



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
Post 6785 Kent, WA

Q3-2021 Newsletter

VFW Post 6785

PO Box 6547, Kent, WA 98064

20th Anniversary of September 11, 2001

Post Commander

Walt Tanimoto

Greetings,

My name is Walt Tanimoto; I am the new VFW Post 6785 Post Commander for 2021-2022 and I would like to welcome all of you back to the Post!



A little about myself. I served 20 years in the United States Army, and I am an Iraq War veteran. Although retired from the Army, I am still working and like many of you, trying to juggle work, family, and volunteer activities with many organizations.

My goals this year as the commander of 6785 are to get back into the community. COVID-19 restricted almost all of our activities and only recently we have been able to start back up. I encourage all of you visit our website and look in the Post Member Section to sign up for activities and to read our meeting notes.

You may have also heard that our monthly meetings are now held at American Legion Post 15 across from Kent Meridian High School. The US Army Reserve Center closed; therefore, we had to find a new place to meet and call home. Fortunately, the American Legion in Kent extended an invitation to their Post that we now call home. Come join us at our meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 1900 hrs. We have a meet and greet at 1800 at Club 15 in the American Legion.

I encourage all of you to attend our monthly members meetings. It's a great way to meet other veterans and network.

Lastly, take time this Saturday, September 11, the 20th Anniversary of 9-11 to reflect on friends, family, and service members deployed around the world defending our freedom.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. Email: wttanimoto@gmail.com, Cell: 253-797-6933.

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
Manny Martinez

Surgeon
Rich Klug

Officer of the Day
John Bruns

Service Officer
Randy Clawson



We have a new home!

At the August 2021 membership meeting 6785 unanimously voted to meet at American Legion Post 15 in Kent, WA. American Legion Post 15 (AL Post 15) extended an invitation to 6785 to use their Post and we are grateful for their hospitality. It is interesting to recall the VFW is no stranger to AL Post 15. A long time ago, one of the two Kent VFW Post used to meet at the AL Post before consolidation.

AL Post 15 has a meeting room, a Hall, kitchen, canteen, plenty of parking, and hosts many other local veteran's organizations and veterans support groups at their Post. This presents opportunities for combined activities to better support veterans and the Kent community.

We are also invited to attend American Legion Post 15 events and use of their canteen called "Club 15". Just have your VFW membership card with you.

- Friday night burgers and hots dogs. Starts at 1700 hrs.
- Special Saturday events.
- Club 15 Opens from 1500 hrs – 2000 hrs, Tue-Sat

See other events on calendar at the end of this newsletter, or visit our website at:
<https://vfwpost6785.org/>

Jr Vice Commander **Rich Klug**

Welcome to 2021! We finally see some light at the end of the tunnel (and for once, it is not a train). While the Essay Program for last year was tough, we managed to do fairly well in Post submissions.



We had 4 entrants advance to District and one winner at State. Our VOD winner, Chloe Conrod, graciously consented to attend the Memorial Day ceremony at the WA Memorial Cemetery where she presented her essay which was well received. The ceremony was excellent and truly honored our "fallen". We must never forget their sacrifices. Our freedom is our reward for their ultimate sacrifice.

Going forward, we have embarked upon the 2022 Essay competition. The schools I have contacted appear to wish to wait until Sept to move forward with the competition (we are at a standstill during summer vacation). I am hoping for significant participation once schools open again. I am hoping the pandemic does not throw another "monkey wrench" into the works.

Surgeon **Rich Klug**

As stated in my last entry, I am happy we are in 2021. Things seem to be much better for those of us who are vaccinated. That means we are hoping for some opportunity at the VA Hospital relative to the Post coming in and finally being able to assist our "comrades in arms" at the hospital.



We were able to provide some financial assistance, but on-site visits remain off limits.

In anticipation of the relaxing of restrictions, we are starting to look at schedules for resumption of monthly

Surgeon - Continue

Bingo at the hospital. The patients look forward to these events, but their safety must come first.

Due to a scheduling conflict, I have been in touch with the hospital coordinator to discuss a different week going forward. We would like to change the Bingo date from the 2nd Sunday to the 3rd Sunday of the month. Keeping that in mind, we **WILL** need some assistance when Bingo starts again. In order to support our Vets, we need at the very least 3 volunteers, but it is far better with 4.

In addition to the bingo activities that we hope to resume soon, there are other events we will need assistance with, such as the Christmas event. It is important for us to remember that our brother vets at the hospital have been virtually in isolation for 15 months. They anxiously await our return.

