

## VFW OBJECTIVES:

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



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 2894

### Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month – 7:00 pm  
Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge,  
110 Kempsville Rd, Chesapeake, VA

#### Post Address:

VFW Post 2894  
PO Box 15842  
Chesapeake, VA 23328

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

Visit us on Facebook



### POST OFFICERS

Commander..... Chris Mulholland  
Sr. Vice Commander..... José Vazquez  
Jr. Vice Commander..... Bob Gregory  
Adjutant..... Matt Hostettler  
Quartermaster..... Mike Kust  
Chaplain..... Kimball Thompson  
Surgeon..... David Weber  
Staff Judge Advocate... Matt Hamel  
Service Officer..... Jim Ireland

### AUXILIARY OFFICERS

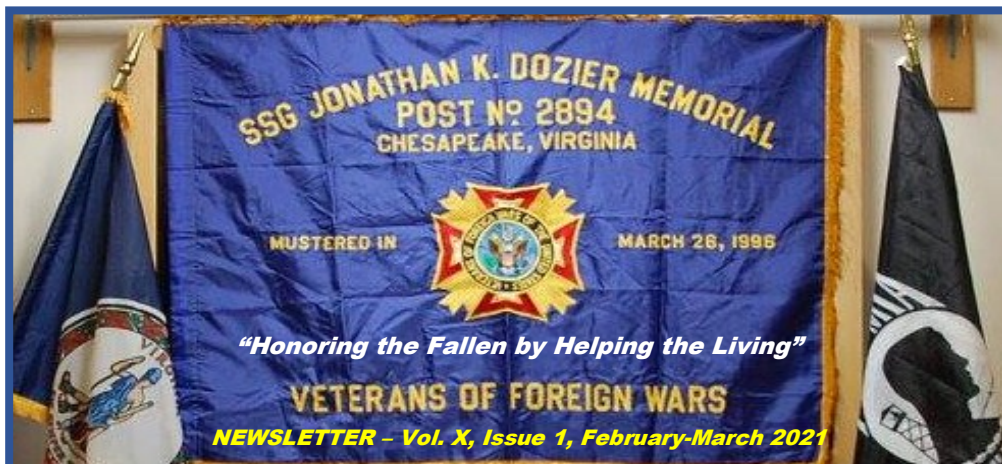
President..... Sandy Dunbar  
Sr. Vice President..... Christina Zinn  
Jr. Vice President..... Bea Oakley  
Secretary..... Barbara Mulholland  
Treasurer..... Donna Kust  
Chaplain..... Diane Hostettler  
Conductress..... Anne Thompson  
Guard..... Jean Dozier  
Patriotic Instructor..... Kevin Mulholland

### NATIONAL

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

### STATE

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



## POST 2894 CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!!!!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!!!!

Post 2894 was chartered in  
Chesapeake on 26 March 1996 with  
45 founding members:

Warren H. Beydler, LCDR, USN(ret)+  
Randall L. Blong, MS1, USN  
Harold G. Brearley, Jr.  
Larry L. Brink, CTR1, USN +  
B.B. Bussey, USA +  
Thaddeus E. Butler  
Cecil E. Collett, USN +  
Dennis D. Cooley, USN  
Joseph A. Dongarra

Joseph W. Drago, BMC, USN(ret)+  
Bernard G. Florack, USAAF  
Eric L. Gibbons

Richard M. Haley, USAF +  
John A. Hamer, LTC, USA(ret)+  
John M. Hayes, LTC, USA(ret)+  
Clyde G. Inman +

John D. Kidd, CWO4, USN(ret)+  
Leonard M. Kilian, USN +  
George J. Krohn II, USN +  
Robert A. Langhorne

Dwight R. McCurry, HM3, USN +  
Joseph McGourn, Sr., SKCS, USN (ret)  
MAJ John A. "Red" Meehan, USA(ret)+

Morris E. Mitchem, PVT, USA +  
Jules A. Moity, AKC, USN(ret)+  
Terrence J. Mulich, Sr., DSC, USN(ret)+

Donald J. Nowak, USAF(ret)+  
William E. Ohrnberger, Jr. +  
Junious E. Parker, CPO, USN(ret)+

Dennis A. Payne, MMCM, USN(ret)+  
Roland C. Philbrick, A1C, USAF +  
Charles R. Polen, CTMCS, USN(ret)+  
Earl A. Robinson, CWO4, USN(ret)+  
Kenneth S. Rudis +  
Francis E. Russell, CWO, USA(ret)+  
Edward M. Seco, USN(ret)+  
William E. Skipper, USN  
Domingo Solomon, Jr., ETC, USN (ret)  
Joseph E. Stephenson, HN, USN +  
Richard D. Stephenson  
Raymond J. Tarkenton  
John R. Thompson  
Gordon D. Walker, Jr., CDR, USN(ret)+  
William W. Walls  
John W. Walsh

Of those 45 charter members:

- 24 were US Navy veterans (at least 11 retired), 7 were Army (4 retired and one WWII Army Air Force), 3 were Air Force (1 retired), and the remainder unknown as of yet;

- One of the WWII veterans was a survivor of the Bataan death march;

- 5 served in WWII, 2 in both WWII and the Korean War, 2 were three-war vets (WWII/ Korea/ Vietnam), 3 in Korea, 5 served in both Korea and Vietnam, 1 in the Cuban Crisis and Dominican Republic, 10 in Vietnam, 1 in Grenada, 4 in both Vietnam and Desert Storm I, and 2 in DS1;

- The oldest living founding member turned 100 this year!, and  
*(continued on page 6)*

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Thankfully, 2020 is now in our rearview mirror! Hopefully, 2021 will be a better year for all of us!

March 26<sup>th</sup> marks the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding** of our Post! We are planning to celebrate this special occasion at our March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. I am hoping that we will have some of the founding members on hand to tell us their stories.

For this year, we have already accomplished ALL of the requirements to make All-American the sixth time in a row...except membership. **We need 16 new members by May.** Please ask around and tell prospective members who we are and what we do. I would love to finish my last year as Commander seeing the Post All-American again! Please help!

It's election time again – and fortunately, it's just our Post officers this time around. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I will be stepping down as Post Commander. It's time for a new face, a different look.

We are looking for comrades who want to serve the Post as officers. Our goal is to present a slate of officers at our February meeting, officially nominate the slate in March, and hold our election in April. If you are interested in making the Post the best it can be, please contact the **Election Committee** Chairman, John Guill, via email at [jguill65@cox.net](mailto:jguill65@cox.net). We don't just have the officer billets to fill, but the various committees as well. Please take a moment to consider stepping up and volunteering just a little bit more of your free time for the Post. We have some major plans and would like everyone's input and assistance. I am also looking for a transition plan this coming year that will continue the tremendous progress this post has made during the last 6 years!

A note of disappointment, this year's Norfolk St. Patrick's Day Parade has been cancelled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in a row. It was always a great deal of fun!

And a note of sadness; we lost a good Comrade on December 30<sup>th</sup>, Richard Boyce. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Just to catch you up on recent events, we kept alive the annual **Chesapeake Christmas Parade!** It may have been small but it was the thought that counted! You can read about it and many other great activities under "Post News."

Nominations for **VFW's Scout of the Year** are due by 1 March. If you know of an Eagle Scout, Gold Star Awardee, Venture Silver Awardee or Sea Scout Quartermaster Awardee, tell them about this opportunity to earn scholarship money.

