

6785 NEWS

VFW Post 6785 Newsletter

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Happy New Year

2023 is a year of the Rabbit, starting from January 22nd, 2023 (Chinese New Year), and ending on February 9th, 2024 (Chinese New Year's Eve). The sign of Rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese culture. 2023 is predicted to be a year of hope.

People born in a year of the Rabbit are believed to be vigilant, witty, quick-minded, ingenious, and lucky!



Post Commander

Walt Tanimoto

Greetings 6785 and Happy New Year - The Year of the Rabbit!

I like to thank all those who served, our family, friends, and supporters of

6785 and veterans. 2022 was a challenging year after COVID-19, but I have a great feeling about 2023 and looking forward to the this years events and happenings.

2023 priorities for 6785 are membership, activities showing our presence in the community, and above all help veterans and their families.

Keep up the great work and continue to volunteer with VFW Post 6785 Kent-Meridian.

Go For Broke!

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Join VFW Post 6785 and volunteer working with the community and doing more for veterans!



Quartermaster

Richard "RC" Sample

A time to Reflect and Give Thanks

As the year 2022 comes to a close and I sit here in my recliner enjoying the comfort of my cat sitting on my lap and the wonder and beauty of snowflakes falling out the window I can't help but think of all we have to be thankful for this past year. I'm thankful for a lot. So, allow me to share with my VFW comrades a few of the things I am thankful for.

Things your Quartermaster is Thankful For

- Our country. I'm thankful we live in a country where we have the freedom to set our own goals, choose our own paths, and pursue our own happiness. There are millions of people in the world who don't have this freedom – a freedom I hope I never take for granted.
- Our military. I'm thankful for the thousands of brave men and women who strive to protect that freedom, along with all the other unalienable rights we enjoy.
- Our VFW Post. I'm thankful for the support our Post receives from our members. For the hundreds of hours, they volunteer in serving veterans and our community throughout the year. Our honor guard members who give of their time to honor those hero's put to rest at Tahoma National cemetery and are willing to go to the extra mile to support final honors wherever needed in the greater Seattle/Tacoma area. For our activities chairs who spend hundreds if not thousands of their hours working, organizing, and leading us with veteran support activities like USO, Compass House, parades, scouting, student essay programs, and many more.
- My health. As quartermaster, the most important thing I do is help our leaders fulfill their role by seeing to it that the bills are paid and checks are prepared and disbursed efficiently within the guidelines of our by-laws. I am so thankful that my health has been good, allowing me to fulfill that responsibility.
- Financial support. I am thankful that we have the financial support of our government, King County, member donations, and donations from the community that allows us to carry out our mission supporting veterans and veterans families. Without that support, where would we be?
- Leadership. Our Post has been blessed over the years with members willing to step up and accept the responsibility of leading. I am thankful for this and this year is no exception. Our commander even while battling with his own health issues has continued to guide our Post in serving veterans. We have accomplished much under his leadership and for that I am very thankful.

So, as the year ends, I am very thankful for all our accomplishments this past year. I am confident that the coming year will be just as rewarding as the year past. Thank you all for all that you do for our veteran community.

Happy New Year!



Jr. Vice Commander and Hospital Chair Richard Klug

As the Christmas holiday fast approaches, we were hoping for a loosening of the restrictions from the VA Hospital. Alas, it was not to be. So far, we are still restricted from performing on-site support for our veterans. Perhaps things will improve in the new year.

We have been able to show our support for these veterans with various donations, such as tea and American flags with stands to show our support. We will also be meeting at the hospital on 12/22 and during that time we will deliver festive flashing necklaces and cards for our veterans. We will also be dropping off cards from the MOCA and MOC. While I wish we could do more, I do request that cards and notes of support are always welcome at the Hospital.

That's about all for now. Remember our Vets, they could use some "love", recognition and acknowledgement. Remember, the cost of freedom can be seen at your local VA Hospital.

In other news the Essay competition is over and the scoring is in progress. Post 6785 had two VOD, 15 Patriots Pen and 17 Essays submitted. Of these, we had two finalists who won at the District level. We will be presenting awards at the Schools and for District, at 2995 on 1/7/23. I am very proud of all the students who entered.

In addition, the Post was involved in a Veterans Day presentation at Rainier Christian in Nov. Post 6785 also presented at Village Concepts in Fairwood in Nov.

While not as busy as we had hoped with the hospital, we have found various ways to support our veterans.

Do your part and contact a veteran by card or call to let them know they are not forgotten.

COMPASS HOUSE



On December 17, 2022, it was my honor and privilege to present a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Megan Sarver, Program Manager at Compass House on behalf of your Post 6785. The donation serves the 59 Veterans and 20 Veteran children currently residing at compass House. The Center provides permanent supportive housing for the families previously homeless and striving to get back on their feet. Our donation will help the centers efforts to make the holidays an enjoyable time for them.

In addition to our cash donation, we delivered over 30 toys for Christmas for the Veteran children. This was made possible with the help from Post members Clint Marabetta and Stephen Schmidt. Clint made all the arrangements for getting the donated toys and the three of us traveled to Tacoma to pick them up and deliver them to the Compass House. My heartfelt thanks go to those two. And thanks to all of you who took the time to stand out front of Walmart handing out poppy's and taking in donations that funds our relief fund making the donation even possible. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone.

Richard "RC" Sample
Post 6785 Quartermaster



Adjutant and Sr Vice Commander

Rob Grutko

Greeting Comrades!

