

## 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 AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

On a chilly Saturday afternoon, Post and Auxiliary members gathered in the marshaling area off South Battlefield Boulevard in preparation for the annual... (continued on page 3)



VFW Post 2894 Senior Vice Commander Susan Vitale (right) and daughter Emily ride in Santa's sleigh and wave to the crowd during the annual Chesapeake Christmas Parade.

## COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings Comrades – First, here's wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Post has been extremely busy this fall, between the Bea Arthur/Gary Dunbar Poppy Drive (thanks Mike Kust for leading this effort once again, great job); the rifle raffle (congrats to our own Troy Hare for winning the prize); the USMC Birthday Cake Cutting ceremony, thanks to all who participated (I'd like to say a special thanks to Becky Waters for putting the cake together, it was beautiful, great job!). Of course, our participation in the Veterans Day ceremonies at City Hall – thanks to all who volunteered to help with the events!

Now that the holiday season is upon us, I would like to invite everyone to our annual Post Christmas Party (potluck) to be held on 10 Dec 2025, immediately following our monthly business meeting. Please use the following link to let everyone know if you're planning to bring a dish:

<https://www.perfectpotluck.com/vawx8399>.

Prior to our business meeting we'll be holding an informal awards presentation for our Post Teachers of the Year, Patriots Pen, and Voice of Democracy winners at 1830. Like last year we're once again going to have two separate awards presentations – this informal one so the winners will receive their monetary award prior to Christmas and have some spending money for the holidays. The formal presentation will take place in May at City Hall.

We are continuing our path to All-State and All-American Post status but will need everyone's help. If everyone in the Post would reach out and recruit one new member, we'll reach our goal, so if you know of someone who qualifies for membership, please talk to them about joining what I truly believe is the best Post in the State.

I hope each of you and your families have had a safe and happy year thus far. I wish each of you a very merry and blessed Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. And, as always, thanks for all you do, for your service to our Country, and your dedication to our veterans and their families."

Semper Fidelis!  
Bob Gregory

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings from the Auxiliary.

As I write this article, it feels like winter has arrived with the colder temps and wind blowing the last of the leaves off the trees in our back yard. I'm also reminded of the very busy November we've experienced this year.

We started out with the elections in Virginia. I hope everyone was able to exercise their right to vote. It's a privilege we sometimes take for granted. Veterans Day was celebrated at our City Hall, and there were two Remembrance Days held at Hickory and Grassfield High Schools. Our annual Buddy Poppy Drive at two Walmart locations gave us a chance to explain what the Poppies are, why we give them out, and how we support Veterans with the donations we receive. And of course, there was Thanksgiving Day when we ate too much of the wonderful holiday foods we love. It also gives us a chance to express our thankfulness for the plenty we may have and to remember those who don't have enough to eat or a warm home to live in.

December has the Auxiliary helping with the Chesapeake Christmas Parade. We'll be baking cookies as gifts for the veterans living at Cyprus Landing housing facility and purchasing Christmas gifts for the vets who live in the Cambridge Square Apartments as part of their Adopt a Senior program. Members of the Auxiliary will also help pass out the gifts at the breakfast. Remember the Veterans who may be alone and depressed. Suicide remains a problem we shouldn't forget or ignore.

Wishing Everyone Happy Holidays and a Wonderful New Year in 2026

Sharon Peterson, President  
Post 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 AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE**

(Continued from page 1)...Chesapeake City Christmas Parade. Volunteers from both the Post and Auxiliary worked together to provide the final decorations, taping and stapling various decorations on the trailer prior to the beginning of the parade. Hot chocolate helped provide additional energy necessary to get the final touches on the float before the parade kicked off promptly at 6 p.m. A hearty thank you to all the volunteers who worked diligently at the marshaling area to prepare the Post float for its one-and-a-half mile journey.



*VFW Post 2894 and Auxiliary members prepare the float for the annual Chesapeake Christmas Parade on 6 December 2025.*



*VFW Post 2894 and Auxiliary members prepare for the Christmas Parade. Left to right: Cheryl Campbell, Becky Waters, Bob Gregory, Sandy Dunbar, Summer Logue, Brad Waters and Jose Vazquez.*

The Post's very own holiday elf, Summer Logue, led the charge with Brad Waters, both holding the Post banner as they walked in front of Jose Vazquez's red pick up. Adorned with holiday décor, the truck provided the foundation for Santa's sleigh, manned by

VFW Post 2894 Senior Vice Commander Susan Vitale and her daughter Emily, who waved to the locals lining the parade route as they road past.

Holding their own in the festively decorated Post trailer were several blowup characters, to include Frosty the Snowman and Herbie, the elf from the classic Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer story.



*Post Christmas elves Becky and Brad Waters (standing) and Summer Logue get in the spirit for the Christmas Parade.*



*VFW Post 2894 Christmas Elves Summer Logue and Brad Waters proudly carry the Post banner during the annual Chesapeake Christmas Parade.*

Bringing up the rear was the Post Commander Bob Gregory with riders Sandy Dunbar, Becky Waters and Cheryl Campbell.

A virtual round of applause for all the Post and Auxiliary volunteers who ensured our participation in this year's parade was a resounding success! We'll all be looking forward to another fantastic showing again next year, so plan ahead if you'd like to be a part of this event. It's a wonderful opportunity for members to be in a parade with their kids and/or grandchildren, so be prepared to show up in force for next year's parade.



## VFW POST 2894 COMMEMORATES VETERANS DAY AT CITY HALL

On Tuesday, 11 November, at 1100, Post and Auxiliary members gathered in the chilly morning weather at Chesapeake City Hall to remember area veterans and pay tribute to their service and sacrifice. The weather did not seem to affect the attendance, as many veterans organizations were represented at the ceremony - the American Legion, the Marine Corps League and Disabled American Veterans Association.



*Members of VFW Post 2894 pose for a picture during the Veterans Day Ceremony at Chesapeake City Hall*

Originally designated Armistice Day and a national holiday in 1938 to commemorate the end of World War I at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month and to remember the sacrifice of all who served during that conflict, the U.S. Congress redesignated the holiday as Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all veterans who served in the various wars, from the American Civil War to the recent Korean War at the time.



*VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary members participate in the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at Chesapeake City Hall on 11 November.*

Guest speaker for the event was W. Dequentin Dickey, a retired Marine Master Sergeant who served for more than two decades on active duty from 1991 until 2012. He delivered a rousing oratory that hit home for many in the audience, with a final challenge of not

only meeting veterans with a "Thank you for your service," but asking "Tell me your story." MSgt Dickey is currently an ordained minister living in Chesapeake with his family.

This annual event was not only an opportunity to meet with other local veterans but also provides a venue to renew relationships with members of other organizations that support veterans throughout Hampton Roads. Thank you to all those who braved the weather and came out to honor our veterans living in the community.

