

VFW OBJECTIVES:

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



Meetings

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

Email: cdrpost2894@vfwva.org

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

Webpage: <https://vfw2894.org>

Visit us on Facebook



POST OFFICERS

Commander.....	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.....	Rosie Gregory
Jr. Vice President.....	Grace Schweers
Secretary.....	Sandy Dunbar
Treasurer.....	Donna Kust
Chaplain.....	Diane Hostetlar
Conductress.....	Laura Etheridge
Guard.....	Theresa Lynn Sein
Patriotic Instructor.....	Jean Dozier

NATIONAL

www.vfw.org

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2

VFW Post 2894 GoFundMe

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



VFW POST 2894 TEACHER OF THE YEAR SELECTED TO REPRESENT VFW DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

The VFW Post 2894 is proud to announce that Ms. Kimberly Hammers, the Post's Teacher of the Year for the High School Category, has been selected as the VFW Department of Virginia Teacher of the Year! Ms. Hammers was presented with the VFW Department of Virginia award at the Winter Council in January in Harrisonburg. She will be receiving...(continued on page 3)



VFW Post 2894 award recipients Ms. Kimberly Hammers, VFW Post 2894 Teacher of the Year for 2025-26 (second from right), and Voice of Democracy Essay Competition winner Ms. Alithia West (second from left) pose for a picture with Post Commander Bob Gregory (center), VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore (far right) and Alithia's mother, Ms. West at the VFW Department of Virginia Winter Council in January.

COMMANDER'S CORNER



I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and cheer! As we enter our 30th Birthday, I would like to share some of our Post History.

VFW Post 2894 is the FOURTH VFW Post in Chesapeake! "Tidewater Post 2163" was formed by a group of WWI and WWII veterans in February 1945 and met in South Norfolk until 1963 when they merged with Post 4809 in Norfolk. In 1987, Post 3829 "Great Bridge" was established by a group of Vietnam veterans but was merged with Post 4809 in April 1991. Sometime thereafter, the "E.A. Martin, Jr. Memorial Post 8291" was established but it too merged with 4809 in July 1995. Eight months later, on 26 March 1996, Post 2894 was chartered in Chesapeake.

In 2009 the Post was renamed the "Staff Sergeant Jonathan Kilian Dozier Memorial Post" in honor of one of Chesapeake's own who made the ultimate sacrifice on 9 January 2008 while serving our country in Sinsil, Diyala Province, Iraq. The Post flag was dedicated on 10 April 2013. The many streamers on the flag represent the honors received by the Post and the many campaigns which our members have participated in, from WWII to today.

On 8 April 2015, the Ladies Auxiliary of Post 2894 was established with eighteen charter members.

The Post has been named an All-American Post (top 2% of posts worldwide) for twelve years in a row and is on track to make it again this year! We have also been recognized as a National Outstanding Community Service Post – only 50 Posts worldwide receive this each year, and we have done it five times! In 2016, 2024 and 2025, our Post newsletter won the National Grand Award and in 2019 the National Bronze Award. (Thanks to our Post Adjutant and Newsletter editor, Dan Eaker, we have submitted our newsletter for consideration once again.) In 2015, our Teacher of the Year, Craig Blackman, won the National VFW Teacher of the Year Award, and, in 2016, Kimberly Hammers was National 3rd runner-up! This year our Post Teacher of the Year, Kimberly Hammers, Grassfield HS, has won the District and State Title and now advances to the National competition. Also, our Post Voice of Democracy winner, Ms. Alitheia West, a home-schooled senior won both the District and National Title and advances to the National competition!

We have also had seven National VFW Public Servant awards winners. The Post has twice been the recipient of the Fred C. Hall National Community Service Project Award. Since 2020, the Post received our third National Award for Excellence for an Outstanding Service Project – in 2018, we were one of only 3 posts world-wide to receive it. And we continue to catch the eye of not

only the district and state, but National as well. Thanks for all each of you do.

The main goals of the Post are to give aid and assistance to needy comrades; provide a helping hand to veteran's widows/widowers and dependents; and to defend the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Remember our moto is "Honoring the Fallen by Helping the Living."

Our biggest event of the year is coming up, and I am asking everyone to block your calendars for 18 April. This will be our 15th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk! We need all hands-on deck for this event since it takes everyone's assistance – no matter how big or small – to pull it off successfully. I also ask every member to approach at least one business and ask them to be a sponsor of the event.

Semper Fidelis!

Bob Gregory, Commander

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Welcome to 2026!

The old saying of "In like a lamb, out like a lion" could certainly apply to winter this year. During the last of December it was pretty mild, but as I write this there is a winter storm over the lower eastern half of the United States and moving to the New England states. The temp is -2, it's snowing with blowing winds, and icy roads. Not a day to be outside! When you do venture out, remember your neighbors who maybe can't; offering to pick up a loaf of bread or their meds can mean more than you'll ever know.

Don't forget to fly your flag on February 1st, National Freedom Day. On February 14, VFW Post 2894 and the Auxiliary will be hosting the District 2 meeting. And of course, February 16th is President's Day.

March will bring warmer days, and thoughts of spring. We're already planning the Post's 15th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk held in April. If you know a Vietnam Vet, send them a text or Thinking of You note for Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29th.

Stay warm, dry, and safe.

Sharon Peterson
President, Post 2894 Auxiliary

VFW POST 2894 TEACHER OF THE YEAR SELECTED TO REPRESENT VFW DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

(Continued from page 1)...a round-trip ticket to the VFW National Convention in Reno, Nevada, in late July of this year, along with her husband, Post Comrade Joe Hammers. Both of the Hammers are high school teachers at Grassfield High School – Kim teaches Government and Civics and Joe teaches Special Education classes.

The Post’s Voice of Democracy Essay Contest winner, Ms. Alitheia West, was also recognized as the VFW Department of Virginia winner of the subject competition. Alitheia read her winning essay to the conference attendees during the council awards dinner and advances to the National competition.

This is the third time in the past decade that our Post has sent local teachers to represent our State in the Teacher of the Year Competition. One of our past awardees, Mr. Craig Blackman, won the VFW National Award in 2015. Good luck to Kim as she again represents our State in this prestigious award competition.



Ms. Alitheia West, VFW Post 2894 and District 2 Voice of Democracy Essay Competition winner, presents her winning essay at the VFW Department of Virginia Winter Council.

VFW POST 2894 AUXILIARY MEMBER TAKES A CRUISE

In November Kevin Mulholland, a member of the VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary, embarked on an ocean cruise out of New Jersey

down to Cape Canaveral, Florida, and the Bahamas. Here is his account of the adventure:

“I had an interesting couple of weeks. I’ve always wanted to go on a cruise, and one of my caregivers, Carolyn, has been on five of them, so I decided it was finally time to go on one myself.



VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary member Kevin Mulholland and his caretaker Carolyn pose for a picture by the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines ship "Odyssey of the Seas".

“Well, I survived my first cruise! I went on a Royal Caribbean ship—the *Odyssey of the Seas*—which embarked from New Jersey then sailed down to Cape Canaveral, Florida. Unfortunately, my shore excursion to the Kennedy Space Center had to be canceled. Even though the website listed it as the only wheelchair-accessible excursion available, I even called ahead to make sure it was accessible. I did receive a full refund and a free dinner at a restaurant of my choice on the ship, which helped, but I still believe Royal Caribbean should offer more wheelchair-accessible shore excursions and provide ramp-equipped vans or buses for all wheelchair users.

“Despite that setback, I witnessed a SpaceX rocket launch from 15 stories high on the ship—and it was incredible! We had the best view on board. The video doesn’t come close to capturing what it looked like in person.

“Our next stop was Coco Cay, a private theme-park island owned by Royal Caribbean. After that, we headed to Nassau, Bahamas, where seven other cruise ships were docked. It was extremely crowded and felt more like a touristy gift-shop stop. The ship itself, however, was very nice, and the food and shows were great. I had a fun time and definitely hope to go again!”

For more pictures of Kevin’s excursion or to view the video of the SpaceX rocket launch, go to his Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/kevin.mulholland.9>.



VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary member Kevin Mulholland makes a "friend" while visiting the Bahamas during his cruise.



VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory (right) presents a \$250 check donation to the Tidewater Piranhas Power Soccer Team.

OTHER POST NEWS

• **VFW Post 2894 Christmas Party a Resounding Success!** On Wednesday, 10 December, the Post held its annual Christmas party in Bay 1 of the Post Headquarters. Immediately after the regular business meetings for the Post and Auxiliary, members gathered in the bay to enjoy a potluck culinary experience that was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who were able to attend. Thanks to those Auxiliary members who took the time to decorate the space and all those who provided numerous trays of delicious delights, fried chicken, various pastas, and an assortment of desserts!

• **VFW Post 2894 Makes a Donation to Tidewater Piranhas Power Soccer Team.** During the fourth annual Dominion Rumble "Mule Cup" Power Soccer Tournament on Saturday, 31 January, Bob Gregory, VFW Post 2894 Commander, took the opportunity to present our home team, the Tidewater Piranhas, with a \$250 donation. Post Auxiliary member Kevin Mulholland is currently a player on the team and has been playing power soccer for two decades. Kevin travels with the Tidewater Piranhas throughout the country playing other Power Soccer teams located in various U.S. cities.

• **VFW Post 2894 Headquarters Building Gets HVAC Upgrade.** In January work commenced on the installation of a major upgrade in the heating and ventilation systems for the Post home. In addition to the new heating/air conditioning units in the main conference room, Hare's Heating, Cooling and Electrical, a business owned and operated by Post member Troy Hare, provided additional heating/cooling systems and ductwork for the bay areas.



New heating and cooling ductwork being installed in the VFW Post 2894 Bay 1 area.

Additionally, the exterior systems were replaced with newer, more efficient units. Much of the cost for these upgrades was covered by a \$2500 grant the Post received from the VFW Department of Virginia/Colonial Downs Racing. Our tremendous gratitude to Troy and his team for helping make the Post a more comfortable place to gather.

• **VFW Post 2894 Members Assist With Veteran Storage Transfer.** On Tuesday, 13 January, eight Post members gathered at a Public Storage location to load, transport and unload belongings of a veteran who the Post has assisted in the past. Previously, Mrs. Jill Underriter, a disabled Army veteran residing in Chesapeake, requested help with moving furniture and boxes of household goods into a storage unit due to downsizing her living accommodations. As time passed, the rental rates for that storage unit increased to a point where it was financially unsupportable and Jill needed to relocate the entire contents to a different, smaller unit that was more affordable. She reached out to Jim Ireland, the VFW Post 2894 Service Officer who had helped in the past, and coordinated a date/time to make the transfer of all the items/boxes at the storage facility.

At the designated date/time, volunteers from the Post met at the first storage location with a twelve-foot rental cargo truck and several personal pickups. Teams were designated and removed all the contents from the initial storage unit, loading not only the cargo truck but several other vehicles as well. All the contents were unloaded/stacked in the new unit, with the entire operation taking only a couple of hours. The event was topped off with a lunch together at Mission Barbeque where the volunteers enjoyed some spirited discussions and recalled common experiences from the past.

A big thanks to all those Post members who assisted with this transfer effort – it was truly appreciated by Jill!



Post members unload boxes for storage at the new rental unit.



VFW Post 2894 volunteers enjoy lunch at Mission Barbeque upon completion of the storage unit transfer.



Post members pose for a photo after completing the transfer of household goods to the new storage unit. From left: Jim Ireland, Keith Nielson, Dan Eaker, Dave Pereira, John Peterson, Vic McClaugherty, David Weber and Lonnie Artis.

• **VFW Post 2894 Leadership Provides Veteran Information to Local Ruritan Club.** On Tuesday, 20 January, Bob Gregory and Susan Vitale, Post Commander and Senior Vice Commander, were guests at the local Hickory Ruritan Club's membership meeting and provided information about the Post and the support the Post provides to various veterans' programs throughout the region. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a relationship with their membership and determine areas of mutual support. The fifteen members present included a Navy veteran who was interested in the Post and is considering membership. Bob stated the Post is looking forward to working with the Hickory Ruritan Club and its members in the future.



VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory discusses veteran issues during a meeting with Hickory Ruritan Club members as Senior Vice Commander Susan Vitale provides additional support.

**15TH ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH
MARCH MEMORIAL WALK,
18 APR 2026**



Keep your calendar clear for the fifteenth annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk on Saturday, April 18th at the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail in Deep Creek just off Route 17. Since Post 2894 is hosting this event, we would like to see all our members provide some level of support. We will also be

receiving assistance from the Marines of Northwest Security Group, the Chesapeake Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, and more as we host this commemorative event. We will close with a memorial ceremony dedicated to the survivors and families of Bataan/Corregidor as well as all the veterans of World War II and the Korean War.

The flyer for this event can be found at the end of this newsletter along with a sponsorship form. To register for the walk or sponsor the event go to www.vfw2894.org.

