

## VFW OBJECTIVES:

- TO ENSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength
- TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 2894

### Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month – 7:00 pm  
VFW Post 2894 Headquarters  
3329 Battlefield Boulevard South  
Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

Email: [cdpost2894@vfwva.org](mailto:cdpost2894@vfwva.org)

Web Site: <https://www.vfw2894.org>

Webpage: <https://vfw2894.org>

Visit us on Facebook.



## POST OFFICERS

Commander.....	Bob Gregory
Sr. Vice Commander.....	Susan Vitale
Jr. Vice Commander.....	Mike Kust
Adjutant.....	Dan Eaker
Quartermaster.....	John Peterson
Chaplain.....	Joseph McGourn
Surgeon.....	David Weber
Staff Judge Advocate.....	Matt Hamel
Service Officer.....	Jim Ireland

## AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President.....	Sharon Peterson
Sr. Vice President.....	Grace Schweers
Jr. Vice President.....	Nelia Macasaet
Secretary.....	Sandy Dunbar
Treasurer.....	Donna Kust
Chaplain.....	Diane Hostetlar
Conductress.....	Diane Hostetlar
Guard.....	Tara Frederick
Patriotic Instructor.....	Anne Thompson

### NATIONAL

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

### STATE

[www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)

### VFW VA DISTRICT 2

[www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2](http://www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2)

VFW Post 2894 GoFundMe

<https://gofund.me/483584b0>



## VFW POST 2894 MEMBERS AND FAMILIES ENJOY A DAY AT HARBOR PARK/TIDES BASEBALL

On Saturday, 9 August, several Post members and their families gathered at Harbor Park for an evening out that celebrated the historic and traditional military heritage in Hampton Roads. The Norfolk Tides held its annual Navy Day, hosting scores of veterans who enjoyed a relaxing evening of the national sport under a beautiful summer sky. The club... (continued on page 3)



WWII Veterans LtCdr Leo Dormon (left) and CPO Moe Maurizio (right) enjoy the Norfolk Tides baseball game with family members during Navy Appreciation Day in August.

## COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings Comrades! Our hot, rainy summer is over, and the kids are back in school, our fraternal year is in full swing and we're on the busy path of helping others and supporting the community, continuing to build our home (thanks to all those who've helped with this process) and hopefully, having some fun in the process.

We now embark on some of the busiest times of the year. Our Membership Committee Chairwoman is working hard to set up several recruiting events where we can put up a table and do some recruiting for the Post. Currently we are number one in District 2 with a 91.67%, well on our way to the required 101% for All-State and All-American. As stated in our last meeting, we need to get 25 new or renewed members and we are there. Please, if you know of anyone who is eligible to join, sign 'em up. We will be involved with at least three District 2 recruiting events with one in our backyard, the Chesapeake Sheriffs Annual Food Fest. Of course, we'll be looking for volunteers to help man the table - please contact Susan Vitale, our Senior Vice Commander, for more information.

The weekend prior to Veterans Day, 8-9 November, we'll be distributing Buddy Poppies at several Walmart locations around the city. This is our biggest biannual money maker other than the Bataan Death March Memorial Walk, so we'll need all hands to work this event. We need two shifts a day with four-five people at each store to cover down on two doors per store. Please contact Mike Kust, our Junior Vice Commander and Buddy Poppy Coordinator, to sign up.

Veteran's Day is approaching quickly. Remember to come to City Hall on November 11th starting at 1100 to remember all those who have served.

We have four great programs with applications due 31 October 2025: Teacher of the Year, Voice of Democracy, and Patriot's Pen. Please get the word out to anyone and everyone you know in local schools and other youth organizations. These are some great opportunities to earn some scholarship money! If you have someone to nominate, contact Comrade Joe Hammers for more information.

Our Post Surgeon and Activities Committee Chairman are coordinating our entry into this year's Chesapeake City Christmas Parade. As in the past we will be looking for max participation in this event. It is a great experience if you've never been in a parade.

Please don't forget to vote on ELECTION DAY November 4th! Ensure your voice is heard!

Hope everyone had a great and safe summer and that you're all looking forward to cooler weather and the fall!

Semper Fidelis! - Bob Gregory, Post Commander

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings from the Auxiliary!

Welcome to Fall. Cooler and shorter days, kids are back in school, and the holidays are coming. I love the fall colors, but the weeks fill up fast.

September was a busy month for our Auxiliary. On Patriots Day (formally called 9/11) several of our members attended the Memorial ceremony that was held in Jubilee Park in Chesapeake. September 19 there was a POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony at City Hall, September 28<sup>th</sup>, Gold Star Families Day, was observed at Chesapeake City Park. We also had a booth at the Khedive Shriner's Car Show where we sold the last of our toy cars that was donated to us several years ago.

Since we've entered the 2025-2026 fiscal year, we have new opportunities to fulfill our promise to help our Vets, active service members and their families. If you are not registered to vote, now is the time to get registered. It is an off year for national elections, but there are a lot of local and state elections happening. Never forget that it is your local/state elected politicians who create our laws, set tax limits on property, local sales taxes, etc. When we hear the word taxes, we think IRS and income taxes. But we actually pay more in city tax, sales tax, property tax, gas tax, fees on utilities, etc, etc, etc. Our mailboxes are flooded with ads, but I suggest you take a few minutes to research what the candidates stand for. What do you believe or feel about the topics, not just who sends you the most mailings or TV ads.

I'm excited about our upcoming year, working together with the VFW to help our vets and their families. I also challenge each of you to talk to at least one person every day to let them know we are here and what we do. Remember who invited you to join the Auxiliary and why you did. Remember—and pass it on.

Sharon Peterson, President  
VFW 2894 Auxiliary

## FROM THE EDITOR

If you are interested in submitting articles, photos, updates on events, for inclusion in the newsletter, please send them to me at: 3329 Battlefield Blvd S., Chesapeake, VA 23322, 757-572-3946 or [adjpost2894@vfwva.org](mailto:adjpost2894@vfwva.org). Comments are always welcome.

If you know of a business or anyone who would like to help sponsor Post 2894, please let them know that their help will be recognized in the newsletter.