## OTHER POST NEWS

- **Bea Oakley/Gary Dunbar Memorial Buddy Poppy Fundraiser a Great Success.** On the weekend of 8-9 November, members of VFW Post 2894 and its Auxiliary distributed Buddy poppies and solicited donations at two area Walmarts. Setting up at the North Battlefield Boulevard and Edinburgh Walmart Centers, volunteers spent two full days in gorgeous weather garnering over \$5800 in donations, the largest amount ever collected during these fundraising events. After subtracting the cost of the poppies (over 5000 were handed out between the two locations), the Post and Auxiliary was able to split over \$4200.



*VFW Post members Ron Mayfield (seated) and Mike Kust talk with a Walmart patron during the Buddy Poppy Fundraiser.*

Thanks to all the volunteers from both the Post and the Auxiliary who provided their time that resulted in one of the best fundraising events for the Post/Auxiliary team!

- **VFW Post 2894 Commemorates Veterans Day with Area Veterans at Cypress Landing.** On Tuesday, 11 November, Jim Ireland, the Post Service Officer, and Joe McGourn, Post Chaplain, coordinated a breakfast meal for veteran residents at Cypress Landing in Chesapeake. They delivered fifty bags of groceries and Sunrise Café donated fruit, pastries and juice, along with biscuits and gravy for a hearty morning meal. Sunrise Café also donated \$1000 worth of additional groceries to help restock the pantry. Pastor Joe and the staff served up the breakfast for the homeless veterans currently residing at Cypress Landing.





*Veterans residing at Cypress Landing enjoy a Veterans Day breakfast supplied by Sunrise Cafe.*

- **VFW Post 2894 Member Wins Rifle Raffle.** On Tuesday, 11 November, following the Veterans Day Ceremony, Rev. Dequentin Dickey, guest speaker at the ceremony, drew out the winning ticket for the Smith and Wesson .44 Magnum “Stealth Hunter” rifle. Congratulations to Troy Hare, Post member and owner of Hare’s Heating, Air Conditioning and Electrical. Enjoy your new acquisition!



*Guest speaker Master Sergeant Dequentin Dickey, U.S. Marine Corps, retired, pulls the winning ticket for the Post Rifle Raffle.*

- **VFW Post 2894 and Auxiliary Members Attend Hickory High School Remembrance Ceremony.** On Friday morning, 7 November, VFW Post 2894 and Auxiliary members gathered in front of Hickory High School to remember 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Michael E. Johnson, U.S. Marine Corps, an alum who was killed in Afghanistan in September 2009, as well as other veterans who have served the country in war and peace. Ms. Christine Kapko, a Civics and Government teacher at the school and a previous VFW Teacher of the Year, coordinates the event every November.



*A Veterans Day breakfast was hosted by Sunrise Cafe at the Cypress Landing Apartments.*

- **Bataan Death March Memorial Run/Walk Fundraiser Planning Underway.** The annual Bataan Death March Memorial Run/Walk Post fundraiser is planned for Saturday, 18 April, 2026. Planning is underway and Post members need to solicit sponsors and donations from area businesses and organizations, as well as individuals who may be interested in supporting this event. A sponsorship/donation letter can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please support this major Post fundraiser by visiting local merchants and employers who would like to support local veterans through our Post’s projects and efforts that provide aid to area veterans and their families.



*Members of VFW Post 2894 and Auxiliary attend the annual Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony at Hickory High School.*





*Memorial to 1st Lieutenant Michael E. Johnson, United States Marine Corps, who was KIA during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2008.*



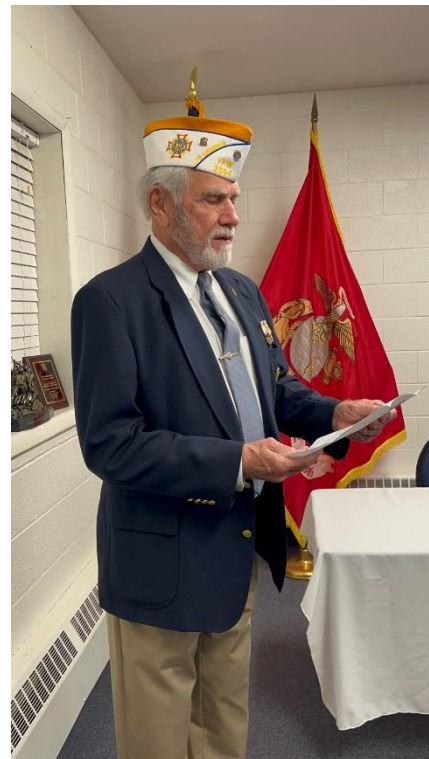
*Air Force JROTC cadets lower the colors during the Retreat Ceremony at Grassfield High School in honor of Veterans Day.*

• **VFW Post 2894 and Auxiliary Members Attend Grassfield High School Field of Valor/Flag Retreat Ceremony.** On Monday afternoon, 10 November, VFW Post 2894 and Auxiliary members gathered in front of Grassfield High School to attend a Flag Retreat Ceremony organized by the Air Force JROTC Unit in honor of Veterans Day. Displayed on the front lawn of the school were over 1000 miniature American flags, each reflecting a veteran from local families who made a small contribution to the creation of this year's Field of Valor. After the ceremony, the JROTC Unit donates the majority of the funds to the Post to be used to support local veterans.



*Miniature American flags were placed on the front lawn of Grassfield High School in honor of community veterans.*

• **VFW Post 2894 Marines Celebrate 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday with Annual Cake-Cutting Ceremony.** On Wednesday, 12 November, VFW Post 2894 Marines



*Retired Marine David Weber reads the Commandant's Message during the Marine Birthday Cake-cutting Ceremony.*

treated other Post members to a birthday celebration with their annual birthday cake-cutting ceremony. Established on 10 November 1775, the Corps celebrated its 250th anniversary this year. Marine veteran Keith Lindgren read the traditional 1921 birthday message of General John A. Lejeune, followed by the current Commandant's message for 2025, read by LtCol David Weber, U.S. Marine Corps, retired. After reading the birthday messages, a beautifully decorated birthday cake was ushered out and the first piece was served to Guest of Honor Troy Wagers, VFW District 2 Commander. The next

piece was served to the oldest Marine present, LtCol David Weber, who was born in 1945 and enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1968, retiring in 1993 after 25 years of active service.

The oldest Marine then passes his piece of cake to the youngest Marine present, signifying the passing of experience and knowledge from the old veterans to those new Marines continuing to carry the legacy forward. The youngest Marine this year was Corporal Chris Butler, who was born in December 1989 and enlisted in the in 2005, serving as a Light Armored Vehicle crewman.

