

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.



Meetings

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

Email: cdrpost2894@vfwva.org

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

Webpage: <https://vfw2894.org>

Visit us on Facebook



POST OFFICERS

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

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President.....	Sharon Peterson
Sr. Vice President.....	Anne Thompson
Jr. Vice President.....	Neila Macasaet
Secretary.....	Sandy Dunbar
Treasurer.....	Donna Kust
Chaplain.....	Diane Hostetler
Conductress.....	Grace Schweers
Guard.....	Kirsten McGinn

NATIONAL

www.vfw.org

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2

VFW Post 2894 GoFundMe

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



VFW POST 2894 15TH ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL RUN/WALK A SUCCESS

VFW Post 2894 held its 15th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Run/Walk on Saturday, 18 April. Although a somewhat brisk morning start for those running the entire sixteen miles, the day turned into a gorgeous morning for those who participated in the shorter distances of one and five mile walks, with the temperatures warming up to a balmy 60-70 degree range. The sun provided a bit of warmth, but the... (continued on page 3).



Runners and walkers kickoff the 15th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Run/Walk, at the Great Dismal Swamp in Chesapeake, Virginia, on Saturday, 18 April.

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings to all and thank you for your continued support and dedication to our Post.

This is my final newsletter as Post Commander, and it's difficult to believe how quickly these past three years have gone by. There are far too many people to thank without the risk of overlooking someone, so I simply want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you.

I especially want to thank my staff over the last three years. We stepped into these roles without fully knowing the challenges ahead, but through teamwork, perseverance, and commitment, we continued moving forward together.

As you will read later in this newsletter, our Post has continued to grow and accomplish great things because of the dedication and commitment of our members. Serving as your Commander has truly been an honor and privilege, and it is an experience I will always cherish.

Thank you again for your support, friendship, and trust throughout these past three years. I remain confident that our Post's future is bright, and I am deeply grateful to every member whose dedication and service will continue to strengthen our mission for years to come.
Semper Fidelis!

Semper Fidelis!

Bob Gregory, Commander

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings from the Auxiliary! Summer is almost here, but the Spring weather wants to hang around a little longer. A very pleasant surprise was our poppy bed we started last year. In late April it was beautiful!

So many things have happened in the last few months. Besides the Bataan Death March Memorial Walk (the best one yet!) held in April, the spring Buddy Poppy Drive was also a great success. Thank you to everyone who worked at these two events. Without our dedicated volunteers we could not help as many vets and military families in the Chesapeake community.

Members attended several dedication ceremonies to include a marker for Captain Don A. Sharer at the Chesapeake Sheriff's office, and a headstone dedication for SGT Alton C. Miller. We attended the JROTC award ceremony at Grassfield High School, our Annual Awards presentation for Scouts, First Responders, and Teacher of the Year at City Hall, and the Memorial Day ceremony at City Hall.

In May we installed the new officers for the 2026-2027 year.

As we wrap up the 2025-26 year, several members attended the Department of Virginia Conference, where we received the Outstanding Auxiliary award. Congratulations to the Auxiliary on all the hard work you've done this year in supporting our vets and their families. And one final thought: **Happy Birthday America!!**

Sharon Peterson
President, Post 2894 Auxiliary



Spring poppies decorate the front of the Post Headquarters.

INCOMING COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



I am humbled and honored to be elected as your Post Commander. After three years as Quartermaster working hand in hand with Commander Bob Gregory and the rest of the great Post 2894 staff we are well prepared to continue our All-American Post streak while providing relief support to veterans and surviving spouses.

I would like to thank Jim (Jake) Peters for stepping up as the new Quartermaster. He has already processed the proceeds from the Buddy Poppy Drive and will no doubt be a great asset to the Post. Along with Jake, we have Keith Neilsen who took over as Adjutant at the beginning of the year and Ted Roberts as a new Trustee.

The Sons of the American Revolution who meet at our Post has asked us to join them in a flag retirement ceremony on 13 June at 10:00. They are grilling hot dogs and burgers for everyone. This will be the official first use of our new fire pit built by Boy Scout Blake Roberts, Ted's son. Unfortunately, this is the same date and time as the American Legion's Retirement Ceremony as well.

After the most successful Bataan Death March Memorial Walk in fifteen years and Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Collection for the relief fund, our next big event is the 30th Anniversary Celebration of our Post with an Open House and Dinner on 18 July. We will be showcasing the many improvements we have made in the four years of building ownership and highlighting our appreciation to the contractors, vendors, and individuals who donated time and materials to make significant improvements to our once "tired" Station. We do have some work "spit shining" all spaces in our home in preparation of the Open House. Looking forward to an all hands support in this endeavor.

I am looking forward to a great start for our 26-27 VFW Fiscal Year!

John Peterson

VFW POST 2894 15TH ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL RUN/WALK (Continued from page 1)...

shaded path along the Dismal Swamp trail was truly a welcome relief for the runners/walkers as they made their way up and back along the trail.



Participants gather at the starting point for the 15th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Run/Walk event at the Great Dismal Swamp in Chesapeake.



District 2 Congresswoman Jennifer Kiggins provides words of inspiration prior to the beginning of the morning run/walk as VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory looks on.



Post member Mark Rios, Event Master of Ceremonies, provided a running commentary as the morning progressed.