The newsletter is disseminated to the membership and friends of the Post via e-mail as well as being available on the Post website: Newsletters ([vfw2894.org](http://vfw2894.org))

Semper fidelis,

Dan Eaker, Newsletter Editor



**VFW POST 2894 MEMBERS AND FAMILIES ENJOY A DAY AT HARBOR PARK/TIDES BASEBALL**

(Continued from page 1)...also acknowledged two World War II veterans on the Jumbotron – Lieutenant Commander Leo Dormon, a retired U.S. Navy pilot who flew in the Pacific Theater during World War II and later served in both Korea and Vietnam, retiring in 1970 after 21 years of service; and Chief Petty Officer Moe Maurizio, U.S. Navy (retired), who enlisted in the Navy at the age of 18 in 1943 and served in both the European and Pacific Theaters of Operations. CPO Maurizio participated in the D-Day landings on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, 1944, and then deployed to the Pacific to support the Marine landings and operations on both Iwo Jima and Okinawa in 1945. He witnessed the signing of the formal Japanese surrender on the USS Missouri from his ship, the USS Talladega, that was anchored a short distance from that historic event.



*VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory and Service Officer Jim Ireland enjoy their evening meal in the pavilion overlooking Harbor Park Field.*



*VFW Post 2894 members Kimball and Anne Thompson have a bite to eat during the ballgame at Harbor Park.*



*VFW Post members Frank Sgromolo, John Peterson and Brad Waters enjoy the baseball game at Harbor Park during the annual Navy Appreciation Day.*

**POST MEMBERS REMEMBER JONATHAN DOZIER'S BIRTHDAY**

On Tuesday evening, 30 September, members of VFW Post 2894 gathered at the Bier Garden in Portsmouth, Virginia, to remember SSG Jonathan Dozier's birthday. The Post namesake would have been 48 years old on this date. The Bier Garden was one of Jon's favorite "hangouts" and those attending the dinner were able to share some camaraderie and raise a toast in remembrance to Jon's personal sacrifice for his country in January, 2008.



*Carl Dozier, father of SSG Jonathan Dozier, enjoys a beer while celebrating his son's birthday with other VFW Post 2894 members at the Bier Garden in Portsmouth.*



## VFW POST 2894 COMMEMORATES POW-MIA DAY AT CITY HALL

On Friday, 19 September, the Post held a solemn ceremony in the forum of Chesapeake City Hall to remember area veterans who were former POWs or who continue to be listed as missing in action (MIA). Comrades David Pereira and Carl Dozier ensured the continuation of this annual event by coordinating the various aspects necessary to recognize the occasion. The event was attended by Mayor Rick West and several city council members as well as members from both VFW Post 2894 and American Legion Post 280. Our sincere gratitude to David for taking on this challenge and continuing this annual tradition that ensures we never forget our local POW/MIA heroes.



*VFW Post 2894 members participate in the annual POW/MIA Commemoration Ceremony at Chesapeake City Hall on 19 September.*



*Members of VFW Post 2894 read names of Chesapeake natives during the POW/MIA Commemoration. From left: Post Commander Bob Gregory, Mark Rios, David Weber and Keith Nielson.*

## OTHER POST NEWS

- **VFW Post 2894 and Auxiliary Members Attend Arlington National Cemetery Internment for Past Commander.** On a bright Wednesday afternoon in August, members of the Post and Auxiliary gathered at Arlington National Cemetery for a final goodbye to past Post Commander Chris Mulholland. Chris passed away earlier this year from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and was finally laid to rest at Arlington on 13 August 2025 amid a host of family and friends. Afterwards a reception was hosted at the Celtic House in Arlington where everyone gathered to remember Chris and reflect on a life that had a tremendous impact on many and will be remembered by all.



*A Marine honor guard prepares to fold the ensign during the funeral service for Major Chris Mulholland as family members look on.*



*A folded American flag is presented to Mrs. Barbara Mulholland during the funeral service for her husband at Arlington National Cemetery.*



• **VFW Post 2894 Hosts Cypress Landing Veterans On “Nets for Vets” Fishing Excursion.** On Friday, 1 August, Jim Ireland, the Post Service Officer, organized a fishing event through the “Nets for Vets” Program, taking three veteran residents from Cypress Landing out for a day on the lake. Working with Captain Andrew Alger and his 1<sup>st</sup> Mate Walt McCorkle, the crew embarked on two pontoon boats on Northwest River (Bob’s Fishing Hole). In six hours the four fishermen (Jim Ireland, Leon Wade, Donnie Smith and Elzae Wingate) caught thirteen catfish, the largest weighing in at almost twenty pounds!

Jim says he hopes to plan another event (or two) before the weather sets for the winter. If you are interested in assisting with these events, please get in touch with Jim – we are sure he will welcome anyone wanting to be a part of these great opportunities for veterans.



*VFW Post 2894 Service Officer Jim Ireland proudly displays his catch during the recent Vets with Nets fishing event.*

• **VFW Post 2894 Post and Auxiliary Members Attend 126<sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention in Ohio.** VFW Post 2894 comrade Carl Dozier and wife Jeanie, along with Auxiliary members Sandy Dunbar and George Lutz, made the trek to the annual VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, in mid-August. The group met with the current and past National Commanders-in-Chief and worked with other national delegates to get the Honor and Remember Flag recognized by the VFW. They attended and had productive meetings throughout the week and were part of the Virginia Delegation, the largest contingent at the convention this year.



*VFW Post 2894 Comrade Carl Dozier poses with former VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt and newly elected Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore at the VFW National Convention in August.*

*Captain Andrew Alger assists an angler with a catfish during the Nets for Vets fishing excursion for Cypress Landing veterans.*



*VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary members Jean Dozier and Sandy Dunbar attend the VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, in August.*



- **Home Depot Donates Over 200 Bags of Mulch for VFW Post 2894 and Local Veterans' Families.** On a bright Sunday morning, in mid-September, several members of our Post gathered to assist in offloading approximately 210, 2 cubic yard bags of hardwood mulch behind the headquarters building. As the volunteers formed the relay line, the three pallets of bagged mulch were quickly removed from the trailer and stacked in neat rows. The mulch will be used to beautify the areas around the Post and potentially raise funds by selling to the community at a reduced rate.



*Volunteers from VFW Post 2894 prepare to offload three pallets of mulch donated by a local Home Depot*

Thanks to all those who came out and helped unload the three pallets – it definitely ensured the task was completed efficiently and without any major injuries, although I am sure a few of us were feeling it later that evening and/or the next morning!