Overall, we remain in touch with the staff at the hospital and await clearance to resume our support activities there.

To review, in addition to direct hospital support, we continue to support veterans by helping to transport them to and from appointments, providing personal methods of transportation such as wheelchairs and other such conveyances, and we provide indirect support such as blood donations.

As we move toward the (hopefully) reopening of the Hospital for events such as Bingo, I am again asking for volunteers to help with the bingo. The patients really look forward to this and we need 3 to 4 volunteers to help call the numbers, assist the vets who may not be able to work the cards, and serve some refreshments. This is a small diversion and pleasant experience for our veterans; volunteering for it is very rewarding for both the vets and the volunteer. Please contact me at r.klug@comcast.net if you are interested. We will let everyone know when we are cleared to support the Hospital again.

VFW Post 6785 Newsletter Quarter 3 - 2021

Parades and Honor Formations

Alan B'Hymer

Color Guard and Honors Look Ahead.

USO Golf Tournament

It has been a tradition that the Post 6785 Color Guard present the Colors for the opening ceremony of the Pacific Northwest USO Annual Golf Classic. Due to COVID, last year's event was cancelled. However, it is on for this year. The date is Thursday, 23 September 2021. The Colors will post at 1200 hrs. Please consider volunteering for this fun and rewarding event. Our Color Guard will meet about 1000 the day of and carpool to the event. If you would like to participate but haven't done this before, please contact me. We can go over the details and requirements.

Auburn's Annual Veterans Parade

Save the Date!! Our Post will be one of the groups marching in the Auburn Veterans Day Parade this year. The date is 6 November 2021. Auburn has hosted the Veterans Parade since 1965. Now in its 56th year, the parade has grown into one of the largest parades of this kind in the United States of America. The parade typically has over 200 units and around 6,000 participants, including marching bands, military vehicles, and veteran's units.

Stay tuned for detailed information and the volunteer sign-up sheets.

Honor Guard

Scott Eliason

Our Post Honor Guard is currently serving deceased veterans and their families on the first and second Thursdays of each month at Tahoma National Cemetery. We also conduct Military Honors for veterans outside the National Cemetery on request if we can assemble a team. We provide a Chaplain to conduct the service and a rifle team for the



Honor Guard – Continue

three volley salute. The rifle team uses M1 rifles furnished by the US Army.

We are currently recruiting new members for the Honor Guard. The more members, the better we can spread out the work. Uniform items are furnished, except for trousers. We are looking for a source for trousers and hope to be able to furnish those as well. For those members who cannot be available on a Thursday afternoon, many of our outside services and the occasional Tahoma National Cemetery service, are on the weekend, and we welcome anyone who would like to participate. We do not currently have any women members and would welcome any who would like to join us.

W. Scott Eliason, Chair, VFW Post 6785 Honor Guard

Welcome Aboard!

VFW Post 6785

VFW Post 6785 welcomes new member Jerry Hazen!

Jerry served in the U.S. Army and was deployed to Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division.

Jerry is also a life member at American Legion Post 15 where we meet.

Welcome Jerry!



Service Officer

Randy Clawson



As a Service Officer for my post and as an accredited Service Office for the Department, it is my duty – and my pleasure – to help Veterans apply for VA disability benefits and to help in other ways in dealing with the VA. After having this role for several years, I would like to tell you some things I have noticed.

Why do so many Veterans, who may very well qualify for help from the VA, never apply for it?

1. Especially back in the 1970s and 1980s, many servicemen and women approached their discharge with joy and excitement, grabbed their discharges papers and ran as fast as they could to get on with their lives. At that time, and to varying degrees in different places since then, there were no programs in the military to prepare people for their military discharge. There was no discussion from the CO or Master Sergeant about the importance of that DD214, no final physical exam, or contacting the VA to see what was available. That is the foundational reason why I have talked to several Veterans from WWII and Korea who did not know for forty or fifty years that the VA and its programs were available for them. That is changing. In the last ten or twenty years Military commands now take the responsibility of regularly briefing their people who are approaching discharge of the help that is available, though there are some gaps in these programs still.
2. I encounter the attitude in many Veterans that “I am okay! I am doing very well and don’t really need (or deserve) any help. These programs are for those who really need them, who have really sacrificed, like that guy over there”.

