



Mount Tacoma Post Newsletter

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

SR 167 Completion Project Tour with ASCE and SAME

Tuesday, September 1

Tour time: 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Meeting location: Fabulich Center, 3600 Port of Tacoma Rd,
Tacoma, WA 98424

Lunch at Indochine Asian Dining Lounge following the tour*

**Attendance to the tour is free, lunch is paid for by the individual.*

The SR 167 Completion Project in Pierce County is part of the Puget Sound Gateway Program, which also includes the SR 509 Completion Project in King County. Together these projects complete two major unfinished highways in the Puget Sound region to create new connections to Interstate 5, the ports of Tacoma and Seattle and Sea-Tac International Airport. The SR 167 Completion Project constructs 6 new miles of tolled highway between Puyallup and the Port of Tacoma, builds sidewalks and shared-use paths for non-motorized travelers and restores streams and wetlands across more than 150 acres as part of an innovative stormwater management strategy. Completing the SR 167 expressway will benefit the movement of freight, improve safety and reduce congestion on local roads and highways in the surrounding area.

We will hold a short presentation for attendees ahead of the tour, discussing project elements such as:

- Project impetus and benefits
- Project challenges and innovations/solutions
- Program background, including funding approaches
- Technical innovations (from contracting to delivery)

No personal vehicles will be allowed in our work sites; our team will shuttle tour participants through the project corridor.

- Parking is available at the Fabulich Center, however, carpooling is encouraged.

Tour participants are encouraged to bring their own PPE. There is a limited supply of additional PPE available for those who need it, including helmets, gloves, and eye protection.

RSVP BY AUGUST 14TH

Click here to submit your RSVP via email to Mike Funches
mike@ethoscivil.com



VISION

“To promote and facilitate engineering support for national security by developing and enhancing relationships and competencies among uniformed services, public and private sector engineers, and related professionals.”



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post and events.

STEM

Engineering and Construction Camps Update

Lohith Thimmichetty is a rising junior at Lake Stevens High School with strong interests in engineering, business, public policy, and community leadership. He is actively involved in DECA, ASB, FCCLA, and volunteer initiatives throughout his community. He is passionate about using leadership, innovation, and service to make a positive impact and plans to pursue a future career in computer science or finance.

Outside of academics and leadership activities, he enjoys collaborating with others, taking on new challenges, and finding ways to create meaningful change in his community.



Lohith Thimmichetty

Sponsored Student for the
2026 STEM Camp

Lohith explains his experience at USAF Academy Engineering and Construction Camp at the Air Force Academy:

"I already miss being at the academy. The disciplined and high-energy environment there was incredible, and every single activity we participated in helped me grow, particularly when it came to working under pressure and problem-solving on the spot. Seeing the sharp discipline of the cadets and the sheer intelligence of the mentors and staff was truly inspiring. People often say that you learn something new every day, but during this camp, it felt like I learned something new every hour. Every conversation I had, every activity I took part in, from playing in the volleyball tournament to just hanging out with my peers, turned into a valuable learning experience. Being in that environment gave me a strong desire to serve my country, which is a goal that has stayed with me ever since I returned home.

Prior to the camp, I was quite nervous about the construction and hands-on building aspects. I had never done anything like that before and did not think it would suit my interests. However, actually working on those projects, like building a doghouse to donate to local shelters and competing in the nail-hammering contest, completely changed my perspective. I am very glad I decided to step out of my comfort zone to try something so unique because it showed me what I am truly capable of. I am incredibly grateful to the SAME Mount Tacoma Post for their generosity in sponsoring me and giving me this unforgettable opportunity. Thank you again to everyone at the post for your incredible support throughout my journey!"





UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ **AUGUST 18**
SAME Seattle Event: Industry Government Engagement:
PDB and Alternative Delivery Methods
Henry M. Jackson Federal Building, Seattle, WA
- ★ **AUGUST 20**
Steve Woolery Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament
Eagle's Pride Golf Course, DuPont, WA
- ★ **AUGUST 28**
ACEC/COMTO Golf Tournament
Echo Falls Golf Club, Snohomish, WA
- ★ **SEPTEMBER 1**
Field Trip: SR 167 Gateway Joint Field Trip
with ASCE

- **Click here to view SAME National Events.**
-
- **Click here to view local SAME Events.**

Thank you to everyone who came to the Axe Throwing Event



Steve Woolery Annual Scholarship GOLF TOURNAMENT

Benefiting the Scholarship Fund for the
Seattle and Mount Tacoma Posts



Society of
American Military Engineers



THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026 EAGLE'S PRIDE GOLF COURSE



Join us for a day of golf, camaraderie, and support for a great cause! Proceeds from this tournament benefit the Scholarship Fund for the Seattle and Mount Tacoma Posts of SAME.



Click the button above or copy/paste the following link:
<https://same-pnw-golf-tourney.square.site/>

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Registration table and sponsor set up
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Golfer check-in, driving range warm-up
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Intro and welcome, rules, players sent to starting Tees
10:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Tournament begins, end time varies due to player speed
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Banquet, food, and networking, closing statements, awards

GOLFER REGISTRATION

Military Player Rate: \$75
Civilian Player Rate: \$150



AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS

Event Sponsor - \$2,500
Closest to the Pin - \$750
Longest Drive - \$750

Player Cart Sponsor - \$750
Beverage Cart Sponsor - \$700
Military Team Sponsor - \$300



Questions?
Contact Meaghan Owens at mowens@baird.com



— You are Invited —

Officer in Charge of Construction Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Commissioning and NAVFAC Northwest Change of Command Ceremony

*The Commanding Officer of
Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Northwest
requests the pleasure of your company at the
OICC PSNS Commissioning and NAVFAC Northwest Change of Command Ceremony, at which
Captain Troy M. Brown, Civil Engineer Corps, United States Navy,
will assume command of OICC PSNS*

*and
Captain Preston D. Taylor, Civil Engineer Corps, United States Navy,
will be relieved by
Captain Robert D. Stiles, Civil Engineer Corps, United States Navy.*

*This event will take place on Friday, the Twenty-Eighth of August,
Two Thousand and Twenty-Six, at Ten o'clock in the morning,
at the United States Naval Undersea Museum on
1 Garnett Way in Keyport, Washington.*

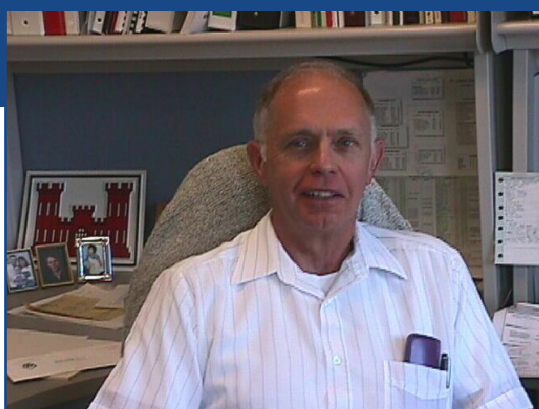
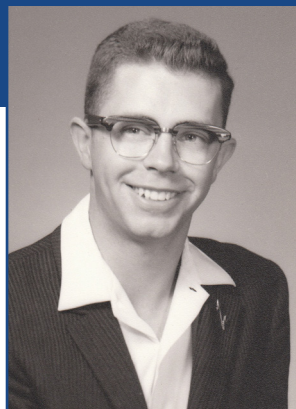


Participants: Dress Whites with Medals
Military Guests: Uniform of the Day
Civilian: Business Casual

Thanks to Jen Tetatzin, our Post President, Mount Tacoma Post members have an opportunity to attend two significant Navy leadership ceremonies. The event will include the Officer in Charge of Construction Puget Sound Naval Shipyard commissioning ceremony, during which CAPT Troy Brown will assume command of the new construction office. It will also include NAVFAC Northwest's change of command ceremony, where CAPT Robert Stiles will assume command from CAPT Preston Taylor. The ceremonies will take place on August 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the U.S. Naval Undersea Museum in Keyport, WA.

