

6785 NEWS

VFW Post 6785 Newsletter

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Sign Up for Events!

Visit our website, email, or attend our meetings to sign up for Post events.

April-May: Honor Flight

May: Emerald Downs Poppy Drive (Tentative)

July: Kent Cornucopia Days and Parade

September: Honor Flight



Post Commander

Walt Tanimoto

Greetings 6785!

Our spring and summer calendar of events are beginning to fill and I ask for your help by participating in our events. Visit our website to sign up for events, or sign up in person at one of our Post meetings.

Speaking of Post meetings, we meet on the third Wednesdays of each month at 1900 hrs at American Legion Post 15. Join us for a social hour before the meeting at 1830 or earlier.

Big thanks to Scott Eliason and Craig Dougherty for recruiting two new members each into VFW Post 6785. Every member counts not just at the Post but nationally in support of legislative efforts in Washington DC.

I hope to see as many of you as I can at our meetings.

Go For Broke!

In this issue continued:

- Compass House Veterans Honored
- Welcome Scout Troops 455, 4855, and Pack 455
- Washington State Patriotic Days and Massing of the Colors
- Membership and Recruiting
- Kent Cornucopia
- Kent Roadside Cleanup
- TAPS



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



Sr Vice Commander

Robert Grutko

Greetings Comrades!

As we move into the summer months, I already see quite a few volunteer opportunities available for members to participate in. Here is an overview of how to look over available events and how to sign up.

The first place to start would be to take a look at the post calendar, you can look at it from the post web site menu, or you can save this link to your bookmarks and access it directly. (<https://vfwpost6785.org/vfw-post-6785-calendar-of-events/>) This is a standard Google calendar, so you can subscribe to it directly into your personal calendar, I am happy to help you get that set up at one of the meetings.

The event sign up sheets are located in a partner web site, and the link is also in the menu bar. By clicking on the menu item, you can sign up for any upcoming scheduled event. (Be sure to enter your contact information as well, so the organizer can let you know in case something changes). Also, if you're signed up through the web site, the committee chair has a record of the hours spent for the CSR (Community Service Report) report.

I expect we will have quite a few more events this summer after the lull we experienced over the last two years. If you are sponsoring an event and need a signup sheet, let me know as soon as you can so I have a chance to get it set up. Have a great Summer.



Jr Vice Commander & Surgeon

Richard Klug

It is looking more positive for 2023 to get the hospital to loosen up restrictions. We have been able to conduct some activities there this year.

We have been able to continue to show our support for these veterans with various donations, cards and other methods of showing our veterans that we are still here and supporting them, even if from afar.

Along those lines, I would like to restate my request that any of our members who involve themselves with a Vet, whether transporting them to the hospital or a "wellness call", or a visit, please make sure to report this to the post Surgeon so it can be logged as community service. Remember that your time and mileage (if applicable) is important.

On February 16 the post manned the booth outside the Coffee Shop in the hospital for veterans appreciation day. This was a fun event and we were able to interface with many vets as well as their families. At this event, we gave out some Thank You cards and small, very powerful flashlights that can be clipped on a keychain, buttonhole, ETC. It was a big success and I cannot wait to do this again. We are anxiously waiting for Bingo to reopen to all VFW support and our veterans. Hopefully, very soon.

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.

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

In other news as JR Vice Commander, the Essay competition is over for 2022 and the 2023 competition is about to begin. We have already received the Essay theme for 2023 and are waiting for the Patriot's pen and Voice of Democracy themes to be released. We are hoping for a big turnout this year.

Not too much to report for the 1st quarter, but things should start to pick up for the next quarter.





Chaplain

Steve Schmidt

My name is Stephen Schmidt. I joined the USMC in December 1973 and spent three years on embassy duty in my first four years. I married a wonderful woman from Finland and reenlisted for four more years. After 15 years in the Corps with tours in Hawaii, Okinawa, Equator, Finland, Hawaii, and California, I got out. We moved to Washington where I enlisted in the Washington Army National Guard for 7 years and retired. During my tour I spent 12 months in Iraq in 2004 –2005 serving as the 81st Brigade Combat Team Chaplains Assistant. I turned 50 in Iraq which I believed helped me with the soldiers that have never been outside the state of Washington.

For a while I had a few very scared soldiers in our company and spent a bit of time with them explaining what this war was all about. I held a Bible study which helped some of these soldiers get closer to God. As of now I volunteer at the Washington Tahoma National Cemetery on Tuesday escorting families into the shelters for their funeral services. I also am on the VFW Post 6785 Honor Guard and provide services twice a month at the cemetery. I have been mailing welcome letters to those veterans who are assigned to our post but not attending meetings, and I am attempting to reach out to our post members and those in need as that is my calling.



Honor Guard

Scott Eliason

Part of the VFW vision is to ensure veterans are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country. Yesterday, I had the honor of visiting the Compass House in Renton, WA to recognize veterans who recently passed away this year.

The Compass House is a Veterans Resource Center. With 59 units of permanent housing for Veteran individuals and families, the Renton Veterans Center offers a variety of Veteran-specific services. Reading groups and art classes for children in our youth center engage young residents, and case management services help adults find the support they need. The program is open to homeless veterans or homeless Veterans with families earning from zero to 60% of area median income.