*Members of VFW Post 2894 work together to stack over two hundred bags of donated mulch.*



*Post VFW 2894 volunteers pose for a picture after successfully completing the offload of the three pallets of hardwood mulch.*

- **Post Raffle Fundraiser Set for Veterans Day.** The Post fall fundraiser has been set for Veterans Day, where a Smith and Wesson Model 1854 Stealth Hunter lever-action rifle will be awarded to the winning raffle ticket holder. The rifle is .44 caliber with a 16.3 inch barrel. Tickets will be on sale for \$10 each in the near future. A tremendous thanks to Freedom Outdoors for another fine donation to the Post to generate revenue that provides assistance to veterans in the greater Chesapeake area!



- **VFW Post 2894 Recruits Members at Annual Deep Creek Ruritan Beef-fest.** On Saturday afternoon, 20 September, members of VFW Post 2894 got out and set up a VFW recruiting tent at the annual Deep Creek Ruritan Beef-fest 2025. While local citizens enjoyed the barbeque, baked beans and coleslaw, our volunteers were able to interact with veterans and other interested parties and inform them about VFW Posts and activities throughout the Hampton Roads area.



*VFW Post 2894 Recruiting Chairperson Susan Vitale (second from left) mans the VFW Recruiting Table with her brother, Fred Vitale (green shirt) and daughter Emily as Post member Summer Logue enjoys some refreshment at the Ruritan Beef-fest.*

- **Voice of Democracy Nominations Due 31 October.** If you know of an eligible high schooler, please share this scholarship opportunity with him/her!

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 26,400 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships ranging from \$1,000-\$21,000, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000.

The Voice of Democracy Program is open to students in grades 9-12, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the U.S. and its territories.

This year's theme is: **"How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"** Students interested in participating must submit their audio essay prepared on this year's theme, with a completed 2025-2026 entry form, to their local participating VFW Post. The deadline for submitting an entry to a VFW Post is October 31st, 2025.

Entry forms can be downloaded at: <https://bit.ly/4dzrmpS>. Further details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

- **Patriots Pen Scholarship Nominations Due 31 October.** If you know of an eligible middle schooler, please share this scholarship opportunity with him/her!

Each year, nearly 60,600 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW's **Patriot's Pen** youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of nearly \$1 million in state and national awards.

Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. This year's theme is: **"How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"**

Students interested in participating must submit their essay prepared on this year's theme, with a completed 2025-2026 entry form, to their local participating VFW Post. Entry forms can be downloaded at: <https://bit.ly/3AgSnjA>. Further details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

The deadline for submitting an entry for the Patriot's Pen contest to a VFW Post is October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Further details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

- **Teachers of the Year Nominations Due 31 October.** Without our nation's veterans, America wouldn't be the great nation it is today. Our youth deserve to learn about our rich history, traditions and the role of our veterans in creating and shaping America.

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program. Post 2894 has been fortunate enough to have a National Teacher of the Year (Craig Blackman, Indian River HS, 2015), a National 3rd Runner-Up (Kimberly Hammers, Grassfield HS, 2016), a Department Winner (Kathy Doren, Greenbrier MS, 2017), a District Winner (Kris Iaquinto, Great Bridge MS, 2019), and another Department Winner (Christine Kapko, Great Bridge HS, 2023)

For the Post to qualify as an All-State Post this year, we need to submit a nominee for one nomination for a teacher, K-12. If you know of someone who promotes a sense of pride in students through the teaching of civic responsibilities, flag etiquette, and patriotism, please nominate them for this prestigious National VFW Award! The deadline is October 31st, 2025! Nominations must include the nomination form, nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and shoulder photo of themselves, if available.

The top prize winner receives \$1,000 plus another \$1,000 to the school, plaques for both teacher and school, and an all-paid expense trip to the 2023 VFW National Convention which will be in Baltimore, MD.

Entry forms can be downloaded at: <https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/TeacheroftheYearEntryFormandBrochure.pdf?v=1&d=20240523T171419Z&la=en>. The nomination form and further details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

## OCTOBER 1983

### GRENADA -OPERATION URGENT FURY\*

In 1974, Sir Eric Gairy led Grenada to independence from the United Kingdom, but his term in office was marred by civil unrest. Although his Labour Party claimed victory in the general election of



1976, the opposition did not accept the result as legitimate. During his tenure, many Grenadians believed Gairy was personally responsible for the economic decline of the island and accused him of corruption. While Gairy was temporarily out of the country in March 1979, Maurice Bishop and his communist New Jewel Movement Party seized power in a nearly bloodless coup. He established the People's Revolutionary Government, suspended the constitution, and detained several political prisoners. Bishop was a forceful speaker who introduced Marxist ideology to Grenadians. After seizing power, Bishop attempted to implement the first Marxist-Leninist nation in the British Commonwealth.

The Bishop government began constructing the Point Salines International Airport with the help of the United Kingdom, Cuba, Libya, Algeria, and other nations. The U.S. government accused Grenada of constructing facilities to aid a Soviet-Cuban military buildup in the Caribbean based on the fact that the new airport's 9,000-foot runway would be able to accommodate the largest Soviet aircraft. Such a facility would enhance the Soviet and Cuban transportation of weapons to Central American insurgents and expand Soviet regional influence.



*Point Salines International Airport, Grenada, in 1983.*

In March 1983, President Reagan began issuing warnings about the danger to the United States and Caribbean nations if the Soviet-Cuban militarization of that region was allowed to proceed. He said the runway, along with the airport's numerous fuel storage tanks, were unnecessary for commercial flights and that the evidence suggested the airport would become a Cuban-Soviet forward military airbase.

On the evening of 13 October 1983, a faction of the Central Committee, in conjunction with the People's Revolutionary Army, placed Prime Minister Bishop and several of his allies under house arrest. Once his detention was discovered by the local populace, he was freed and led the crowd to an unguarded fort. The Central Committee members, along with local military forces in armored vehicles, moved on the fort and took Bishop and seven loyal leaders prisoner, executing them all by firing squad immediately afterward.

