



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**  
**Post 6785 Kent, WA**

# Q3-2022 Newsletter

VFW Post 6785

PO Box 6547, Kent, WA 98064

**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!**

## Post Commander

### **Walt Tanimoto**

Welcome VFW Post 6785, friends and community to 2022! I will start by giving thanks to all of you for your support and comradeship this past year. I am looking forward to this year 2022-2023 and the continuation of our VFW mission to work with the community and do more for veterans.



I also welcome the officers and chairs for 2022-2023. Thank you for volunteering to serve with 6785!

The challenge is not about who recruits the most members, but what we do for veterans. Along the way we find new members who want to join the VFW and work with the 6785 mission.

Please join us at our monthly meetings and let us know if you would like to volunteer at some of our regularly scheduled activities or would like to be on one of our committees. We are always looking for new members and new ideas. Attending our meetings gives you early notice and the opportunity to provide input on upcoming events. Be sure to look at our calendar and website for updates and event notifications at:

- Website: <https://vfwpost6785.org/>
- Calendar: <https://vfwpost6785.org/vfw-post-6785-calendar-of-events/>
- Facebook: @VFWPost6785KentWA

I have said this before, but it's worth saying it again. I am proud to serve in an organization of veterans. Our veteran membership proudly represents current military members and veterans from wars and conflicts

including WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other operations. I want to thank our Gold Star Families, and to always remember our fallen comrades and those still missing in action. WE WILL NEVER FORGET! Lastly, I want to thank our friends for their support. Keep us in mind in 2022!

Go For Broke!

Walt Tanimoto

## **Meeting Information**

- **Officers Meeting:** 2nd Wednesday of each month, 1900-2000 hrs, on WebEx
- **Post Meeting:** 3rd Wednesday of each month, Social 1800 hrs, Meeting 1900-2000 hrs
- **Location:** American Legion Post 15, 25405 97th Pl S, Kent, WA 98030

## **Post Officers**

### **Post Commander**

Walt Tanimoto

### **Quartermaster**

RC Sample

### **Sr Vice Commander**

Rob Grutko

### **Jr Vice Commander**

Rich Klug

### **Adjutant**

Rob Grutko

### **Judge Advocate**

Alan B'Hymer

### **Chaplain**

Steve Schmidt

### **Surgeon**

Rich Klug

### **Officer of the Day**

John Bruns

### **Service Officer**

Randy Clawson

## Sr Vice Commander

**Rob Grutko**

Greetings Comrades,

Here are some interesting facts about our membership roster.

We currently have 186 Members in Post 6785.

137 are Life Members, 49 are Continuous Renewal members.

**If you are interested in upgrading your membership to a Life member, the amount you pay depends on your age.**



AGE as of DECEMBER 31st	LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE		
	ONE-TIME PAYMENT	LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PLAN	
		initial payment	11 payments of
THROUGH AGE 30	\$425.00	\$45.00	\$38.64
31-40	\$410.00	\$45.00	\$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$45.00	\$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$45.00	\$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$45.00	\$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$45.00	\$20.45
81 AND OVER	\$170.00	\$45.00	\$15.45

You can become a VFW Life member by making a one-time payment, or you can pay for your Life membership through our installment plan with an initial \$45 payment and the Life membership amount billed over an 11-month period. Give us a call or send us an email if you are interested in upgrading your membership.

Most of our members are in Washington state, but we do have a few spread out across the country:

State	Member Count
Alaska	1
Arizona	6
California	1
Florida	2
Idaho	1
Illinois	1
Missouri	1
Oregon	1
South Carolina	1
Tennessee	1
Texas	2
Virginia	1
Washington	167

## VFW Post 6785 Newsletter Quarter 3 - 2022

Of the 167 members in Washington – here is the city disbursement

City	Member Count	City	Member Count
Auburn	14	Lakebay	1
Bonney Lake	2	Lakewood	2
Bothell	1	Maple Valley	4
Burien	2	Marysville	1
Chehalis	1	Mineral	1
Copalis Beach	1	Orting	1
Covington	13	Puyallup	4
Des Moines	4	Ravensdale	2
Ellensburg	1	Renton	16
Enumclaw	2	SeaTac	2
Everett	1	Seattle	3
Federal Way	1	Shoreline	1
Gold Bar	1	Spanaway	2
Hansville	1	Spokane Valley	2
Hoodspport	1	Tacoma	4
Kent	67	University Place	2
Kirkland	1	West Richland	1
Lacey	2	Yakima	2

We have a diverse membership in terms of age – but we are certainly trending older:

Age Range	Members
1 - 39	15
40 - 49	17
50 - 59	26
60 - 69	25
70 - 79	72
80 - 89	20
90 - 100	11

We have several opportunities to recruit new members this summer – so be sure to volunteer and help get new members to join.