The Post Marines would like to thank everyone who attended the ceremony, with special thanks going to Becky Waters who coordinated the three decorated cakes that were enjoyed by all!



*Retired Marine Dan Eaker cuts the first piece of birthday cake for the Guest of Honor during the USMC Birthday Cake-Cutting Ceremony.*

• **Wreaths Across America – Comrade Chris Mulholland Remembered at Arlington National Cemetery.** The National Wreaths Across America will be putting Christmas wreaths on gravesites at Veterans Cemeteries across the nation. This gigantic effort begins on Saturday, 13 December – we have a local effort at



Horton's Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. If you would like to participate, go to the Wreaths Across America website for more information.

*Former VFW Post 2894 Commander Chris Mulholland, recently interred at Arlington National Veterans Cemetery, has his marker adorned with a Christmas wreath for the holidays.*

• **VFW Post 2894 Announces Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winners for 2025-26.** VFW Post 2894 had numerous entries for both the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Contests this year. With the help of the Scholar's App, an automated tool that provided an online application and review process, the Post Awards Committee was able to select 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers for each contest.

The Voice of Democracy Essay Contest awardees are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$300): Ms. Aletheia West, a home-schooled senior;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$150): Ms. Sophie Burgess, a sophomore at Grassfield High School;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (\$100): Mr. Alexander Miros, a senior at Grassfield High School.

The Patriot's Pen Essay Contest awardees are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$200): Mr. Abhinav Sarma, a seventh grader at Great Bridge Middle School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$100): Mr. Blake Roberts, an eighth grader at Hickory Middle School;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (\$50): Ms. Kylee Melfy, a sixth grader at Great Bridge Middle School.

Congratulations to all our contest winners! All other participants will receive a \$25 consolation gift certificate for their efforts.

• **VFW Post 2894 Announces Teachers of the Year Awards for 2025-26.** VFW Post 2894 is proud to announce the 2025-26 winners for this year's Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award:

- K-5 Category: Ms. Anna Wright, Crestwood Intermediate Middle School;
- (6-8) Category: Ms. Veronica Carpenter, Crestwood Middle School;
- High School (9-12) Category: Ms. Kimberly Hammers, Grassfield High School;

Congratulations to these fine teachers who will each receive a \$500 gift certificate from the Post.



## IN MEMORIUM Comrade John R. Gorman 1932 – 2025



John R. "Jack" Gorman, 92, of Chesapeake, Virginia, beloved husband, father, and lifelong Philadelphian at heart, passed away peacefully on November 2, 2025.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Jack's life was deeply rooted in the city where he grew up. He attended Transfiguration Catholic Grammar School, where fate brought him together with his future wife, Joan. Their story began with a simple act of kindness-

carrying her books home from school every day-a gesture that blossomed into a lifelong partnership. After growing up in Philadelphia, Jack proudly served his country in the United States Navy. He married Joan, the love of his life, a year later.

Jack devoted much of his career working at Counties Contracting and Construction Company. The Gorman family spent their early years in Glenolden, Pennsylvania, before happily settling in Barrington, New Jersey.

Known for his quick wit and unique blend of tough Philly spirit paired with a heart of gold, Jack instilled strong family values in his children. He ensured that love and protection were the foundation of their bonds. His home and family were his greatest treasures.

Jack's legacy lives on through the love he shared and the family he nurtured. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife of 73 years, Joan; daughter, Diane (Bob); predeceased son, Jack (Dar), son, Jim (Vy), son Mike, predeceased son, Glen (Carrie); daughter Kim; and Gay; thirteen grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jack cared deeply for those around him; especially his family, who will carry on family traditions and cherish their precious memories.

## DECEMBER 1944 BATTLE OF THE BULGE-BASTOGNE THE "NUTS" RESPONSE\*

In mid-December 1944, Allied forces were surprised by a massive German offensive through the Ardennes Forrest that created a "bulge" in the Allied lines. Caught in what would become known as the "Battle of the Bulge," the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Armed Forces was holed up in Bastogne while German armored divisions encircled the town. Outnumbered, outgunned, and running out of food, ammunition, and medical supplies, the embattled assistant division commander, Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe, faced bleak prospects.

On December 22, 1944, at about 11:30 in the morning, a group of four German soldiers, waving two white flags, approached the

American lines. The group consisted of two officers and two enlisted men. The senior officer was a Major Wagner of the 47th Panzer Corps. The junior officer, Lt. Hellmuth Henke of the Panzer Lehr Operations Section, was carrying a briefcase under his arm. The two enlisted men had been selected from the 901st Panzer Grenadier Regiment.

The Americans defending in that location were members of F Company of the 327th Glider Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. The Germans walked past a bazooka team in a foxhole in front of the Kessler farm and stopped in front of the foxhole of PFC Leo Palma, a B.A.R. gunner. Palma described the officers as wearing long overcoats and shiny black boots. Lieutenant Henke, who spoke English said, "I want to see the commanding officer of this section." Palma was at a loss for words, but Staff Sergeant Carl E. Dickinson, who had been manning a position nearby, walked out to the road and called the group over to him. The Germans explained that they had a written message to be presented to the American Commander in Bastogne.



*American soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division take up positions around Bastogne, Belgium, in December 1944.*

Henke said they would consent to being blindfolded and taken to the American Commanding Officer. In fact, they had brought blindfolds with them. Henke blindfolded Wagner and Dickinson blindfolded Henke. As the blindfolds were being applied, Dickinson was joined by PFC Ernest Premetz, a German-speaking medic of his platoon who offered to serve as an interpreter. However, no interpreter was needed.

Dickinson and Premetz left the two German enlisted men there and took the two German officers to the Kessler farmhouse. Tech. Sgt. Oswald Y. Butler, Acting Platoon Leader of the 1st Platoon, and Lt. Leslie E. Smith, Platoon Leader of the Weapons Platoon, told them to take the blindfolded officers to the F Company Command Post. They took the two German officers on a roundabout route to the Command Post of F Company, 327th GIR, which was a large foxhole located in a wooded area about a quarter mile away. Shortly after arriving at the command post, they were joined by Capt. James F. Adams, the F Company Commander, who had been at a forward observation post when he was notified of the arrival of the Germans.





*An American unit moves to new positions during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.*

When Adams arrived, 1st Sgt. Constantine A. Pappas informed him that the German major had already presented a written message. The F Company Executive Officer, Lt. William J. Herzke, was on the phone, reading the message to their Battalion Command Post in Marvie. The 2nd Battalion Command Post then notified the 327th Regimental Headquarters in Bastogne. Col. Bud Harper, the 327th Regimental Commander, was not there; he was out inspecting his unit's positions. The senior officer present was the Regimental Operations Officer, Major Alvin Jones. Maj. Jones notified the Division Headquarters in Bastogne and asked for instructions. He was told to retrieve the message and bring it to the Division Headquarters. He drove to the F Company Command Post and was given the message. The two blindfolded officers were kept in the woods adjacent to the foxhole Command Post.