Within a few days of these events in Grenada, the Reagan administration mounted a U.S.-led military intervention. Operation Urgent Fury was initiated on 25 October, 1983, and an invasion force consisting of the 1st and 2nd battalions of the U.S. Army's 75th

Ranger Regiment, the 82nd Airborne Division, elements of the former Rapid Deployment Force, U.S. Marines, U.S. Army Delta Force, Navy SEALs, and a small group Air Force Tactical Air Control Party personnel, a total of 7,600 U.S. troops. Together with Jamaican forces and Regional Security troops, the assault units quickly defeated Grenadian resistance after a low-altitude assault by the Rangers and 82nd Airborne at Point Salines Airport on the island's south end, and a Marine helicopter and amphibious landing at Pearls Airport on the north end. The main objectives on the first day were for the 75th Ranger Regiment to capture Point Salines International Airport in order for the 82nd Airborne Division to land reinforcements on the island; the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment to capture Pearls Airport; and other forces to rescue the American students at the True Blue Campus of St. George's University.



*U.S. soldiers carrying M16A1 rifles watch an aircraft arrive in Grenada as part of Operation Urgent Fury, the U.S. invasion, November 3, 1983.*

The invading forces encountered about 1,500 Grenadian soldiers of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) manning defensive positions. The PRA troops were for the most part equipped with light weapons, mostly Kalashnikov-pattern automatic rifles and semiautomatic Czech carbines, along with smaller numbers of obsolete rifles and submachine guns. The PRA did possess eight BTR-60PB armored personnel carriers and two BRDM-2 armored cars delivered as military aid from the Soviet Union in February 1981, but no tanks. There was also a Cuban military presence, but most of these were reservists who were actually part of the construction crews working on various infrastructure projects.

On day 1 the assault on the Port Salines Airport by the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment was successful, with the obstructed runways cleared before noon and additional forces landing immediately afterwards delivering additional personnel and equipment from the Caribbean Peace Force and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. The airport was secured by the end of the day.

Due to unsuitable beach conditions, the Marines were forced to do a heliborne insertion south of Pearls Airport, but captured and secured the objective with little resistance.

The second day, 26 October, basically continued with the consolidation of the positions at both airports and rescuing the students being held at Grand Anse, a location just north of Point Salines Airport. A helicopter assault on the Grand Anse campus



resulted in the liberation of 233 students with no resistance from the campus police force.



*Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, conduct clearing operations during the Grenada invasion, October 1983.*

Upon completion of the short campaign, the previously established military government was deposed and an advisory council was designated by Sir Paul Scoon, Governor-General of Grenada, to administer the government until the 1984 elections. The final U.S. report claims 19 killed and 116 wounded; the Cubans to have had 25 killed, 59 wounded and 638 "combatants" captured; the Grenadians to have suffered 45 killed and 358 wounded. At least 24 civilians were also killed, 18 of whom died in the accidental bombing of a Grenadian mental hospital.<sup>[1]:62</sup> The U.S. troops also destroyed a significant amount of Grenada's military hardware, including six BTR-60 APCs and a BRDM-2 armored car.

Today the 25<sup>th</sup> of October is now a national holiday in Grenada, called Thanksgiving Day, commemorating the freeing of several political prisoners who were subsequently elected to office.

\*Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_invasion\\_of\\_Grenada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_invasion_of_Grenada)

## **NOVEMBER 1918 GREAT WAR ENDS\***

On Nov. 11, 1918, after more than four years of horrific fighting and the loss of millions of lives, the guns on the Western Front fell silent. Although fighting continued elsewhere, the armistice between Germany and the Allies was the first step to ending World War I. The global reaction was one of mixed emotions: relief, celebration, disbelief and a profound sense of loss.

When World War I began in August 1914, few expected the conflict to last beyond Christmas. Over the course of the next few months, however, it was clear this would not come to pass. The conflict, already expanded beyond Europe, included great movements of imperial colonies in Africa and Asia. As it progressed, further independent nations like Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, the Ottoman Empire, China and Japan joined the fighting. Not until 1918 would the war's end be in sight. In October of that year, an armistice between the Ottoman Empire and the Allies ended fighting in the Middle East. Only days later, the disintegrating Austro-Hungarian Empire signed an armistice with Italy.



*General Maxime Weygand of France, Admiral Wemyss of Great Britain and Marshal Foch of France, along with others involved with the Armistice, in the Forest of Compiègne on November 11, 1918, outside the railcar where the Armistice was negotiated.*

In the west, the German Army's imminent collapse led Germany to pursue an armistice. The Allied delegation, led by Supreme Allied Commander Marshal Ferdinand Foch, largely ignored United States President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points for Peace and left no room for negotiation. The German delegation was given 72 hours to accept the terms, which were purposefully severe to prevent Germany from resuming fighting. These included complete demilitarization, the evacuation of France, Belgium and Alsace-Lorraine (a territory that had been annexed by Germany in 1871 following the Franco-Prussian War), and the immediate release of Allied prisoners of war and interned civilians.



On Nov. 10, the Germans received word that Kaiser Wilhelm II had abdicated and instructions from the new government that they should sign the armistice. At 5 a.m. on Nov. 11, the armistice was agreed upon. Marshal Foch sent word to Allied commanders that "Hostilities will be stopped on the entire front beginning at 11 o'clock, November 11th (French hour). The Allied troops will not go beyond the line reached at that hour on that date until further orders." The war on the Western Front had finally come to an end. Though one of several armistices signed in 1918, it is the armistice of Nov. 11 that left a lasting global legacy.

\*Ref: <https://www.theworldwar.org/learn/about-wwi/armistice>

### ✚ SAFETY CORNER ✚ OCTOBER IS CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Due to our increased usage of digital devices and the importance of computers in our daily lives, as well as the constant attempts by digital hackers, the importance of online safety is critical to protecting your

personal information. Digital hackers can build a trove of personal information to attack our savings, our investments, and our personal lives. There is a lot we can do to protect our digital information:



- Avoid public wi-fi for serious tasks such as online banking and paying by credit card.
- Consider locking your smartphone, tablet, or computer using biometrics (ex., facial recognition or fingerprint).
- Be alert for and avoid phishing attempts in emails, messages, and phone calls. Verify sources of suspicious activity before accessing links or providing personal information.
- When using your personal devices:
  - Use strong unique passwords.
  - Enable Multifactor Authentication when available
  - Keep your software and operating systems up to date.
  - Download apps only from verified and trusted sites.
  - Consider an antivirus program to protect from malware and hackers; the top four are from Aura, McAfee, TotalAV, and Norton.