Our traditionally biggest event of the year is coming up and I am asking everyone to block out your calendars for the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. This will be our **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk!** Because of the state's restrictions due to the Wu-flu, we have decided to run this as a "virtual" event. We're not sure what that means regarding needed volunteers but would appreciate you setting aside the day on your calendars just in case. I also ask everyone to approach at least one business and ask them to be a sponsor of the march. More info is in this newsletter.

I recognize that we focus a great deal of our time and effort on projects to help veterans while not thinking much about our own 'social life.' In response to some questions, I have heard some great ideas such as pub-crawl, chili cook-off or BBQ contest, paint (and wine) night, and a "veterans' ball".

These are all great ideas that we can think over and talk about doing one we are "free again!"

And, as always, thanks to all of you for what you do every day in supporting your families, our veterans, and our community! Semper Fidelis and **Erin Go Bragh!**

*Chris Mulholland, Commander*



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Everyone, Hope you are Well and staying Safe.



On Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> the Auxiliary will be hosting a social event for the National Auxiliary President, Sandi Onstwedder. Sandi's Theme for this year is "*Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans*". Due to COVID we are limited to the number of visitors; however, we will enjoy the fellowship and our time together.



The Auxiliary is looking for new members. Family members who are eligible to join the Auxiliary are: Father, Mother, Husband, Wife, Sister, Daughter, Grandmother, Granddaughter, Grandson, Grandfather, Son and Brother. If you have a family member who would like to join, please contact any member of the Auxiliary for a petition and we look forward to grow so we can continue to serve Veterans.

Thank You for all that you do for the Veterans.

*Sandy Dunbar, President*



*[See more Auxiliary news on page 13]*

## FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**NATIONAL Freedom Day is celebrated every February 1<sup>st</sup>** because honors the signing of resolution that later became the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



Abraham Lincoln signed the document that outlawed slavery on February 1, 1865. Although this resolution was ratified by the states later, it was the very first step to make all people regardless of their origin and color of skin free.

Major Richard Robert Wright Sr., American civil rights advocate, politician and former slave, believed, that one day all American should celebrate their freedom. He invited national and local leaders to meet and to organize a movement that would commemorate the signing of the 13th Amendment by A. Lincoln.

This resulted in the establishment of National Freedom Association, that later proposed to set a memorial date calling the attention to the continuing struggle for freedom for African-Americans. The day of the signing of the 13th Amendment was chosen as the day of National Freedom Day.

The first celebration and commemoration of events took place in 1942 at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Every year a wreath, as a symbol of remembrance, is laid at the Liberty Bell.

## HIDDEN HISTORY OF FIRST BLACK WOMEN TO SERVE IN US NAVY

**The Golden Fourteen were largely forgotten—but a few veterans and descendants could change that.**

BY [GIULIA HEYWARD](#) DECEMBER 15, 2020

WHEN JERRI BELL FIRST WROTE about the Golden Fourteen, their story only took up a sentence. These 14 Black women were the first to serve in the U.S. Navy, and Bell, a former naval officer and historian with the Veteran's Writing Project, included them in a book about women's contributions in every American war, co-written with a former Marine. But even after the book was published, Bell couldn't get their story out of her head.

"It made me kind of mad," Bell says. "Here are these women, and they were the first! But I think there was also a general attitude at the time that the accomplishments of women were not a big deal. Women were not going to brag."

Bell was one of a few researchers who have been able to track down documents that acknowledge the lives and work of these Black women. She knew that during World War I, the Fourteen had somehow found employment in the muster roll unit of the U.S. Navy in Washington, D.C., under officer John T. Risher. One was Risher's sister-in-law and distant cousin, Armelda Hattie Greene.

The Golden Fourteen worked as yeomen and were tasked with handling administrative and clerical work. They had access to official military records, including the work assignments and locations of sailors. At the time, Black men who enlisted in the Navy could only work as messmen, stewards, or in the engine room, shoveling coal into the furnace. They performed menial labor and weren't given opportunities to rise in rank.



Researchers and descendants are working to dust off the stories of the Golden Fourteen.

ALL ILLUSTRATIONS: DELPHINE LEE FOR ATLAS OBSCURA

Bell wasn't surprised to learn about the barriers faced by service members of color. She knew that Josephus Daniels, the Secretary of the Navy at the time, was a documented white supremacist with ties to the Wilmington Massacre, in which a white mob overthrew a local Reconstruction-era government and murdered Black residents. During the First World War, the U.S. Navy maintained the status quo of racism that continued long after. Many Black service members were also targeted by white mobs after the war.

What *was* surprising was that a legal technicality had paved the way for Black women to work for the Navy more than a century ago. A shortage of clerical workers led then-president Woodrow Wilson to pass the Naval Reserve Act of 1916, which asked for "all persons who may be capable of performing special useful services for coastal defense." The Golden Fourteen were part of a larger group of over 11,000 women, almost all of them white, who were able to join the navy as yeomanettes, the title given to female yeomen.



The Golden Fourteen tackled administrative and clerical work. [KELLY MILLER'S HISTORY OF THE WORLD WAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS](#)

Of the few archival records that exist of the Golden Fourteen, one thing is clear: In a period when stepping out of line could have violent repercussions for Black women, they worked without drawing attention to themselves.

"This is quite a novel experiment," wrote the sociologist Kelly Miller in *The History of the World War for Human Rights*, published in 1919. "As it is the first time in the history of the navy of the United States that colored women have been employed in any clerical capacity ... It was reserved to young colored women to invade successfully the yeoman branch, hereby establishing a precedent."

Bell's fascination with the Golden Fourteen only deepened. She is now writing a book about them, and has spent more than four and a half years, as well as thousands of dollars, collecting archival materials. She's waited patiently to get military and civilian personnel records from the National Archives, which can often take years, and has combed through historical accounts that have not been digitized. She's looked at photos and spoken with the last living descendant of the Risher family, who says that his aunt, Greene, never spoke of her naval service.

The memory keepers who tell the story of the Golden Fourteen are almost all veterans. Researchers like Bell have the personal connection and the professional knowledge to recover what fragments remain. She feels a powerful responsibility, to the point that she missed the first deadline for her manuscript nine months ago. Because she is telling a story that has been so thoroughly forgotten—and arguably erased—she wants her research to be truly comprehensive. "I just discovered some documents that I need to physically go to another state to get access to," Bell says. "I couldn't turn in the manuscript before. I know I owe these women more than that."

**THERE IS ONE OTHER PLACE** where stories of the Golden Fourteen have been passed down: in family histories. When Tracey L. Brown was 10 years old, she looked through her family photo album and saw a light-skinned woman she didn't recognize. Her grandmother,

Nan, told her that the woman with the blonde hair and hazel eyes was Brown's great-grandmother, Ruth Ann Welborn. Welborn was one of the Golden Fourteen. Though she seemed to pass as white, she, like Brown, was African-American.

"I had known that she was one of very few Black women there," Brown says. "But I didn't know that there had been 14—I wasn't expecting that many. I remember hearing about that, as a child, that there was some sort of scheme in how they were even able to enlist. I know it wasn't simple."

