



Ballard Eagleson Patriot
Post 3063, Ballard, WA
February 2016



Special Fund Raising Dinner March 17

By Harold Rodenberger

The post is putting on a special dinner on March 17 to raise money for our Relief Fund. The menu will be corned beef and cabbage with soda bread, spinach salad and bread pudding with brandy sauce. The price is \$15 and tickets will be available from many of the members of the Post and Auxiliary.

If you are unable to attend but wish to contribute to our Relief Fund please send a check payable to VFW Post 3063 Relief Fund to the post at 2812 NW Market St., Seattle, WA 98107. This past year money from our Relief Fund was used to help: the USO, \$1,000; Fisher House, \$500; the VA Hospital, \$1,522.72; our adopted National Guard unit, Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team, \$1,950, Special Olympics, \$100; Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners, \$100; Firefighters Relief Fund (Eastern Washington fires), \$357; Buddy Poppies, \$100; Quiring Monuments for VN Memorial rehab, \$200; and our own members in distress, \$1,276.



Legacy Life Member Program

By Harold Rodenberger

Our VFW National Headquarters has established a Legacy Life Member Program. Since it has only been around for five years or so many of our members haven't heard about it so I thought it would be good to review the program for your information and possible action.



There are three levels of membership: Gold, Silver and

Bronze. Each level has benefits, different costs and returns different annual endowments to our post, state and national headquarters. Bronze is \$400 and returns \$6 per year to the three beneficiaries, Silver is \$800 and returns \$12 and Gold is \$1200 and returns \$18 per year.



Among the benefits are lapel and hat pins, certificates and plaques, recognition in the convention programs, additional levels of no-cost insurance, special discounts at the VFW Store and, for the Gold level, a personalized brick at Centennial Plaza and a special hat patch.



When I joined what appealed to me was the idea of leaving a legacy of annual pay-outs in my name to all three beneficiaries but especially to our post and its members long after I'm gone to Post Everlasting.

This program is available only to life members and if you are interested in more information or in joining the program please come by the post where we have information brochures and forms or visit the National website page at this address:

http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY_VFW/LegacyLifeMembershipBrochure.pdf



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The Post Newsletter is published monthly. Submissions must be received by the editor five days before the last day of a month for inclusion in next month's issue. Contact Charles Anderson with questions about material at editor@vfwseattle.org

Post business meetings: First Thursday of each month at 1900. Social evenings with a catered dinner: Third Thursday each month at 1830. Doors open 1730 for both events.

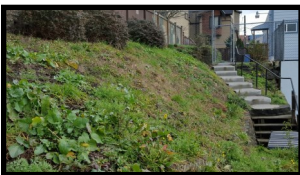
Post Officers are listed on our Web site (<http://vfwseattle.org>)

Quartermaster's Update



January marked an important milestone for our post. We achieved 100% membership for the first time in several years. Many of our members from the WWII era have passed on so our numbers have been decreasing but this year we have turned the corner and started to increase again. There is still room for more in this active and growing post so if you know of a veteran of a foreign war encourage him or her to join and become active in our post.

A few of the VFW Posts in our area have a special unit called an Honor Guard which provides military ceremonies at funerals and memorials; marches in parades and serves in other ways to honor our country and perpetuate the military culture. During our January meeting the post authorized the formation of of an Honor Guard to be formed up here at our post. If you are interested in participating in the formation and ongoing functions of this unit, please send me an [email](#) or call me at (206) 972-2135. I will compile a list of prospective members and we can mutually decide on the best time to meet and get this unit started.



We are looking for a volunteer to maintain the hillside behind our parking lot. I'm getting too old and unsteady to do the job anymore so if

you are an agile person interested in running our trimmer once every couple weeks (on your own schedule) please let me know.

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Commander's Letter



I recently had the opportunity to see a complimentary pre-screening of the just-released film "13 hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi." While fully aware that Hollywood takes artistic liberty with the truth frequently, I have heard subsequent interviews with several of the former military/C.I.A. operatives depicted on screen, and they attest to the general accuracy of the events portrayed in the movie. It was not an overtly political film, as it did not even mention the names of a couple of high profile political figures connected to decisions made or not made that might have saved the life of Ambassador Chris Stevens and two other heroic Americans who tried to save him and an I.T. contractor who perished with him as the U.S. Consulate burned.

