

From the Commander



As I take the helm for the next 12 months, I want to thank you

once again for entrusting me with this tremendous responsibility. I also want to especially thank Nestor, Aaron, and Harold for their leadership and guidance over the last few years as I moved up the seats. As you probably saw in the last newsletter, Nestor and Harold, like Aaron, led the post in earning a white cap at the department convention. This enormous achievement now marks two years in a row that our post has earned this honor. I have some big shoes to fill!

With that, I'm very excited to work with you and the post leadership team to continue to build upon some of the great successes that we've had over the last few years. The leadership team has already been discussing

many great ideas, but we do realize that we only have a short amount of time to analyze, discuss, plan and implement some of them. I will be relying heavily on your feedback and the guidance of the current and past leadership team members as we move forward. I have four main areas that I'd like for us to focus on during this 2017/2018 term. These priorities are membership, community, accessibility/continuity, and the auxiliary.

What does all of this mean? Come to the post business meeting next week (July 6) to find out! We will be kicking this first meeting off with a joint session with the auxiliary to discuss all of these priorities and some specific goals before we break into our normal business meetings.

The one priority I'd like to briefly discuss is the topic of membership. Getting younger veterans signed up and involved in the VFW is a priority that we hear echoed at the dis-

trict, state and national level time and time again. A few of us recently attended the department convention in Olympia this weekend, and this message was no different.

While I do agree that we need to attract younger veterans, I also believe we need to try and achieve this without alienating our older members in the process. One of the main reasons I joined this organization was to learn from the post-military experiences of our older service members. For some, reintegration back into civilian society (specifically in Seattle) can be challenging. However, it can be a heck of a lot easier when you surround yourself with sisters and brothers who speak your language and have been living in this community for many years.

It's incredible to think that the VFW has been in Ballard for nearly 100 years. Let's work together to ensure we are here in the community for another 100+ years.

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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



Happy New Year! VFW new year, that is.

Yes, the VFW transitions from the old year

at the beginning of July. Outgoing officers have fulfilled their duties and now step down to let our new officers lead the way for the next year. Our June newsletter listed new elected officers and appointed officers are listed elsewhere in this issue.

At this new beginning, I'd like to share a look back over our post activities during the past twelve months.

To me, number one on the list of accomplishments during the past year has been the continuing excellent attendance at business meetings. In the late '90's our meeting attendance fluctuated from the high teens down to lower numbers, with occasional meeting times when there were not enough members present for a quorum. For the past 12-15 years attendance has been better, with the past eight or nine years seeing numbers regularly in the high teens to high twenties. It's a healthy sign to have 20 or 25 members in attendance at our business

meetings. Way to go team!!!

Members of our post were active in many other ways also. We made six visits to the VA Hospital, passing out snacks, drinks and good wishes to the patients and thanks to the staff members. We logged more than twenty-five visits to local retirement and nursing homes. Last fall and again last month we retired unserviceable US flags with the proper ceremonies. Our Honor Guard has participated in memorial services and posted the colors several times. Our volunteer chef for third Thursday socials has prepared some wonderful meals and attendance is increasing as a result. Our library has grown in both number of books and number of users. We adopted a new National Guard unit, doubling support for our brothers and sisters bearing arms.

We have donated substantial help to residents of the homeless camp next door to our post. Our service officer has expanded the number of appointments for counseling and assistance for deserving veterans. Our Relief Fund and National Home Fund both have reached new

funding levels enabling expanded support for veterans and families both in the Seattle area and in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Our Yoga class is helping our members and families relieve mental and physical stress. Our hall has served as a meeting place, supporting other veterans' groups, other non-profit community organizations and local government entities, including the City of Seattle.

As I said, the outgoing officers fulfilled their obligations. By fulfilling their duties, they also gained the personal fulfillment that comes of helping other veterans and their families and members of the community in ways that only fellow veterans can.

No matter your position as an officer, regular member or even family member, your participation in the activities of our post will bring lasting benefits to those helped but also will satisfy our shared human need to gain personal fulfillment and rise above self by serving others and helping our fellow man.

NEW YEAR, cont. pg. 6

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.

This newsletter is published monthly and submissions must be received by the editor five days before the last day of a month for inclusion in the next month's issue. We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity, and syntax. Be aware that newsletter images and/or text appearing on the website may be shared by readers.