Although Brown grew up understanding who her great-grandmother had been, she didn't grasp the magnitude of what Welborn and the other women had done until she was much older. Now a practicing attorney in a New York law firm, Brown started to dig deeper after her father, Ronald H. Brown, who had served as Secretary of Commerce under President Bill Clinton, died in 1996. In her grief, she decided to write a memoir about him. "It was sort of the perfect storm," Brown says. "I had just lost him, so I was really committed to telling his story."

Brown talked to friends, family, and even President Clinton himself. After interviews with her grandmother, she finally began to unearth more about Ruth Welborn. "It was so exciting to even begin pursuing these stories," Brown says. "There have been so many stories that have been lost in our community, and it was nice to be able to have a little slice."

Ruth was the daughter of Walter Welborn, the son of a white merchant, Johnson W. Welborn, and a woman he enslaved at his house in Clinton, Mississippi, whose name and date of birth remain unknown. In 1863, during the chaos of conscription riots that followed the Emancipation Proclamation, Walter and his brother Eugene escaped from the biological father who had enslaved them. According to Brown's memoir, their mother dressed them in Confederate uniforms, and perhaps thanks to the fair skin they had inherited, they were able to escape onto a train to Washington.

In Washington, Walter Welborn was a free man, and he married Elexine Beckley, who came from a well-educated and affluent Black family. Their five daughters inherited Walter's fair skin, blonde hair, and hazel eyes. Like their mother, the five daughters graduated from the best schools available to Black children at the time.

In 1918, after graduating from Dunbar High School, Ruth decided to join the Naval Reserve, becoming one of the Golden Fourteen. "Ruth seemed very stern," Brown says. "She was a stoic person: In every picture, her posture is perfect. She looks very commanding, and I can't imagine playing with her like I had with my great-grandmother on my mother's side." She and Brown's father were both buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Although Brown is one of the few to write about the Golden Fourteen, she is not alone. The *Washington*

Post columnist Courtland Milloy wrote about Sara Davis Taylor, another yeomanette, in 1992. Taylor reportedly tried to join the Navy even before 1917. She and other Black women were turned away by military doctors, Milloy writes, because “they all allegedly had flat feet.” Only after President Wilson’s 1916 law were they assigned to Risher’s muster roll unit.

Relatively few of these stories have been passed on. Brown’s memoir is now out of print, and, according to Milloy’s column, Taylor and her husband did not have children. Richard E. Miller, a naval veteran and historian, laments in an article that many details may remain a mystery. “It is believed that all of the Black Navy women from the First World War have now passed away,” Miller writes. “Regrettably, the ‘golden’ place they deserved as pioneers in the annals of Afro-American, as well as naval and women’s history, was never accorded them during their lifetimes; except perhaps within their immediate family circles.”



Racism and sexism were overt and systematized—but the Golden Fourteen entered the Naval ranks.

**NO ONE IS QUITE SURE** how the Golden Fourteen convinced a segregated military to hire them, years before women could vote and half a century before the end of Jim Crow. Some historians theorize that all 14 worked in the same office, where white supervisors could monitor and protect them. Others suggest that most of the Golden Fourteen had light enough complexions to pass for white—though photographs suggest that this was not the case for all of them.

These questions have bothered Regina Akers, a historian with the Naval History and Heritage Command, for years. Akers, who is Black, has made a name for herself by centering Black women in military history. “To learn of these women was exciting, and also frustrating,” Akers says. “There are some sources out there that mention them, but it’s always done in such a tangential way.”

The historical backdrop makes the achievements of the Golden Fourteen all the more surprising. “Lynchings were a popular occurrence; they were carried out with little threat of reprisal,” Akers says. “If a black person approached a white person, they either moved aside, or

they understood that you didn’t look them in the face, and just called them ma’am or sir.”

The U.S. military remains a site of systemic racism. This summer, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force released a video describing the racism he’s experienced during his career. When the *Military Times* surveyed hundreds of its readers in 2018, more than half of respondents of color said that they had witnessed white nationalism or racism from their peers.

Such stories have led Bell, who is white, to reflect on her own career as a naval officer. “I would ask Black colleagues, some working under me, about their experience as Black sailors in the Navy,” she says. “I realize that whatever my intentions may have been, they did not trust me to tell me what was really going on. People say that once you’re in uniform, no one looks at the color of your skin—but that’s crap.”

For Akers, the Golden Fourteen are compelling not because they are unique, but because they shared the struggles of so many Black Americans who have fought for equality. “I think it’s important to remember that the efforts to bring about equal opportunity are part of the larger civil rights movement of that time period,” Akers says. “There has always been a civil rights movement in the U.S., because there have always been people advocating for change and fighting for their rights.”

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/hidden-history-black-women-navy>

## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK, 17 APR 2021

Keep your calendar clear for the tenth annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. This will be a totally different type of event than we have held before. Due to the state’s restrictions because of the Chinese flu, this will be a “virtual” event. We still plan on offering t-shirts, hope to have guest speakers like Dan Crowley join us on-line, and use this event to increase our presence in Chesapeake. Planning for this event is going fast and furious and we will provide information it comes out via email and Facebook.

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 three levels of sponsorship:

- **Legion of Merit Sponsor - \$1000 Donation:** Large name or company logo on our tee shirts and banner as well as special recognition in media and in the closing ceremony.

- **Distinguished Service Sponsor - \$500 Donation:**  
Name or company logo on our tee shirt and banners
- **Meritorious Service Sponsor - \$250 Donation:**  
Name or company logo on our tee shirt  
You can find more information on the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/Chesapeake-Bataan-Death-March/464188050284397](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chesapeake-Bataan-Death-March/464188050284397)

## POST CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!

(contd from page 1)

- At least 29 have passed on.

Interestingly, they formed groups of “clusters” depending where they lived in Chesapeake. For example, six of them lived on Hillwell Road when the Post was formed, another three on Currituck Drive, three on Rebel Road, and two each on Land of Promise Road, Pamlico Boulevard, Saddlehorn Drive, and Wynngate Drive. While a few lived in Western Branch, Indian River and Deep Creek, most of them were living quite near each other just off Mount Pleasant Road in the Poplar Ridge, Mount Pleasant Heights, and Albemarle Acres areas. Very likely, a couple of them recruited nearby neighbors to join them.

Here are some of their stories:

- The first commander of the new Post was **Leonard Mitchell Kilian**, a US Navy veteran of the Korean War. After his discharge from the military, he joined the Norfolk County Police Department. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1963 Norfolk County merged with the City of South Norfolk to form the City of Chesapeake and the NCPD became the Chesapeake Police Department (CPD). Leonard would serve a long and rewarding 27-year



career on the force. He was a very active member of the community, serving with Great Bridge Masonic Lodge #257, Khedive Shrine Temple, Norfolk Scottish Rite, and, of course, the VFW. He died on January 8, 2011, aged 78, and was buried in Chesapeake Memorial Gardens with full military honors.