A surprise visit from Congresswoman Jennifer Kiggins was a notable event, as she made her way to the various tents, displays and organizations represented on the grounds. She thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the area veterans through this annual event sponsored by the Post.

The event had over 300 participants across all the race/walk categories, with two area Air Force JROTC contingents and several



Chesapeake Fire Department personnel standby to respond to any issues that may come up during the event.



Brigadier General Kirk Brinker, U.S. Army and Deputy Commander at U.S. Army Special Operations Command, was Guest Speaker for the event and provided stimulating comments to the audience at the conclusion of the running events.

- Commander – John Peterson
- Senior Vice Commander – Susan Vitale
- Junior Vice Commander – Mike Kust
- Quartermaster – Jim Peters
- Chaplain – Joseph McGourn
- 1st Year Trustee – Mark Rios
- 2nd Year Trustee – Phil Miller
- 3rd Year Trustee – Ted Roberts



Incoming VFW Post 2894 Commander John Peterson (far right) addresses the membership as Senior Vice Commander Susan Vitale, District 2 Commander Troy Wagers and outgoing Post Commander Bob Gregory look on.

VFW POST 2894 ELECTIONS AND OFFICER INSTALLATION 2026-27

Election of Post officers was held at the April membership meeting with the following results for Fiscal Year 2026-27:



VFW Post 2894 Fiscal Year 2026-27 officers are installed by District 2 Commander Troy Wagers.

VFW POST 2894 AUXILIARY ELECTIONS AND OFFICER INSTALLATION 2026-27

The Auxiliary officer slate for the 2026-27 year is:

President	Sharon Peterson
Sr Vice	Anne Thompson
Jr Vice	Neila Macasaet
Secretary	Sandy Dunbar
Treasurer	Donna Kust
Chaplain	Dianne Hostetlar
Conductor	Grace Schweers
Guard	Kirsten McGinn
Patriotic Instructor	Kevin Mulholland
3 rd Yr Trustee	Kirsten McGinn
2 nd Yr Trustee	Barbara Mulholland
1 st Yr Trustee	Anne Thompson

Congratulations to everyone – thanks for stepping up in these important leadership roles!



VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary officers were sworn in during the 13 May membership meeting.

OTHER POST NEWS

- **VFW Post 2894 Provides Landscaping Party to US Navy Veteran for VFW Day of Service.** On Saturday, 9 May, about a dozen Post volunteers gathered at the home of Mr. Anthony Gross, a retired and disabled Navy veteran, to perform various landscaping tasks that had languished over the summer months. This event doubled as the Post's annual Veteran Day of Service contribution, a requirement for Posts to meet VFW All American Post status.

Along with the Post members, several scouts from Troop 413 pitched in and were a tremendous asset in the overall cleanup of the property.



VFW Post 2894 member Craig Peterson puts finishing touches on the driveway edges.

The total number of volunteers assisting with the cleanup ensured that all tasks were completed in less than two hours. Tasks included grass cutting, distributing over five cubic yards of mulch around the property, trimming bushes and edging the property.

As always, Mr. Gross expressed his sincere gratitude to everyone who came out and supported this event. Kudos to everyone who provided their personal



VFW Post 2894 members provided landscaping for retired U.S. Navy veteran Anthony Gross (center in wheelchair).

- **VFW Post 2894 Members Participate in Replacement Headstone Dedication Ceremony for Army Veteran.** In November, 1944, Sergeant Alton C. Miller was a soldier assigned to Company F, 357th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, fighting in France. Moving eastward the Division crossed the Moselle River, fought its way through the Maginot Line, encountering stiff enemy resistance as they fought on the slopes of the steep wooded hills approaching the German border. By the end of November the forward elements of the Division had crossed the border and established positions around Neunkirchen. As the combined divisions advanced on the Siegfried Line after crossing the Saar River, they encountered stiff resistance in the form of minefields, heavy artillery fire, and rearguard infantry actions.



On the 30th of November, as Sergeant Miller's unit advanced through the Saar Valley, he was mortally wounded in combat action. Initially buried in a military cemetery overseas, he was returned to the U.S. after the war with many other deceased veterans and buried at the Nimmo United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Unfortunately the headstone approved by the War Department was apparently never received by the family and the gravesite has never been represented by an official military headstone. On May 2, a ceremony honoring Sergeant Miller's service was conducted and an appropriate

headstone provided by the Veterans Administration was placed on his burial site in Chesapeake.

For more information and photographs of this ceremony, go to <https://lightroom.adobe.com/shares/103ad3f209ea418dbd4c835d4c340efc>.



VFW Post 2894 members render honors as the national ensign is folded and presented to the Miller family.

- **Spring Buddy Poppy Fund Drive Again a Success.**



The VFW Post 2894 Spring 2026 Bea Oakley/Gary Dunbar Memorial Buddy Poppy Fundraiser was conducted on the weekend 16-17 May prior to Memorial Day, at two local Walmart Supercenters. Post and Auxiliary members were present at both entrances/exits, providing poppies to those who would accept them and providing some history to many who wanted to know more about the origins of the Buddy Poppy tradition. The weather was extremely cooperative, although the afternoons got a bit warm, but all ended well with a total donation collection of almost \$3000!



VFW Post 2894 Comrades Keith Lindgrun and Roger Porter provide poppies for customers at a local Walmart during the spring Buddy Poppy fundraiser.



VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory (left standing), Junior Vice Commander Mike Kust (right standing) and Ron Mayfield pose for a quick picture during the spring Buddy Poppy fundraiser.

- **VFW Post 2894 Members Remember Memorial Day at Chesapeake City Hall.** On Monday, 25 May 2026, members from numerous veterans organizations in Chesapeake gathered at Chesapeake City Hall to honor those service men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our country. Although the weather forced the ceremony to move indoors, there was standing room only in the packed Council Chambers that hosted the event.



VFW Post Commander Bob Gregory (left) and Kimball Thompson present the Memorial Day Wreath in the City Council Chambers at the Chesapeake City Hall during the Memorial Day ceremony.

Mayor Rick West provided opening remarks, using an audio of former President Ronald Reagan's words from a past Memorial Day event to commemorate the solemn occasion. We are eternally grateful for the sacrifice of both our veterans and their families that guarantee all Americans continue to enjoy the freedoms provided by our great republic.



VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary members Sandy Dunbar and Neila Macasaet present the Memorial Wreath at the ceremony.

POST Awards VFW Medals



At the annual Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFJROTC) Awards Ceremony hosted at Grassfield High School on May 12, Bob Gregory, the Post Commander, and John Peterson, Post Quartermaster, awarded VFW medals to AFJROTC members in six of Chesapeake's high schools. The awards recognize the achievements of the cadets and fosters their morale and esprit de corps. The awards went to two outstanding cadets, one male and one female, at the respective schools.



Six Air Force Junior ROTC female cadets received VFW medals/certificates at the Grassfield High School Awards Ceremony, 12 May 2026.

This year's awardees were:

- Deep Creek: Saniya Velazquez & Dragon Troung
- Grassfield: Mackenzie Caras & Hunter Austin
- Great Bridge: Kylie Holmes & Kyan Posey
- Indian River: Elena Castillo & Justin Mendoza
- Oscar Smith: Latrice Johnson & Richard Barron
- Western Branch: Makayla Smith & Wesley Harper



Six Air Force Junior ROTC male cadets received VFW medals/certificates at the Grassfield High School Awards Ceremony, 12 May 2026.

NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER 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. 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)

JUNE 1944

BATTLE OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA*

The **Battle of the Philippine Sea** was a major naval battle of World War II on 19–20 June 1944 that eliminated the Imperial Japanese Navy's ability to conduct large-scale carrier actions. It took place during the United States' amphibious reconquest of the Mariana Islands during the Pacific War. The battle was the last of five major "carrier-versus-carrier" engagements between American and Japanese naval forces, and pitted elements of the United States Navy's Fifth Fleet against ships and aircraft of the Imperial Japanese Navy's Mobile Fleet and nearby island garrisons. The battle was the largest carrier-to-carrier engagement in history, involving 24 aircraft carriers, deploying roughly 1,350 carrier-based aircraft.



A Japanese bomb explodes close alongside USS BUNKER HILL, CV-17, in the opening phases of the action, 19 June 1944.

The aerial part of the battle was nicknamed the **Great Marianas Turkey Shoot** by American aviators for the severely disproportional loss ratio inflicted upon Japanese aircraft by American pilots and anti-aircraft gunners. During a debriefing after the first two air battles, a pilot from USS *Lexington* remarked "Why, hell, it was just like an old-time turkey shoot down home!" The outcome is generally attributed to a wealth of highly trained American pilots with superior tactics and numerical superiority, and new anti-aircraft ship defensive technology (including the top-secret anti-aircraft proximity fuze), versus the Japanese use of replacement pilots with not enough flight hours in training and little or no combat experience. Furthermore, the Japanese defensive plans had been directly obtained by the Allies from the plane wreckage of the commander-in-chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy's Combined Fleet, Admiral Mineichi Koga, in March 1944.

During the course of the battle, American submarines torpedoed and sank two of the largest Japanese fleet carriers taking part in the battle. The American carriers launched a protracted strike, sinking one light carrier and damaging other ships, but most of the American aircraft returning to their carriers ran low on fuel as night fell. Eighty American planes were lost. Although at the

time the battle appeared to be a missed opportunity to destroy the Japanese fleet, the Imperial Japanese Navy had lost the bulk of its carrier air strength and would never recover. This battle, along with the Battle of Leyte Gulf four months later, marked the end of Japanese aircraft carrier operations. The few surviving carriers remained mostly in port thereafter.



TBFs and SB2Cs enroute to attack the enemy.



USS Bunker Hill, CV-17, is near-missed by a Japanese bomb during the air attacks of 19 June 1944. The Japanese plane, with its tail shot off, is about to crash, at left. Photographed from USS Monterey, CVL-26.



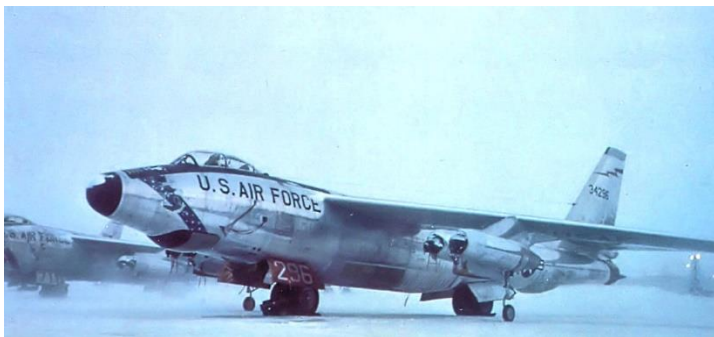
Lieutenant Junior Grade Alexander Vraciu, USNR; fighting squadron 16 "Ace", holds up six fingers to signify his "kills" during the "Great Marianas Turkey Shoot", on 19 June 1944. Taken on the flight deck of the USS LEXINGTON, CV-16.