- \$5 Walk Only
- \$16 With Shirt - Age 16 and Under
- \$30 With Shirt - Age 17 and Older
- Group Discounts available

Preregistration ends: April 16, 2026

We are also looking for sponsors. If everyone in the post asks at least one business for their support, we can really make this a successful event. We have four levels of sponsorship:

- **Distinguished Service Sponsor** - \$2,500+
- **Superior Service Sponsor** - \$1000 - \$2499
- **Legion of Merit Sponsor** - \$500 - \$999
- **Meritorious Service Sponsor** - \$250 - \$499

Donations such as gift certificates, services, or merchandise, for our silent auction/raffle are greatly appreciated.

**PLEASE SHARE WITH FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, FAMILY
- EVERYONE!**

**FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY
MONTH
THE 555TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY COMPANY***

In 1944, a group of Black infantry Soldiers gained entrance to the Army's elite Airborne School. After graduating from the grueling course, they faced continued racial prejudice in the Army and society. Since most of the first graduates came from the 92nd

Infantry Division "Buffalo Soldiers," this new organization became the "Triple Nickles," after the Buffalo Nickle. This new unit became a pioneer in airborne operations, from firefighting to atomic warfare. As the Army pushed Black Soldiers to menial jobs, the Triple Nickles became the first Black parachute infantry battalion and found a welcoming home in the airborne community. After the war, they made the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment and the 82d Airborne Division the first integrated combat unit.

The story of the Triple Nickles began both in Washington, D.C.'s halls of power and the red clay of Fort Benning, Georgia. In Washington, pressure to admit Black Soldiers into front-line and elite units grew until it demanded action. Finally, in April 1943, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the formation of an all-Black paratrooper unit. At Fort Benning, the all-Black Parachute School Service Company had a serious morale problem. While paratrooper students trained to join the Army's elite and fight in World War II, the service company guarded Airborne School after training hours with no hope for front-line action. To build a sense of unit pride, 1st Sgt. Walter Morris began to train his company like Airborne School students. Seeing an opportunity, the commandant of the Airborne School, Gen. Ridgely Gaither, offered Morris a position as a first sergeant in a new, all-Black paratrooper unit. Morris accepted, then helped Gaither hand-pick 19 Soldiers for a test platoon. These college graduates and elite athletes, with their proven character and intellect, set out to prove Black Soldiers could be paratroopers.



1st Sgt. Walter Morris undergoes jumpmaster personnel inspection prior to his first jump.

On February 18, 1944, sixteen enlisted Soldiers from the test platoon graduated as the first Black paratroopers. A week later

Carstell Stewart graduated as part of the first integrated airborne training platoon. Shortly after the test class, six Black officers graduated from Airborne School on March 4, 1944. Once they had earned their jump wings, in the words of then-2nd Lt. Bradley Biggs, "something of a brotherhood [among paratroopers across racial lines] developed whereby we worked together to train incoming members, we came to share experiences in the field, we ate together, and on occasion, we taught together." Despite continued segregation and racism in the Army, Black paratroopers found a home in the airborne community.

The first two classes of Black paratroopers became cadre for the 555th Parachute Infantry Company at Camp Mackall, North Carolina. This company of 165 then went through extensive training, making them one of the best fighting elements available and ready for war. With Airborne School opened to Black Soldiers, the 555th grew to a battalion ready to reinforce paratroopers on the Western Front. Racial prejudice in Washington slowed the process of sending Black combat units to the European Theater until April 1945. By then, German forces were crumbling, and a new threat was emerging in the Pacific Northwest.

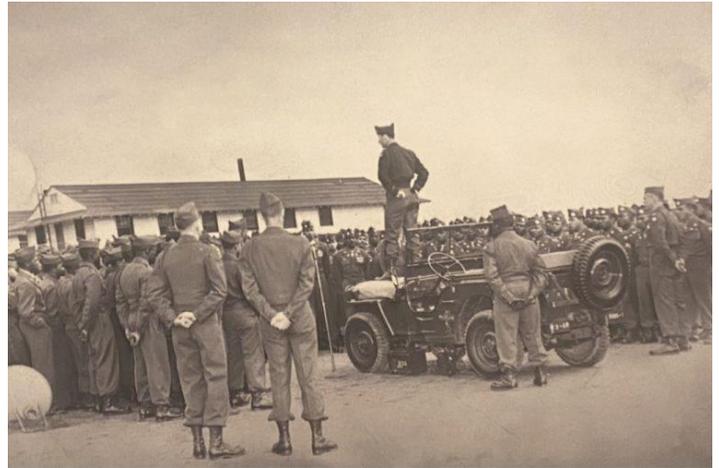
After the Doolittle Raid on Japan's Home Islands, Japan's military searched for a weapon to reach the mainland United States. By hanging incendiary bombs on balloons and floating them on the jet stream, Japanese bombs could reach America. These bombs had the potential to disrupt infrastructure and incite terror on the West Coast, with one balloon making it as far as Michigan. Another balloon cut power lines and disrupted plutonium production for the Manhattan Project. A third incinerated a reverend's wife and part of a Sunday School class as they picnicked near Gearhart Mountain, Oregon. The Army suppressed news of the bombs to prevent a panic, but the U.S. Forest Service needed help.

In May 1945, the 555th Battalion departed for Pendleton, Oregon and Chico, California, to combat forest fires ignited by these Japanese bombs. Combat-ready paratroopers traded their rifles and rucksacks for fire-fighting gear for "Operation Firefly." During the summer and fall of 1945, the Triple Nickles fought fires and disarmed bombs throughout the Pacific Northwest. They earned the nickname "Smoke Jumpers" due to their ability to insert fire-fighting teams by parachute. In doing so, they helped to innovate and codify the tactics, techniques, and procedures for parachuting into forest fires. Already familiar with using explosives, the Triple Nickles became explosive ordnance disposal experts.

After jumping into a fire, the Triple Nickles often remained on the ground for days at a time. In proud paratrooper fashion, their supplies only consisted of what they jumped in with. The smokejumpers contained fires until Forest Service mule trains arrived with more firefighters. Each detachment then packed up their gear, walked back to base, and prepared for the next jump. The Triple Nickles' excellence in both firefighting and bomb disposal won over the Forestry Service. Despite their discipline and the support of the Forestry Service, the 555th still faced discrimination from the Pendleton Air Base commander. The Triple Nickles' professionalism and positive attitude won over the residents of the town. They also became ambassadors for the airborne community to sister services. The 555th tested using Navy planes to deploy paratroopers as reinforcements during mock enemy attack. In all,

the Triple Nickles made around 1,200 jumps to help control 36 fires and dispose of several bombs.