Upon receiving Maj. Jones' phone call at Division Headquarters, the Acting Chief of Staff, Lt. Col. Ned Moore entered Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe's sleeping quarters adjacent to the communications center. Moore awakened McAuliffe and told him, "The Germans have sent some people forward to take our surrender." Moore recalled that Brig. Gen. McAuliffe, still half asleep, said "Nuts!" and started to climb out of his sleeping bag.

Moore then went back out into the Communications Center where he briefed the rest of the Division staff of the on-going situation, including telling them of McAuliffe's remark of "Nuts!"

When Maj. Jones arrived with the message, the staff looked at it before taking it into McAuliffe.

The German surrender demand was typewritten on two sheets. One was in English, the other in German. They had been typed on an English typewriter as indicated by the fact that the diacritical marks required on the German copy had been entered by hand.

This is the English version of the message:

"December 22nd, 1944

To the U.S.A. Commander of the encircled town of Bastogne.

The fortune of war is changing. This time the U.S.A. forces in and near Bastogne have been encircled by strong German armored units. More German armored units have crossed the river Ourthe near Ortheuville, have taken Marche and reached St. Hubert by passing through Hompre-Sibret-Tillet. Libramont is in German hands.

There is only one possibility to save the encircled U.S.A troops from total annihilation: that is the honorable surrender of the encircled town. In order to think it over a term of two hours will be granted beginning with the presentation of this note.

If this proposal should be rejected one German Artillery Corps and six heavy A. A. Battalions are ready to annihilate the U.S.A. troops in and near Bastogne. The order for firing will be given immediately after this two hours' term. All the serious civilian losses caused by this artillery fire would not correspond with the well known American humanity.

The German Commander."

The Division Operations Officer, Lt. Col. Harry Kinnard recalled that McAuliffe initially asked, "They want to surrender?" Moore told him, "No sir, they want us to surrender." McAuliffe arose and erupted in anger, which shocked those looking on. He took the paper, looked at it, said "Us surrender, aw nuts!" and dropped it on the floor. Maj. Jones was dismissed. McAuliffe then left the Headquarters to go congratulate a unit on the Western perimeter that had successfully taken out a German roadblock earlier that morning.

When Jones left the Headquarters, he went back to the F Company Command Post and spoke with the two German officers. When he returned to his Regimental Headquarters, he phoned the division headquarters.

Upon returning to the division headquarters, McAuliffe was informed that Jones had phoned to say that the two German officers were still waiting at the F Company Command Post. Since they brought a formal demand they felt they were entitled to a formal reply and they were to return to the German lines two hours after delivering their message.

McAuliffe asked that Col. Harper be summoned to the Division Headquarters. Harper, who was still inspecting his units' positions, was contacted by radio.

When Harper arrived at the Headquarters, he was asked to wait outside of the closed door to McAuliffe's quarters. Inside, in the presence of his staff, McAuliffe wondered aloud, "Well, I don't know what to tell them." At that point, Kinnard said, "What you said initially would be hard to beat." McAuliffe asked "What do you mean?" Kinnard, said, "Sir, you said nuts." All members of the staff enthusiastically agreed, so McAuliffe wrote it down on a message pad and said, "Have it typed up."

The reply was typed up, centered on a full sheet of paper. It read:

"December 22, 1944

To the German Commander,

N U T S !

The American Commander"



McAuliffe dismissed the staff and asked that Harper come in. McAuliffe initially toyed with him by having him stand in front of Higgins and himself. McAuliffe showed him the surrender demand and asked if he had already seen it. Harper said no. McAuliffe asked him to read it and suggest how it should be answered. Harper was surprised by the request and quickly tried to draft a reply in his head. At that moment, a clerk-typist entered the room and handed McAuliffe a sheet of paper. He looked at it and then showed Harper the typed "NUTS" reply, asking him if he thought that was a proper reply. Harper read it and started laughing. McAuliffe asked Harper to personally deliver the reply to the Germans, cautioning him not to go into the German lines.

Harper took the reply and drove to the F Company Command Post. Harper told Henke that he had the American Commander's reply. Henke asked if it was written or verbal. Harper answered it was written and he put it in the hand of the blindfolded German Major. Henke asked about the contents of the reply because if it was affirmative, they were authorized to negotiate further. Harper said, "The reply consists of a single word, NUTS!" Henke, not understanding, asked, "Is that reply negative or affirmative?" Harper said, "The reply is decidedly not affirmative", adding, "If you continue this foolish attack, your losses will be tremendous." Henke translated for the Major. The Major nodded.



*Brigadier General McAuliffe with staff officers at Bastogne, Belgium, in December 1944.*

The two blindfolded German officers were then driven, again by a roundabout route, back to their entry point at the Kessler farm. At the farm, the group was rejoined by PFC Premetz. The blindfolds were removed and the Germans opened and looked at the reply. They asked, "What does this mean?" They obviously didn't understand the American slang. Harper and Premetz discussed how to explain it. Harper suggested, "Tell them to take a flying s\*\*t!" Premetz thought about it, then straightened up, faced the Germans and said, "Du kannst zum Teufel gehen." He told Harper it meant "You can go to Hell." Then Harper said, "If you continue to attack, we will kill every goddamn German that tries to break into this city."

Henke replied, "We will kill many Americans. This is war." Harper then said, "On your way Bud, and good luck to you." After Henke translated, the major acknowledged. They saluted and the Germans started to walk away. Harper angrily called out to them, "If you don't know what I am talking about, simply go back to your commanding officer and tell him to just plain, 'Go to Hell!'" After Henke translated, the major got angry and stormed off. As he passed Palma's position, he threw his blindfold and Palma caught it. Palma wrote that he didn't realize the historical importance of that blindfold. He later used it to clean his B.A.R. and threw it away!

\*Ref: [https://www.army.mil/article/92856/the\\_story\\_of\\_the\\_nuts\\_reply](https://www.army.mil/article/92856/the_story_of_the_nuts_reply)

## JANUARY 1989

### U.S. NAVY JETS DOWN LIBYAN FIGHTERS\*

On the morning of 4 January 1989, the aircraft carrier USS *John F. Kennedy* was sailing toward the eastern Mediterranean Sea for a scheduled port visit to Haifa, Israel. The carrier was over 120 miles north of Libya and had aircraft operating roughly 80 miles north of the country. Aircraft operating from the *Kennedy* included several flights of A-6 Intruders on exercises south of Crete, two pairs of F-14 Tomcats from VF-14 and VF-32 conducting combat air patrols, and an E-2 Hawkeye from VAW-126 providing airborne early warning and control.