*Ref: <https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmusn/explore/photography/wwii/wwii-pacific/mariana-islands/philippine-sea.html>

JULY 1960

SOVIET FIGHTER SHOTS DOWN U.S. RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT*

On 1 July 1960, a United States Air Force Boeing RB-47H-1-BW Stratojet, 53-4281, assigned to the 38th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, based at Forbes Air Force Base, Kansas, was conducting an electronic reconnaissance mission in international airspace over the Barents Sea, north of the city of Murmansk, in the northwest part of the Soviet Union. The RB-47 had departed from RAF Brize Norton, in Oxfordshire, west-northwest of London, England. The mission was code-named BOSTON CASPER..



Boeing RB-47H-1-BW Stratojet 53-4296. This is the same type aircraft as 53-4281.

On board the RB-47 were a crew of six: Major Willard George Palm, aircraft commander; Captain Freeman Bruce Olmstead, co-pilot/gunner; Captain John Richard McKone, navigator/

photographer; and three electronic intelligence officers (known as "Ravens"): Major Eugene E. Posa, Captain Dean Bowen Phillips, and Captain Oscar Lee Goforth.

At Monchegorsk Air Base on the Kola Peninsula, Captain Vasily Ambrosievich Polyakov, 174th Guards Red Banner Fighter Aviation Regiment (Boris Feofontovich Safonov) was on strip-alert in the cockpit of his Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-19 interceptor. Captain Polyakov was interviewed in 1995 and described being "scrambled" to intercept the American reconnaissance plane. Vectored by radar controllers, he flew north-northwest until he located the B-47.

Polyakov said that he wagged his wings at the bomber—an international signal for the intercepted aircraft to follow the fighter. He saw no response. Controllers then ordered him to shoot down the American airplane.

Captain Polyakov made a firing pass and fired two bursts with the MiG's three 30 mm autocannon, for a total of 111 rounds expended. He saw the B-47 roll inverted and disappear into the clouds below. He did not see any parachutes, nor did he observe the aircraft crash. Polyakov then returned to his base.



Figure 1A Soviet MIG-17 fighter jet like this one, piloted by Captain Vasily Polyakov, shot down the American reconnaissance aircraft.

The RB-47's navigator, Captain McKone, recalled that he had just taken a radar fix of their position when the MiG-19 attacked. 53-4281 was flying at 28,000 feet (8,534 meters) at 425 knots (489 miles per hour/787 kilometers per hour), 50 miles (80 kilometers) to the north of Cape Holy Nose, the northern end of the Kola Peninsula. Their course was 120° (southeast). McKone had given Captain Palm two minor course corrections, both to the left, away from Soviet air space. The American reconnaissance was definitely in international air space. [The Soviet Union claimed a 12 nautical mile (13.8 statute miles/22.2 kilometers) territorial limit.]

The RB-47H was being tracked by NATO ground based radar (probably from Norway). The chart shown above is an "accurate radar plot of the RB-47's ground track obtained from a ground-based radar tracking facility." ¹

Captain Olmstead later reported that he had returned fire with the two 20 mm autocannon in the B-47's tail, expending "two-thirds of my ammunition," or about 462 rounds. The MiG's cannon fire knocked out two of the three engines on the left wing.

The bomber entered a spin but Palm and Olmstead were able to recover. After Polyakov's second firing pass, though, the crew ejected. Now derelict, 53-4281 righted itself and continued to fly to the northeast for approximately 200 miles (322 kilometers).

According to Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., the United States' Ambassador to the United Nations, the RB-47 "was still in the air

twenty minutes later, over the high seas, 200 miles [322 kilometers] from the point alleged by the Soviet Union and flying in a northeasterly direction.”

A Russian source indicated that this was the first air combat victory for the MiG-19.

A National Security Agency SECRET SPOKE document states “After the shoot down, probably all six crewmen bailed out, but only two men, the co-pilot and navigator, survived the splashdown into the icy waters of the Barents.”²

After six hours in the freezing water, Captains Olmstead and McKone were rescued. McKone had a crushed vertebra as a result of the ejection. The body of Major Posa was also recovered. Major Palm’s body was recovered on 4 July. Captain Goforth and Captain Phillips were never found and were presumed to have died.

Olmstead and McKone were imprisoned in the notorious Lubyanka Prison by the Soviet security service, and interrogated extensively. It wasn’t until 15 July that McKone received medical treatment for his broken back. He would spend the next 97 weeks in traction.

On 25 July, Major Palm’s body was returned to the United States for burial. Major Posa’s was sent to Severomorsk, then on to Moscow. Eventually his remains were buried in an unknown cemetery. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) lists his status as unknown, non-recoverable.

Following the inauguration of U.S. President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Premier Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev of the Soviet Union released Captains Olmstead and McKone as a good will gesture. They arrived back in the United States on 27 January 1961.



Reunion on 27 January 1961. Left to right, Gail Olmstead, Captain Freeman Bruce Olmstead, Captain John McKone, Connie McKone.