Following the end of World War II, the Triple Nickles returned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Upon arrival, the battalion received the worst housing on the post at the whim of a prejudiced garrison commander. This abuse and the "two-color army" which kept these elite Soldiers separate frustrated Maj. Gen. James Gavin. As commander of the 82d Airborne Division, he campaigned to integrate the 555th into the 82d Airborne. Facing continued resistance, Gavin guaranteed the Pentagon that paratroopers of the 555th would earn the right to wear the honors won by the Division in World War II "by their high standards as Soldiers." Gavin got his way, and the 555th marched down Fifth Avenue in New York City as part of the World War II victory parade. While Gavin had the moral compass and influence to force the issue of integration, it was the spotless record and reputation for discipline and expertise the Triple Nickles had created for themselves which made the move possible. Gavin always sought the absolute best Soldiers for his units and the Triple Nickles had shown they were among that elite company.



General Gavin formally welcomes the Triple Nickles to the 82nd Airborne.

The impact of the Triple Nickles extended far beyond their actions in World War II. Several Triple Nickles formed the core of the Second Ranger Company and won glory by making the Ranger Regiment's first combat jump at Musan-Ni during the Korean War. As the 82d Airborne desegregated, the Triple Nickles' quality broke stereotypes about Black Soldiers. The experience of Soldiers weakened prejudicial barriers in the civilian world. In 2004, sixty years after he had secured his jump wings and made history, Walter Morris pinned those wings onto his grandson. After sixty years of breaking down barriers and driving integration by dint of his exemplary service, Morris was the guest speaker. By then, integrated classes and graduations were normal because Morris and his fellow Soldiers had become the best the Army had to offer. The 555th's "Triple Nickles" paved the way not only for Black Soldiers

in the elite forces of the Army, but for a positive wave of change in race relations throughout the United States after World War II.

*Ref: <https://www.thenmusa.org/articles/triple-nickles/>

MARCH 2003 OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM - BATTLE OF NASIRIYAH**

The city of Nasiriyah lies along the banks of the Euphrates River in Dhi Qar Province, about 225 miles southeast of Baghdad. In 2003, Nasiriyah was the headquarters of the Iraqi Army's 3rd Corps, composed of the 11th Infantry Division (ID), 51st Mechanized Infantry Division, and 6th Armored Division—all at around 50 percent strength. The 51st operated in the south covering the oilfields, and the 6th was north near Al Amarah, which left three brigade-sized elements of the 11th ID to guard the An Nasiriyah area.

The coalition planned to have 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, dubbed Task Force Tarawa, to take and hold the two bridges inside Nasiriyah, creating a corridor for the RCT1 and 6th Engineer Support Battalion from Battle Creek, Michigan, to pass north through the city along Route 7.



Marines from Task Force Tarawa enter An-Nasiriyah from the south.

On the morning of 23 March, a US Army supply convoy from the 507th Maintenance Company had mistakenly veered off Highway 8 and then turned toward the city into enemy-held territory. The US vehicles ran into an ambush, drawing enemy fire from every direction. Eleven American soldiers were killed and several were taken prisoner. However, a few soldiers managed to escape the ambush and form a screen around their wounded. They were soon rescued by a company from the 2nd MEB under the command of Major William Peeples.

At around 06:00 on the morning of 23 March, an 18-vehicle convoy of 31 soldiers of the United States Army's 507th Maintenance Company and two soldiers of the 3rd Forward Support Battalion of the 3rd Infantry Division missed a turn onto Highway 8 and mistakenly continued along Highway 7 into the city. The convoy was led by Captain Troy King, a supply officer with little combat training. Iraqi technical vehicles began shadowing the

convoy as it passed an Iraqi checkpoint near the Euphrates River. After passing the Al-Quds headquarters on the northern outskirts of the city, King realized that he was lost and the convoy began turning around to retrace its steps through the city.

As the convoy turned left on to Highway 16, at about 07:00, it began to receive sporadic small arms fire, the source and direction of which could not be determined. The ambush was unlikely to have been set up in advance because the Iraqis did not know which course the convoy would take. In the resulting chaos, the 507th became divided into three smaller groups as it attempted to move south, out of Nasiriyah. The first element of the convoy (known in the official U.S. Army report as Group 1) made it through unscathed and continued south to meet up with the Marines. Group 2 also made it through the kill zone, although their vehicles were badly damaged and had to be abandoned. Group 3 encountered road barriers and was defeated.

At least 15 of the 18 American transport vehicles in the convoy, ranging from Humvees to Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks (HEMTTs), were destroyed by small-arms fire, RPGs, mortar rounds, and tank gunfire. Some of them swerved off the road or crashed while attempting to avoid incoming Iraqi fire. One truck was crushed by the traversing 105mm gun barrel of a Type 69-QM tank. At 07:30, King's three remaining vehicles made contact with the tanks of Major Bill Peeples' Alpha Company, 8th Tank Battalion on Highway 7, about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) south of Nasiriyah. On their approach to the city, one of Peeples' tankers noticed American vehicles in the road ahead. Peeples ordered his tanks forward to rescue as many soldiers as possible. They rolled up on ten survivors from Group 2 which had also managed to escape the ambush and set up a hasty perimeter about 3.1 miles south of the city.



U.S. Marines prepare to assault through Nasiriyah.

In total, eleven soldiers from the 507th had been killed, while six others were captured, including Private First Class Jessica Lynch, Specialist Shoshana Johnson, and Private First Class Lori Piestewa. Piestewa died of her wounds soon afterward.

After a delay, the Marines of 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines (part of 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade), attacked Nasiriyah from the south, using Assault Amphibious Vehicle (AAVs) and Cobra gunships. During this action, the Marines captured two bridges spanning the Euphrates River that were defended by Fedayeen Saddam and Ba'ath Party guerrilla troops. In heavy fighting, several Iraqi platoon-sized units, two ZSU-23-4 "Shilka" anti-aircraft

weapons and several mortar and artillery positions were destroyed by a combined force of M1 Abrams tanks, Cobra helicopter gunships, and the artillery of 1st Battalion, 10th Marines.

The bloodiest day of the operations for the Marines was 23 March, when 18 men assigned to the 60mm Mortar Section, Weapons Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, were killed and eight Amphibious Assault Vehicles were disabled in heavy fighting with Iraqi forces around the Saddam Canal. The Marines were engaged by RPGs, mortar, and artillery fire, as well as four Iraqi tanks hidden behind a building.

A friendly-fire incident occurred when two A-10s from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard strafed the Amphibious Assault Vehicles of Charlie Company by mistake, killing at least one Marine, and possibly as many as 17 Marines, over the course of multiple passes.

The A-10 strike was cleared by the battalion's forward air controller, who was with Bravo Company, bogged down on the eastern outskirts of the city. He did not have contact with Charlie Company and was unaware that Marines were so far north. An investigation into the friendly-fire episode confirmed that friendly-fire was to blame, but "like most friendly-fire investigations, it was done... with no enthusiasm for determining what really happened, or who should be held accountable." Videotapes from the A-10 planes went missing. Despite the clear findings, the U.S. Central Command issued a press release which both minimized certainty and the role of friendly-fire.