- US Army Lieutenant Colonel **John Alfred Hamer** (1917-1998) was a true hero in every sense of the word. Upon graduating from Virginia Polytechnic Institute (now known as Virginia Tech) in 1940, he received a commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> LT and, after training, was sent to the Western Pacific to serve in the Philippines. After the Japanese invaded and conquered the islands in early 1942, he was subjected to the brutal Bataan Death March before spending the remainder of the war as a POW, first on the

island of Luzon and then later in Japan itself. When the war ended, he was liberated from the Main Camp at Osaka where he and his fellow POWs were put to work on the docks and at the stevedoring companies of the port of Osaka. Upon his repatriation, John was promoted to Captain. A civil engineer, John was eventually stationed for several years in Europe, helping with the reconstruction of Germany. He retired from the army after 30 years but his time of “service” was not over. He went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Urban Planning from Norfolk State University. A few of his countless design accomplishments include numerous bridges and air bases, and the subway system of Washington, DC. Upon his death on December 14, 1998, he was living near Chesapeake Crossing. He is buried in Riverside Memorial Park, Norfolk.



- The oldest living charter member is Mr. **Bernard Henry Florack** who was born on August 14, 1920 in Rochester, New York. He enlisted in the US Army Air Corps on October 3, 1942 and was sent to Europe. The Air Corps was later renamed the US Army Air Force. It was while stationed in London as a noncommissioned officer that



Florack fell in love with a London shop-girl-turned-munitions inspector named Ethel. They met at a skating rink where Bernard said he arrived one night determined to ask out the prettiest girl there, and she recalls being charmed by his good looks and manners. They have been married for almost 75 years and have four children and 10 grandchildren. After the war, he brought Ethel home to Rochester where he began a career as a career newspaper publisher and commercial printer. He was always an avid newspaper letter writer, he has scrapbooks filled with the nearly 4,000 letters he's had published over the years. He even wrote Hitler after the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1939 to complain and received a polite form-letter from Hitler's secretary in return. Bernard and Ethel (she's 90) now live in Spring, Texas (north of Houston) near some of their grandchildren where he is a life member of VFW Post 4816.

• Another Post 2894 Commander was LTC **Jack “Pappy” Hayes**, USA (ret) who held the position twice, in 1998-99 and 2003-04. Jack was born in Haverhill, Mass.,

in 1934 and attended college at the finest military institute in the US, Norwich University, in Northfield, VT. Upon his graduation in 1956, he received a commission in the US Army where he served with honor and completed two tours in Vietnam. He earned two purple hearts, the Bronze Star for heroism, a Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and many other awards. Jack dedicated his life to his country while serving all over the world taking his family with him. Duty stations included Massachusetts, Germany, Georgia, Thailand, Kansas, South Korea and finally Virginia where he retired after 21 years as a highly decorated officer. Jack went on to work as the banquet manager at “The Chamberlin Hotel” in Hampton for a time. He also worked for the Virginian Pilot as a distribution manager for many years. Jack enjoyed running and competing in marathons. He also loved to write and compose poetry and had a regular column in the Virginian Pilot titled “*We The People*”. He was a platelet donor with over 100 donations. He loved this country and his family. He and his wife, Gail, were married for 64 years and have 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. He died not long ago on December 1, 2019.



• **Don Novak** also served as Commander of Post 2894 – for four consecutive years between 2005 and 2009. He was born in 1931 in Wausau, Wisconsin, and retired from the US Air Force where

he was a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He later retired as a technical rep for Hamilton Standard, a division of United Technologies. He was a member of the Great Bridge Ruritan Club, and a volunteer at the Chesapeake Library. He was an avid reader, fisherman and loved animals and bowling. He and his wife of 58 years, Marjorie, had five children, 15 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. He went to be with the Lord on April



17, 2010 and is buried in Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, Norfolk.

• Pretty much everyone in Chesapeake has eaten breakfast, brunch, or lunch at the Sunrise Breakfast Shoppe on Battlefield Boulevard in Great Bridge, but how many know that the co-founder and owner is a Post 2894 charter member? **Joseph P. McGourn, Sr.**, a retired Navy Storekeeper Senior Chief Petty Officer (SKCS) and his wife, Vergi, created the popular eatery in 1997 – she can be found most days behind the cash register. Their son, Joey (Jr.), serves as a Deputy with the Chesapeake Sheriff’s Department and very likely got the call for service from his dad. Joe Sr is an ordained minister who donates much of his time to numerous causes such as missionaries to the Phillipines, the Montero free health care clinics, Filipino orphanages such as *My Children’s House of Hope* (“*Bahay-Bata*”), and the Chesapeake Jail Ministry. He is the CEO, founder and pastor of *Talking Hands*, an education center for the deaf. Stop by and patronize this veteran-owned treasure near the center of Great Bridge!



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Over the years, the Post met at a number of venues including the Sheriff’s Office, the American Legion, and Lighthouse Pointe Retirement Center. Since 2014, we have had a meeting “home” at Fraternal Police Lodge #9.

VFW Post 2894 is actually the *FOURTH* post in Chesapeake:

1. “**Tidewater**” **Post 2163** was formed by veterans of WWI and WWII in on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1944 and was located in South Norfolk. They met every Friday night at the Courthouse which used to sit at 713 Liberty Street. In 1965, the Post was merged with Post 4809 in Norfolk which then assumed the “*Tidewater*” Post name.

2. “**Great Bridge**” **Post 3829** was established in 1987 and merged with Post 4809 in April 1991.

3. The “**E.A. Martin, Jr. Memorial Post**” **8291** was established sometime shortly thereafter but folded and merged with 4809 in July 1995.

4. Eight months later, **Post 2894** came along.

In 2011 the Post was named the “**Staff Sergeant Jonathan Kilian Dozier Memorial Post 2894**” in honor of Post Comrade Jon Dozier who fell while serving his country in Sinsil, Diyala Province, Iraq on 9 January 2008 (he was posthumously promoted to Sergeant First Class in late 2011.) The Post flag was dedicated on 10 April 2013.

On 8 April 2015, the Ladies Auxiliary of Post 2894 was established with 18 charter members. Just a few months

later, the National VFW Auxiliary voted to accept males and "Ladies" was deleted from their name.

For five years in a row (2016-2020) the Post has been named an **All-American Post**, a **National Outstanding Community Service Post** (only 84 are awarded each year), and an **All-State Post**. In 2016, the Post newsletter won the **National Grand Award** for post publications (and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2019). In 2018, the Post was one of only 3 world-wide to receive an **Award for Excellence for an Outstanding Service Project** – ours was for the 2017 Bataan Death March. In 2020, the Post won the **Fred C. Hall National Award for the top Post Service Project** throughout all of the VFW.

In 2015, Craig Blackman of Indian River HS, won the **National VFW Teacher of the Year Award**, and, in 2016, Kimberly Harris of Grassfield HS was 3<sup>rd</sup> runner-up! We have also had **six National Public Servant** awards: Officer Selena Beaver of the Chesapeake Police Department in 2015; Firefighter/Paramedic David Brock of the Chesapeake Fire Department in 2017; Officer Bishop Heather CPD in 2018; Sr. Officer Norwood King, III, CPD in 2019; Firefighter/EMT Richard Gray, CFD in 2020; and Special Agent Shawn Ford, Virginia State Police in 2020.

The Post remembers our Nation's fallen through the traditional presentation of Buddy Poppies which the VFW began in 1919 after World War I. Since our establishment in 1996, the Post has donated over \$300,000 to a number of charities such as the VFW National Home for Widows and Orphans, the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots, the United Serviceman's Organization (USO), Fisher House, Wreaths Across America, Snowball Express, and many more.