*A U.S. Navy F-14 "Tomcat" fighter jet launches from a carrier deck.*

The easternmost combat air patrol station was provided by the two F-14s from VF-32 with aircraft call signs *Gypsy 207* (crewed by Commander Joseph Bernard Connelly and Commander Leo F. Enwright) and *Gypsy 202* (crewed by Lieutenant Herman C. Cook III and Lieutenant Commander Steven Patrick Collins). Although the *Kennedy* battle group was not operating within the contentious Gulf of Sidra and was 600 miles away from Rabta, the battle group commander believed Libyan concerns over a U.S. attack increased the likelihood of a confrontation. He gave the American air crews a special briefing emphasizing their rules of engagement.

At 11:55 local time, the airborne E-2 detected two Libyan MiG-23 Floggers taking off from Bomba (Al Bumbah) airfield near Tobruk and observed them heading north toward the battle group.



The two F-14s from VF-32 were directed to intercept the MiG-23s, while the F-14s from VF-14 covered the A-6s as they departed to the north. Using their onboard radars, the intercepting F-14s began tracking the MiG-23s when the Libyan aircraft were 72 nautical miles away, at an altitude of 8,000 feet and traveling at 420 knots (480 mph). Unlike some previous aerial encounters in which Libyan pilots were instructed to turn back after detecting an F-14's radar signal sweep their aircraft, the MiG-23s continued to close on the American fighters with a head-on approach.



*Two U.S. Navy F-14 fighter jets fly combat air patrol over a carrier battle group.*

As both pairs of aircraft converged, the E-2 and other U.S. eavesdropping assets in the area monitored radio communications between the Libyan aircraft and their ground controllers. The Americans listened to the MiG-23s receiving guidance to intercept the F-14s from ground controllers at a radar station in Bomba. This radar station was one of several activated along the Libyan coast to support the MiG-23s.

At 11:58, the F-14s made a left turn, away from the MiG-23s, to initiate a standard intercept. Seven seconds later, the MiG-23s turned back into the American fighters for another head-on approach and were descending in altitude. At this point, the F-14 aircrews began employing tactics to reduce the effectiveness of the MiG-23s' radars and the 12-mile-range AA-7 Apex missiles they were potentially carrying. The American aircraft started descending from 20,000 to 3,000 feet to fly lower than the Libyan fighters. The drop in altitude was meant to prevent the MiG-23s from detecting the F-14s by using ocean clutter to confuse their onboard radars. The American pilots executed another left turn away from the Libyan aircraft during the descent. Moments after the F-14s created a 30-degree offset, the MiG-23s turned to place themselves back into a collision course and accelerated to 500 knots (580 mph).

The air warfare commander on the *Kennedy* gave the American aircrews the authority to fire if they believed the MiG-23s were hostile. The F-14s turned away from the approaching MiG-23s two more times, and each time, the American aircrews saw the Libyan aircraft turn back toward them for a head-on approach. At 12:00:53, the Radar Intercept Officer (RIO) in the lead F-14, Commander Leo Enwright in *Gypsy 207*, ordered the arming of the AIM-7 Sparrow and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles on the American fighters, after what

he determined was the fifth time the Libyan aircraft turned back toward them.



*MiG 23 "Floggers" on combat air patrol.*

The American aircrews armed their weapons when the opposing aircraft were less than 20 miles away, the two groups closing in on each other at a rate of 1,000 knots (1,200 mph). At a distance of about 14 nautical miles, the lead F-14 pilot, Commander Joseph Connelly, made a radio call to the carrier group's air warfare commander to see if there was any additional information in regard to the MiG-23s. There was no response to his call. At 12:01:20 and at a range of 12 nautical miles, Enwright fired an AIM-7, surprising Connelly, who did not expect to see a missile accelerate away from their aircraft. The missile failed to track toward its target. At a distance of about 10 nautical miles, Enwright launched a second AIM-7, but it also failed to hit its target.

The MiG-23s continued to fly directly toward the American fighters at 550 knots (630 mph). The F-14s executed a defensive split, where both aircraft made turns in opposite directions. Both Libyan fighters turned left to pursue the second F-14, *Gypsy 202*. Connelly prepared *Gypsy 207* for a right turn to get behind the MiG-23s as they went after the other American fighter. With the MiG-23s pointed directly at them, the crew of *Gypsy 202* fired a third AIM-7 from roughly five miles away and downed one of the Libyan aircraft.

After executing a sharp right turn, *Gypsy 207* gained a position in the rear quadrant of the remaining MiG-23. As the Libyan fighter was turning left and from a distance of one and a half miles, Connelly fired an AIM-9 missile, which downed its target. The second MiG-23 was hit by the AIM-9 at 12:02:36. The F-14s descended to an altitude of several hundred feet and returned at high speed to the carrier group. The Libyan pilots were both seen to successfully eject and parachute into the sea, but it is not known whether the Libyan Air Force was able to successfully recover them.

The intent for the Libyan aircraft on 4 January is not known for certain. Gaddafi could have believed the U.S. was preparing for an attack on the chemical facility in Rabta and ordered his military to see if the aircraft offshore were bombers bound for targets in Libya. The possible reasons for the MiG-23s' flight profile range from a deliberate attack against the battle group to a radio breakdown with ground controllers leading to the Libyan fighters merging with the F-14s.

\*Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1989\\_air\\_battle\\_near\\_Tobruk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1989_air_battle_near_Tobruk)



**+ SAFETY CORNER +**  
**DECEMBER IS HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**



Well, we have safely finished another year! We have experienced good times, fellowship, storms, family get-togethers, and Virginia elections. During all of this, we have maintained our overall health and mental wellbeing. But we cannot let down our efforts.

**PHYSICAL HEALTH:**

- Be aware of stress and fatigue.
- Get proper rest and relaxation.
- Avoid over exertion, like shoveling snow without a break.
- Get your flu and COVID vaccinations.

**MENTAL HEALTH:**

- Again, avoid stressful situations.
- Be aware of how Holiday financial and family worries can increase stress.

Be careful this month, and finish your year healthy and happy.

See you in 2026!



**+ SAFETY CORNER +**  
**JANUARY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**



The cold and short days of winter can result in a winter depression, known as Seasonal Affective Disorder. This is a type of depression following a seasonal pattern and typically occurs in late fall and winter. It is often a result of decreased daylight and involves changes in melatonin and serotonin production.

**Symptoms include:**

- Low mood or feeling of despair.
- Loss of pleasure in normal daily activities.
- Irritability.
- Lack of energy during the day.
- Difficulty "getting up" in the morning.
- Difficulty concentrating on tasks.
- Gaining that "winter weight".

**Self-help suggestions:**

- Stay active in your daily lives. Don't just "sit around".
- Get outdoors for a dose of natural sunlight. This can help maintain your natural circadian rhythm.
- Vitamin D supplements may help.
- Severe cases may need medical attention.