The main bridge in northeastern An Nasiriyah, Iraq, where intense fighting occurred.

Two other Marines, from the 6th Engineer Support Battalion, drowned while trying to cross the Saddam Canal under fire the following day. Another Marine from the Marine Air Control Group 28, died from hostile fire while tending to wounded Marines.

The advance of Regimental Combat Team 1 (RCT-1) through Nasiriyah was delayed by fighting there. On the evening of 24 March, LAV-25s of the 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion pushed north of the Saddam Canal, leading RCT-1 through Ambush Alley.

Meanwhile, the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines held open Ambush Alley as the rest of RCT-1 passed through Nasiriyah on the night of 24–25 March.

Partly as a result of RCT-1's delay, Colonel Joe Dowdy was later relieved of command of RCT-1.

By 27 March, most Iraqi resistance in the city had been subdued and the focus of the battle shifted from full combat to cordon-and-search operations. Small groups of Fedayeen Saddam militia were hiding throughout the city and launched sporadic attacks on Marine patrols with small arms and RPGs. These attacks were uncoordinated and the resulting firefights were lop-sided, with large numbers of militiamen killed.

On the morning of 27 March, two recon Marines found a sunken M1A1 tank at the bottom of the river. The tank had been missing since the night of 24–25 March. It had apparently plunged into the river when it drove through a gap where a sidewalk was under construction, causing the exposed reinforcing bar to crumble under the weight. The entire four-man crew died. Navy Seabee divers from Underwater Construction Team TWO, part of Task Force MIKE along with Marines from 1st Tank Battalion, spent two days retrieving the flooded tank and the bodies of the four crewmen that were found inside.

According to a captain in the Republican Guard, morale among Republican Guard units was bolstered by the resistance offered by the regular army's 45th brigade in the city.

Iraqi casualties were 359–431 dead. More than 300 were wounded and 1,000 captured. US losses were 32 dead, 60 wounded, and six captured.

*Ref: Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Nasiriyah

SCOUT OF THE YEAR APPLICATIONS DUE 1 MARCH 2026

The Veterans of Foreign Wars annually recognizes Scouts who have risen above their peers by exemplifying the exceptional qualities of that rank. Prizes range up to \$5,000 scholarship for first place.



Now's the time to start thinking about Scout of the Year! Nomination packages for the Scout of the Year Award are due to the Post by 1 March 2026.

To be eligible, nominees must:

- Be a registered Scout who is an active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troup, Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship;
- Be a recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award, or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award;
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting, and community; and

There is no minimum age requirement for applicants as long as all other eligibility criteria have been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old and 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.

Entry forms can be downloaded from the VFW website at: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scoutof-the-year>. They can also be found at the end of this newsletter.

+ SAFETY CORNER **+**
FEBRUARY IS HEART HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



February is a good time to look at your heart health. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in women, and a major cause of death in men. Many factors are involved in this problem, and yet most are under one's control.

- Smoking hurts your heart, really! It damages how it functions, the internal blood vessels, and the blood itself. Needless to say, it also damages your lungs.
- Vaping also damages your heart, lungs, and brain. Individuals who vape have a 71% higher risk of stroke and a 59% higher risk of heart attack.



- Lack of exercise and sitting on your duff too much increases your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, and high blood sugar levels, all because you don't use those muscles in your legs! Using these large muscles increases the uptake of sugar from your blood and increases the breakdown of fatty acids. About every 30 minutes, get up and move.
- Stress increases your blood pressure, your body fat, and inflammation in your arteries. Try to take mindfulness breaks during your day.
- Poor diet can increase your risk of heart disease. Try to:
 - decrease eating processed foods
 - decrease your salt intake
 - decrease the amount of simple carbohydrates
 - decrease eating food high in saturated fats
 - decrease your use of added sugars
 - BUT increase your intake of vegetables and fruits

Be aware of your health. You can live longer and better!

Lastly, learn CPR in case you need to help save the life of a family member or a comrade.

Live long and prosper!

+ SAFETY CORNER **+**
MARCH IS FALLS AWARENESS MONTH



Falls are the leading cause of injury and loss of independence. It can happen to any of us, but as we age, our risk increases as does the chance of traumatic injury. One in four Americans age 65 and older fall each year. Traumatic Brain Injury and hip fractures are key factors in the loss of independence and

even death.

There are several things you can do to decrease your risk of tripping and/or falling.

- Talk with your doctor about your fall risks.
- Review with your doctor the medicines you are taking to identify increased risk of falling.
- Stay active. Practice exercises to improve your balance and strength.
- Improve safety around the home with grab bars in the shower and tub areas. Install better lighting (especially around stairs). Remove trip hazards like loose items on the stairs and loose throw rugs.
- When venturing outdoors, wear supportive, non-skid shoes.
- Avoid wearing just socks in the house to reduce slips.



We can take charge of our fall risks by taking a few of these recommendations to heart and making our homes and lives safer. Stay safe!

ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM THE POST SURGEON



Some Veteran Resources: *Combined Arms*

Combined Arms is a non-profit organization that serves as a reference for veterans. By vetting and validating over 400 organizations, it ensures that veterans and their spouses have access to high quality care and assistance, many times at no cost to them.

Combined Arms is working with the Commonwealth of Virginia Division of veteran Services to form an integrated veteran's network. Through collaboration with non-profits, state, and international organizations, *Combined Arms* hopes to improve the well-being of our veterans.

For information, see www.combinedarms.us or call 1(844)489-8387.

myhealth.va.gov : Don't forget that your *MyHealthVet* log on will go away after 31 January 2025. The actual *MyHealthVet* site will not change, but you will need a *Login.gov* or an *ID.me* account to sign on and access your *MyHealthVet* account. You can link to either logon accounts on the current www.myhealth.va.gov site. But hurry! Don't wait until the end of the month.

POST COMMITTEES - YOU CAN HELP!

