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From the Commander



HAPPY NEW YEAR COMRADES! All of us should be very proud of everything the post has accomplished in 2021, especially with achieving All -American status for the first time in the history of the post!

That said, I can't wait to see what we will accomplish in 2022! Hopefully it will include increasing our meeting attendance as we improve our ability to successfully deal with Covid and the variants. (Kinda sounds like a heavy metal rock band.)

No matter what this new year has in store for us though, we will be in it together. We just need to remain

upbeat and maintain our positive attitude as we move headlong into 2022. We certainly can accomplish all that we set out to do.

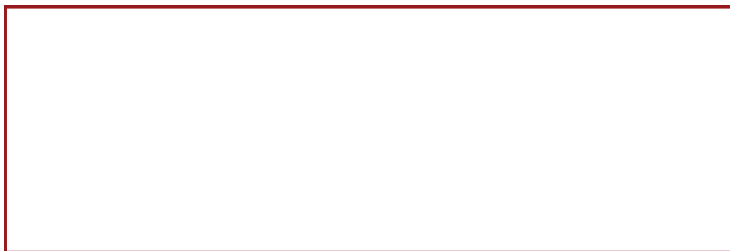
Lastly, Laura and I hope this finds you all in good health and wish to each of you a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

-Commander Joe

Note: Due to the extraordinary rise in cases from the Omicron Covid-19 variant, in-person post activities are paused until further notice! It's unfortunate, but for the health and safety of all of us, it is the prudent course of action.

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

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
VFW



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger
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Chaplain: Joseph Mesa
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Guard: Jesse Basher
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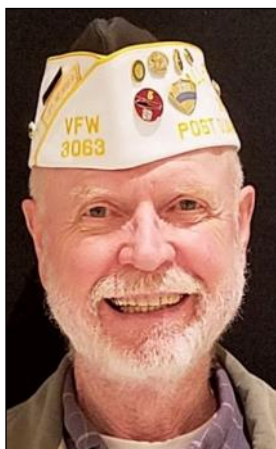
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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



As many of you know, our post made All-American status last year for the first time in our history. Our Commander was presented with his All-

American cap, but the rest of us, although entitled to wear that cap, must buy it from the VFW Store. If you want to buy a cap, call the store (833-839-8387) and tell them you want to order an A-A cap. They will need your member number (found on your membership card) and credit card info. If you can't find your card, I can provide your membership number. The cost of the cap will be approx \$80.

This past quarter has been like a roller coaster. As infection rates declined, we were able to attend in-person meetings and socials again. Since the Omicron variant invaded, infection rates are surging. Early evidence indicates that this variant is more infectious but may result in somewhat less serious cases. By all accounts, the best defense is to get vaccinations and boosters, practice good hand hygiene and masking techniques, and avoid indoor crowds.

We require proof of vaccination or a negative test within the past 72 hours to attend in-person meetings and social events. We will continue



Here's an example of an All American cap.

to provide a Zoom hookup for others. Thanks for doing all you can to slow down this current surge.

Another way to help yourself and others during this period is to reduce stress and stay upbeat. With instantaneous news, addicting social media and extreme political divisions, every day can seem overwhelming. There have been many troubles in our past. We no longer burn people at the stake, boil suspected heretics in oil, or tar and feather contrarians. In the forties and fifties blatant racial, sexual, religious and social prejudices were common. There is still room to improve, but we have made much progress.

To fight those old evils, and reduce my stress levels, I try to practice the Golden Rule, give others the benefit of the doubt, and extend the hand of kindness where possible. I know I can't change the world, but I can improve my little corner of Ballard, or Edmonds, or wherever I am on this imperfect Earth. These techniques don't always work, but they help keep my blood pressure under control, and I recommend them highly.

Sincere wishes to you all for prosperity, health, safety and a modicum of happiness in the New Year.

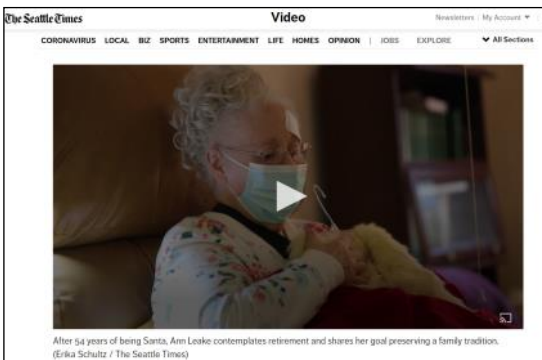
Honor Guard Participates in Wreaths Across America Day 2021

On National Wreaths Across America Day, Dec. 18, 2021, Post 3063 provided an honor guard at the Sons of the American Revolution-sponsored WAA event at Lake View Cemetery. It was a soggy morning but people young and old turned out to honor our fallen veterans. This was the honor guard's first opportunity to wear their new uniforms at a public event. The uniform purchase was made possible by a King County grant. Thank you to everyone who volunteered!



Post Santa, Ann Leake, Featured in Seattle Times Video

If you've ever attended a post holiday social, then you've met our incredible Santa, Ann Leake. This holiday season Seattle Times reporter Erika Schultz profiled Ann for a video feature. If you'd like to view the video, check it out at <https://www.seattletimes.com/video/f1CR1Pr2/second-generation-santa-93-shares-joy-of-the-job/>. Be sure to grab a tissue, Ann is a truly an inspiration!



All Three Youth Essay Winners Place at District Level



This year we had entries for all three of the youth essay contests.