*Ref: <https://militarymachine.com/this-day-in-military-history/july-8>

+ SAFETY CORNER + **JUNE IS RISK REDUCTION MONTH**



Risk reduction is practicing safety all the time. There are key factors to reducing your chances of incurring injury or death in our everyday activities:

Risk Avoidance.

- Reduce your work and play activities during the heat of the day.
- Practice good fire safety when grilling outdoors or cooking over a campfire.
- Be careful at the beach. Even moderate surf can be dangerous. Designate someone to watch the little ones.
- Make sure life jackets are available and used when boating.
- Avoid outdoor activities in periods of extreme weather.

Risk Reduction.

- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Exercise regularly to maintain strength and balance.
- Use a minimum of SPF 30 sunscreen when outdoors. Use DEET repellent to reduce insect bites.
- Do not rush through activities or tasks, especially if using power tools.
- Use handrails on steps and steep inclines.
- Practice good defensive driving.
- Maintain a home first aid kit.
- Plan on evacuation preparedness. Have a plan and supplies.



As we age, our abilities decline. Accept physical limitations. Evaluate the possible risks when planning events, trips, and activities, and then decide on how to reduce those risks. Practice these tips, have a wonderful summer, and enjoy life.

✚ SAFETY CORNER ✚ JULY IS BEAT THE HEAT MONTH



For July, let's BEAT THE HEAT. We can enjoy ourselves despite the relentless Virginia summer heat with a few safe practices.

Hydrate Constantly.

- Drink water regularly during the day.
- Avoid excess alcohol, caffeine, and sugary drinks.

Avoid Peak Sun Hours

- Sun is strongest from about 1000-1600.
- Plan your outdoor activities and work for early morning or early evening.

Use Sun Protection

- Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen of a minimum of SPF 30.
- Use a water-resistant sunscreen, and reapply it every 2 hours, or immediately after swimming or heavy sweating.
- Wear protective clothing, loose-fitting and light-colored.
- Augment your clothing with a broad-brimmed hat and UV protective sunglasses.

Use Shade

- Find or create shade, using natural areas or tents/tarps.
- Use public libraries, malls, or museums to get a break while out during the day.
- Close blinds and shades in the house during the day to reduce the sun's heating effect.



Practicing these precautions can and will reduce the harmful effects of a typical southern summer that brings us high humidity and scorching temperatures, and allow us to enjoy living in coastal Tidewater Virginia.

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:** Chuck Wolff, 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, Keith Neilson, and Dan Eaker
- **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:** Dan Eaker, Mark Rios, Mike Kust, David Weber, Joe Hammers, Kimball Thompson, and Chuck Wolff
- **Membership/Recruiting Committee:** Bob Gregory, Susan Vitale, and José Vazquez
- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Joe McGourn and Dan Eaker
- **Health/Safety Committee:** Surgeon David Weber, Frank Sgromolo
- **Activities Committee:** Dan Eaker, Susan Vitale

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

AGE as of DECEMBER 31 st	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 and jpeter310@gmail.com.

JUNE MILITARY HISTORY

- | | | | | | |
|---|------|---|------|---|---|
| 1 | 1774 | British close Port of Boston in punishment for "Tea Party" | 1914 | Glenn Curtiss flies his 'Langley Aerodrome' | |
| | 1862 | Battle of Seven Pines: Confederate Gen. Joe Johnston wounded, relinquishes command to Robert E. Lee | 3 | 1784 | Congress creates US Army, forming 1st American Regt (now 3rd Infantry) on a cadre of 100 troops left over from Continental Army |
| | 1864 | Battle of Cold Harbor, Day 1 | | 1916 | Congress establishes ROTC (based on Norwich Univ. program) |
| | 1866 | Fenians attack Fort Erie, Ontario, from US soil | | 1942 | Planes from two Imperial Japanese aircraft carriers bomb Dutch Harbor, a U.S. Naval base in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. |
| | 1871 | US Sailors & Marines land in Korea, to protect U.S. citizens | | 1959 | First US Air Force Academy graduation |
| | 1877 | US troops authorized to pursue bandits & Indians into Mexico | | 1965 | First American "spacewalk", Maj. Edward White, Gemini 4 |
| | 1914 | SecNav Josephus Daniels' G.O. 99 bars alcohol in fleet | 4 | 1789 | Constitution of United States goes into effect |
| | 1939 | Director of Naval Research Laboratory, proposes research in atomic energy for use in subs | | 1918 | US & French halt Germans at Chateau-Thierry |
| | 1944 | Allied forces begin covering much of Britain with smoke screens, as troops crowd assembly areas for D-Day | | 1942 | Battle of Midway: Japanese lose four CVs, USS Yorktown severely damaged |
| 2 | | Feast of St. Elmo, Patron of Sailors | | 1944 | Allied forces liberate Rome |
| | 1774 | Parliament passes Quartering Act, billeting troops in private homes | 5 | 1917 | US begins draft registration: 10 million eventually sign up |
| | 1784 | Congress disbands last elements of Continental Army, save for 100 troops guarding supplies at West Point and Ft. Pitt | | 1944 | First B-29 raid over Tokyo; one lost to engine failure |
| | 1865 | Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department surrenders to Union forces | | 1947 | SecState George C Marshall outlines "Marshall Plan" |
| | | | | 1967 | Six Day War begins between Israel & Arab neighbors |
| | | | 6 | 1898 | Marines land at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba |

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| 1898 | Action at Santiago, Cuba: US ships exchange fire with Spanish batteries | 1898 | Navy Hospital Corps ("Corpsmen") established |
| 1918 | US Marines secure Belleau Wood | 1916 | Pershing leads Punitive Expedition into Mexico in unsuccessful attempt to kill Pancho Villa |
| 1942 | Aleutian Campaign: Japanese troops occupy Kiska Island, Alaska. | 1945 | Final Japanese defensive line on Okinawa breached |
| 1944 | D-Day – www.strategypage.com/cic/docs/cic174b.asp#three | 1965 | Vietnam: First B-52 raid, 50 km north of Saigon |
| 1944 | Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., earns Medal of Honor on Utah Beach | 1972 | Watergate: Republican operatives break into Democratic Party offices at Watergate Hotel in Washington |
| 1945 | Okinawa: Marines capture Naha airfield | | |
| 7 | 1775 "United Colonies" change name to "United States" | 18 | 1778 British evacuate Philadelphia |
| | 1912 US Army Air Service tests an airplane-mounted machine gun | | 1812 US declares war against Britain |
| | 1917 Liverpool: first American troops reach Europe | | 1878 Congress creates US Life Saving Service ("Coast Guard") |
| | 1942 Aleutians Campaign: Japanese troops land and occupy Attu in the Aleutian Islands. | 19 | 1778 Washington's troops leave Valley Forge |
| | 1942 Midway Campaign: 'Yorktown' (CV-5) sunk | | 1878 Congress passes Posse Comitatus Act, to prevent military from enforcing civil rights laws |
| 8 | 1965 US troops ordered to fight offensively in Vietnam | | 1944 "Marianas Turkey Shoot" - Battle of Philippine Sea: in 2 days Japanese lose 3 CVs, 426 a/c, US 70 a/c. |
| | 1967 Israeli air and naval forces attack USS 'Liberty' (AGTR-5), 34 Americans die | | 1967 Muhammad Ali convicted of refusing induction into Army |
| 9 | 1863 Battle of Brandy Station; largest cavalry fight of Civil War | 20 | 1675 Wampanoag Indians raid Swansea, Mass., initiating "King Philip's War" (1675-1676) |
| | 1944 Normandy: U.S. VII & V Corps link up to form continuous beachhead | | 1782 Congress adopts Great Seal of United States |
| | 1945 Luzon: Sixth Army manages to isolate Japanese forces. | | 1813 War of 1812: US gunboats engage three British ships at Hampton Roads, VA |
| | 1945 Premier Kantaro Suzuki declares Japan will never surrender | | 1867 US buys Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million |
| | 1959 First ballistic missile sub launched, USS 'George Washington' (SSBN-598) | | 1941 US Army Air Corps is reorganized as Army Air Forces |
| 10 | 1776 Congress appoints committee to write a Declaration of Independence | | 1947 Cold War: Congress charts CIA |
| | 1801 Tripoli declares war on US, for refusing to pay protection, initiating First Barbary War (1801-1805) | | 1963 Cold War: Washington-Moscow "hot line" established |
| 12 | 1987 Ronald Reagan says, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." | 21 | 1876 Gen Terry sends Custer's 7th Cav to scout Little Bighorn River |
| | 1999 NATO peacekeeping forces begin operating in Kosovo, Yugoslavia | | 1948 Berlin Airlift begins |
| 13 | 1900 Boxer Rebellion begins in China | 22 | 1938 Joe "Brown Bomber" Louis KOs Max "Hitler's Heavyweight" Schmeling at 2:04 into their rematch, in Yankee Stadium |
| | 1912 First successful parachute jump from airplane, Capt Albert Berry, Jefferson, MS | | 1942 US introduces "V-Mail" for military personnel |
| 14 | 1775 US Army formed from New England forces before Boston | | 1944 FDR signs "Servicemen's Readjustment Act", better known as "GI Bill of Rights" |
| | 1777 Congress replaces "Grand Union Flag" with "Stars & Stripes" | | 1945 Okinawa secured: 110,000 Japanese troops, 100,000 civilians, 17,520 US troops died |
| | 1777 John Paul Jones takes command of USS 'Ranger' | 23 | 1938 Congress establishes US Maritime Service |
| | 1942 Bazooka goes into production at Bridgeport, Ct | 25 | 1864 Petersburg: Union troops begin a tunnel under Confederate lines |
| | 1949 State of Vietnam formed within 'French Union' under Emperor Bao Dai | | 1876 Battle of Little Big Horn: Crazy Horse does in Custer |
| | 1982 Falklands: Argentines surrender to Britain; 74-day war ends | | 1942 Eisenhower takes command of US forces in Europe |
| | 1985 Lebanese Shiite gunmen hijack TWA 847 after takeoff from Athens | | 1950 North Korea invades South Korea. claiming "self-defense" |
| 15 | 1776 Americans burn and abandon Montreal | | 1996 Dhahran, Saudi Arabia: Islamists bomb Khobar Towers, 19 Americans die, 500 Saudis & Americans injured |
| | 1864 Battle of Petersburg: Grant's first assault | 26 | 1917 First American combat troops arrive in France |
| | 1864 Robert E Lee's home, Arlington, becomes military cemetery | | 1924 US Marines leave Dominican Republic, after 8 years of occupation |
| | 1877 Henry O Flipper becomes first black cadet to graduate from West Point | | 1963 Berlin: Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner" is wildly applauded |
| | 1944 US Marines land on Saipan | 27 | 1927 USMC adopts "Sgt Jiggs," an English bulldog, as its mascot |
| | 1955 First nationwide civil defense drill - "Duck and Cover!" | | 1950 US sends 35 military advisers to South Vietnam |
| | 1978 Soyuz 29 carries two cosmonauts to Salyut 6, to stay 139 days | 28 | 1948 Berlin Airlift begins |
| | 1991 Mt Pinatubo, Philippines erupts, closes Clark Air Force Base | | 1965 President Johnson orders US ground forces to Vietnam |
| 16 | 1858 Lincoln says "A house divided against itself cannot stand" | 29 | 1863 Lee orders his forces to concentrate near Gettysburg |
| | 1864 Siege of Petersburg & Richmond begins | | 1945 Operation Olympic: Truman sets invasion of Japan for Nov 1st |
| 17 | 1745 American colonials capture Louisburg, Cape Breton I., from French | | |
| | 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill (Breeds' Hill) | | |
| | 1777 19-year-old Marquis de La Fayette (Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier) & several other French volunteers for American Revolution land at Charleston | | |