Over the past several years, and with the help of Home Depot, the Post has been responsible for more than \$520,000 in repairs and reconstruction of the homes of disabled veterans, their widows, Gold Star mothers, and families – including the wife of Master Diver Carl Brashear. The Post was instrumental for working with Home Depot on a \$1,000,000 grant in the construction of Cypress Landing, affordable apartments for disabled and low-income veterans.

Post members also participate in the annual Virginia's "Run for the Fallen", and events sponsored by "Wounded Wear". The Post was instrumental in the declaration of Route 17 as a "Blue Star Highway". A number of post comrades are members of the Mayor's Commission for Veterans' Affairs and played a role in the naming of the "Veterans' Bridge", and the creation of a Veterans' Benefits Office at TCC Chesapeake.

Every year the post recognizes numerous Chesapeans, both adult and youth, for their activities in education, Scouting, and community service. Annually, we recognize winners of the "Patriot's Pen" (middle schoolers), "Voice of Democracy" (high schoolers), and "Scout of the Year" contests, and present awards to local JROTC and Civil Air

Patrol (CAP) units. We also recognize service to the community through presentations of "Teacher of the Year" award(s) and recognize outstanding members of the Chesapeake Police, Sheriff, and Fire departments as well as local Virginia State Troopers.

The Post's biggest event of the year is our annual **Bataan Death March Memorial Walk** which draws hundreds of participants from up-and-down the East Coast and honors the diminishing numbers of the heroes of WWII and the Korean War.

Starting in 2015, the Post sets up an annual POW-MIA display in the Main Library and conducts a remembrance ceremony at the Veterans' Memorial in front of City Hall on the third Friday in September to honor and remember the 72 servicemen from Chesapeake (including South Norfolk and Norfolk County) who died in POW camps or are still missing-in-action.

Many of the Post's comrades are also members and leaders of other fraternal organizations such as the American Legion, the Marine Corps League, and the Fleet Reserve Association. Additionally, the Post plays a major part on the Chesapeake Mayor's Commission on Veterans' Affairs which coordinates and leads ceremonies at the city's Veterans' Memorial Park and the annual Mayor's Veterans' Breakfast, as well as acting as an advocate for veterans' issues in the city of Chesapeake.

Our membership ranges from a 100 year old veteran of WWII to a 26 year old veteran of Afghanistan. Chesapeake is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest community of veterans in Virginia with over 36,000 in our city – meaning the Post still has lots of room to grow!!!!

VFW SSG Dozier Memorial Post 2894 is a 501(c)(19) non-profit, charitable veterans' organization with the mission to "**Honor the Fallen by Helping the Living**" through the fostering of camaraderie among US veterans of overseas conflicts; serving of our veterans, the military, and our communities; and advocating on behalf of all veterans. The main goals of Post 2894 are to give aid to needy comrades; a helping hand to veterans' widows and orphans; and to defend the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our IRS Identification Number is 54-0449022.

**IN MEMORIAM –  
COMRADE RICHARD E. BOYCE  
1947-2020**

Richard Eugene Boyce, Jr., 73, passed away on December 30, 2020. He was born in Elizabeth City, NC the son of the late Richard Eugene Boyce, Sr. and Shirley Catherine Jordan Boyce. He was predeceased by his brother, Jerry Boyce. Richard was a United States Marine Corps veteran having served 2 tours in Vietnam. He later went on to join and eventually retire from the Virginia State Police Department as a Special Agent. After retiring he became a



lieutenant with the Currituck Sheriff's Department and owned and operated Eagle Consulting. In retirement, Richard was dedicated to serving his community. He was appointed to the Chesapeake Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs. He served as Junior Vice Commandant for Marine Corps League Detachment #853. In 2019, he was named Deep Creek Ruritan Member of the Year. He served on the Board of Directors for Meals on Wheels of Chesapeake and was co-founder of SilverTree Seniors non-profit organization. He holds life memberships in the VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, Fleet Reserve Association, and American Legion. Richard is survived by his son, Richard E. Boyce, III of Portsmouth; daughter, Jodie Rose of Suffolk; grandchildren, Richard E. Boyce, IV, Sarah Eubanks, Emily Bass; sister, Linda Boyce Ball (Jimmy Riddick); brothers, Gene Boyce (Lynnette), and Terry Boyce (Deann) all of Elizabeth City, NC; numerous nieces and nephews. The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Richard's friends and caregivers who worked around the clock to ensure he received the quality and compassionate care he deserved. A private service with military honors will be held at Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery. Friends may join the family for a time of visitation with limited gathering on Sunday, January 10, 2021 from 6-8 p.m. at Parr Funeral Home & Crematory, 3515 Robs Dr., Suffolk, VA 23434. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Chesapeake Detachment, Marine Corps League, 116 Reservation Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23322 or Meals on Wheels of Chesapeake, P.O. Box 15343, Chesapeake, VA 23328. Condolences may be registered online at [www.parrfuneralhome.com](http://www.parrfuneralhome.com).



this year. We had great support along the way with lots of waves, shouts of encouragement, and car horns. It was our "peaceful protest"! Even Mayor West thanked us for keeping the tradition alive



Santa and his "elves"



Post President Sandy Dunbar (in green) and her sister Cheryl Campbell

Published in The Virginian-Pilot on Jan. 6, 2021  
[https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/richard-boyce-  
obituary?pid=197432257](https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/richard-boyce-obituary?pid=197432257)

**POST KEEP CHESAPEAKE CHRISTMAS  
PARADE STREAK ALIVE!**

The annual Chesapeake Christmas Parade is held on the first weekend of December in Great Bridge and run by the Rotary Club. This year's edition – the 37<sup>th</sup> – was cancelled in September due to the Wuhan virus. The Post decided that this community tradition would have to stay "alive" so we held our own parade, along the very same route as the Rotarian's. We even had Santa with us! Although a much smaller parade than normal, we said "it was the thought that counts" and managed to keep the tradition going for



"Chief" Waters 'squared'; Becky and Brad



Naughty SANTA!!!

## OTHER POST NEWS

### • Nelson Lebron Promoted to 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt:

Comrade Nelson Lebron is a well-renowned martial arts fighter and instructor. Even while serving as a Chaplain's assistant on active duty in the Navy, Nelson was competing – and winning – in ultimate fighting. Since his retirement, he has tirelessly taught countless numbers of children, women and men the art of self-defense while still working on his own skills and knowledge. In December, his efforts were recognized with his promotion to 5<sup>th</sup> degree blackbelt. He was presented the award by Craig Smith, a 6<sup>th</sup> degree. Here is what Nelson wrote: "In 1996 I saw Craig Smith put Charles Baines through a ceiling tile on T.V. after Charles scored a vicious knockout via side kick. I started my Martial arts journey in the South Bronx in 1980 ... Craig was my 1st trainer in Virginia [1996]... I'm humbled and honored to receive this rank. Many adventures have I had in the ring. I have a record of 188 wins, 36 losses, 6 draws. I have fought in Thailand, Russia, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, Okinawa, Osaka, Japan, Korea, New York, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, Chicago, North Carolina, South Carolina, Delaware, New Jersey, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Martial arts is not something I do, it is how I live, it's my passion, and my life line. Today was my official promotion to 5th under Craig Smith and it is monumental as out of 9 styles I have a Blackbelt in, I possess the rank of 5th in 3 of those styles. Of those three



Craig Smith is the only one of those Legends still alive. Jim Monaco who was Craig's partner and assistant coach was in my corner for over a 100 fights and he is now gone too. These certificates while being only a piece of paper to some, contain a legacy, memories, knowledge, and are a testament to a life of commitment. They are also proof I didn't quit and that I still have a lot of fight in me still left. I am humbled and honored to have been promoted today and to receive the honor of Community Leader for the year 2020 from the Kidd Warriors Foundation. Humbled, honored, and truly happy. Thank you God, thank you my students, and Thank you to all who have trained, fought, mentored me, and learned from me over the last 40 years."



