

March 16, 2013

To: George Washington Chapter, WASSAR  
From: Lawrence D. Miller, Jr., NSSAR #138438; WASSAR # 1637  
Subject: SAR Flag Certificate Citation

This citation is submitted to support the nomination of Richard E. Goff, a resident of Camano Island, WA to receive the NSSAR Certificate of Commendation in recognition of his exemplary patriotism in the display of the flag of the United States of America.

Born (March 24, 1932) in Pembine, WI, Dick is a long-time resident of Camano Island, having moved there with his parents in 1944. As a youth of 17, he participated as a volunteer in the original construction of Camano Island State Park in 1949. He served his country on active duty with the USAF from 1951 to 1955. As a member of the American Legion Post 207 and the Camano Island Lions Club in 1999, he supported the salvage and relocation of a 30-year old flag pole from Stanwood to a prominent new location at the Terry's Corner 'Gateway Park' on Camano Island. Once the flag pole was installed, Dick became the 'go-to guy' to keep flags flying at this landmark location.

The only land approach to Camano Island is from the East by way of SR 532 through Stanwood. The 'Gateway Park' flag pole is noticeable by anyone driving onto the main part of the island. Sited at the angled merge point of N. Camano Drive with SR 532, it is *the* prominent landmark for turn decisions upon entering the island proper: "Turn left (or right) at the Y with the flag pole." First impressions of the Camano community are made here. In times of crises (September 11, 2001 being a notable example); flowers, candles, and other visible expressions of emotion are left here by Camano residents. The flag pole is a distinctive nautical style with a 50' high single mast and halyard for flying our national flag. A short cross-spar supports four additional halyards for flying lesser ranking flags. This location is particularly tough on flags because of the near-constant high velocity winds (November -June) that whip north over Port Susan through the gap between Camano Island and the mainland each year.

Until failing health forced him to retire, from 1999 through most of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Dick Goff kept the flags flying at Terry's Corner. He encouraged and collected community donations to buy new flags. He recruited seamstress volunteers to keep old flags in good repair. He raised and lowered 'Old Glory' daily until a night lighting system was installed to give him some relief. Despite inconvenience to himself, he moved halyard cleats higher on the pole to thwart flag theft. I know Dick to be a steady, solid, community spirited citizen. It is my honor to nominate him as the first recipient of this award from our new SAR Chapter.

APPROVED BY CHAPTER ACCLIMATION