Robert Grutko  
Sr Vice Commander and Adjutant

**Jr Vice Commander/Surgeon**

**Rich Klug**

It seems that the year is just blasting along. Already June and our hopes for gaining access to the Seattle VA Hospital to support our vets are fading. While things seemed to be improving, the newer Omicron version of COVID has the hospital on continued lockdown for most support.



As for what is going on with the Surgeon's duties, we are continuing to support the veterans at the hospital without one-on-one contact. We delivered 69 boxes of tea (20 per box) in May as well as pizza for the staff and patients. It has been rough not being able to support our vets at the hospital, but we have been able to assist with some presentations at various Retirement/Nursing homes. As a representative of 6785, we had the privilege of making a presentation at the Village Green Retirement Home in two locations for Memorial Day. We gave out poppies and flags with gold stands. I had the extreme honor of meeting with a 100-year-old vet (now 101) who was wearing his uniform jacket from 77 years ago.



That's about all for now. Remember our Vets, they could use some "love", recognition and acknowledgement. Cards and letters would be welcome to our VA hospital and other Veterans locations.

In other news, as JR Vice Commander, we received the new entry forms for the Essay/Patriot's Pen/VOD

contest for this year. Some of these were delivered to schools already, but things do not seem to get going until Sep, when schools reconvene.

If anyone knows of students who would like to try for the significant reward for VOD National winner, or other contests, please contact the post or myself.

Richard Klug  
Jr Vice Commander/Surgeon

**Parades and Honor Formations**

**Alan B'Hymer**



Just as it is about time to submit our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Newsletter Article, I find myself and other Post 6785 Color Guard members pulling out of the Parking Lot of the Newcastle Golf Club. We have just completed another of a

long standing tradition event of presenting the Colors to open the USO Northwest Golf Classic. This Golf event is the largest charity golf tournament in support of the military in the Pacific Northwest. It has been our Honor to help open several events each year with the opening ceremonies Color Presentation. See the separate article in this newsletter.

Another fun event we completed earlier this spring was presenting the Colors to open the "Heroes in the Ballpark" game at a Tacoma Rainiers game on May 27, 2022

Due to several conflicts in scheduling, the Post will not be participating in Kent Cornucopia Days this year.

Alan B'Hymer  
Parades and Honor Formations



## Honor Guard

Scott Eliason



Welcome to our newest member, Mike Hampson! We are still on the lookout for new recruits to the Post Honor Guard. Most uniform items are provided, including hats, jackets, shirts, and identifying pins. The

Honor Guard is currently providing military honors on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2d Thursday of each month at Tahoma National Cemetery. On request, we also provide services at private cemeteries for veterans and their families. Any member of the post who is interested in joining should call the Honor Guard Chair, Scott Eliason at 206-310-4157 or e-mail at [sreliason@msn.com](mailto:sreliason@msn.com). Training is provided on the M-1 Garand rifle and the procedures and rituals we follow to give our deceased veterans a dignified and respectful farewell.

## Shout Out to Joe Guse

VFW Post 6785

A shout out to VFW Post 6785 life member Joe Guse a WWII veteran at Farrington Court in Kent.



6785 either calls or visits our members at least once a year to connect with the members and let them know we have not forgotten about them.

## Memorial Day

VFW Post 6785

VFW Post 6785 out of Kent, WA had the honor of providing a rifle salute at the City of Oak Harbor, WA's 4th Annual Service of Remembrance on Memorial Day 30 May 2022.



This was our second year by invitation to provide a rifle team from the 6785 honor guard, and it was worth the two and half hour drive to pay tribute to the fallen at Oak Harbor's Maple Leaf Cemetery.

The highlight of the remembrance ceremony was the flight of honor by the United States Navy VAQ-132 Scorpions

Thank you VFW Post 6785 honor guard for honoring and remembering the fallen. Honor Guard members at Oak Harbor from left to right.

## Marine Corps JROTC

VFW Post 6785

Working with the community and future leaders is one of the VFW values as seen VFW Post 6785 Commander Walt Tanimoto and Past Post Commander Craig Dougherty presenting the Marine Corp JROTC Cadet Captain Kyle Swiderski the VFW Achievement and

Leadership award at the Kentwood Highschool JROTC award ceremony, 3 June 2022.

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MCJROTC Cadet Captain Kyle J. Swiderski, 3 June 2022  
 Cadet Captain Kyle J. Swiderski has been an active participant in the MCJROTC program for the last four years and has slowly but surely risen through the ranks, assuming greater responsibility with each promotion.