Along with his 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Blackbelt, Nelson Lebron received another recognition. The Kidd Warriors Foundation is an anti-child-abduction organization with the goal to spread awareness for child abduction and sex trafficking within the US and to recruit youths and teach them basic self-defense skills. Nelson was recently recognized as Kidd Warriors Foundation Community Leader for 2020. In addition, he was a guest speaker on a local television show where he spoke out against human trafficking, child trafficking, and child abduction. Congratulations!

### • Anne Thompson Elected President of Women's Division, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Chesapeake.

At their annual meeting, the Women's Division HR Chamber of Commerce Chesapeake inducted their new Board of Directors including the new President, Anne Thompson who is a member of Post 2894's Auxiliary. Anne gifted each member the 2021 Board with a Wonder Woman mask!

Anne is sitting in the center of both photos below, wearing a pink and white striped jacket. Congratulations!



### • Post Member Runner-Up for "Still Serving Award": Comrade Rich Johnson, was nominated for the Veteran's "Still Serving Award" for 2020 by The Flagship newspaper and finished as the runner up!

He received a very nice trophy for his accomplishment. Congratulations!!!

• **Post Surgeon Elected Jr Vice Cdr of Marine Corps League Detachment 853.**



LtCol Dave Weber, USMC (ret) – also a Registered Nurse (RN) – was recently elected the Junior Vice Commander of Marine Corps League (MCL) Detachment 853 here in Chesapeake. Congratulations!

• **Post Donates to Charities.**

For the Christmas season, the Post donated \$250 each to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots, the Gary Sinise Foundation's Snowball Express, and the United Service Organizations (USO) of Hampton Roads/Central Virginia.

The basic mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Program is to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas. The objectives of the Foundation are to help less fortunate children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas; to play an active role in the development of one of our nation's most valuable resources – our children; to unite all members of local communities in a common cause for three months each year during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign; and to contribute to improving communities in the future.



Gary Sinise Foundation Snowball Express serves the children of fallen military heroes. Each December Snowball Express hosts a five-day experience for children of the fallen and their surviving parent or guardian. It usually happens at Disney World but switched over to a virtual event this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the first day of the "virtual" Express, the Gold Star families woke up with pancake artist, Dancakes, showing off his artistic skills creating unique pancakes. Family pets also received some screen time during our virtual Pet Parade. With various activities and resource rooms, families enjoyed another day of fun and remembrance. The evening ended with a stellar performance by Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band.

Founded during WWII, the USO sought to be the GI's "home away from home" and began a tradition of entertaining the troops that continues today. Although congressionally-chartered, it is



not a government agency. The USO has over 200 locations around the world in 14 countries (including the U.S.) and 27 states. During a gala marking the USO's 75th anniversary in 2016, retired Army Gen. George Casey, Jr., the current chairman of the USO Board of Governors, estimated that the USO has served more than 35 million Americans over its history.

• **Post Helped Elderly Disable Veteran with Yardwork.**

Post members assisted an elderly disabled veteran with his yardwork. They spread and graded 4-1/2 cubic yards of top soil, trimmed 11 hedges, trimmed back a 15 foot Crepe Myrtle, and cut branches from a tree in the back yard. They also picked up and disposed of all cuttings and placed them



Front: Jim Ireland and Brad Waters; Back: Aden Gregory, Bob Gregory, and Lance Duckworth. Not in photo: Mark Rios and Ron Mayfield

on the garden for mulch, and blew off the drive way. The veteran was very pleased and expressed his sincerest gratitude for our work. It was a good morning for all!

• **Carl and Jean Dozier are "Santa's Helpers"!**

Comrade Carl Dozier and his wife Jean, Auxiliary Guard, were invited by a local business, Tap-It Local, to pose for photos with patrons as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. This opportunity came as a result of the Post's Christmas Parade two weeks earlier when we finished the parade in front of the pub. The Doziers have been helping as "Santa's stand-ins" at various localities and events the past three years.



• **Post Teachers of the Year Win at District!**

Our two Teachers of the Year (TOTYs) for 2020-21 are Ms. Ashley Bullock, a history teacher at Deep Creek High School, and Mrs. Laura Lerf, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade guidance counselor at Hugo Owens Middle School. Incredibly enough, both were selected as VFW District 2's TOTY in their respective categories. And Ashley was selected as

District 2's overall TOTY with Laura just one point (out of 100) behind her. They were both recommended to Department.

Ashley Bullock graduated from Grassfield High School before attending Liberty University to receive her undergraduate and Master's degrees in education. She is currently working on a PhD from UVa. Carolyn Bernard, the retired principal of GFHS wrote, "From a high school student to a consummate professional, Ashley has set an



example for others. When one thinks of a teacher worthy of honor and distinction, one envisions a teacher who inspires and motivates students, sets high expectations, models exemplary leadership, adds to the growth and development of students, teaches life lessons, and contributes to the success of the total school program. Ashley Bullock embodies all of these qualities. She is worthy of special recognition."

Moving every year or two – changing schools, communities, even countries – the life of the children of military members can be extremely stressful. On top of that, one or both parents might be deployed for six or more months away at a time. The parent(s) may have signed up for the military life, but their children didn't. Three years ago, Laura Lerf recognized the difficulties of these constant moves and long separations on the children of military families so she personally created a support group, the Military Child Club, where the kids could share experiences and coping mechanisms, and help each other through difficult times. She then expanded this communal support to the entire school population, including the faculty, by celebrating Military Child Month each year, highlighted by a Military Child Day where the military kids and their parents are recognized and thanked for their sacrifice and service to our country. Laura's extraordinary achievement was recognized last year when HOMS was designated a "Purple Star" school for their commitment to meeting the needs of military-connected students and their families. This was only possible because of her personal passion and enthusiasm.

We will honor their achievement at our annual awards ceremony in May. Congratulations to both Ashley and Laura!

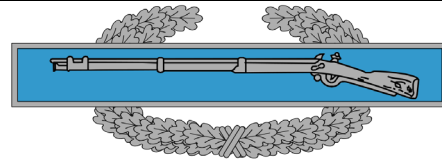
• **Congratulations to Sean Schweers!** Sean, the 22-year-old youngest son of Matt and Grace, kept up his

family's commitment to the military when he enlisted in the US Air Force on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Grace stated, "I am an Army wife, Navy mom, Army mom and I've just added another title to my name. I'm a proud Air Force mom!" His dad is retired Army, and he has a sister in the Navy and a brother-in-law in the Army (who also did a tour as a US Marine) – so they're truly a "Joint" family now! Sean is at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX for Basic Military Training (BMT). Congratulations! 'Off you go, into the wild blue yonder!'