Nina Kieserman, a 15-year-old sophomore at Lincoln High School recited her district-winning Voice of Democracy essay at the Dec. 2 post business meeting (pictured left).

Rylan Calica, a 14-year-old eighth grader from Rochester, was our winning Patriot's Pen entrant. He won



for his grade at the district level (center).

Leela Baker, an 8-year-old 3rd grader from B.F. Day Elementary took first for the Youth Essay and also won at the district level (right).

State-level award winners will be announced at the Department's Mid-Winter Conference in January. Congratulations and good luck, kids!



Thank You!

\$6,282

MONEY RAISED AT THE SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER

All proceeds benefit the VFW Post 3063 Veterans Relief Fund.

Post Increases Outreach with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Navigators

Since kids have returned to school after a year of learning virtually, the post's work with local scouting troops has increased immensely compared to past years. In addition to Boy Scout Troop #80, we now sponsor a Girl Scout Troop (#46953) and Navigators USA Troop (#309) who meet monthly at our post.

The sponsorships have led to partnerships in community and fundraising activities, to include a Toy Drive for Birthday Dreams done in conjunction with the Navigators (donations pictured top left), and Girl Scout participation in the Dec. 18 Wreaths Across America event at Lake View Cemetery (bottom left). In addition, Boy Scout Troop #80 from Magnolia attended our Thanksgiving Social where they mingled with post members (top right). As part of the Navigators meeting about service in November, the children colored drawings for members of our post and they're currently hanging near the kitchen counter (bottom right).

The post's Scouting Chair position is currently vacant and if you're interested in volunteering for this position, please contact Harold Rodenberger at quartermaster@vfwseattle.org.



In Memoriam: Harland Goodrich

During the December business meeting the post charter was draped with a black cloth for the following comrade who recently passed away. The charter will stay draped for 30 days in his honor.

Harland Goodrich – U.S. Army, Vietnam, [obituary here](#).

New Member Spotlight: Mark English

This is a recurring column that highlights new post members.

What motivated you to join the VFW?

I believe very strongly in service to community and service in support of other veterans and their families. The VFW with its focus on serving veterans, communities and military families seemed like a perfect fit for me and I am delighted I have joined.

What is your military background?

I served for 27 years in the Army primarily as a Middle East Foreign Area Officer. Through this experience I served as an Academy Professor at West Point teaching Arabic and worked in several US Embassies in the Middle East region in various Security Assistance positions.

Hometown, civilian job, education, family, hobbies, or anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

I grew up in a military family so service to country was always paramount. I was born in Columbus, Ohio. Our daughter has lived in Seattle for several years and my wife being from Greece said she has to be near water, so we decided to retire here.

After I obtained my PhD in Curriculum and Instruction, I was Commandant and Dean of the USMA Prep School and after retirement I held various leadership positions in domestic and international schools to include a charter school in NYC where we had underprivileged kids learning Chinese.

I also served as the Superintendent of the American International School of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and from 2014-2016 served as the President of the American University of Afghanistan. My last position



Comrade English during his service as Commandant and Dean of the USMA Prep School.

was as an adviser to the UAE Armed Forces in Abu Dhabi where I also taught a course in executive leadership to officers within the Ministry of Interior. I am currently the Chairman of the Advisory Board for the International School of Africa.

Through my connections to the Afghan diaspora, I am currently trying to assist however I can with Afghan refugees trying to settle here in the US.

We spend most of our time walking and hiking in the area to include Discovery Park and our daily walk from Ballard to Shilshole Bay and back rain or shine.

What do you hope to achieve being a member of the VFW?

I have already volunteered to head up our community engagement activities and look forward to serving in any other capacity that can benefit our post and the community.

Welcome to Post 3063, New Members!

Randy Brock

Air Force
Afghanistan

Bryan Brown

Navy
Submariner

Mark English

Army
Oman

Thomas Woodard

Army
Iraq

Service Throwback: Joe Fitzgerald and Bill Griffith



Comrade Commander Joe Fitzgerald during his time in the Navy in 1964. He served as an Electronic Technician from 1962-1966 and was stationed in Charleston S.C. on the USS Bordelon (DD 881) right after the Cuban Blockade. They were involved in the Santo Domingo Uprising 1965 and subsequently awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. The Bordelon operated primarily in what's known as the Bermuda Triangle.



While in the U.S. Army Comrade Bill Griffith served in South Korea for the entire year of 1964 as a Crew Chief on a De Havilland U6A Beaver (pictured below, left). Bill added, "After Korea I was retrained as a Flight Operations Specialist and served at the Presidio of California Crissy Army Airfield in 1965-66. The arrow on the attached picture (below) shows my office. I don't think that any window in the US Army had a better view than mine. In August of 1966 after three years in the Army I headed my red Fiat sports car north to Seattle."



Have throwback photos from your overseas service? Send photos and who/what/where/when to editor@vfwseattle.org.

Upcoming Events

January 6, 2022, 7 p.m. – VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting in via Zoom **ONLY**. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5057012075?pwd=K1ppc3RCNHRaYkhyNjFhb0w2dkdlQT09>

Meeting ID: 505 701 2075, Password: Ballard306

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

January 20, 2022, 6:30 p.m. – VFW Post 3063 Monthly Social. **Takeout ONLY**. Reservations are required! To reserve, text/call or email at 206-972-2135 or quartermaster@vfwseattle.org.



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 monthly reports. Guidelines are available at tinyurl.com/yy3udz8v.