Also be aware of the everyday dangers from people requesting your personal information. Know that no police department, bank, or the IRS will initiate contact with you to request such information. Stay alert, practice good cybersecurity, live long and prosper.

### ✚ SAFETY CORNER ✚ NOVEMBER IS DROWSY DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH



November is Drowsy Driving Awareness Month. Did you know that sleeping only 3-4 hours before driving is like having a few drinks? While most of us would avoid driving after drinking, only about half of us would do so after having too little sleep. Remember those weekend passes, traveling along the highway and drifting out of your lane or being mesmerized by the constant rhythm of the center white lines? Wow, we were lucky!



Each year, ~100,000 crashes are caused by drowsy driving, resulting in over 71,000 injuries, over \$12.5 million in damages, and sometimes death. Don't be part of these statistics. There are several things you can do to avoid this:

- Ensure you get 7-9 hours of sleep the night before your trip.
- Ensure your current medications can not cause drowsiness.
- Avoid driving during your body's natural sleepiness periods, usually 1-6 AM and 1-4 PM.
- If possible, use a buddy system on long trips, alternating driving duties.
- Never drink alcohol before or while driving; it makes sleepiness worse.
- Take breaks about every 2 hours to stretch, walk around, and refresh. It will also decrease the possibility of a deep vein thrombosis.
- Know the symptoms ... yawning, "heavy" eyelids, difficulty focusing, or even "nodding off." If this occurs, pull over to a safe spot, like a rest area, and take a 20-minute power nap.

We want you to remain safe, especially with the Holiday travel months approaching. Remember ... ***drowsy driving is impaired driving!***



## POST COMMITTEES – YOU CAN HELP!

If you are looking to get involved and help the Post improve its work for and with veterans, think about joining one of the recently established committees. Contact one of the members of the committees you are interested in and let them know you would like to help:

- **Bataan Death March Committee:** Ted Roberts, John Peterson, Matt Schweers, Grace Schweers, Ann Jones, Becky Waters, Brad Waters, Matt Hostetlar, Diane Hostetlar, Jose Vazquez, and Bob Gregory
- **Budget Committee:** John Peterson, Bob Gregory, Susan Vitale, Mark Rios, Brad Waters, Mike Kust, Dan Eaker and Carl Dozier
- **By-Laws Committee:** Bob Gregory, Matt Hostetlar, Frank Sgromolo and Jose Vazquez

- **Community Service Committee:** Jim Ireland, Susan Vitale, John Guill, David Weber, Frank Sgromolo, Kimball Thompson, Ron Mayfield, and John Peterson
- **Awards/Scholarship Committee:** Mark Rios, Mike Kust, Dan Eaker, Joe Hammers, Kimball Thompson, Carl Dozier, Summer Logue and Chuck Wolff
- **Membership/Recruiting Committee:** Bob Gregory, Susan Vitale, José Vazquez, and Dan Eaker
- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Joe McGourn and Dan Eaker
- **Health/Safety Committee:** Surgeon David Weber, Frank Sgromolo
- **Activities Committee:** Dan Eaker, Susan Vitale, Joe McGourn

## QUARTERMASTER DESK



**Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$35 IF you go through our Post** – if you go through National make sure you indicate Post 2894!

Annual dues can be paid via mail (see our new address on the front of the newsletter) or to the Quartermaster at one of our meetings.

### LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

You can become a VFW Life Member by paying a one-time fee as listed in the table below or making an initial \$35 payment and then paying the remainder over an 11-month installment plan. You will be issued an annual membership card and can elect, upon receipt of the first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The applicable Life Membership fee is determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on Dec. 31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement.

### Annual Members!

Renewals are due now and must be paid by 31 June.

VFW Post 2894 will purchase your LIFE member hat when you convert to Life. \$50 value!

Join the 150 Life Members in the Post.

See Senior Vice Cmdr Susan Vitale or the Quartermaster, John Peterson

### Life Member Options

AGE as of DECEMBER 31 <sup>st</sup>	One-Time Payment	\$45 + 11 Payments of
18-30 Years Old	\$425.00	\$38.64
31-40 Years Old	\$410.00	\$37.27
41-50 Years Old	\$375.00	\$34.09
51-60 Years Old	\$335.00	\$30.45
61-70 Years Old	\$290.00	\$26.36
71-80 Years Old	\$225.00	\$20.45
81 Years & Over	\$170.00	\$15.45

Installment plan requires member approval from National and must be validated before purchase of hat.

Life and Annual Dues can be paid on line at our web page  
<https://vfw2894.org/join-the-vfw>

Points of contact for Annual dues and Life Conversion: [susan.vitale@verizon.com](mailto:susan.vitale@verizon.com) and [jpeter310@gmail.com](mailto:jpeter310@gmail.com).