*(l to r) Matt, Grace and Sean after his swearing in*

## **Dan Crowley Finally Awarded A CIB!**



Our regular Guest of Honor at the Bataan Death March Memorial Walk, Bataan veteran Dan Crowley, recently received a Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB), 80 years after the fact! He was also promoted. Now we can call him "Sarge"! He's served as an informal ambassador to the Norfolk-based USS Bataan, visiting several times and inspiring the crew with his experiences. Here's his story:

## **STARS AND STRIPES**

**Army combat badge a long-awaited honor for 98-year-old Bataan veteran and 'hell ship' survivor**

*By Wyatt Olson | STARS AND STRIPES - Published: January 4, 2021*

Almost eight decades after mounting the doomed defense of the Philippines against the Japanese invasion that began December 1941, Daniel Crowley, 98, was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge during a ceremony Monday in Connecticut.

Crowley, who subsequently suffered years of brutal slave labor as a prisoner of war in the Philippines and Japan before his release at war's end in August 1945, also received the Prisoner of War Medal and a long-belated formal promotion to the rank of sergeant.

"The event that is happening here today is nearly 76 years late in coming," Gregory J. Slavonic, acting under-

secretary of the Navy, said during the ceremony at Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby, Conn., not far from where Crowley lives.



Daniel Crowley poses in his uniform in undated photo taken before he shipped out for the Philippines in 1940. U.S. ARMY

“It takes a very special person to continue to persevere through the most daunting of circumstances,” Slavonic said. “It takes a certain depth of character to put yourself in harm’s way for your fellow warriors and for your country.”

The CIB is awarded by the Army to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below who fought in active ground combat.

Crowley had long been irked by the U.S. Army’s refusal to award the badge to provisional soldiers who fought on the Bataan Peninsula — a force that was vastly outnumbered and ill-equipped to repel the massive Japanese invasion.



Dan Crowley talks with sailors aboard the USS Bataan on April 26, 2019, at the amphibious assault ship’s homeport of Naval Station Norfolk, Va. TRAVIS DECKER/U.S. NAVY – Comrade Tony Gravina joined him (on the left)

Crowley was a member of the Provisional Army Air Corps Infantry Regiment while defending Bataan.

Maj. Gen. Edward King Jr. surrendered those troops on April 9, 1942, but Crowley and other soldiers and sailors refused to yield, swimming instead the treacherous three

miles to Corregidor Island, where American and Philippine fighters of the 4th Marines Regimental Reserve fought until surrendering on May 6, 1942.

“It bothered me that I never got the badge that I should have had because it signified you were shooting back at the bastard who was trying to kill you,” Crowley told Stars and Stripes during a phone interview after the ceremony.

“You had a choice: You could shoot back at him — or her — or you could turn and hope you’d outrun the bullet,” Crowley said with a laugh.

“I thought [the medal] was a thing I deserved and should have gotten,” he said. “Lots of people who were in positions of operating desks and had never heard a gun go off — but had the right political contacts — had the badge awarded to them many years ago.”

Slavonic said during the ceremony that he had met with Crowley a while back and heard the veteran’s story of defending the Philippines, then being forced into labor on the southern Philippine island of Palawan building an airfield. As Allied forces moved closer to reclaiming the Philippines, Crowley and hundreds of other POWs were crammed aboard the infamous “hell ships” and transported to Japan.

There Crowley was forced to work in two separate copper mines, the last one 2,000 feet below the surface.

After hearing Crowley’s story — and his earnest request to finally receive the combat badge — Slavonic worked with the Secretary of the Army to research Crowley’s service history and confirm awards and promotions due him.

The research found that Crowley had been promoted to sergeant in October 1945, but he was never notified. He was honorably discharged in April 1946.

“I had no knowledge of it whatsoever,” Crowley said Monday.

Asked whether he thought it was strange to be informed of it 75 years after the fact, Crowley quipped, “Nothing is too strange in the Army.”

## AUXILIARY UPDATE

On January 13, a few of us gathered at Secretary Barbara’s home for a quick informal meeting and social. We had dinner and played a fun game.

Barbara relayed information from the School of Instruction (SOI) she attended via Zoom on Saturday January 9th.

We must all change our passwords on MALTA which is easy! The hard part is remembering your membership number.

National has made the website more user friendly, [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)

Also, we were reminded about the newest Community Outreach and how to report and be recognized. Wearing



our pin will also help be recognized and also may start a conversation about the Auxiliary and maybe a new member!

"When an Auxiliary member, group of members or an entire Auxiliary volunteers for an organization outside our own, it should be considered Auxiliary Community Outreach if the project was approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project."

Examples are Walks that benefit other organizations, working with police & firefighters, blood drives, etc.

Just remember to REPORT All that YOU DO! Forms are on the website under Program & Publicity Resources.

### SCOUT OF THE YEAR Due March 1<sup>st</sup>

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



To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

- Be registered, active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship.
- Be recipient of Eagle Scout Award, Gold Award, Venture Silver Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting and community.
- Have reached 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

Applicants still in high school who reach their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified. A Scout may enter through only one VFW Post.

**The deadline for this coming year is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

**Entry forms were in the last newsletter and are available on VFW website at:**  
[www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scout-of-the-year](http://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scout-of-the-year)

### PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST NOMINATIONS - Due March 31<sup>st</sup>

The VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Awards are presented by the VFW Auxiliary and judged on their originality of concept, presentation, and patriotism expressed; the content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas; the design technique; total impact of work; and

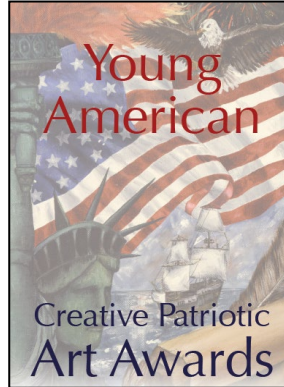
uniqueness. Students must in high school, no older than 18, and a US citizen or national.

**Entry forms were in the last newsletter and can be downloaded at:**

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/>

### ILLUSTRATING AMERICA NOMINATIONS DUE 31 MARCH

Illustrating America is another VFW Auxiliary art contest but for students in grades 1-8 who are enrolled in public, private, parochial or home study programs.



The contest consists of three grade divisions: 1-2, 3-5 and 6-8, with national awards for first, second and third place in each grade division. They must be US citizens or Nationals but don't have to be related to anyone in the VFW or Auxiliary. Art must be two-dimensional, on canvas or paper, sized between 8"x10" and

18"x24". Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are not accepted. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. If the American flag is used, it does not need to conform to Federal code regarding colors or number of stars and stripes.

**Entry forms were in the last newsletter and can be downloaded at:**

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/illustrating-america/>

### CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE

#### *The Season of Lent*

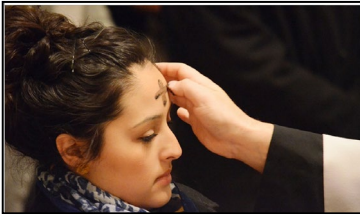
**What is Lent?** Lent is the forty-day liturgical season of fasting, special prayer and almsgiving in preparation for Easter. The name "Lent" is from the Middle English "Lencten," meaning spring; its more primitive ecclesiastical name was the "forty days," "quadragesima" in Latin or "tessaracoste" in Greek. The number "forty" is first noted in the Canons of Nicaea (A.D. 325), likely in imitation of Jesus' fast in the desert before His public ministry (with Old Testament precedent in Moses and Elijah). By the fourth century, in most of the West, it referred to six days' fast per week of six weeks (Sundays were excluded).