The winter season need not adversely affect the start of your new year. Let's keep active and be involved in the Post activities. Contacts with your fellow VFW Post Members can go a long way toward a great 2026!





## 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 page 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).

## DECEMBER MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1909** President Taft severs official relations with Nicaragua's government and declares support for revolutionaries.
- 1918** American army of occupation enters Germany.
- 1955** Rosa Parks refuses to sit in back of Montgomery, AL, bus, defying South's segregationist laws.
- 1969** America's first draft lottery since 1942.
- 2 1823** President Monroe proclaims Monroe Doctrine, 'American continents, by free and independent condition... are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by European powers.'
- 1921** First successful helium dirigible, C-7, makes test flight in Portsmouth, Va.
- 1927:** New Ford Model A introduced to American public.
- 1942** Allies repel strong Axis attack in Tunisia, North Africa.
- 1944** General Patton's troops enter Saar Valley and break through Siegfried line.
- 3 1918** Allied Conference ends in London deciding that Germany must pay for war.
- 1989** Presidents Bush and Gorbachev announce official end to Cold War at meeting in Malta.
- 4 1862** Winchester, VA, falls into Union hands, resulting in capture of 145 Southern soldiers.
- 1915** Frank Friday Fletcher is first US admiral to receive Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 1942** US planes make first raids on Naples, Italy.
- 1991** Last American hostages held in Lebanon released.
- 5 1933** 21st Amendment ends Prohibition in US, begun 13 years earlier.
- 1955** Bus boycott begins under Rev. ML King, Jr., in Montgomery.
- 1978** Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George H.W. Bush, declare the Cold War over.
- 1989** Soviet Union signs 20-year friendship pact with Afghanistan.
- 6 1492** Columbus lands on Santo Domingo in search of gold.
- 1934** American Ambassador Davis says Japan is grave security threat in Pacific.
- 1941** President FDR issues personal appeal to Emperor Hirohito to use influence to avoid war.
- 2001** Battle of Tora Bora begins in a cave complex in Eastern Afghanistan's White Mountains.
- 7 1917** US declares war on Austria-Hungary.
- 1941** Japanese planes raid Pearl Harbor in surprise attack.
- 1942** USN launches USS *New Jersey*, largest battleship ever built.
- 2001** Kandahar, the last major stronghold of the Taliban, falls.
- 8 1943** US carrier-based planes sink two cruisers and down 72 planes in Marshall Islands.
- 1944** US conducts longest, most effective air raid on Iwo Jima.
- 9 1941** FDR tells Americans to plan for a long war.
- 1992** US Marines land in Somalia to ensure food and medicine reach deprived areas.
- 10 1898** US and Spain sign Treaty of Paris, ceding Spanish possessions, including Philippines, to US.
- 1918** US troops called to guard Berlin as coup is feared.
- 1941** Japanese troops invade Philippine Island of Luzon.
- 1949** 150,000 French troops mass at border in Vietnam to prevent Chinese invasion.
- 11 1941** US declares war on Italy and Germany.
- 1945** Boeing B-29 Superfortress shatters records by crossing US in five hours and 27 minutes.
- 12 1753** George Washington, adjutant of Virginia, delivers ultimatum to French forces at Fort Le Boeuf, reiterating Britain's claim to Ohio River Valley.
- 1863** Orders given at Richmond, Virginia, that no more supplies from Union be received by Federal prisoners.
- 1967** US ends airlift of 6,500 men to Vietnam.
- 13 1862** Battle of Fredericksburg ends with bloody slaughter of Union troops at Marye's Heights.
- 2003** Saddam Hussein is captured by US soldiers in ad-Dawr, Iraq.
- 14 1799** George Washington dies on Mount Vernon estate.
- 1960** US Boeing B-52 bomber sets 10,000-mile non-stop record without refueling.
- 15 1890** US soldiers attempt to arrest Sitting Bull in Standing Rock, SD; shooting breaks out and Lt. Bullhead shoots great Sioux leader.
- 1924** Soviet Union warns US against repeated entry of ships into Soviet territorial waters.
- 1938** Washington sends fourth note to Berlin demanding amnesty for Jews.
- 1965** US drops twelve tons of bombs on industrial center near Haiphong Harbor, North Vietnam.
- 16 1773** Young Americans, disguised as Indians, throw chests of tea into Boston Harbor.
- 1944** Germany opens Battle of the Bulge in Ardennes Forest in Belgium.
- 1950** President Truman declares National Emergency as Chinese Communists invade deeper into South Korea.
- 1998** US launches missile attack on Iraq for failing to comply with UN weapons inspectors.
- 17 1903** Wright brothers' first successful flight near Kitty Hawk, NC.
- 1943** US forces invade Japanese-held New Britain Island in New Guinea.
- 1944** US approves end to internment of Japanese Americans.
- 18 1865** Slavery abolished in US, 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment formally adopted into Constitution.
- 1941** Defended by 610, American-held island of Guam falls to more than 5,000 Japanese invaders in 3-hour battle.
- 1972** President Nixon declares bombing of North Vietnam will continue until accord reached.
- 19 1959** Last civil war veteran, Walter Williams, dies at 117 in Houston.
- 20 1941** Flying Tigers, American pilots in China, enter combat against Japanese over Kunming.
- 1989** US troops invade Panama to oust General Noriega.
- 21 1620** Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock.
- 1862** Congress authorizes Medal of Honor for Navy personnel.
- 1944** German troops surround 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division at Bastogne in Belgium.
- 1945** General Patton dies at age 60 after injury in car accident.
- 22 1775** Esek Hopkins takes command of Continental Navy - total of seven ships.
- 1944** During Battle of the Bulge, General McAuliffe responds to German surrender request with: "Nuts!"
- 23 1941** US defenders on Wake Island capitulate to 2<sup>nd</sup> Japanese assault.
- 1944** Gen. Eisenhower confirms death sentence of PVT Slovik, only American shot for desertion since Civil War.
- 1948** Japan's Prime Minister Tojo and six others hanged for war crimes.
- 1974** B-1 bomber makes first successful test flight.