## OCTOBER MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1880 John Philip Sousa becomes director of Marine Corps Band
- 1942 Maiden flight of Bell P-59 Airacomet, first US jet fighter
- 1943 Allied forces liberate Naples
- 1945 US Army discharges MSGT Joe Louis
- 1955 Commissioning of USS 'Forrestal' (CVA-59) first supercarrier
- 1957 B-52 bombers begin full-time flying alert in case of USSR attack, which continues until early 1990s
- 2** 1799 Washington Navy Yard established
- 1835 Battle of Gonzales: Texans rout Mexicans, touching off Texas Revolution
- 3** 1895 Publication of Stephen Crane's "Red Badge of Courage"
- 1921 Unknown Soldier sails from France aboard USS 'Olympia'
- 1990 East and West Germany united as the Republic of Germany
- 4** 1821 First USN squadron sails for anti-slavery patrol off Africa
- 5** 1943 US aircraft & ships raid Japanese positions on Wake Is, leading to execution of American civilians held prisoner.
- 1986 Former US Marine Eugene Hasenfus captured by Nicaraguan Sandinistas after his plane carrying arms for the rebels is shot down, initiating what became known as the "Iran-Contra" controversy.
- 6** 1781 Americans & French begin siege of Cornwallis at Yorktown
- 7** 1777 Second Battle of Saratoga (Bemis Heights): Americans win
- 2001 US & Allies initiate war in Afghanistan after Taliban refuses to surrender Osama bin Laden.
- 2004 Allies commence Operation Phantom Fury, the Second Battle of Fallujah in Iraq, the bloodiest battle of the conflict for American forces
- 8** 1918 Sgt Alvin York captures "whole damned German Army"
- 9** 1942 Guadalcanal: Marines encircle Japanese 4th Inf Regt
- 1945 Broadway ticker tape parade for Admiral Chester W. Nimitz
- 10** 1944 17 US carriers raid Ryukyu
- 11** 1861 Battle of Dumfries/Quantico Creek, VA
- 1944 Japan announces it will "fight to last man, woman, child, weapon, and piece of equipment."
- 12** 2000 Islamist suicide boat attack on USS 'Cole' (DDG-67) at Aden, 17 die, about 40 wounded
- 13** 1775 Congress establishes Continental Navy
- 1864 John Mosby raids Harpers Ferry
- 14** 1942 Guadalcanal: Japanese ships land reinforcements, shell Marines
- 1942 New Guinea: Heavy fighting, Templeton's Crossing, Kokod Trail.
- 15** 1944 Peleliu secured: Japanese KIA abt 12,000, US over 1,200.
- 16** 1859 John Brown's "Raid" on Harper's Ferry
- 1863 U.S. Grant named commander of Union forces in West
- 1940 WW II draft begins; #158 drawn first
- 1962 Missile Crisis: JFK learns of Soviet missiles in Cuba
- 17** 1777 British General John Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga
- 1781 British General Lord Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown
- 1916 Battleship 'Arizona' (BB-39) commissioned at Brooklyn Navy Yard
- 1922 1st US carrier take-off: Virgil C. Griffin in VE-7SF off 'Langley' (CV 1)
- 1944 Battle of Leyte Gulf, largest naval battle in history, begins.
- 18** 1767 Completion of survey of Mason-Dixon Line, defining mutual borders of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware
- 1859 US Marines under Robert E. Lee capture John Brown & his party at Harper's ferry
- 1945 Nuremberg War Crimes Trial begins in Munich, Germany
- 19** 1879 William Tecumseh Sherman says, "War is hell."
- 1915 USN establishes submarine base at New London, Ct.
- 1950 UN forces enter Pyongyang, capital of North Korea
- 1987 US warships destroy Iranian oil platforms in Persian Gulf
- 2001 Airborne invasion of Afghanistan; Qandahar Airfield seized
- 20** 1944 MacArthur returns to Philippines at Leyte, w/200,000 troops
- 1944 US First Army secures Aachen, first large German city captured by the Allies.
- 1978 U.S. Women's Army Corps disestablished and women integrated into the regular Army forces
- 21** 1797 USS 'Constitution' - 'Old Ironsides' - launched at Boston.
- 2011 President Obama announces withdrawal of remaining troops from Iraq, thus concluding American involvement there.
- 22** 1836 Sam Houston inaugurated as first elected President of Republic of Texas (1836-1838)
- 1954 West Germany joins NATO
- 1962 Missile Crisis: JFK imposes naval blockade on Cuba
- 23** 1775 Congress bars blacks from army, but is generally ignored
- 1942 Guadalcanal: Battle of Edson's Ridge - Japanese assault broken
- 1983 Beirut: Suicide truck bomb kills 243 US personnel
- 24** 1942 FDR directs all available ammo, aircraft, & equipment be provided to forces engaged on Guadalcanal or bound for North Africa, even if it means stripping units elsewhere
- 25** 1943 Battle of Cape St. George: five US destroyers sink 3 of 6 Japanese destroyers
- 1958 US Marines leave Lebanon (there since July)
- 1983 US and West Indian forces occupy Grenada
- 26** 1861 Last ride of Pony Express
- 1944 Leyte Gulf ends: losses, Japan 34 major warships, US 6
- 27** 1775 Congress formally establishes US Navy
- 1810 U.S. annexes West Florida from Spain
- 1942 Battle of Santa Cruz Island: USS 'Hornet' (CV-8) sunk
- 1954 Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. becomes first black general in USAF
- 28** 1942 "Tokyo Express" lands troops on Guadalcanal.
- 1962 Khrushchev orders missiles out of Cuba, ending Missile Crisis
- 29** 1929 "Black Friday": Crash of '29
- 1944 Near Aachen, 1st Inf Div Rabbi Sidney Lefkowitz & cantor PFC Max Fuchs conduct first Jewish service for American troops on German soil, broadcast worldwide, with accompanying artillery fire



- 30** 1954 Defense Department announces elimination of all segregated units
- 31** 1803 US Frigate 'Philadelphia' grounds off Tripoli & taken by Barbary pirates
- 1941 'U-552' sinks USS 'Reuben James' (DD-245), 115 die; first US ship lost in WW II
- 1952 First thermonuclear bomb detonated, Marshall Islands
- 1968 President Johnson halts all bombing of North Vietnam