JULY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 1: Lee wins, but Union troops fall back on very strong positions
- 1864 Battle of Petersburg (to July 31)
- 1867 Dominion of Canada formed
- 1870 James W Smith becomes first black man to enter West Point
- 1918 Marines secure Belleau Wood
- 1950 First US ground troops arrive in Korea
- 2 1776 Continental Congress declares Thirteen Colonies independent
- 1777 Vermont abolishes slavery, first "state" to do so
- 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 2: A draw
- 1903 US leases Guantanamo Bay from Cuba for \$2,000 a year
- 1926 US Army Air Corps established and Congress authorizes Distinguished Flying Cross
- 1942 JCS authorize "Operation Watchtower," seizure of Guadalcanal
- 1957 'Seawolf' (SSN 575) completed, first sub with liquid metal cooled reactor
- 3 1754 Col. George Washington (22) surrenders Ft. Mifflin to French
- 1775 George Washington assumes command of Patriot forces investing Boston
- 1863 Battle Gettysburg, Day 3: "Pickett's Charge" is shattered
- 1950 First US-North Korean clash: TF Smith overrun
- 1988 USS 'Vincennes' (CG-49) accidentally shoots down Iranian airliner, 290 die
- 4 1776 Independence Day: Two days after voting for independence, Continental Congress adopts formal "Declaration of Independence"
- 1777 John Paul Jones hoists Stars and Stripes on USS Ranger, Portsmouth, NH
- 1801 1st Presidential Review of Marine Band and Marines, at White House.
- 1802 US Military Academy opens at West Point
- 1818 Congress rules flag shall have 13 stripes and one star for each state
- 1832 Samuel Francis Smith's "America" sung in public for first time
- 1863 Vicksburg surrenders to US Grant
- 1942 First American bombing mission over Nazi-occupied Europe
- 1942 American Volunteer Group ("Flying Tigers") becomes 14th AF
- 1950 Carriers USS 'Valley Forge' (CV-45) & HMS 'Triumph' make first UN air strikes of Korean War
- 5 1814 Battle of Chippewa: "Those are regulars, by God!"
- 1814 US Sloop-of-War 'Peacock' captures four British ships
- 1861 Skirmish at Newport News: US retakes Gosport Naval Base
- 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 5: Lee retreats
- 6 1777 Burgoyne's British & Hessians capture Fort Ticonderoga
- 1785 Congress introduces dollar
- 1911 First naval air station established, Annapolis, MD
- 1976 Women admitted to US Naval Academy for first time
- 7 1846 Commodore John D. Sloat takes Monterey, claims California for US
- 1920 USN aircraft tests "radio compass", Norfolk, VA
- 1941 Iceland: US Marines relieve British forces so they can fight elsewhere
- 1944 Saipan: Japanese troops make final "banzai" charge
- 1944 US B-29s from China attack Japan.
- 1966 Marines initiate "Operation Hasting" - to clear NVA from DMZ
- 8 1853 Commodore Perry sails frigate Susquehanna into Tokyo Bay
- 1865 C.E. Barnes receives US patent for machine gun
- 1945 TF38 arrives off Japan with 20 carriers; to stay until war is over
- 1950 Douglas MacArthur named CinC UN forces in Korea
- 9 1755 Braddock's Defeat: Battle of Monongahela - Daniel Boone is wagon driver
- 1776 Declaration of Independence read to Washington's troops in NY, whereupon citizens pull down George III's statue to make musket balls
- 1918 Congress establishes Distinguished Service Cross
- 1944 US secures Saipan: 3,200 US, 27,000 Japanese KIA, & many civilian suicides
- 10 1821 US takes possession of Florida from Spain
- 1943 Operation Husky: US & Commonwealth forces invade Sicily
- 1953 American troops abandon Pork Chop Hill, Korea
- 11 1786 US pays Morocco \$10,000 to "protect" merchant ships from piracy
- 1798 Congress reactivates USMC, disbanded in 1784
- 1812 US invades Canada near Detroit
- 1919 US Navy Pay Corps becomes Supply Corps
- 1943 USN surface ships break German-Italian tank attack at Gela, Sicily
- 1955 USAF Academy opens with 300 cadets at Lowry AFB, CO
- 12 1942 U-Boat lands four German saboteurs on Long Island, soon captured
- 14 1813 Lt John M. Gamble, becomes only US Marine to command a ship, prize 'Greenwich'
- 1825 Lafayette reviews 2nd Bn, 11th NY Arty (7th NY), which adopts name "National Guard"
- 1900 "China Relief Expedition" captures Tientsin from Boxers
- 1959 First nuclear-powered cruiser commissioned, USS 'Long Beach' (CGN 9)
- 1972 Vietnam: Jane Fonda makes first of 10 broadcasts on Radio Hanoi.
- 15 1958 Marines land in Lebanon, to support government
- 16 1861 Bull Run Campaign: Gen McDowell advances from Washington toward Fairfax Courthouse
- 17 1927 USMC pilots conduct first combat dive bombing, Ocotlán, Nicaragua.
- 18 1863 54th Mass. leads gallant attempt to storm Fort Wagner, near Charleston
- 1914 US Army Air Service formed within Signal Corps
- 1944 US troops capture St. Lo, Normandy
- 19 1812 1st Battle of Sackett's Harbor: Americans beat off British attack across Lake Erie
- 1886 'Atlanta' commissioned, first USN steel cruiser
- 1897 Lt Robert E. Peary departs on year-long Arctic Expedition
- 20 1881 Sioux leader Sitting Bull surrenders to federal troops
- 1942 Congress creates Legion of Merit
- 1942 First WAACs begin basic training
- 1944 Marines land on Guam.
- 1948 US reinstitutes draft, for Cold War
- 21 1823 Lt David G. Farragut leads raid to destroy pirate base in Cuba
- 1861 First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas: Confederate Victory
- 1930 Veterans' Administration established
- 1969 Neil Armstrong's "small step" on moon - 2:56:15 AM GMT
- 22 1802 US Frigate 'Constellation' defeats 9 corsair gunboats off Tripoli
- 1905 Remains of John Paul Jones removed from Paris for transportation to Annapolis
- 1943 Patton captures Palermo

