

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@vfwa.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

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2

VFW Post 2894 GoFundMe
<https://gofund.me/483584b0>



VFW SSG DOZIER MEMORIAL POST 2894 Chesapeake, Virginia

"Honoring the fallen by helping the living."

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NEWSLETTER – Vol. XIV, Issue 6, December 2025-January 2026

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. 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)

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 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th 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.



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.

- **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 1st 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.



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 250th Birthday with Annual Cake-Cutting Ceremony.** On Wednesday, 12 November, VFW Post 2894 Marines treated other Post members to a birthday celebration with their annual birthday cake-cutting ceremony.



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

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 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers for each contest.

The Voice of Democracy Essay Contest awardees are:

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

The Patriot's Pen Essay Contest awardees are:

- 1st Place (\$200): Mr. Abhinav Sarma, a seventh grader at Great Bridge Middle School
- 2nd Place (\$100): Mr. Blake Roberts, an eighth grader at Hickory Middle School;
- 3rd 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 Forest 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 wakened 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"

McAulliffe dismissed the staff and asked that Harper come in. McAulliffe initially toyed with him by having him stand in front of Higgins and himself. McAulliffe showed him the surrender demand and asked if he had already seen it. Harper said no. McAulliffe 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 McAulliffe 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. McAulliffe 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

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 crews 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 crews 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 crews 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 crews 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 Connally, 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 Connally, 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*. Connally 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, Connally 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

+ 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 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 jpeterson310@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, 13th 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 101st 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 2nd 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 7th Cavalry 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 1st Battalion, 5th 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

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: 6th 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 82nd 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 36th 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 Naval 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 Filippino raiders liberate 500 prisoners from a Japanese P/W camp.

31 1944 US troops land on Kwajalein and nearby islands in the Marshalls.
1945 11th 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

<u>DECEMBER '25</u>	
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

<u>JANUARY '26</u>	
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
Reply to:
cdrvfw2894@vfwva.org or
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 15th Annual Bataan Death March (BDM) Walk April 18th, 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.

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.

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 designated 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.

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

