



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS • POST 180 • GRESHAM, OREGON 97030

August-September 2025 NEWS UPDATE

2025-26 Officers:

Commander
Dan Patterson

Sr. Vice Commander
Riley Owens

Jr. Vice Commander
Ken Manske

Quartermaster
Mike "Whitey" Martin

Chaplain
Edwin D. Anderson

Honor Guard Captain
Whitey Martin

Adjutant
Samantha Claramitaro

Surgeon
Tom Lande

Newsletter Editor
Ken Manske
kmanske1947@gmail.com

VFW Post 180
www.vfw180.org
39 NW Third St., Gresham OR
Meeting every 3rd Wednesday of
the month.
6:30 pm Meet and Greet
7:00 pm Business Meeting
Post phone number:
503.491.1091

A Few Words From the Commander

"What are some of your interests...?"

That was once expressed in a news-letter, but more importantly, what other things do you want to tell people about what we do? What do we stand for? Why we come here? We are always trying to do outreach and remind the public that we're here and want to serve all. What is the story you want to tell people? I tell people that we are just like what DFW motto or current slogan says: "We're still serving." When you leave the military, that does not relieve you of that oath that we all gave: *"to serve our country and to protect our country from all enemies, foreign and domestic"*. . We haven't forgotten our oath. We maintain that in the forefront of our mind. I'm not going to let it go until the day I'm released from my oath. That means that by still serving, it means I will serve and volunteer and help take care of my neighborhood, my community, my city, and my country. Because if we don't stay informed, then we're left behind.

Dan Patterson,

Post 180 Member Awarded the Army Master Combat Infantryman Badge

SFC Rodney Short (ret) was recently awarded the new Army Master Combat Infantryman Badge (MCIB). This award recognizes U.S. Army soldiers who have demonstrated excellence in both combat and infantry skills by having earned both the Combat In-fantryman Badge (CIB) and the Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB).



SFC Rodney Short (ret)

The CIB, is awarded to in-fantrymen and Special Forces soldiers who have been engaged in active ground combat. Soldiers who receive the CIB have passed a rigorous set of tests on infantry skills.



Army Master Combat Infantryman
Badge (MCIB)

The EIB is awarded to U.S. Army personnel who hold

infantry or Special Forces military occupational specialties with the exception of soldiers with the occupational specialty of Special Forces Medical Sergeant. To be awarded the EIB, the soldier must also complete a number of challenging prerequisites then pass a battery of graded tests on basic infantry skills.

The US Army and the entire membership of the VFW, especially members of VFW Post 180, are extremely proud of SFC Short for his excellence and dedication to the US Army.

New Post Members/Upgrades

We welcome many new members and upgrades to Post 180:

New or reinstated members: Upgraded to Life Membership:
Thomas Arbuckle, Gresham Samantha Claramitaro,
Kevin Ellinghausen, Gresham Happy Valley
Henry Gobeck, Gresham Steve Arntt, Gresham
Jesse Thompson, Gresham
Nicole Unck, Oregon City
Charles Wright, Gresham
Keith Kern, Portland (Life Member)
Madison Martin (Life Member)

Memorial Weekend Community Activities

Memorial weekend started with the Post, along with volunteers from our sponsored Boy Scout troop, placing dozens of American flags on Main Street in downtown Gresham.



The Post, along with the Boy Scouts, placed flags in downtown Gresham on May 25th

Later that day the Post Honor Guards performed a program honoring our flag at a re-opening of a local Walmart.



VFW Ceremony at Walmart 5/25

Many Post members along with the Honor Guards then attended and participated at a service at the local **Forest Lawn Cemetery**. There our Honor Guards again performed a rifle volley and ceremony joined with a flag folding of the US Army color guards. Post members then went to our Gresham Hero Memorial



VFW Cemetery rifle volley

in downtown Gresham. This program was an opportunity for the public to experience a reverence and solitude salute to all veterans, especially those no longer with us. We were joined by our sponsored Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack who helped place memorial flowers in the plaza.



Gresham Heroes Memorial Service

Nearly a hundred people gathered around the plaza while post members read tributes to each branch of the armed forces. It was a very touching moment and well appreciated by those attending.

Fourth of July Celebration!

On July 4th the Post was honored to be asked to ride in a special trolley during the Corbett, Oregon Independence Day Parade. Post members and their families met in Corbett and enjoyed riding in the trolley while throwing out candies to the crowd as they made their way through the parade route. A lot of fun and great exposure to the public. We have several Post members who live in and around the Corbett



area. Everyone had a great time! It sure beats walking!



Other Events

- **National Guard Charley Company Welcome Home Picnic** was on July 13th. We donated \$1440 for the event from the grant money we received from the recent city grant.