I have heard this very often and surprisingly from people who are themselves plainly disabled from their military service. I have actually heard this from a young guy who had lost his leg below the knee. There he was, standing on his crutch, telling me that others were

VFW Post 6785 Newsletter

Quarter 3 - 2021

Service Officer - Continued

much worse off than he. And, heartbreakingly, I have heard it from a young woman in a wheelchair, who had two artificial legs because of an IED explosion. When an American joins the military, they are giving the nation a blank check that the country can cash for whatever amount they believe is required. Because of the nature of being a service officer and constantly dealing with disabilities, this is a difficult perspective to maintain, but MOST people who give that blank check to the country come out of the experience okay – or even in better shape than when they began. ALL give several very productive years of their lives when they might have begun a better paying career, but in those years all experienced something completely different than they otherwise might have. However, many others come out of the experience crippled and damaged in ways visible and not visible, to a slight degree or a desperate degree. The “lucky ones”, who seemingly come out of the military service without injury also gave the country their blank check, and that must be honored as well. For that reason the home loan guarantees, the educational benefits and the health care are offered to all veterans in varying degrees depending on their circumstances.

There is much more to say about all this, but the editor is starting to frown. If you are a Veteran please get together with a Service Officer from your VFW, or whatever service organization is handy for you, and see what the VA and the country might have to offer you in gratitude for your offer of your youth, your health and your precious time, in service to your country.

TAPS

VFW Post 6785

William Tygret
 Ted Servello
 Victor Colon
 Richard Wayne Miner
 Robert E. Swanson
 Theodore Joseph Schroeder



USO

Ken “Pepsi” Przepiora



The USO at SEATAC is closed for at least 2 months. The good news is we have a temporary USO located at the baggage level. There are limited snacks and drinks but our first night was a great success.

There were over 180 of military and families that used the temporary USO. Our new hours are 1600 to 0400 hrs the following morning. Our flight nights are Monday night, Wednesday night and Saturday night from 1600 to 0400 hrs the next morning.

Please feel free to contact me about the uso and if you would like to voluteer at the USO.

Ken Przepiora
 USO Chair
 253-709-9099
kenn.przepiora.vfw6785@msn.com

Honor Flight

Ken “Pepsi” Przepiora



Honor Flight is a Go for the morning of 18 September 2021!

The VFW 6785 always staffs the departure level at SeaTac airport. We will meet at Alaska Airlines Door 29, Departure level at 0500 hrs, to assist the Honor Flight veterans to the Alaska check in counter. I would like at least 6 members to assist with this event. Free parking for volunteers, the USO will issue parking passes and we are usually finished by 0700 to 0730 hours.

Additionally, the return flight is scheduled for Monday, 20 September 2021. Look for the signup sheet to volunteer on our website. I will need at least 8 members to help setup the return welcome home event at the SeaTac Atrium area by baggage claim. We will meet at the Atrium on the baggage level at 1800 hrs.

Honor Flight – Continued

VFW Post 6785 Newsletter Quarter 3 - 2021

The return flight is scheduled to arrive at 1745 hrs Monday night. Free parking - the USO will issue parking passes.

Any questions or problems do not hesitate to call me.

Ken Przepiora aka Pepsi
kenn.przepiora.vfw6785@msn.com
709-709-9099

Web Master

Rob Grutko

Greeting Comrades!

As we gear up to support our programs once again in a post-covid world, you may find yourself wondering how to best organize the activities you are managing for the VFW. Here are a few tools you can use.



- Online Signup sheets – Just send me the date, times and number of people and I can create an online signup sheet for you. Once created, every time someone signs up – an email is sent to the chair, so they know someone has volunteered. You can find all the events available for sign up from a link on the web site, or we can always put a direct link to the page in an email to send out to the members.
- Member Wide email – With a few days' notice, I can download the member roster from national, and create a semicolon separated list of email addresses. This allows you to paste it directly into a TO: line of your email program, or we can send it from the Post Yahoo account. You just need to create the content and I can send the email out for you. I also keep a filter of Whitelist and Blacklist emails – so if someone has asked not to be included in our emails, they are removed from the list. If you have a 2nd email besides the one in the National Database, send it to me and I will add it to the whitelist.
- Web page post – I can update the web page whenever we would like – if you have an event flyer to share or pictures from a prior event –

send them to me and type up a little blurb about it and I can publish it for you.

- Post event calendar – I can add it to the event calendar for the post – it will show up on the calendar on the web site, as well as with anyone who connects to the calendar online. You can connect into the Google calendar and subscribe to it just like any other calendar, just search for "VFW POST 6785".

If you have any questions about content on the web site, or how to best communicate with our membership, feel free to reach out with an email or talk to me at a meeting.