Commander: Pete Krawitz

Sr Vice Commander: Joe Tiffany

Jr Vice Commander: Joe Fitzgerald

Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger

Adjutant: Alyson Teeter

Judge Advocate: Norm Limric

Chaplain: Bill Griffith

Surgeon: Dan Stokke

Officer of the Day: Vacant

3-Year Trustee: Russ Seelig

2-Year Trustee: Aaron Stoltz

1-Year Trustee: James Williams

Service Officer: Gail Engler

Guard: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Alyson Teeter

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We're on the web and Facebook!

<http://www.vfwseattle.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost3063>

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Post Members Participate in Area Memorial Day Events



Above left and right: Harold Rodenberger, Joe Fitzgerald, and Gail Engler pass out Buddy Poppies and seeds at the QFC on Holman Road.

Below left: Bill Griffith participates in Evergreen Washelli Cemetery's Memorial Day event.

Below right: Harold Rodenberger, Joe Fitzgerald, and Bill Griffith participate in a color guard during the Ballard Elks' Memorial Day Ceremony.





Redding VFW Post 1934 Goes Above and Beyond

By Jon Guncay

On May 15, 2017, my family and I were in Redding, Calif. for a wedding. While visiting around the town, I happened into the local VFW, Post 1934. My son and I were looking at some of the photos on the wall when a picture of an Armored Security Vehicle (ASV) caught my eye, as it was my vehicle in Iraq. Upon a closer look, I noticed that the bumper number not only had my company's number on it, but it was in fact MY exact vehicle from that deployment. I was so taken aback by this, as no one from that unit was from this part of the country, so I have no idea how it came to be there in this high plateau town.

In seeing this, I asked the post if they wouldn't mind adding "In memory of 1LT Ashley Henderson-Huff" to the photo, to honor my platoon leader we lost that deployment.

To make a long story short, the post invited my family and I back the next day, prior to having to



Photo of Jon Guncay's Armored Security Vehicle that he drove while deployed in Iraq. This photo was hanging in Redding California VFW Post 1934.



VFW Post 1934 members perform a flag folding ceremony in honor of Jon Guncay's deceased platoon leader, 1st Lt. Ashley Henderson-Huff.

make a flight home, to hold a dog tag and flag folding ceremony in her honor. Complete with a chaplain rendering a prayer, honor guard with military police (our job in Iraq), and dog tags made with Ashley's information on it, the post made sure to pull out all the stops to honor my LT as if she and I were life members of their post. I was moved to tears, which made telling her story in front of that impromptu crowd all the more difficult, but important.

This VFW post was a stout reminder that we are all brothers and sisters -- that we share each other's pains and joys. My family, 1LT Henderson-Huff's family, and I will never forget this post's outpouring of support and above expectation hospitality. While post 3063 is our home, this only goes to prove that we are welcome to hang our hat at any VFW post that we happen into.



Post to Host Shredding Truck July 8, Noon to 3 p.m.

Bring out your shred! Bring out your shred! But it's not time to shred yet. It soon will be... on July 8th!

We will have a ProShred shredding truck in our parking lot from noon to 3 p.m. on July 8th. You are encouraged to bring sensitive papers that you want to shred. Watch the operation from the time you deposit the papers into the bins until they are turned to confetti before your eyes.

Post members, members of other veterans organizations and members of our community may shred documents in return for a donation to help



defray the cost of the operation.

Please remember that the charge for shredding is at least \$1.00 per pound at companies that accept papers for shredding and that you surrender control of your documents in those cases.

If you plan to attend the event, please RSVP on our [Facebook event page](#) or contact Harold Rodenberger.

Flag Day 2017



Nestor Tamayao and Harold Rodenberger participated in a flag retirement service to dispose properly of worn flags in the post parking lot on Flag Day, June 14, 2017.



During the June business meeting on June 1, 2017, the post charter was draped with a black cloth for the following comrades who recently passed away. The charter will stay draped for 30 days in their honor.

James A. Kessler, U.S. Army, World War II

Jimmie B. Souther, U.S. Army, Vietnam War

Gerald L. Yager, U.S. Army, World War II



Post and Auxiliary Officers Take Office this Month

Post 3063 2017-2018 officers will take office this month. First nominations were made in March, followed by second nominations and an election in April. Installation happened in May but officers do not take office until the department commander is installed.

Congratulations and good luck to the new leadership team!