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1987 USN begins escorting re-flagged Kuwaiti tankers in Persian Gulf</p> <p>23 1944 US forces land on Japanese-held Tinian from nearby Saipan</p> <p>24 1948 Soviets initiate blockade of Berlin</p> <p>1969 Muhammad Ali convicted of refusing induction in US Army</p> <p>25 1866 David G. Farragut appointed first Admiral in US Navy</p> <p>1866 US Grant is named first full general in US Army</p> <p>1947 US Army, Navy, & Air Force subordinated to new DoD</p> <p>26 1948 Truman initiates integration of Armed Forces</p> <p>27 1909 Orville Wright demonstrates plane for Army, flying 72 minutes</p> <p>1953 North Korea & UN sign armistice</p> <p>1954 Armistice divides Vietnam in two</p> <p>1995 Korean War Veterans Memorial dedicated in Washington</p> <p>28 1898 Skirmish at Ponce, Puerto Rico, which shortly surrenders to US</p> <p>28 1914 Austria-Hungary attacks Serbia, igniting WW I</p> <p>1931 Congress makes "Star-Spangled Banner" national anthem</p> <p>1932 Douglas MacArthur routs Bonus Army against orders</p> <p>1945 Kamikaze sink their last ship, USS 'Callaghan' (DD-792), off Okinawa.</p> | <p>1945 US Army B-25 crashes into 79th floor of Empire State Bldg, 14 die</p> <p>29 1949 Berlin Airlift ends, as Soviets end blockade</p> <p>1967 Fire aboard USS 'Forrestal' (CV-59), Gulf of Tonkin, 134 killed</p> <p>30 1864 Petersburg Campaign: Battle of Crater</p> <p>1909 US Army accepts delivery of first military airplane</p> <p>1942 WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) created</p> <p>1945 USS 'Indianapolis' (CA-35) torpedoed & sunk; nearly 900 die over next 4 days</p> <p>1966 US airplanes bomb demilitarized zone in Vietnam</p> <p>31 1777 Marquis de Lafayette becomes major-general in Continental Army</p> <p>1813 British attack Plattsburgh, NY</p> <p>1925 Last Allied occupation forces leave Rhineland</p> |
|---|--|

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>JUNE '26</u>	
6	D-Day: Allied Invasion of Europe 1944
8	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
10	Post Meeting, Post HQ
13	Flag Retirement Ceremonies VFW Post 2894/American Legion Post 280
14	Flag Day/U.S. Army Birthday (1775)
20	Summer begins
21	Father's Day

<u>JULY '26</u>	
2	U.S. Army Air Corps Established (1926)
4	Independence Day
6	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
8	Post Meeting, Post HQ
18	Post 30 th Anniversary Celebration
25-29	VFW National Convention, Reno, NV

MILITARY AND VETERANS COMMUNITY WELLNESS DAY

Saturday, September 26 · 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Chesapeake Conference Center



WHAT TO EXPECT



**INFORMATION
SESSIONS**



**RESOURCE
TABLES**



**COMMUNITY &
CONNECTION**

Chesapeake
VIRGINIA
Integrated Behavioral Healthcare



To register for the event, scan the QR code below!



<https://MVCWDSept25.eventbrite.com>