It was discussed at a recent officers meeting, about the duties and responsibilities of each position within the post. Here is a brief synopsis of what I do as the Adjutant here in our post:

The most visible responsibility is the monthly publication of the meeting minutes. Not only do I take notes, but I also record the meetings so I can refer to them later. Usually, there is a format already created and any details just need to be filled in – so it is not as much work as you might think.

- I keep the post calendar updated – also coordinating with the American Legion, so members can see what is happening on any given day.
- I maintain the storage container keys, making sure chairpersons have access as needed for their events.
- I also try and make it a point to welcome new members, explaining to them who the officers are and presenting them with a VFW101 pamphlet.

The adjutant is an appointed position, so if it interests you and you would like to get involved, please talk to Walt. It is a great opportunity to get to know the innerworkings of the post and how everything works.

Another year in the books – it has been great continuing to serve with all of you!

Here are some stats about our post membership, as we move into 2023 (As of 12/22).

Life Members – 138
Continuous Members – 10
Unpaid – 17

Age Disbursement

Under 40 – 6 (4%)
40 to 49 – 12 (7%)
50 to 59 – 25 (15%)
60 to 69 – 24 (15%)
70 to 79 – 63 (38%)
80 to 89 – 24 (15%)
90+ - 11 (7%)

I understand 2023 is going to focus on membership – looking to grow our base and retain more of our continuous members.

I wish all of you a blessed Holiday, and a happy and prosperous New Year!



Honor Guard
Scott Eliason

The Post is always 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 in the afternoons on the 1st and 2d Thursday of each month at Tahoma National Cemetery. We will also be working the afternoons on the first Friday in January and March, for the temporary fill in for a vacant day. We expect that new Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) will be formed and take over that vacant spot and this requirement will no longer need to be filled. 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. 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.

Included are some recent photos from services held during the fourth Quarter this past year.



Rifles at Present Arms.



**Marine Flag Folding Detail
and Rick West, Asst Chair of
the Honor Guard**



**Bugler, Jack Prindle, Rifle
Team, and Craig Dougherty,
commanding the Rifle Team**



Colors and Formations

Alan B'Hymer

Washington State Patriotic Day serves to celebrate patriotism and honor service members, veterans, first responders and their families.

There will be a Massing of the Colors, where 50 or more flag units from veterans' organizations, active duty and National Guard units, first responders, BSA units, civic groups and Junior ROTC units march into Pioneer Middle School Gym carrying their unit flag along side the American Flag. There will also be Bands, Presentations and special speakers. The event will be conducted at the Pioneer Middle School, 1750 Bob's Hollow Lane, Dupont, WA 98327 .

The date of the event is still TBD as our Post Newsletter goes to print, however, look for the sign-up sheet and more detail information as soon as it becomes available.



TAPS

1. Joe Guse, WWII and Korean War Veteran
2. Marshall G. Lineberger



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

Newsletter Editorial and Post

VFW Post 6785

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Committee and Post Officers.

Newsletter Committee:

Alan B'Hymer

Rob Grutko

Walt Tanimoto

At the Tahoma National Cemetery VFW Post 6785 had the opportunity to give back to the community with a donation to the Chinook District of Garden Clubs.

The Chinook District of Garden Clubs volunteers their time to help maintain the Blue Star Memorial and plans are underway to refurbish the memorial in 2023 at the Tahoma National Cemetery. From Walt Tanimoto the post commander, “. . . as part of our mission to serve our veterans, the military and our communities we work with organizations like the Chinook District of Garden Clubs to further advocate for veterans and their families . . . “

About the Chinook District of Garden Clubs. “THE CHINOOK DISTRICT OF GARDEN CLUBS was federated in 1964 with the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs (WSFGC), which belongs to the Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc., the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world.” Learn more about this organization at their website: <http://www.chinookgc.org/>



Still Serving

What do all these veterans have in common? They are all members of the VFW Post 6785 out Kent, Washington and still serving!

On Sunday VFW Post 6785 (6785) donated \$2,500.00 to USO Northwest as a token of our appreciation of all they do to help active servicemembers and their families.

Many of our Post members volunteer at the USO and during Honor Flight. Some notable members from 6785 include Executive Director Cmdr Don Donald M. Leingang, USN (Ret), Seatac Center Manager LTC Matt Sult, USA (Ret), volunteer CMDCM Ken “Pepsi” Przepiora and many others.



VFW Post 6785 recognizes Korea Defense veterans Richard C. Sample with his missing medals from his service in South Korea.

From Walt Tanimoto the Post Commander of VFW Post 6785. "... as a Company Commander one of our responsibilities is to ensure soldiers are recognized and awarded for their service before they leave. When I found out RC did not receive his due awards from his time in Korea I took some time to correct a wrong, and recognize a long standing member of the VFW for his service and dedication to help veterans . . . "



On Veterans Day we want to congratulate VFW Post 7685 Commander Walt Tanimoto on his appointment as National Aide-de-Camp to VFW National Commander Tim Borland!





City of Kent Winterfest Parade



Auburn Veterans Day Parade



Village Concepts at Fairwood Assisted Living Facility Veterans Day Visit. L to R: Richard Fredrickson, Jr Vice Commander Rich Klug, Past Post Commander Alan B'Hymer



Jr Vice Commander Rick Klug at Rainier Christian School Veterans Day Visit



PACT ACT and Veterans Benefits presentation by Post Service Officer Randy Clawson



VFW Post 6785 honor Guard Rifle Team at Tahoma National Cemetery's Veterans Day event.



VFW Post 6785 Hospital Chair teaming up with the Department of Washington VA Veterans Volunteer Services team presenting Tea's with US Flags and Pop-pies to hospitalized Veterans at the Seattle VA.