Commander: Pete Krawitz

Sr. Vice Commander: Joe Tiffany

Jr. Vice Commander: Joe Fitzgerald

Chaplain: Bill Griffith

Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger

1-Year Trustee: James Williams

2-Year Trustee: Aaron Stoltz

3-Year Trustee: Russ Seelig

1-Year House Committee: Gail Engler

2-Year House Committee: Doug Maines

3-Year House Committee: Jordan Houghton

The following members were installed as auxiliary leadership:

President: Margaret Philips

Secretary: Jo Ann Anderson

Treasurer: Marge Hestad

Trustees: Alice Voyce, Agnes Demyanovich, and Karen Flynn

The following individuals were appointed by the new commander, Pete Krawitz:

Adjutant: Alyson Teeter

Judge Advocate: Norm Limric

Surgeon: Dan Stokke

Service Officer: Gail Engler

Parliamentarian: VACANT

Librarian: Norm Limric

Historian: VACANT

Officer of the Day: VACANT

Guard: VACANT

Webmaster: Alyson Teeter

Manager, Facebook Page: Bob Kettle

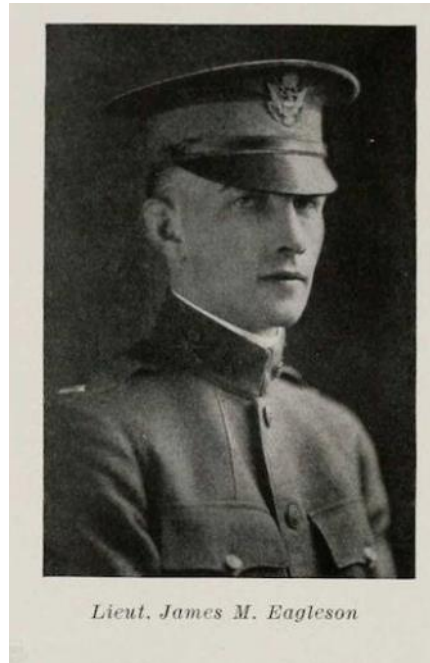
Newsletter Editor: Alyson Teeter

Honor Guard Captain: Joe Fitzgerald

Chair, Membership Committee: Joe Tiffany

Chair, Americanism Committee: VACANT

Chair, Community Affairs: VACANT



Lieut. James M. Eagleson

Some positions are still vacant and if you're interested in volunteering for a position, please contact the commander at pete.krawitz@gmail.com.

New Year cont. from page 2

As members of the VFW, we have the common distinction of having served in war zones, placing ourselves in harm's way to protect our homeland, its citizens and our way of life. Now, as members of our post we are motivated to serve our fellow veterans and community here in Seattle. We don't labor for money or glory but for the personal fulfillment that comes from helping others.

My hat is off to our members and other volunteers who give so freely of their time and energy to help others in our community.



Kitchen Donations Still Needed

The post social chef, Kay Seelig, kindly asks if anybody would be willing to donate a large (40-50 cup) rice cooker, food processor, mini food processor, stand mixer and/or a large pasta cooking kettle with strainer insert. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger at quartermaster@vfwseattle.org or 206-782-8618.



SPAGHETTI & Raffle

Come and enjoy home cooked, WORLD CLASS spaghetti while you help the Ballard-Eagleson VFW Post 3603 support local charities

**SeaTac USO
Seattle VA Hospital
Boy Scouts
Fisher House
To name a few!**

SO MANY RAFFLES!

**September 9th, 2017
Cocktails and raffle at 5pm
Dinner at 7pm
Admission: \$20.00 (12 and under free)
Advance Raffle Tickets: 30 for \$20
At Door Raffle Tickets: 25 for \$20**

**Ballard-Eagleson
VFW Post 3603
2812 NW Market St.
Seattle, WA. 98107
(206) 782-8618**

TREMENDOUS Raffles!

Donated by LOCAL businesses!



Upcoming Events

July 6, 2017, 7 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting

July 8, 2017, 12-3 p.m. - Shredding event in Post 3063 parking lot

July 20, 2017, 6:30 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner: Salmon (\$3 for members, \$5 for guests)

September 9, 2017, 7 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Spaghetti and Raffle Fundraiser (\$20 admission)

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

July Birthday Greetings!

Members receive a free social dinner in their birthday month

Gary Armstrong

Christopher Brunstad

Anndrea Dohring

Barney Hansen

John Hogleund

Michael Jandl

Charles Johnson

Thomas Knudsen

Herman Long

Robert Richardson

Frank Stock

Norman Toney

Donald Wennerlind

Roger Wilson

New Member Spotlight



«« **Raoul Evans-Ramos**, U.S. Marines, Vietnam



»» **Brian Gilroy**, U.S. Army, Iraq, Afghanistan and Rep. of Korea



«« **Tony McDonald**, U.S. Navy, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal



»» **Wally Michl**, U.S. Army, Republic of Korea