The overriding message of the film is to follow your moral duty, even when you don't have to. As the old saying goes, "character means doing the right thing, even when nobody is looking." Former active duty Marines, Seals and an Army Ranger, working as private security contractors in Libya, could have followed their "Stand Down" order but opted, at risk to themselves, to attempt a rescue of fellow Americans. Tragically, while they were doing the right thing, some in Washington D. C. were looking via satellite and aerial drone and did nothing, as American F-16s remained grounded 20 minutes flight time away at an airbase in Sicily. To paraphrase one current presidential candidate at that point, what difference could that airpower have made? I suspect the answer is, "A hell of a lot."

Another reminder I took away from the film is that no deficiencies in our national leadership can detract from the quality and heroism of those who continue to step up and defend this greatest of nations. The heroes of Benghazi remind us that America can and will endure and survive, even when some of our elected officials seem predisposed towards diminishing it. [Aaron Stoltz]

Birthday Greetings (Free dinner in your birthday month)

Barnes, Brooke
Buck, John
Colo, Francis

Daniels, Scott
Katelnikoff, Harold
Parks, Tony



Parliamentary Procedure; or Movin' and Groovin'

By Clark Silliman

Why do we have parliamentary procedure in the first place?



"The object of all [parliamentary] procedure is to get things accomplished in an orderly manner, to take things up one at a time, and dispose of them in the shortest time possible, at the same time in a democratic fashion." *VFW Parliamentary Procedure*.

The business of a post meeting is carried forth by **MOTIONS**.

So how does a member make a motion? Simply by standing, facing the chair and saying, "**I Move . . .**" We all have heard at one time or another, a fellow member wishing to make a motion, say, instead, "**I Make a Motion . . .**" Not only is that not the way the Rules of Order specify motions are to be made, it is two words longer than "**I Move . . .**" Simpler and shorter is better! Or as the title of this piece suggests, it's "groovier" to be "movin'" ("**I Move . . .**") than to be "**making a motion.**"

That's the long and the short of how to go about making a motion during our post's business meetings.

In next month's newsletter, we'll discuss another aspect of parliamentary procedure. If you have parliamentary procedure topics you would like discussed and explained, please send them to clark.silliman@gmail.com or to me c/o Post 3063.

(Continued from page 2)

The sign for our post, above the main entrance, has slowly deteriorated. It is time to have new translucent panels made to replace the old ones. If you have artistic talent and want to submit a new more eye-catching design, please submit your idea to the post before February 29 so our members can review and approve at our next monthly meeting on March 3. If your design is the winner you will receive a free ticket to our fund raising dinner on March 17 so get those creative thoughts working. [Harold Rodenberger]

On the Lighter Side

Poet John Masefield's "Sea Fever," which begins with these lines, "I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky / And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by;" has been the subject of a number of parodies. Recently one of our post members was inspired to offer his own from the view of a submariner.

"Undersea Fever"

By Bill Hoeller

I must go under the seas again, to
get out of this freezing weather,
And all I ask is a warm cup of
coffee, and a bunk soft as a
feather,
And the winds biting rain, hitting
my frozen face and ears,
And I just want off this lookout
stand, to thaw out my frozen
tears.



I must go under the seas again,
where the temperature is cozy and warm,
The miserable cold is killing me now, my mind is
back on the farm,
And all I ask is to clear the bridge, and submerge
this miserable boat,
And the waves are all steep and high, why are we
staying afloat?

I must go under the seas again, before I fall over
the side,
I'm useless here now, holding on for the terrible
ride,
And all I ask is off this lookout stand, getting out of
these soggy clothes.
And the warmth of hot coffee steam, going up my
frozen nose.

[Editor's note: It is reported than when Masefield and his wife arrived on a liner from a sea voyage, Mrs. Masefield remarked to a reporter, "It was too uppy-downy and Mr Masefield was ill."]



Those Born Before 1940

Approximately 32% of our members were born before 1940. For the rest of you, here is a glimpse of the life you missed.



We were born before television, before penicillin, antibiotics, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox machines, plastic, contact lenses, videos, frisbees and the pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens: before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how old fashioned can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'big Mac' was an oversized rain coat and a crumpet we had for tea! We existed before 'house husbands', computer dating, dual careers, and when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting along with cousins, and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus!