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

- **Bataan Death March Committee:** Chuck Wolff, Ted Roberts, John Peterson, Matt Schweers, Grace Schweers, Ann Jones, Becky Waters, Brad Waters, Matt Hostetlar, Diane Hostetlar, Jose Vazquez, and Bob Gregory
- **Budget Committee:** John Peterson, Bob Gregory, Susan Vitale, Mark Rios, Brad Waters, Mike Kust, Keith Neilson, and Dan Eaker
- **By-Laws Committee:** Bob Gregory, Matt Hostetlar, Frank Sgromolo and Jose Vazquez
- **Community Service Committee:** Jim Ireland, Susan Vitale, John Guill, David Weber, Frank Sgromolo, Kimball Thompson, Ron Mayfield, and John Peterson
- **Awards/Scholarship Committee:** Mark Rios, Mike Kust, David Weber, Joe Hammers, Kimball Thompson, and Chuck Wolff
- **Membership/Recruiting Committee:** Bob Gregory, Susan Vitale, and José Vazquez
- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Joe McGourn and Dan Eaker
- **Health/Safety Committee:** Surgeon David Weber, Frank Sgromolo
- **Activities Committee:** Dan Eaker, Susan Vitale

QUARTERMASTER DESK



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

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

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

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

Annual Members!

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

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

Join the 150 Life Members in the Post.

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

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.

FEBRUARY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1800 USS 'Constellation' takes French 'Vengeance' in 5-hour night battle
- 1862 Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of Republic" is published
- 1865 Sherman begins marching through South Carolina
- 1968 Saigon: Nguyen Ngoc Loan summarily executes Viet Cong murderer
- 2** 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends Mexican-American War
- 1901 US Army Nurse Corps established
- 1945 Escape attempt at Mauthausen concentration camp
- 1989 Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, ending 9 years of war
- 3** 1783 Spain recognizes US independence
- 1943 USS Dorchester sunk - the "Four Chaplains" immortalized
- 4** 1779 John Paul Jones takes command of 'Bonhomme Richard'
- 1941 USO (United Service Organization) is formed
- 1944 US 7th Infantry Division completes capture of Kwajalein
- 1945 Yalta Conference begins: FDR, Churchill, & Stalin
- 1959 Keel laid for USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), 1st nuclear aircraft carrier
- 5** 1918 Stephen W Thompson becomes first US pilot to down an enemy airplane
- 6** 1778 France recognizes US, signs treaty of aid in Paris
- 1832 US ship destroys Sumatran village in retaliation for piracy
- 1899 Spanish-American War officially ends
- 1945 Battle for Manila begins
- 1945 Over 4,000 American POWs freed from Luzon prison camps
- 7** 1800 Frigate USS 'Essex' becomes 1st U.S. warship to cross Equator
- 1945 General Douglas MacArthur returns to Manila
- 8** 1865 Martin Delany becomes first black major in US Army
- 1910 Boy Scouts of America founded.
- 1918 "The Stars and Stripes" begins publication in France
- 9** 1918 U.S. Army Chaplains' School formed at Fort Monroe
- 1943 Japanese complete evacuation of Guadalcanal, as US columns make contact at Cape Esperance, ending epic campaign
- 10** 1676 Battle of Lancaster: Massachusetts militia attack & defeat Wampanoag Indians
- 1763 Treaty of Paris ends French & Indian/Seven Years' War
- 1807 Congress establishes US Coast Survey
- 1962 USSR swaps U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for spy Rudolph Abel
- 12** 1948 First black Regular Army Nurse is commissioned: 1st Lt Nancy Leftenant; retires 1965 as major, USAF
- 1955 Pres Eisenhower sends US advisors to South Vietnam
- 13** 1861 1st Medal of Honor action: Asst Surg Bernard Erwin, Apache Pass, Az (awarded 1894)
- 1945 Allies begin fire-bombing of Dresden, about 50,000 die
- 14** 1778 USS Ranger carries recently adopted Stars and Stripes to foreign port for first time on arrival in France
- 1912 US sub 'E-1' (SS-24) commissioned, 1st American diesel boat
- 1945 US troops reach Bataan peninsula outside Manila
- 15** 1856 USS 'Supply' loads 21 camels at Smyrna, Turkey, for US Army
- 1898 Havana Harbor: Second class battleship USS 'Maine' blows up from undetermined causes, 258 killed
- 1919 American Legion formed in Paris
- 1944 Italy: Allies commence bombing & shelling Monte Cassino
- 16** 1804 Stephen Decatur retakes and burns USS 'Philadelphia', which had been captured by Dey of Tripoli
- 1945 US airborne forces land on Corregidor (fighting lasts until March 3)
- 1959 Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba
- 17** 1621 Plymouth Colony elects Miles Standish "Captain" of militia
- 1864 CSS 'H.L. Hunley' sinks USS 'Housatonic', and herself: 1st submarine victory, albeit Pyrrhic
- 1915 Edward Stone, 1st US combatant to die in WW I, mortally wounded
- 1943 "Joltin' Joe" DiMaggio joins Army
- 1944 US forces land on Eniwetok Atoll, which is secured on Feb 22
- 1945 US Navy "frogmen" clearing beaches at Iwo Jima take heavy losses
- 1947 Voice of America begins broadcasting to USSR
- 18** 1846 US Navy adopts "port" in place of traditional "larboard"
- 1865 Sherman captures Charleston, SC
- 1941 CINCUS Husband Kimmel writes, "I feel that an attack . . . on Pearl Harbor is a possibility."
- 19** 1942 FDR orders internment of Japanese-Americans on West Coast
- 1943 Battle of Kasserine Pass: Rommel's panzers hit US troops
- 1943 US Naval forces under MacArthur designated Seventh Fleet
- 1945 US Marines land on Iwo Jima
- 20** 1942 E. H. "Butch" O'Hare downs 5 Japanese aircraft, helping USS 'Lexington' (CV-2) beat off an air attack
- 1962 John Glenn becomes first American in orbit
- 21** 1903 Cornerstone laid for Army War College (now NDU)
- 22** 1821 Spain sells East Florida to United States
- 1909 Great White Fleet returns to Hampton Roads after world cruise
- 1915 Germany begins "restricted" submarine warfare
- 1935 Airplanes are prohibited from flying over White House
- 1942 FDR orders MacArthur to leave Philippines for Australia
- 1943 'Iowa' (BB-61) commissioned in Brooklyn
- 1944 US Eighth Air Force erroneously bombs Enschede, Arnhem, Nijmegen, Netherlands, kill about 800
- 1974 First woman naval aviator: Lt. j.g., Barbara Ann Allen
- 23** 1778 Baron von Steuben joins Continental Army at Valley Forge
- 1795 USN Supply Corps founded as Office of Purveyor of Supplies
- 1836 Santa Anna lays siege to Alamo, stormed on March 6
- 1903 US leases Guantanamo Bay from Cuba for \$4,000 a year; Castro has refused to cash checks since 1959
- 1942 Japanese submarine 'I-17' shells Elwood, California.
- 1945 Iwo Jima: 28th Marines raise US flag on Mount Suribachi
- 1945 Operation Grenade: Gen Simpson's Ninth Army attacks Ruhr
- 1945 Liberation of captives in Japanese internment camp at Los Baños, Philippines
- 1946 Yamashita Tomoyuki, 60, Japanese general, "Tiger of Malaya", hanged by Allies
- 1979 Frank Peterson Jr. becomes first black Marine Corps general
- 24** 1779 George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes from British
- 1917 Britain gives "Zimmermann Note" to US, revealing German efforts to get Mexico to invade southwest
- 1945 Manila liberated, after heavy fighting & serious civilian casualties
- 1968 US and Vietnamese troops complete liberation of Hue City
- 1991 Ground Phase of Operation Desert Storm begins, resulting in

- liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation
- 25** 1836 Samuel Colt patents a practical revolver
- 1945 First B-29 firebomb raid on Tokyo, burns 10,000 acres
- 26** 1775 Battle of Salem, Mass.: British expedition to seize colonists' arms is turned back, "Leslie's Retreat"
- 1848 Marx & Engels publish "The Communist Manifesto"
- 1863 Lincoln signs National Currency Act, establishing greenbacks
- 1940 US Air Defense Command established at Mitchell Field, LI, NY
- 1942 USN aviator Don Mason signals, "Sighted sub, sank same"
- 1944 First woman USN captain, Sue Dauser, Navy Nurse Corps
- 1949 USAF plane begins first nonstop around-the-world flight
- 1993 Islamist terrorists bomb World Trade Center, 7 die
- 2001 Taliban destroy Great Buddhas of Bamiyan, in Afghanistan
- 27** 1704 Indian raid on Deerfield, Ma; 40 die, 100 captured
- 1991 Operation Desert Storm: Iraqis ousted from Kuwait
- 28** 1893 USS 'Indiana' (BB-1) launched, first American 1st class battleship
- 1991 Desert Storm ground war ends after 100 hours

MARCH MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1781 Continental Congress adopts "Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union."
- 1954 Bikini: US detonates 15 megaton hydrogen bomb
- 1954 Puerto Rican nationalists open fire in Congress, 5 wounded
- 1961 Peace Corps is established
- 2008 USS 'New York' (LPD-21), incorporating steel from World Trade Center, christened at New Orleans
- 2** 1776 Americans begin shelling British troops in Boston
- 1807 Congress bans importation of slaves effective Jan 1, 1808
- 1836 Texas declares independence from Mexico
- 1859 Paddle steamer USS 'Saginaw' commissioned, first American warship built on West Coast, at Mare Island
- 1867 US Navy Civil Engineering Corps founded
- 1938 15th Infantry leaves China after 26 years in garrison at Tientsin & Peking.
- 1945 Philippines: Japanese resistance on Corregidor ends.
- 3** 1776 US squadron under Commo Esek Hopkins attacks Nassau, Bahamas: First American overseas expedition
- 1813 Office of Surgeon General of US Army is established
- 1815 Second Barbary War: US declares war on Algiers for piratical acts, 3 years after Algerians declared war on US
- 1863 Congress passes "Enrollment Act," initiating federal conscription
- 1871 US Navy Medical Corps established
- 1899 George Dewey is promoted to Admiral of the Navy
- 1915 Congress authorizes a Chief of Naval Operations (CNO)
- 1915 Congress creates Naval Reserve
- 1931 Congress adopts "Star Spangled Banner" as national anthem
- 4** 1789 U.S. Constitution goes into effect
- 1814 Battle of Longwood: Americans defeat British, near Wardsville, Ontario.
- 1861 CSA adopts "Stars & Bars" as national flag
- 1877 5-times wounded veteran Rutherford B Hayes inaugurated as president
- 1881 Former Maj Gen James A Garfield inaugurated as president
- 1889 Bvt Brig Gen. Benjamin Harrison inaugurated as 21st president
- 1897 Bvt Maj William McKinley inaugurated as 23rd president
- 1943 Battle of Bismarck Sea ends: Japanese lost 12 ships, thousands of men.
- 5** 1770 The Boston Massacre
- 1821 Veteran James Monroe is inaugurated as 5th president
- 1945 US VII Corps captures Cologne (Köln)
- 1960 Elvis honorably discharged from US Army
- 6** 1822 USS 'Enterprise' captures 4 pirate ships in Gulf of Mexico
- 1831 Edgar Allen Poe expelled from West Point
- 1836 Santa Anna's Mexicans storm Alamo, after 13-day siege
- 1944 USAF begins daylight bombing of Berlin
- 7** 1774 British close port of Boston to all commerce
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell is granted a patent for telephone
- 1942 First black cadets graduate from USAAF flying school at Tuskegee
- 1945 9th Arm Div captures Ludendorff Bridge over Rhine at Remagen and enters Germany
- 8** 1945 1st African-American Navy Nurse commissioned: Ens. Phyllis Daley
- 1945 Luzon: Sixth Army offensive against Japanese Shimbu Line.
- 1950 First woman medical officer assigned to US naval vessel: B R Walters
- 1950 USSR announces development of atomic bomb
- 1958 'Wisconsin' (BB-64) decommissioned; for first time in 62 years, USN has no battleships in commission
- 1965 Vietnam: First US combat troops arrive (3,500 Marines)
- 9** 1798 Dr George Balfour appointed first surgeon in USN
- 1847 Winfield Scott lands army at Veracruz, Mexico, and begins siege.
- 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads II: USS 'Monitor' fights CSS 'Virginia' to a draw, preserving blockade
- 1945 US B-29s bomb Tokyo, est. 80,000-120,000 die - highest toll in a single air raid, exceeding even atomic bombs
- 10** 1942 NY's 27th Inf Div sails for Hawaii - first division to ship out in WW II.
- 11** 1779 US Army Corps of Engineers established
- 1942 Bataan: MacArthur leaves for Mindanao on PT-Boat
- 1943 American Volunteer Group ("Flying Tigers") renamed Fourteenth Air Force
- 12** 1912 Girl Scouts of America founded
- 1942 Burma: Joseph Stilwell assumes combined U.S./Chinese command.
- 1947 US announces "Truman Doctrine," to fight communism
- 13** 1942 Julia Flikke, Nurse Corps, becomes first woman colonel in US Army
- 15** 1493 Columbus returns to Spain from his first voyage
- 1781 Battle of Guilford Court House: British barely defeat Colonists and retire from Carolinas to Yorktown, Virginia
- 1916 Pershing begins 10-month pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico
- 1944 Abbey of Monte Cassino destroyed by Allied bombing
- 16** 1882 US Senate ratifies treaty establishing International Red Cross
- 1945 Iwo Jima: organized Japanese resistance ends, mopping up continues.