Scouting & Color Guard

Scott Eliason

Scouting:

VFW Post 6785 welcomes Scout Troops 455, 8455, and Pack 455 our new chartered scout organizations!

Although it has been a while since our post has chartered a scout organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has a long history working with the scouts in our communities.

From the VFW "some of our earliest ties to the community involve youth groups and perhaps none are stronger or more lasting than the relationship between the VFW and America's scouting organizations. In fact, our partnership with the Boy Scouts of America dates back to 1915 when VFW Post 2100 helped to establish Troop 1 in Everett, Washington."

Welcome Scouts and we look forward to working with you!



Color Guard:

Earlier in March VFW Post 6785 post honor captain Scott Eliason and State Sr Vice Commander Craig Dougherty participated in the Washington State Patriotic Day to celebrate patriotism and honor service members, veterans, first responders, and their families. This year's event was held at Pioneer Middle School in Dupont, WA. The Massing of the Colors included 50 or more flag units from veterans' organization; active duty and National Guard units; first responders, civic and youth groups and Junior ROTC units marching into Pioneer Middle School Gym carrying their unit flag alongside the American Flag.

As part of the VFW's community initiative, VFW Post 6785 along with other VFW Posts worldwide host or participate in public commemorations and other events on many patriotic days, honoring America's veterans' rich history. Join us in our efforts by getting involved with an upcoming event with your local Post today!



Membership

TJ Williams and Rick West

We met with the representative of the Thunderbirds hockey team and learned that because of building regulations as a City of Kent public building they cannot give us free space for our banner. The representative did offer us the chance to put up a table out front in September for the season opener. This month the VFW Post 6785 banner is posted on Central and George streets on the East side. It is certainly viewable by commuters stopped in traffic for hours every day.

We also approached the Kent Valley Ice Center and the possibility of placing our banner there. We have continue to contact other businesses in the community, looking for places to hang our recruiting banner.

If you have membership recruiting ideas or wish to help us please contact TJ and Rick.



Colors and Formations

Alan B'Hymer

Kent Cornucopia and Parade are Back!

We are excited to see Kent Cornucopia back on our schedule and ask for your help with this year's event and parade. The plan is to work in shifts throughout the event. You can sign up for Kent Cornucopia on our website or send me an email to vfwpost6785@yahoo.com with the day and shift you would like to help us at.

Setup: Thursday, July 13, 2100-2200 hrs

Day 1 Man the Booth: Friday, July 14, 1000-1900 hrs

Day 2 Man the Booth: Saturday, July 15, 1000-1900 hrs

Day 3 Man the Booth: Sunday, July 16, 1000-1800 hrs (and Tear Down)

Day 3 Parade: Sunday, July 16, July 16, 1300-1400 hrs



Kent Roadside Cleanup
TJ Williams

There is clearly growing enthusiasm for our quarterly road cleanup of 224th So 84th Ave S and 93rd Ave south. Our winter cleanup broke all records with eight volunteers who picked up 11 bags of trash, and notified the city of several large objects we could not move, including one dumping. Tony at the City of Kent sent his congratulations again to our post of taking on this civic responsibility.

Special thanks to State Sr Vice Commander Craig Dougherty who lets us use his large driveway as a staging area at the top of 93rd Ave S. Also a shout out to Richard “RC” Sample who couldn’t make our schedule so went out and collected a bunch of trash on his own.

Our Spring cleaning should be in mid-April. We will finalize the date after working with everyone’s schedule at the April meeting.



VFW Essay Awards
Rich Klug

Congratulations to VFW Post 6785 essay winners for 2022-2023!

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 6785 Jr Vice Commander Richard Klug presented essay awards to students at Kentwood High School and Rainier Christian School. Post VOD awarded to two deserving students (and their dad) from Kentwood High-school. We look forward to more entries in the coming year for this very worthwhile event.

There were four Patriot Pen and four Youth Essay competition winners at Post level. Two essay winners were finalists at the district competition on January 7.

VFW Post 6785 is very proud of the students and all the hard work that everyone put into their entries!

Veterans of Foreign Wars Youth Scholarships Program: The VFW is dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in our future generation. If you are a democracy-loving high school student interested in a \$35,000 college scholarship or a patriotic middle school student interested in winning \$5,000, these scholarships may be for you.





Read about VFW Post 6785 in the April 2023 edition of the VFW Magazine!

On Page 20 of the magazine the article highlight some of our members and our volunteer activities with the USO and Honor Flight.

Check your mail for the magazine or visit the VFW website to view the online version at: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/vfw-magazine>



VFW Post 6785 makes a donation to John Kaiser of Tenacity Outdoors LLC.

During the VFW Washington Mid Winter Conference at Yakima, Post Commander Walt Tanimoto took the opportunity to present the check to Kaiser. (01/20/2023) Tenacity Outdoors operated by U.S. Army veterans and VFW life member John Kaiser Jr. is donating several guided fishing tour seats at a value of \$250 each to veterans.



TAPS

Harlow D. “Bud” Hart Jr., US Army Vietnam War Veteran

Walter O. Nielson, Berlin Brigade



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

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VFW Post 6785

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