- **2-218 ONG field artillery** had a welcome home event and the Post donated \$500 to their program.
- **Saturday Market** has been going strong with great participation from Post Members. We are very pleased with the amount of donations we have been receiving from the appreciative public. We have had a lot of fun handing out poppies and flags to the adults and "rubber duckies" for the kids as well.
- Post purchased a very much needed **Bluetooth Microphone** system to help at meetings and for rental.
- Purchased \$1000 worth of gift cards from Fred Meyer and donated them to the **Vet Center**.
- The Post continues to perform many Color Guard services. Our participation and exposure is much appreciated by our community!

A Great Addition to the VFW Post 180 Military Gallery!

Over the years we have acquired some souvenirs, photos and artifacts from the public and members for display. However,

things really took off when our friend **Joel Hernandez**, a volunteer with the US Coast Guard visited. It seems that Joel had become quite an expert in model building, having made over 250 models (and counting) over the past 50+ years. Joel had donated many of his models for display to Andy and Bax, (an outdoor store in Portland). In November 2023 it was announced that the store was closing. The owners asked Joel if he wanted all his models back, (numbering over 50), and he naturally agreed then donated a few to a hobby store. "Then one day I met Whitey, told him the story then asked if the Post would like to have some of them. Well the rest is history. He'll take anything, you, know!" commented Joel, "He's a real asset."

Whitey already had plans of starting some kind of a military showcase at the Post. He saw the model ships,



aircraft and military equipment of Joel's as a fantastic addition to the Post's plans and he naturally graciously accepted. These models quickly became one of the main features for the budding gallery. Many of the aircraft

models are now hanging from the ceiling of the Post and other items are on display in several of the recently purchased/donated glass cases.

Joel plans to eventually donate more models for our gallery with a few depicting the evolution of aviation. Next time you come to the Post, be sure to look at all the models of planes and ships he has provided us. They are hard to miss!

Thanks Joel!



Joel Hernandez with one of his models describes the intricacies of the nuclear sub USS Skipjack.



Model aircraft hang throughout the Post meeting room



Joel built an intricate model of the CV-8 Hornet which depicts all the B-25s that made the famous Doolittle "Raid on Tokyo".



Museum Quality Glass Cases Purchased and/or donated for the Post 180 "Gallery"

Cindy Patterson heard about a museum in Hood River that had a few beautiful glass display cases for sale. A crew went to see about the units and were amazed at the quality. We were able to purchase seven of them for only \$125! Thanks Cindy!! The cases are superb and will showcase our new acquisitions beautifully! Another case was donated to us by the Historic Downtown Gresham Association.

Recruiting Award presented to Quartermaster Whitey Martin for Post 180 in Gresham, Oregon

Mike "Whitey" Martin was honored this month by VFW national with the prestigious "Recruiting Award for his exceptional work in recruiting and advancing numerous new and existing members to Gresham VFW Post 180. Due to his efforts in advancing membership the Post now enjoys helping over 250 members throughout Oregon, Washington and several other states.

Quartermaster Martin has been the heart of the Post for many years. He has consistently put in long hours in duty work as well as intensive training for any member who requests it. Through his efforts and others joining him, he has also established a strong local community presence and awareness of the Honor Guards of Post 180.

His dedicated group of about ten members of the Honor Guards are highly respected and in high demand throughout the area including community and National cemetery programs, local special events, various parades and services to local community service groups. The Post's reputation of professionalism and dedication is well known.

Maintaining a high retention rates of membership as well as fostering a significant increase of members achieving Lifetime Member status has been accomplished through his aggressive development of new ideas in events and camaraderie. This includes significant reports and articles in various social media such as the Post's weekly participation in local social programs which directly maintain a high visibility of the Post as well as knowledge of the VFW's role in the community.

As a direct result of his teams' reputation and influence in community programs, the Post was recently awarded a COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT for 2025. These types of activities have directly encouraged other veterans in our community to become new members to the Post.

Quartermaster Martin is always looking out for the needs of the members which is reflected in their allegiance, trust, interest and membership in the Post. One of his latest projects is the development of a Post "military museum" where, through the strong interest of members and others in the community his team of highly enthusiastic Post members and friends have been able to procure numerous professional display cases and artifacts. An example is a large group of military models representing the role of the military including a "squadron" of model aircraft of Navy, Army and Marines along with other military artifacts.

His other many accomplishments, programs and creative enthusiasm for the success of the Post is exceptional. This leadership is highly regarded and respected by both the members and future members of the Post. We are extremely proud of his accomplishments and service which bring continued honor to VFW Post 180 and the entire Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.



Mike "Whitey" Martin

