World War II.

Nevertheless, the United States was not really ready for war in the Pacific. Navy Captain Fow, Assistance Chief of Staff for Submarine Warfare, noticed that aircraft were practicing landings on an outline of an aircraft carrier on a land runway. He made a suggestion, and that evolved into the Raid on Tokyo more commonly known as Doolittle's Raiders. The purpose of the raid was to "punch Japan in the eye" and boost morale in the US while mobilizing industry for war. B-25 bombers were stripped of all non-essential equipment and loaded with bombs. The goal was to launch the aircraft from a carrier 400 miles from Japan, drop the bombs, and land in China. However, they were potentially spotted by a Japanese radio boat at 650 miles, and were forced to take off prematurely; guaranteeing that they would run out of fuel before reaching landing sites. The 16 aircraft dropped explosive and incendiary bombs in various areas of Japan, including Tokyo. Fifteen of the planes crash-landed in China or ditched into the ocean. One plane made it to Vladivostok, where they were detained by the Soviets for 2 years. Of the 80 crewmen, 73 eventually made it home: three killed in action, three executed by the Japanese, and one died in captivity.

* UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES* The Japanese did not know where the raid had come from. They reasoned that bombers could not have come from aircraft carriers to the east as common sense said you could not launch a bomber from an aircraft carrier. Therefore, they concluded they must have come from China or from the areas north of Japan. Because of that, the Japanese kept 35,000 of their most elite and well-supplied troops in China during the war. They also stationed several of their battleships and aircraft carriers to the north, which made them unavailable to the Battle of Midway to come. Had the troops, ships, and armaments been distributed differently, WWII in the Pacific might have had a significantly different outcome.

Dr. Tom White was a flight surgeon when the crews began to be secretly assembled and trained, and he pleaded with Col Jimmie Doolittle to be allowed on the mission. He was told they could not afford the extra weight. Dr. White then quickly trained as gunner, and he is listed on the crew manifests in that position. According to reports, Dr. White's plane ditched into the China Sea. Everyone got out safely, but then as the plane was sinking, Dr. White went back into the plane, retuning with his medical instruments as the plane sank. They made to shore and were taken by the Chinese underground to where another crew was being hidden. Lt Ted Lawson was the pilot of one of the other aircraft and was badly injured. Dr. White ended up amputating his leg, and is said to have transfused Lt Lawson with his own blood. Ted Lawson is further famous for writing the book "30 seconds over Tokyo," which was released in 1943, followed by the movie in 1944.

The original article was edited due to space constraints. It can be viewed at vwseattle.org.



Eight of the surviving 16 Doolittle Raiders raise their goblets for their fallen brothers during their 64th reunion in Dayton, Ohio, April 18, 2006. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo Jr.)

Post Receives State Awards at WA Department Annual Convention



King County Sheriff Deputy Bob Nix, Post 3063's Law Enforcement Award recipient, receives the state level award during the VFW and Auxiliary Departments of Washington 101st Annual Convention Banquet in Spokane, June 25, 2021. He is pictured with National Commander Hal Roesch and Department Commander Traci Williams. Deputy Nix will go on to compete with other state-level award recipients at the national level.



Congratulations to our Post 3063 leadership for achieving All State Post status, which entails completing various reports on time, reaching membership goals, attending district meetings/workshops, participating in community activities, and other factors. Commander Joe Fitzgerald and Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger accepted their white hats, which signify the All State status, during the convention.

Officer Spotlight: Dan Stokke, Post 3063 Judge Advocate

This is a recurring column that highlights the 2021-2022 post officers.

What is your military background?

My tour of duty in the U.S. Army was at Tae Chon, Korea where there was a missile base with three huge missiles. The missiles would come out of their silos every week on staggered days. Our unit was tasked to secure the perimeter. There were 12 Observation Posts. Every night I would hump three mountains where my OPs were located and make certain no one was sleeping. My squad would put out little traps for me to warn them when I was coming. They would tell me the traps were for the North Koreans. We were not allowed cameras or alcohol in the compound. I believe the missiles were nukes but everything was hush-hush.

When I got back to the states I was placed at Ft. Lawton in the 74th MP Detachment and did the remain-



Comrade Stokke during his years in the service.

der of my military time there. That prepared me for my civilian job, which was a detective for 42 years with Seattle P.D.

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

As Judge Advocate I am responsible to keep the post bylaws and constitution up to date and present them to the post membership.

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

I've been with Post 3063 approximately six years and previously served as Post Surgeon. I've enjoyed participating in the post's annual trips to the VA hospital. Since COVID-19 of course, we haven't been able to see the vets. Hopefully this will start again soon.

I like the friendships I've acquired from our post and the fact they all are motivated to help the veterans.

2021-2022 Officers Installation Ceremony Held in May

Former VFW District 2 Commander Carl Cristopherson installed the 2021-2022 slate of elected and appointed officers of VFW Post 3063 on May 6. Officers take office in July after the department commander is installed. Congratulations and good luck to the new leadership team!

Commander: Joe Fitzgerald
Sr. Vice Commander: Bryce White
Jr. Vice Commander: Alyson Teeter
Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger
Chaplain: Joseph Mesa
1 Year Trustee: Nestor Tamayao
2 Year Trustee: Joe Tiffany
3 Year Trustee: Robert O'Brien
Adjutant: Shennae Curtis
Service Officer: Joseph Mesa



Judge Advocate: Dan Stokke
Surgeon: Bob Lehman
1 Year House Committee: Pete Krawitz
2 Year House Committee: Russ Selig
3 Year House Committee: Gail Engler

Service Throwbacks: Comrades Pioli and Simpson

Please send your service photos and who, what, where and when to Comrade Aly Teeter at editor@vfwseattle.org.



Comrade Al Simpson, then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, is pictured here on the Korean Peninsula during the Korean War in 1953.



Comrade Paul Pioli (third from the left), then a U.S. Army Sergeant with the HHC 2/32 7th Infantry Division, is pictured here on a hilltop in South Korea on his birthday, November 15, 1967.

Upcoming Events

July 1, 2021, 7 p.m. – VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting in person (if vaccinated) and via Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5057012075?pwd=K1ppc3RCNHRaYkhyNjFhb0w2dkdlQT09>
Meeting ID: 505 701 2075, Password: Ballard306
By Phone: 253-215-8782, Password: 064533

July 15, 2021, 4:30 p.m. – VFW Post 3063 Social. To make a reservation for in person (if vaccinated) or take out, contact Harold at quartermaster@vfwseattle.org.

August 7, 2021, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Post Picnic at the Seelig's home on Lake Serene, 4117 Shelby Rd., Lynnwood 98087. Hamburgers, hotdogs and soft drinks provided. Feel free to bring a non-refrigerated side, salad or dessert and own preferred beverage. Bring stuff for swimming and water sports!



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



Your voice matters! Sign up for VFW legislative alerts at vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts/vfw-action-corps-weekly.

Reminder: Report Your Service!

Do you volunteer, 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 vfwseattle.org/index.php/resources/community-service-reporting/. The Post Surgeon also uses some of this information for their monthly reports. Guidelines are available at tinyurl.com/yy3udz8v.