- 24 1814** Treaty between US and Britain, ending War of 1812, signed. News does not reach US until two weeks later (after Battle of New Orleans).
- 1943** General Eisenhower appointed Allied Supreme Commander.
- 26 1776** After crossing the Delaware River the night before, Washington leads attack on Hessian mercenaries at Trenton, takes 9000 men prisoner.
- 27 1941** Japanese bombers attack Manila, despite claim as open city.
- 1944** General Patton's Third Army relieves Bastogne in Belgium.
- 1979** President Amin of Afghanistan murdered in coup backed by Soviet Union, beginning 10-year war.
- 28 1946** French declare martial law in Vietnam as war appears inevitable.
- 2014** The War in Afghanistan officially ends.
- 29 1778** British, attempting new strategy to defeat colonials, capture Savannah.
- 1890** Last major conflict of Indian Wars as 7<sup>th</sup> Calvary tries to disarm Chief Big Foot and followers at Wounded Knee, SD.
- 1965** Christmas truce observed in Vietnam, while President Johnson tries to get North Vietnamese to bargaining table.
- 30 1803** US takes possession of Louisiana area from France.
- 1972** President Nixon halts air offensive and agrees to resume peace negotiations with Hanoi representative.
- 2006** Saddam Hussein hanged for crimes committed against own people during rule.
- 31 1775** George Washington orders recruiting officers to accept free blacks into army.
- 1942** After five months of battle, Emperor Hirohito allows Japanese commanders at Guadalcanal to retreat.

## JANUARY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1776** British torch Norfolk, Virginia.
- 1863** Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect.
- 1950** First woman doctor commissioned in USN, Mary T. Sproul.
- 1950** Indo-China: Viet Minh open a major offensive against the French.
- 1951** Massive Chinese/North Korean assault on UN lines.
- 1962** US Navy SEAL teams established.
- 2 1776** First American flag displayed.
- 1945** USN convoys depart Leyte to invade Luzon, while beating off Kamikaze attacks.
- 3 1777** Battle of Princeton: Washington defeats British.
- 1944** Marine ace "Pappy" Boyington (28 kills) captured by Japanese.
- 1990** Panama's Gen Manuel Noriega surrenders to US authorities.
- 4 1989** Second Gulf of Sidra Incident: two USN F-14s down two Libyan MiG-23s.
- 5 1608** Captain John Smith is captured by Indians.
- 1781** Richmond burned by British forces under Benedict Arnold.
- 6 1776** "NY Provincial Company of Artillery" organized; now 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, senior unit of Regular Army.
- 1927** US Marines sent to Nicaragua.
- 1941** FDR's "Four Freedoms" address; of speech and worship, from want and fear.
- 7 1942** Bataan: 15,000 US and 65,000 Filipino troops go on half-rations, as Japanese forces close in.
- 1953** Pres Truman announces development of hydrogen bomb.
- 8 1815** Battle of New Orleans, fifteen days after Treaty of Ghent.
- 1877** Battle of Wolf Mountain, Montana: Crazy Horse defeated by US Army – last battle of Great Sioux War.
- 1973** US Army – last battle of Great Sioux War.
- 9 1861** First Shot of Civil War; US steamer 'Star of the West' is fired on by Confederate batteries off Charleston.
- 1936** Garand M-1 semi-automatic rifle adopted by US Army.
- 1942** FDR establishes Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- 1945** Luzon: 6<sup>th</sup> Army lands in Lingayen Gulf.
- 1952** USMC recalls Ted Williams to active duty for Korean War.
- 10 1847** US Navy-Marine Corps landing party occupies Los Angeles.
- 1943** Guadalcanal: US forces begin general offensive to eliminate Japanese.
- 1946** Army signal Corps bounces radar beam off the moon.
- 11 1785** Continental Congress convenes in New York.
- 1945** Japanese decide to put remaining resources into suicide weapons.
- 1991** Congress authorizes Pres G.H.W. Bush to undertake offensive operations against Iraq.
- 12 1946** 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division marches up Fifth Avenue to tumultuous greeting.
- 14 1784** Congress ratifies Treaty of Paris, ending Revolutionary War.
- 1867** Alfred Nobel makes first public demonstration of dynamite.
- 1943** Casablanca Conference: FDR, Churchill, and Stalin.
- 1969** Fire aboard USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65), off Vietnam, claims 28 lives and injures 344.
- 15 1865** Union soldiers, sailors, and Marines take Fort Fisher, NC.
- 1973** Pres Nixon suspends all US offensive action over North Vietnam.
- 16 1776** Continental Congress approves enlistment of free blacks.
- 1944** Gen Eisenhower takes command of Operation Overlord.
- 1957** Three B-52s leave California on first non-stop world flight.
- 1970** Col Muammar Gaddafi becomes Premier of Libya.
- 17 1781** Battle of Cowpens: Dan Morgan annihilates Tarleton's Anglo-Tory Force.
- 1955** USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571) gets underway on nuclear power.
- 1966** B-52 carrying four hydrogen bombs crashes off Spanish coast.
- 1991** Operation Desert Storm: Coalition airstrikes against Iraq.
- 18 1911** First airplane lands on ship: Eugene Ely in Curtiss Flyer on USS *Pennsylvania* (ACR-4).
- 19 1920** Senate rejects American membership in League of Nations.
- 20 1778** First American court martial opens, Cambridge, MA
- 1783** Hostilities cease in Revolutionary War.
- 1887** Senate approves lease of Pearl Harbor for a base.
- 1914** USN opens school for aviators at Pensacola, FL
- 1944** Rapido River: US 36<sup>th</sup> Division begins two-day attempt to force German defenses.
- 1981** Illegally held by Iranian government for 444 days, 52 Americans are finally released.
- 2019** US Space Force established.
- 21 1903** "Dick Act" creates modern National Guard.
- 1968** Battle of Khe Sanh begins – ends April 8.
- 22 1944** Operation Shingle: Allies land at Anzio.
- 23 1968** North Koreans capture USS *Pueblo* and 83 crew in East Sea/Sea of Japan.
- 24 1847** Col. Price defeats 1,500 Indians and Mexicans to secure New Mexico for US.
- 25 1945** Audie Murphy earns Medal of Honor.
- 1969** US-North Vietnamese peace talks begin in Paris.
- 26 1862** Lincoln issues General War Order #1, calling for Union offensive.
- 1911** Glenn Curtiss tests first successful sea plane, San Diego
- 1913** John Paul Jones laid to rest in Chal of US Navl Academy.
- 1942** Marines land in Northern Ireland – first US troops to reach Europe.
- 1948** Executive Order 9981: Truman orders segregation in Armed Forces ended.
- 27 1915** US Marines begin occupation of Haiti.
- 1943** First USAAF raid on Germany, at Wilhelmshafen.

- 1973** US and North Vietnam sign cease-fire agreement.  
**1977** Pres Carter pardons most Vietnam War draft evaders.
- 28 1915** US Coast Guard created from Life Saving and Revenue Cutter Services.  
**1942** Ens. Donald Mason radios, "Sighted sub, sank same."
- 29 1944** USS *Missouri* (BB-63) launched in Brooklyn.
- 30 1781** Articles of Confederation, establishing perpetual union of "United States of America".  
**1945** Philippines – Cabanatuan: 126 US and Filipino raiders liberate 500 prisoners from a Japanese P/W camp.
- 31 1944** US troops land on Kwajalein and nearby islands in the Marshalls.  
**1945** 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Div lands – by sea – at south entrance to Manila Bay.  
**1961** Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr., becomes first black American to command warship, USS *Falgout* (DE-324).  
**1968** Beginning of Tet Offensive in South Vietnam  
**1981** Last enlisted USN aviator retires.