## NOVEMBER MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1765 Stamp Act goes into effect in British colonies
- 1835 Texans begin siege of San Antonio (it falls Dec 4)
- 1943 Bougainville: 3rd Marine Div lands at Cape Torokina, Empress Augusta Bay
- 1951 First atomic explosion with troops present, NM
- 1952 First hydrogen device exploded, Eniwetok Atoll
- 1967 North Vietnamese 1<sup>st</sup> Division attacks allied outposts at Dak To in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam.
- 2** 1783 Washington's "Farewell Address to Army," at Rocky Hill, near Princeton
- 1917 First US troops KIA in France
- 1944 US & Filipino troops clear Japanese from central valley on Leyte.
- 3** 1783 Continental Army mustered out of service, Rocky Hill, NJ
- 1979 Teheran: Iranians storm US embassy to take 63 hostages
- 4** 1862 Richard J. Gatling receives patent for clever device
- 1950 US troops retreat from Pyongyang, North Korea
- 5** 1917 Maj. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr, leads first American patrol into "No Man's Land"
- 6** 1945 First jet carrier landing: Ryan FR "Fireball" on USS 'Wake Island' (CVE-65)
- 7** 1865 CSS 'Shenandoah' surrenders to British authorities at Liverpool, seven months after Appomattox
- 1973 The War Powers Act becomes law.
- 2004 The Second Battle of Fallujah commences in Anbar Province, Iraq
- 8** 1942 Operation Torch: US/British forces land northwestern Africa
- 1950 Lt. Russell J. Brown's F-86 scores North Korean MiG-15 in history's first jet-on-jet combat
- 9** 1921 The Unknown Soldier arrives at Washington aboard USS 'Olympia'
- 1984 "Three Servicemen" Statue added to Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- 1989 The Berlin Wall comes down.
- 2001 Battle of Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan
- 10** 1775 Congress establishes Marine Corps
- 1782 Chillicothe, Ohio, George Rodgers Clark defeats Indians and Tories; final battle of Revolutionary War.
- 1945 US liberates Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald
- 1954 USMC ["Iwo Jima"] Memorial dedicated in Arlington
- 11** 1839 Virginia Military Institute opens
- 1864 Sherman's March: Burning of Rome, Georgia
- 1909 USN begins construction of base at Pearl Harbor
- 1918 World War I armistice
- 1921 Escorted by 30 holders of Medal of Honor, "Unknown Soldier" laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery
- 12** 1942 Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, Day 1: Japanese aircraft raid Henderson field, both fleets converge on Iron Bottom Sound
- 13** 1775 Americans under Maj Gen Richard Montgomery capture Montreal
- 1776 John Paul Jones captures British transport 'Mellish'
- 1982 Vietnam War Memorial dedicated
- 14** 1910 First airplane takeoff from ship: Eugene Ely in Curtiss Flyer, off USS 'Birmingham' (CL-2)
- 1965 Battle of Ia Drang commences in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam.
- 15** 1864 Sherman burns what Confederates have not of Atlanta
- 16** 1982 Maiden voyage of Space Shuttle 'Columbia'
- 17** 1869 Suez Canal opens
- 1913 Panama Canal opens
- 1917 First US ASW Victory: Destroyers 'Fanning' (DD-37) & 'Nicholson' (DD-52) sink 'U-58', in Irish Sea
- 18** 1961 JFK sends 18,000 military advisors to South Vietnam
- 1965 Battle of Ia Drang ends with 234 American deaths and 250 wounded.
- 19** 1492 Columbus lands in Puerto Rico
- 1863 Abraham Lincoln gives Gettysburg speech
- 1944 New Guinea: U.S. troops land
- 1950 Eisenhower becomes supreme commander of NATO
- 1999 USCG Capt Earl R. Fox, Public Health Service, retires; last WW II veteran on active service
- 20** 1866 First national convention of Grand Army of Republic [GAR]
- 1945 General of Army George C. Marshall steps down, after 2272 days as Chief-of-Staff
- 21** 1943 Operation Galvanic: Marines in heavy fighting on Tarawa, National Guardsmen advance on Makin, while Marines land on Abemama, 75 mi SE of Tarawa.
- 22** 1943 FDR, Churchill, & Chiang meet to discuss defeat of Japan.
- 23** 1942 USCG Women Reserve (SPAR's) established.
- 1943 Operation Galvanic: US forces secure Tarawa & Makin
- 1944 Gen Patch's Seventh Army captures Strasbourg.
- 1967 North Vietnamese forces are forced to withdraw from Dak To, ending the costliest engagement between allied and Communist forces.
- 1983 Grenada Campaign Ends
- 24** 1941 CNO warns fleet "surprise aggressive movement" by Japan imminent
- 1944 First B-29 raid from Saipan; 111 bombers hit Tokyo.
- 25** 1783 Evacuation Day: British leave New York City, their last base in US, and that evening Governor George Clinton of New York honors George Washington with banquet at Frances' Tavern, where thirteen toasts were offered, beginning with "The United States of America"
- 1961 USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), first nuclear-powered carrier, is commissioned
- 26** 1862 Lincoln meets ". . . little lady who started this big war," Harriet Beecher Stowe
- 27** 1789 President George Washington proclaims last Thursday in November a day of prayer and thanksgiving
- 1943 Teheran Conference: Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin talk strategy

- 28** 1795 US pays \$800,000 & frigate for "protection" from Algerian & Tunisian pirates
- 29** 1760 Rogers' Rangers capture Detroit from French  
1951 First underground atomic explosion, Frenchman's Flat, NV
- 30** 1782 Preliminary Treaty of Paris: American and British sign preliminary articles to end Revolutionary War

1943 Teheran Conference: FDR, Churchill, & Stalin agree to launch Operation Overlord in May of 1944

## **POST 2894 CALENDAR**

<b><u>OCTOBER '25</u></b>	
1	Great American Food Fest
6	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
8	Post Meeting, Post HQ
11	Chesapeake Virginia Wine Festival
13	Columbus Day U.S. Navy 250 <sup>th</sup> Birthday (1775) USS Cole Bombing (2000)
23	Bombing of Marine Barracks Beirut (1983)
27	Navy Day
31	Halloween

<b><u>NOVEMBER '25</u></b>	
2	Daylight Saving Time Ends
4	Election Day
8	District 2 Quarterly Meeting VFW Post 4809, Norfolk
8-9	Buddy Poppy Fall Fundraiser
10	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
10	USMC 250 <sup>th</sup> Birthday (1775)
11	Veterans Day
12	Post Meeting, Post HQ
27	Thanksgiving





## 2025-2026 COMPETITION

# VOICE OF DEMOCRACY Post 2894



**"VFW made it possible  
for me to go to college."**  
- Rachel 2020 Prize Winner

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**  
**OCTOBER 31, 2025**

### ELIGIBILITY

Students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (for which the application has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity.

## VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

- Open to students in grades 9-12 enrolled by Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 3–5-minute audio and written essay
- This year's theme is, "How are you showing patriotism and support for our country?"
- National Prize is currently \$35,000



[bit.ly/4dzrmpS](https://bit.ly/4dzrmpS)

<https://scholarsapp.com>



Scholar's App



SCHOLAR'S APP  
VERIFIED



## 2025-2026 COMPETITION

# PATRIOT'S PEN Post 2894



**"VFW made it possible  
for me to go to college."**

- Rachel 2020 Prize Winner

### ELIGIBILITY

### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

**OCTOBER 31, 2025**

Students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (for which the application has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity.