We were before day centers, group homes and disposable diapers. We had never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and men wearing earrings. For us, 'time sharing' meant togetherness and a chip was a piece of wood or a fried potato. Hardware meant nuts and bolts, and software was not even a word!

Before 1940, 'made in Japan' meant junk, and the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams. A stud was something you fastened a collar to a shirt with, and 'going all the way' meant staying on the bus until it reached the terminus. Pizzas, McDonald's and instant coffees were unheard of. In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable and 'grass' was mown, 'coke' kept in the coal house, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you had on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock Music' was a grandmother's lullaby, and a 'gay' person was the life and soul of the party and nothing more. Aids meant a form of beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble. We who were born before 1940 must be a tough old bunch when you think of the way the world has changed and we have had to adjust.

Past Commander Borchelt

By Harold Rodenberger

Oscar Borchelt first became Commander of Post 3063 for the 1991-92 year. He did such a good job he was elected six more times to serve a total of seven years in that high office.



Oscar gained his VFW eligibility from his service in the Pacific Theater during WWII, earning the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal and the Philippine Liberation

Medal. He also served in Korea earning the Bronze Star and Korean Service Medal with three bronze stars.

I asked Oscar if he had any stories from his war experiences. He said, "No, nothing special happened, I just did my job as an Engineer during WWII and as an MP during Korea."

In November Oscar celebrated his 95th birthday. When he was in the office before the Christmas party I asked him if he had any advice for the younger generations. He said, "Don't procrastinate or wait to solve problems. Deal with them as they arise." When asked for the secret of his long life he said, "Don't eat too much and don't drink too much, but exercise moderation in all things." Pretty sage advice for any generation.

He and his wife, Vi, moved from Ballard to Maple Valley about twenty years ago and since he has gotten older doesn't drive at night so can't get to meetings much anymore but he still follows the news from the post and looks forward to receiving his newsletter.

Congratulations on your 95th, Oscar, and may you have many more healthy years.

No wonder we are so confused, but do not tell me we 'oldies' are not able to adjust to the rubbish the "with it" younger generation throw at us. No wonder there is a generation gap. Just what will they throw at us next? But—by the grace of God, we have survived! [Source: Various attributions on the Web]



USS Tillamook COMES TO THE AID OF USCGC Chautauqua

By Clark Silliman



In February 1965, *Tillamook* (ATA-192) lay in her homeport of Yokosuka, Japan. At that time, most of *Tillamook's* underway effort was towing target sleds for surface gunnery shoots. Two months later, we were involved in combat operations in Viet Nam. We received an urgent message that USCGC *Chautauqua* (WMEC-41), a 255-foot long, medium-endurance cutter, had suffered a main motor bearing casualty while operating at Ocean Station VICTOR, some 1,300 miles almost due east from the mouth of Tokyo Bay. *Chautauqua* was making her way very slowly—barely making way—toward Yokosuka for shipyard repair. *Tillamook* was ordered to sea immediately to rendezvous with *Chautauqua* and take her in tow the rest of the way to Yokosuka.

Tillamook's towing drum at that point was our one-inch target towing wire. Unlike her larger ATF sisters, the drum could accommodate either the one-inch or the two-inch ocean towing wire, but not both. Changing out the towing wire was a time-consuming process that could be done only while in port and with the aid of a shipyard crane.

Time was of the essence, so *Tillamook* got underway with the one-inch target towing wire. I believe that *Chautauqua* was still a few hundred miles east of Tokyo Bay when *Tillamook* rendezvoused with her. The weather was stormy. *Chautauqua* was wallowing in deep troughs, as was *Tillamook*. I had *Tillamook's* conn as we carefully and cautiously made our approach to *Chautauqua*. We had to make several close-aboard passes before heaving lines from *Chautauqua* landed on *Tillamook's* deck. A number of messengers, gradually increasing in diameter, were sent over to *Chautauqua* with our towing wire attached. *Chautauqua* had made a towing bridle of her anchor chains, and so after some time, the tow was finally made up.