## **POST 2894 CALENDAR**

<b><u>DECEMBER '25</u></b>	
6	Chesapeake Christmas Parade
8	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
10	Post Meeting/Christmas Party, Post HQ
14	Beginning of Hanukkah
21	End of Hanukkah/Winter Begins
25	Christmas Day

<b><u>JANUARY '26</u></b>	
1	New Year's Day
8	Sinsil 8 Anniversary (2008)
8-11	VFW Department of Virginia Winter Council, Hotel Madison, Harrisburg, VA
12	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
14	Post Meeting, Post HQ
19	Martin Luther King Day



SSG Jonathon Kilian Dozier  
Memorial VFW Post 2894  
3329 Battlefield Blvd, South  
Chesapeake, VA 23322



[www.vfw2894.org](http://www.vfw2894.org)

Reply to:

[cdrvfw2894@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrvfw2894@vfwva.org) or  
[walk.chesapeake@gmail.com](mailto:walk.chesapeake@gmail.com)

Date:

Name

Address

Address

Subject: Continued sponsorship of the Chesapeake Bataan Death March Memorial Walk – April 18, 2026

**The members of VFW Post 2894 are looking forward to your continued sponsorship of our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Bataan Death March (BDM) Walk April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at the Dismal Swamp Trail, Chesapeake Virginia.**

Our mission is twofold; one, to educate today's generation on the sacrifices of the greatest generation and two, to generate funds to aid us in our mission to help veterans in Chesapeake/Hampton Roads. The event is comprised of three walks: - 16.6 miles - 5 miles - 1 mile. The Mayor, City Council, police, fire, and sheriff's department have made this a true community event. Previous year's event can be viewed at <https://vfw2894.org/bdm>

**Sponsor levels:** You will play a pivotal role in our continued mission providing financial assistance, roofs, ramps, doors, windows, and HVAC systems to struggling veterans' homes.

- **Distinguished Service Sponsor - \$2500+** Tier one recognition on event materials and social media
- **Superior Service Sponsor – \$1,000 - \$2,499**
- **Legion of Merit Sponsor – \$500-\$999**
- **Meritorious Medal Sponsor – \$250 - \$499**
- **Donations in kind such as gift certificates, services, or merchandise**

Sponsorship donations can be made by check to *VFW Post 2894* (address above) or on-line at <https://www.vfw2894.org/BDM-Sponsorship>.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to contact us at 757-567-7201. Visit our web site for the great things we do and have accomplished. Your continued support makes a meaningful difference. Our tax deductible 501(c)19 EIN is 54-1796492.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Gregory  
Commander, VFW Post 2894  
3329 Battlefield Blvd South  
Chesapeake, VA 23322



# SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program



## WHAT IS THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM?

Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recognizes individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank.

## AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

- Be the recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.
- Be a registered, active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship at the time the above reward was received.
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting and community.

Prior National Scout of the Year winners are ineligible. There is no minimum age requirement for applicants as long as all other eligibility criteria has been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old. If an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year, they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline. A Scout may enter through only one VFW Post. A local Post can be identified by zip code at [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost).

## WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

- Deadline for entry to VFW Post is March 1.
- One candidate with full entry criteria must be submitted by a VFW Post to the next level of judging by April 1. The VFW Department Scouting chairman can provide this information.
- The Department winner must be selected and submitted by their Department Scouting chairman to the VFW National Headquarters by May 1.

Questions should be directed to during normal business hours Monday through Friday or emailed to [scouting@vfw.org](mailto:scouting@vfw.org).

## Official Entry Form

# SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

**MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH CONTESTANT**  
and submitted directly to a VFW post in your community.

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone

Email

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Scout Troop Number

## SCOUT/VENTURE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing information is accurate and if I am the winner, I will make myself available to receive the award at a presentation ceremony as designated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Scout/Venture Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

## UNIT LEADER'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above-named Scout/Venture is an active member of our unit or was when the award was received and the information supplied by the candidate is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Unit Leader's Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

## PARENT'S CONSENT

I hereby certify that all information on this application is correct. I willingly submit this name for consideration as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States' Scout of the Year. If this individual is selected as the winner, I will ensure that he/she is allowed to attend a presentation ceremony as designed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Father, Mother or Guardian Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)





## SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

### VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSORING VFW POST

POST NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

POST COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

### DISTRICT CERTIFICATION IF APPLICABLE, CHECK WITH THE VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT #: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT CDR.: \_\_\_\_\_

### DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY DEPARTMENT VFW SCOUTING CHAIRMAN OR DEPT. COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED?

The following documentation should be submitted:

- **Photograph of the Scout** — must be attached to this form. The Scout must appear in correct, complete uniform for their current rank. Recommended size 3" x 5".
- **School Participation Record** — a single page, one-sided resume of the candidate's school activities indicating academic achievements, offices held, honors received and significant participation in other activities.
- **Scouting Record** — maximum of three pages, one side only, listing of all Scouting participation beginning with Cub Scouts or Brownies - years of participation, unit numbers and sponsors. Also include when Eagle, Gold, Summit or Quartermaster Award was received and Palms. Identify leadership positions held at all levels, participation in Scouting activities (jamborees, Order of the Arrow conferences, etc.) and the candidate's Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster Project.
- **Community Service Record** — a single page, one-sided resume listing participation in community and religious service organizations (excluding Scouting and school), noting leadership positions held and any recognition received.
- **Letters of Recommendation** — Submit three letters, no more than two pages in length from:
  - A scout leader.
  - A community member.
  - A teacher/faculty member (if homeschooled, a parent letter is allowed).In addition, you may include one or two additional letters, no more than two pages in length from local community members who have special knowledge of the candidate's abilities/accomplishments.
- **Completed Entry Form** — submitted to a local VFW Post. Local Posts can be identified by zip code at [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost).

## WHO MAKES UP THE VFW SCOUTING TEAM?

The backbone of Scouting in the VFW is the VFW Scouting Team. These VFW members are deeply involved in Scouting, most with decades of experience.

Appointed by their Department Commander, they are responsible for promoting scouting in their state. They are available to encourage Posts to sponsor units, support units and individual Scout projects. They should be the Department's "expert" on all phases of scouting. Many Departments have multiple members of the VFW Scouting Team, but every Department should have at least one individual to promote the values of scouting to youth and to the VFW itself. For more information on the VFW Scouting Team call email [scouting@vfw.org](mailto:scouting@vfw.org)