Submit your **RSVP** through our official portal [at this link](#) no later than Friday, August 7th, 2026.

Member Spotlight: John Haddick



John Haddick was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers upon graduating from the University of Washington ROTC program in 1964. He was first stationed at Fort Leonard Wood and then deployed to Vietnam, where he served with the 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. He subsequently spent 18 months in Germany before returning to Vietnam as an advisor to a Vietnamese Engineer Battalion.

John was released from active duty in 1979 but remained active in the Reserves. At that time, he accepted a civilian position with the Fort Worth District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In 1982, he transferred to the Seattle District's Fort Lewis Field Construction Office, where he worked for 19 years before retiring in 2001.

John became aware of SAME while participating in ROTC and sought out the nearest Post during his active-duty service. He attended SAME meetings in Fort Worth while working for the District there. In 1982, he joined the Mt. Tacoma Post of SAME and has remained a member ever since. At that time, the Post was very small, with only two sustaining members and lightly attended meetings. A Board of Directors was established with two members. Over the years, John has served as Program Chair, Post President, and Post Director.

John likes to emphasize the "M" in SAME, namely the Military component. He believes active participation from both the civilian engineering community and military engineers is essential to the organization's success.

SAVE *the* DATE

*LIMITED SPOTS!
MORE INFO TO COME!*

JOIN US FOR A
Glass Blowing
EVENT!



OCTOBER 13



3:00 PM



TACOMA
GLASS BLOWING
STUDIO





Why join the Society of American Military Engineers?

If you are thinking of joining a professional association, it is critical that you ask yourself “what does membership provide for you?” We can all agree that there is little value in paying dues and investing time into an organization just to check a box. After all, the relationship you have with a professional association should create a connection to something that you can relate to and have a passion for. Personally, I struggled with finding what was right for me when considering membership for many professional associations, but then I discovered the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). My initial impression was that it very much felt like an officer’s club that did not have much to offer a young noncommissioned officer.

I discovered, however, that SAME is a diverse organization that routinely invests in the development of its members. From new member, to the President of the Society, this professional association wants to help you become a better leader supporting the defense of our Nation. SAME provides fantastic networking opportunities, plenty of options for volunteering, technical information through webinars and publications, and even offers stipends to pay for professional certifications. Plus, the membership fee covers the life of your uniformed service!

Everyone can benefit from what SAME has to offer, and you do not need to be an Engineer or have a degree to join. You can volunteer with your local Post, participate in networking events and professional development briefs, and even get a one-day pass for the annual Joint Engineer Training Conference (JETC) or Small Business Conference (SBC) at no cost.

SAME offers professional NCOs tangible value with real rewards, over three distinct periods in a career.

Near-Term: Active SAME membership thrusts us into an environment of exposure to engineering techniques and practices of industry and Military Departments other than our own. We soak up information and knowledge without realizing it, immediately making us better NCOs.

Mid-Term: SAME offers unique opportunities to continue our technical education and pursue licenses and certifications from affiliated associations. Over a few months, credentialing can better posture NCOs for increased responsibility and promotion. Taking advantage of these industry-recognized certifications will also assist with a smoother transition when exiting the military.

Long-Term: NCOs will one day move on from direct military service whether Active Duty or Reserve Component. Most of us change employers but we still prefer technical employment in such a rewarding field. If you want to secure the future, SAME offers the best opportunity for networking with potential employers.

I truly wish I had learned these things sooner in my career, so I urge you not to wait. Come see what SAME can do for you!

CMSgt Adam Boubede

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