As such, Cadet Kyle's experience in JROTC has culminated with serving over the last year as the Cadet Company Commander, the highest possible position within the Kent School District's program. In this capacity, Kyle led his company to competing in the Regional Drill meet; on numerous community service projects; during color guards and honor guards; and is currently preparing his company for the summer ahead.

Outside of JROTC, Kyle is an active participant in the Boy Scouts of America and will have been awarded his Eagle Scout this past month on the 23rd of May 2022.

Additionally, Kyle has been leaning forward in his education by attending Running Start at Green River College for all of his classes, except JROTC.

If Cadet Kyle's past is any indication of his future, he will certainly become an influential member of whatever community he resides and beyond.

## **USO Northwest Red White and Blue** **Charity Golf Classic** **VFW Post 6785**



VFW Post 6785 at  
 USO Northwest  
 Red White and  
 Blue Charity Golf  
 Classic.

VFW Post 6785  
 (6785) out of Kent,  
 WA presented the  
 colors as part of  
 the opening  
 ceremonies at USO  
 Northwest (USO  
 NW) Red White  
 and Blue (RWB)  
 charity golf classic  
 on at The Golf Club

at Newcastle.

USO NW RWB golf tournament helps USO Northwest fund programs and operations benefitting local service members, their families, and veterans. Presenting the colors at USO NW RWB Golf Classic is a way 6785 showcases the VFW, our care to communities and partners who support veterans.

## **Heroes in the Ball Park** **VFW Post 6785**

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## **Heroes in the Ball Park**

**VFW Post 6785**



Friday night 27 May 2022, VFW Post 6785 out of Kent, WA had the opportunity to participate in the Heroes in the Ball Park game at Cheney Stadium Tacoma, WA. 6785 color guard had the honor to present the colors at the Tacoma Rainier's game. The color guard crew at this event from left to right are: Scott Eliason, Richard Sample, Rick West, Kenneth A Przepiora, and color guard chair Alan B'Hymer.

Heroes in the Ball Park is a night of fun and baseball with VFW and Auxiliary Families, along with Active Duty Military Members and their families. \$5 of every ticket sold goes to National Veterans Military Support (VMS) MAP Program.

## **Kent Quilt of Honor**

**VFW Post 6785**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6785 would like to give a shout out to Marissa at Running Stitch Fabrics in Kent, WA.



It is always a thrill to see City of Kent businesses support veterans and we were excited to present Richard Sample the donated handcrafted quilt from Marissa during a Post meeting.

Richard Sample, or RC as we call him, is a Korea Defense veteran and has served as Post Commander and currently serving as the Post Quartermaster and State Trustee for the VFW.

Thank you, Marissa and Running Stitch Fabrics!

## **Puget Sound Honor Flight**

**VFW Post 6785**

In April 2022, VFW Post 6785 welcomed the first Puget Sound Honor Flight of the year (and first in two years) and honored them back from their weekend in Washington, D. C.



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## VFW Post 6785 Newsletter Quarter 3 - 2022

### Welcome Aboard!

#### VFW Post 6785

VFW Post 6785 welcomes new members!

Welcome Marshall Mauer to the VFW and VFW Post 6785!

Welcome Marshall to the largest and oldest war veterans service organization - The Veterans of Foreign Wars!

It is an honor to greet these WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans Home. Many have never been honored, but we cannot give them enough praise for their service to our Country. After a whirlwind trip, Saturday through Monday, the veterans are escorted through the Seattle Tacoma International Airport to cheers and accolades, ending at the Atrium where they are presented with Quilts and the cheers of families and friends. Then off to pick up their baggage and head for home and a well-deserved rest.

### Kent Little League Opening Ceremony

#### VFW Post 6785



VFW Post 6785 out of Kent, WA presenting the colors at the Kent Little League Opening Ceremony!

The Ceremony was conducted on 30 April 2022. The Kent Little League had many teams with lots of parents and dignitaries present. A festive and supportive crowd.

Working with communities is one of the VFW core values!

Thank you, color guard members!

### Contact Information Change?

#### VFW Post 6785

Email is our primary means to communicate with you. Please send mailing, phone, and email address changes to the Post Adjutant at:

[vfwpost6785@yahoo.com](mailto:vfwpost6785@yahoo.com)



### Newsletter Editorial and Post

#### VFW Post 6785

**Published Quarterly:** Link emailed to all members.

**Copy Deadline:** Email newsletter input or photos to Walt Tanimoto at [wttanimoto@gmail.com](mailto:wttanimoto@gmail.com). Submission does NOT guarantee placement in the newsletter. All articles and photos are subject to editing for length, content, or both at the discretion of the Newsletter Committee and Post Officers.

#### **Newsletter Committee:**

Alan B'Hymer  
Rob Grutko  
Walt Tanimoto



**Photo Highlights of Q2-2022 Activities and Events!**