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

Published Quarterly: Link emailed to all members.

Copy Deadline: Email newsletter input or photos to Walt Tanimoto at 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

VFW Post 6785

Photos from the Tacoma Rainiers Game at the USO Suite, Cheney Stadium.

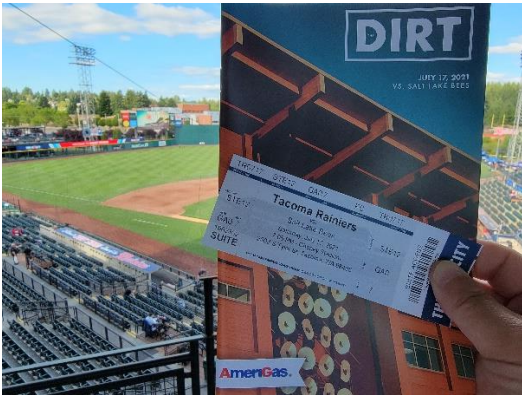


Photo Highlights -

Continued



VFW Post 6785 Newsletter Quarter 3 - 2021

VFW Post 6785, Holidays in United States

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			09:00 - AL - Tahoma 18:30 - AL - SAL	Honor Guard		Safeway Poppy
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Safeway Poppy	Labor Day	18:30 - AL - Post 19:30 - AL -	19:00 - Post 6785	Honor Guard	15:30 - AL - Post	Patriot's Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Coolies Scratch	18:30 - AL Riders	First Day of Hispanic 09:00 - AL - Tahoma 18:00 - Pre Meeting 19:00 - Post 6785		Constitution Day 13:00 - AL - DAV 17:30 - AL - Post	Air Force Birthday Honor Flight 13:00 - Dist 11 SOT	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Honor Flight 19:00 - AL Auxiliary 19:00 - AL Post 15		USO golf	17:30 - AL - Post		
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
		09:00 - AL - Tahoma				

Sep 2021 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

VFW Post 6785 Newsletter
Quarter 3 - 2021

VFW Post 6785, Holidays in United States							Oct 2021 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
26	27	28	29	30	1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
		18:30 - AL - Post 19:30 - AL -	09:00 - AL - Tahoma 18:30 - AL - SAL	Honor Guard				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
Coolies Scratch	Columbus Day "Indigenous Peoples"	18:30 - AL Riders	19:00 - Post 6785	Honor Guard	13:00 - AL - DAV			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
		19:00 - AL Auxiliary 19:00 - AL Post 15	09:00 - AL - Tahoma 18:00 - Pre Meeting 19:00 - Post 6785					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
31	1	2	3	4	5	6		
Halloween	First Day of	Election Day 18:30 - AL - Post 19:30 - AL -	09:00 - AL - Tahoma 18:30 - AL - SAL	Western Conference Honor Guard				

VFW Post 6785 Newsletter

Quarter 3 - 2021

VFW Post 6785, Holidays in United States							Nov 2021 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
31 Halloween	1 First Day of	2 Election Day 18:30 - AL - Post 19:30 - AL -	3 09:00 - AL - Tahoma 18:30 - AL - SAL	4 Western Conference Honor Guard	5	6		
7 Western Conference Daylight Saving	8	9 18:30 - AL Riders	10 19:00 - Post 6785	11 Honor Guard Veterans Day	12	13 Dist 11 Essay Select		
14 Coolies Scratch	15 19:00 - AL Auxiliary 19:00 - AL Post 15	16 09:00 - AL - Tahoma 18:00 - Pre Meeting 19:00 - Post 6785	17	18 13:00 - AL - DAY	19	20		
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26 Native American	27		
28	29	30 09:00 - AL - Tahoma 18:30 - AL - SAL	1 Honor Guard	2	3	4 Dist 11 Awards @		

VFW Post 6785 Newsletter

Quarter 3 - 2021

VFW Post 6785, Holidays in United States							Dec 2021 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
28	29	30	1	2	3	4		
			09:00 - AL - Tahoma 18:30 - AL - SAL	Honor Guard		Dist 11 Awards @		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
		Pearl Harbor 18:30 - AL - Post 19:30 - AL -	19:00 - Post 6785	Honor Guard				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
Cooties Scratch		18:30 - AL Riders	09:00 - AL - Tahoma 18:00 - Pre Meeting 19:00 - Post 6785		13:00 - AL - DAV			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
		19:00 - AL Auxiliary 19:00 - AL Post 15			Christmas Eve Day off for	Christmas Day		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1		
				Day off for New New Year's Eve				