### PATRIOT'S PEN

- Open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students
- enrolled by the Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 300 – 400-word essay
- This year's theme is, **"How are you showing patriotism and support for our country?"**
- National Prize is currently \$5,000



[bit.ly/3AgSnjA](https://bit.ly/3AgSnjA)

<https://scholarsapp.com>

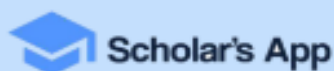


Scholar's App



SCHOLAR'S APP  
VERIFIED





<https://scholarsapp.com>

### HOW TO ACCESS THE PLATFORM

A **whitelist** or **allowlist** is a list or register of entities that are being provided a particular privilege, service, mobility, access or recognition. Entities on the list will be accepted, approved and/or recognized. Institutions that want to work with Scholar's App must whitelist the following domain: \*.scholarsapp.com/\* - each institution can do so by reaching out to their IT department or IT manager.

We are working on gaining an **allowlist** status with your State Department of Education, but if you're unable to access the platform, please use your personal device at home or on a public network to apply.

### SECURITY POLICY

Scholar's App set of security features:

- ScholarsApp complies with the SOC 2 Type II standard for security and offers a GDPR-compliant data processing agreement (DPA).
- Advanced DDoS protection - ScholarsApp combines in-house security systems with Cloudflare to block attacks.
- Vulnerability testing - ScholarsApp uses automated code testing, vulnerability testing (including OWASP Top 10), and continuous monitoring technologies.
- Penetration tested - ScholarsApp conducts pen tests annually (at minimum) following the comprehensive OWASP WSTG.
- State-of-the-art encryption - Your data is safeguarded in transit with TLS and at rest through RDS AES-256.
- Secured with AWS - ScholarsApp is built on AWS, which supports 143 security standards and compliance certifications.

### PRIVACY POLICY

Scholar's App is CPA (Consumer Privacy Act) compliant whereby the consumer has the right to limit use and disclosure of sensitive personal information. CPA provides personal information rights and protections for consumers, defined as natural persons. Scholar's App is compliant on not disclosing personal information to a third party for monetary consideration meaning we do not sell your personal information to third parties. CPA gives consumers the right to know what personal information Scholar's App are collecting and how that information is being used.

Scholar's App have two legal responsibilities toward consumers: they must inform consumers in advance regarding data collection and respond to a consumer's request to know what has been collected.

#### Inform Consumers

Scholar's App has posted our CPA-compliant privacy notice here: <https://privacy.scholarsapp.com/privacy-policy> and provides consumers what categories of personal information are being collected and for what purposes.

#### Consumer Request

Consumers can submit a request to know what personal information Scholar's App has collected from them. For a 12-month period preceding the request, Scholar's App must disclose the category of personal information it has collected, categories of sources, business or commercial purpose for collecting information, categories of third parties that Scholar's App shares personal information, and the specific pieces of personal information it has collected about that consumer. Scholar's App must provide this information free of charge, but only after verifying that the consumer is who they say they are.

## 2025-2026 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



**Entry Deadline: October 31, 2025**

### What is the Teacher Award Program?

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America's youth. VFW and its Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America's educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They're concerned about the perpetuation of America's noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn't you like to see them get the honor they deserve? Now you can.

### Why Should I Enter?

VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. The national awards include \$1,000 Smart/Maher award for each of the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses, \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school, commemorative plaques and all-expense-paid trip to the VFW National Convention.

### Who is Eligible?

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national VFW winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

### How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the official entry form contained on the next page, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed entry form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost) for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

### What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2025. It is the responsibility of the nominator to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

### What Are the Judging Criteria?

**Citizenship (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

**Innovation (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

**Resources (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example - bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

**Passion (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

*If you have any questions, please call Mary Spencer, 816.756.3390, ext 6287 or [mspencer@vfw.org](mailto:mspencer@vfw.org).*

### Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: Name, Title	
Phone	Best time to call
Alternative Contact: Name, Title	
Phone	Best time to call



## 2025-2026 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



**Entry Deadline: October 31, 2025**

### 2025-2026 Official Entry Form

#### Teacher Award Competition

*Please tell us who you are nominating—below in box.*

Name: First, M.I., Last	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
( ) Phone	Email
Grade Level (K-5, 6-8, or 9-12)	
School Name	
School Address	
( ) School City, State	School Email

#### Person Nominating Teacher

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

#### To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this teacher has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Teacher Award Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairperson's Signature	Post #
VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairperson's Signature (If Applicable)	
Post Address	
City, State, Zip	
VFW Post Email	
No. of teachers participating	
No. of winners advanced to District	
Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$	
Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses \$ (banquet, pins, etc.)	

#### To Be Completed by the VFW District (If Applicable)

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Teacher Award District Competition and is our entry into the Department judging.

District Chairperson's Signature	Dist #
Address	
City, State, Zip	
( ) Phone	Email

#### To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Teacher Award Department Competition, is our entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson's Signature	
( ) Daytime Phone	Email

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on .

#### Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries will begin at the local VFW Post level. Individual nominees may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One Post winner can be submitted for each level, and to District by Nov. 15. If your Department does not have a District judging, then submit to your Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. Otherwise, one District winner, at each level, may advance to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost) to find your local VFW Post. Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit [vfw.org/ContactUs](http://vfw.org/ContactUs) and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at [mspencer@vfw.org](mailto:mspencer@vfw.org).



## VFW Post 2894 Chesapeake, VA Fall Rifle Raffle

### Smith & Wesson Model 1854 .44 Magnum *Stealth Hunter!*



#### **This NEW weapon features:**

- 11/16-24 Threaded Barrel
- Accepts mounts compatible with Marlin® 1894 hole patterns
- Black synthetic stock with textured grip panels
- M-LOK® synthetic for end with textured grip panels
- Gold bead front sight
- XS Sights ghost ring rear sight
- 1:20" RH Twist 8-Groove Rifling
- Large loop operating lever
- Forged 416 SS Receiver
- 19.25" 410 SS Barrel

#### **Raffle Tickets - \$10**

Drawing to be conducted at the Chesapeake City Hall, Veterans Day, 11 November 2025. Do not need not be present to win.

Contact VFW Post 2894 Members for Raffle Tickets or email: [vfw2894mkust@gmail.com](mailto:vfw2894mkust@gmail.com)

PayPal: [post2894qm@gmail.com](mailto:post2894qm@gmail.com)

Tickets are subject to eligibility of purchaser.

Sponsored by Freedom Outdoors