- 1968 My Lai Massacre, perhaps 450 die
- 1985 AP correspondent Terry Anderson taken hostage in Beirut
- 17** 1762 First St Patrick's Day parade in New York City
- 1776 British forces evacuate Boston; George Washington orders extra gill of whiskey to every Irish soldier in army
- 1966 US mini-sub locates missing H-bomb in Mediterranean off Palomares, Spain
- 18** 1776 George Washington's army occupies Boston
- 1952 Communist offensive in Korea begins
- 1951 Herman Wouk's novel "Caine Mutiny" is published
- 1989 Maiden flight of Boeing V-22 Osprey VTOL aircraft
- 19** 2003 Operation Iraqi Freedom begins (2003-2011)
- 20** 1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" published
- 1896 Marines land in Nicaragua to protect US citizens
- 1922 First US carrier commissioned: 'Langley' (CV-1)
- 1939 Naval Research Lab proposes development of nuke power
- 1942 Gen MacArthur vows "I shall return"
- 21** 1866 Congress authorizes national soldiers' homes
- 1942 Jimmy Stewart enlists in USAAF
- 1946 Strategic Air Command is formed
- 1951 Julius & Ethel Rosenberg convicted of espionage
- 22** 1622 1st Indian War: Powhatan attacks Jamestown, 347 die
- 1794 Congress prohibits export of slaves from United States.
- 1917 3rd Lt. Elmer F. Stone becomes USCG Aviator No. 1
- 1945 Patton's Third Army crosses Rhine
- 23** 1775 Virginian Patrick Henry famously states "...give me liberty or give me death!"
- 1806 Lewis & Clark reach Pacific Coast
- 1882 USN establishes Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI)
- 1903 Wright Brothers receive patent for their airplane
- 1957 US army sells its last homing pigeons
- 1965 Gemini 3 launched, first US 2-man space flight (Grissom & Young)
- 2003 USMC Task Force Tarawa captures An Nasiriyah after hot fight
- 24** 1898 Battleships 'Kearsarge' (BB 5) & 'Kentucky' (BB 6) launched at Newport News
- 1919 New York's 27th Division returns from Great War, marches up Fifth Avenue
- 1920 1st USCG air station established, Morehead City, NC
- 1944 The Great Escape: 76 Allied officers flee Stalag Luft 3
- 1945 Operation Varsity: Allied airborne crossing of Rhine
- 1945 Gen. George S. Patton pisses in Rhine from pontoon bridge near Oppenheim, Germany
- 1986 US & Libya air-sea clash in Gulf of Sidra
- 1999 Kosovo Campaign begins
- 25** 1655 Battle at Annapolis, MD: between Puritans & Royalists
- 1813 USS 'Essex' takes 'Neryeda', first USN victory in Pacific
- 1905 Most battle flags captured during Civil War returned to South
- 1915 1st USN submarine disaster: USS 'F-4' sinks off Hawaii, 21 die
- 1945 US First Army breaks out of Remagen bridgehead
- 26** 1943 First woman awarded Air Medal: Army Nurse Elsie Ott
- 1945 Okinawa: Kamikaze attack US fleet
- 1951 USAF flag approved
- 27** 1794 Congress approves construction of 6 frigates, including USS 'Constitution'
- 1814 Battle of Horseshoe Bend: Andrew Jackson defeats Creeks
- 1945 Wiesbaden falls to US XX Corps
- 29** 1973 Last US troops leave Vietnam, 9 years after Tonkin Gulf
- 31** 1854 Commo Perry forces Japan to open ports to foreign trade
- 1917 US gains Virgin Islands from Denmark for \$25 million
- 1968 LBJ announces he will not seek re-election
- 1995 Somalia Campaign ends

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>FEBRUARY '26</u>	
2	Ground Hog Day
8	Super Bowl LX
9	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
11	Post Meeting, Post HQ
14	District 2 Quarterly Meeting VFW Post 2894 Saint Valentine's Day
16	Presidents Day

<u>MARCH '26</u>	
9	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
11	Post Meeting, Post HQ
14	Norfolk St. Patrick's Day Parade
17	St. Patrick's Day

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)

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 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.

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





VFW Post 2894 - Chesapeake, VA Remembrance



15th Annual Bataan Death March



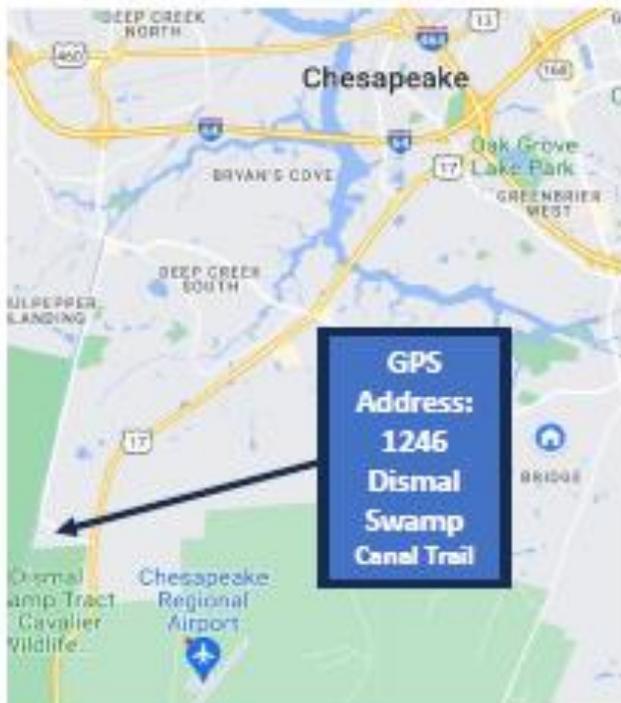
Memorial Walk

April 18, 2026

Dismal Swamp Canal Trail



In memory of the estimated 80,000 prisoners and the 5,000-18,000 Filipino and 500-650 Americans who died during the 65-mile, WW II force march



APRIL 18th ON-SITE EVENTS

Registration Starts: 6:00 AM
16.6 Mile Walk: 7:00 AM
5 Mile Walk: 10:00 AM
1 Mile Walk: 11:00 AM
Closing Ceremony: 12:00 PM
Historical and Veteran Remembrance Displays
Food Sales
Silent Auction and Raffles

Virtual Walk at Your Leisure

Not Available to Participate April 18th?
Runners and walkers can participate anywhere in the world between February 18, 2026 to April 18, 2026. The run/walk can be done safely and at your own pace.

Registration and Sponsors: www.vfw2894.org
\$5 Walk Only / \$16 With Shirt - Age 16 and Under /
\$30 With Shirt - Age 17 and Older / Group Discounts
Pre-Registration Ends: April 16, 2026
Walk.Chesapeake@gmail.com



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

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