Tillamook set her course for Tokyo Bay with *Chautauqua* in tow. The going was slow—I doubt *Tillamook* made good more than three or four knots. The shortest course to Tokyo Bay was in the trough the whole way. *Tillamook*, with her round bottom, was rolling heavily. At one point, while still several hours from Tokyo Bay, *Tillamook* rolled 65° (according to the clinometer in the pilothouse where I was on watch) heavily to starboard! I thought she was going over, but she slowly righted herself. During this unprecedented roll, we heard the most ungodly, awful screaming coming from the galley below. The steward assigned to *Tillamook's* officers' mess was working in the galley with his back to the deep sink filled with 190°F hot water for washing dishes. During the roll, the water sloshed out of the sink, scalding his back from head to foot, inflicting third-degree burns! The weather was too stormy to allow him to be evacuated by helo to the Yokosuka Naval Hospital, so he remained aboard, in agonizing pain, under the care of our pharmacist's mate until we arrived in the sheltered waters of Tokyo Bay.

Though these events occurred 50 years ago, they remain indelibly imprinted in my memory. Oh, by the sheerest of coincidences the skippers of *Tillamook* and *Chautauqua* shared the same name: Richard Carson.

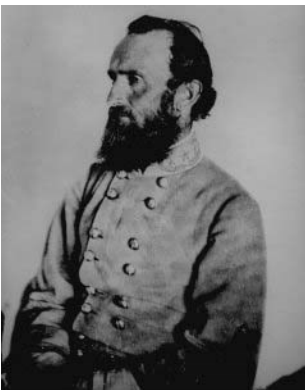


The Other Side of History

By Charles Anderson

Commonly accepted "facts" about important-or not so important-events in the past are not always exactly accurate. Sometimes there is an alternate explanation.

Popular versions of history may become famous because they provide a romantic or heroic view of people or events. Important utterances during times of stress are simply misheard. For political reasons, remarks are attributed wrongly to a famous personage.



For example, Civil War General Thomas Jackson got his nickname "Stonewall" at the Battle of Bull Run (First Manassas) July 21, 1861. At a critical point, with the Federal Army increasing pressure on the Confederates, General Bee saw Jackson and his Virginians on a ridge and supposedly cried out, "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall! Let us determine to die here and we will conquer." However, it was rumored what Bee actually said was, "There stands Jackson—like a damned stone wall!" Bee was wounded mortally as the Confederates gained the upper hand and died the next day. This led to a controversy that exists to this day as to whether Bee was being complimentary, condemnatory, or even if perhaps the quote was misattributed. The former meaning is certainly kinder to one of the greatest tactical commanders who ever lived.

Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson

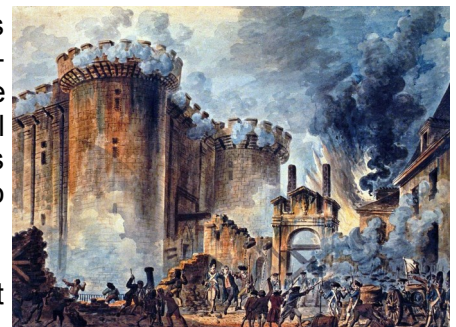
Flights of poetry, when applied to historic events, sometimes lead to a change of viewpoint. School children once had to memorize Lord Tennyson's poem, "Charge of the Light Brigade," including the famous lines, "Their's not to reason why, Their's but to do and die" (often misquoted as ". . . do or die").

The subject was an event in the Crimean War (1854). An English brigade, consisting of 673 men, was ordered to attack an enemy force. The charge was later described in the English House of Commons as, "A feat of chivalry, fiery with consummate courage, and bright with flashing courage."

Rather than being a brilliant military maneuver, the charge resulted from a misunderstanding of orders, causing the Brigade's commander to lead his troops against the wrong enemy force, consisting of close to twenty battalions and some fifty or more cannons arranged in an open jaw of death. Losses by the British vary, but probably were at least one third killed or wounded and another third captured. Compared to the 22,000 total British total losses in this war, this was an insignificant event. Nevertheless, the Tennyson version is enshrined in British history.

In popular memory, the storming of the infamous Bastille Prison in Paris on July 14, 1789, launched the French Revolution. The holiday is still celebrated in France as Bastille Day. From the significance given to the event, one would think the purpose was to release multitudes of political prisoners jailed by a corrupt monarchy. Actually, when the Bastille was stormed, there were only seven prisoners inside: four counterfeiters, two madmen, and a young aristocrat who had displeased his father.

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Prise de la Bastille by [Jean-Pierre Houël](#)