**What is Mardi Gras?** Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday") is the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. In times of greater Lenten austerity in Catholic countries, Mardi Gras offered an opportunity for

households to consume some foods they would not enjoy until Easter. In England, the day has been celebrated with pancakes (which use eggs, milk and sugar — items our ancestors would have foregone during Lent), while in some areas of Germany the Lenten discipline applied to strong drink as well, so the day before Ash Wednesday became a time for special revelry. Some have drawn a connection between Mardi Gras and ancient pagan festivals to welcome spring. This may certainly be true, but Catholic liturgists identify another link — namely, a time to extend celebrations of the Christmas season until the beginning of Lent. Whatever the case, certain cities around the world (Venice, Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans) have become identified with elaborate civic festivities leading up to Mardi Gras. These are usually known as “Carnival” (“Farewell to Meat”), a name that conveys the celebration’s religious, pre-Lenten character, although the events themselves (as in Venice) may commemorate military victories. In most places, however, Mardi Gras simply justifies an elaborate — often excessive — party.

**What is Ash Wednesday?** It is a public acknowledgment of Christianity, of sinners seeking repentance, and of acceptance that “we are dust and to dust we shall return.”



Ashes were imposed on the early converts to Christianity (catechumens) when they began their preparation time for baptism.

Confessed sinners of that era were also marked with ashes as part of the public penitential process. Other baptized Christians began asking to receive ashes in a manner similar to catechumens and penitents. Christian men had ashes sprinkled on their heads while ashes were used to trace the cross on the forehead of women. Thus the use of ashes as the sign of penance, in readiness for Easter, was becoming a Church wide practice. During the papacy of St. Gregory the Great (590-604 AD), the practice was further expanded and is mentioned in the sixth-century Gregorian Sacramentary. Around the year 1000, Abbot Aelfric of the monastery of Eynsham, England, wrote: “We read in the books both in the Old Law and in the new that men who repented of their sins bestowed on themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent, that we strew ashes upon our heads, to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten feast” (“Aelfric’s Lives of Saints,” 1881, p. 263). This same rite of distributing ashes on the Wednesday that begins Lent was recommended for universal use by Pope Urban II at the Synod of Benevento in 1091.

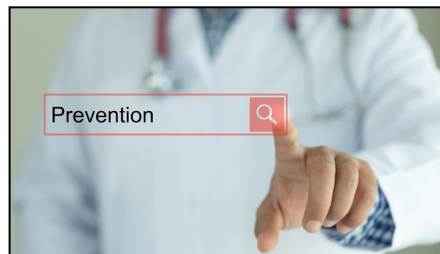
### 10 Tips for Making the Lenten Season More Meaningful

- Slow Down** – Set aside 10 minutes a day for silent prayer or meditation. It will revitalize your body and your spirit.
- Read a good book** – You could choose the life of a spiritual hero, a spiritual how-to, or an inspirational book.
- Be kind** – Go out of your way to do something nice for someone else every day.
- Get involved** – Attend a Lenten lecture or spiritual program.
- Volunteer** – Whether it’s a homeless shelter, cleaning the community or helping with a food drive, it will give you a chance to help others.
- Reach out** – Invite a friend to join you in church anytime during Lent.
- Pray** – Especially for people you don’t like and for people who don’t like you.
- Tune out** – Turn off the television and spend quality time talking with family members or friends.
- Clean out closets** – Donate gently used items to an organization for distribution to the needy.
- Donate** – Pick a charity and decide how you can help by sending money, clothing or supplies.

**+ SAFETY CORNER +**  
**FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL PREVENT**  
**CANCER MONTH**

There are approximately 1.7 million new cases of cancer diagnosed per year in the United States. Many, if not most, of these cases may have been preventable. To kick off National Cancer Prevention Month, the National Foundation for Cancer Research encourages everyone to pick up cancer-preventative habits. It is never too late to start living a healthier life.

• **Say no to your vices (or at least don’t say yes as often).** Researchers have proven over and over again that any tobacco use is detrimental to health. It puts users at risk of not only lung cancer, but too cancers of the larynx, mouth, esophagus, throat, bladder, kidney, liver, stomach, pancreas, colon and cervix, as well as acute myeloid leukemia. Environmental tobacco smoke (known as secondhand smoke) may also expose others to the risk of developing cancer.



For people who may have used tobacco for years or who already have been diagnosed with one of the aforementioned cancers, quitting will still offer considerable

benefits, including longer life. While a glass of wine may be good for the heart, alcohol consumption increases one’s risk of cancer. Alcohol use is linked to cancers of the mouth and throat, larynx, esophagus, colon, liver and breast. When drinking alcohol, the body breaks down a chemical called acetaldehyde. This chemical has been shown to damage DNA and prohibit the body from making repairs. Without being able to repair damaged DNA, cells may grow out of control and create a cancerous tumor.

• **Beware of carcinogens.** Carcinogen is the name given to any substance that may cause cancer. Things like diesel exhaust, asphalt fumes, gasoline and even wood dust are considered carcinogens. Each carcinogen varies greatly in its ability to cause cancer. Sunlight, for example, is a great source of Vitamin D; however, prolonged exposure without protection can be extremely harmful. Radon is a carcinogen that may be found within residential homes. It is a radioactive gas released from the normal decay of certain elements. While it is present in most air, high volumes have been linked to lung cancer. Since it is an odorless and tasteless gas, it cannot naturally be detected when present. The best way to keep homes safe from radon exposure is to use a radon detector.

• **Maintain a healthy weight with diet and exercise.** Combining a healthy diet with regular exercise reduces the likelihood of obesity—a major risk factor for several kinds of cancer. This includes cancers of the breast, kidney, head and neck, esophagus, pancreas, prostate, gallbladder and thyroid. Maintaining a balanced diet and incorporating exercise is a way to reduce one's risk cancer.

• **Get vaccinated.** While there are not many cancers that currently have a vaccine available, there are two that have great success rates. One of the vaccines is for the human papillomavirus (HPV). Having HPV is the greatest risk for developing cervical cancer, as well a major risk in developing anal, vaginal and vulvar cancers. The other vaccine which can help prevent cancer is the hepatitis B vaccination. A long-lasting infection of Hepatitis B can cause liver cancer. Both vaccines have been proven safe and highly effective.

• **Screen on schedule.** Though those for HPV and Hepatitis B are the only vaccinations available, routine screening can offer a similar safety measure. The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force recommends routine screenings for breast, colorectal and cervical cancers. It is also suggested that people with a history of heavy smoking receive lung cancer screenings. Routine screenings allow for an early diagnosis and greatly reduce the number of deaths. If you're unsure about when to receive screenings, speak to your doctor for more information.

If cancer is believed to run in your family, your doctor may recommend genetic testing. Genetic testing may help predict the risk of a particular disease, find genes that may pass diseases to your children and even provide information to help guide your health. Genetic tests are currently available for breast, ovarian, colon, thyroid, prostate, pancreatic, melanoma, sarcoma, kidney and stomach cancers.

**+** SAFETY CORNER **+**  
**MARCH 21-27 IS NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK**



National Poison Prevention Week is designated as the third week in March every year to highlight the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them. Accidental poisonings

are a leading public health problem.

- More than 2 million poisonings are reported each year to the 56 poison control centers across the country.
- More than 90 percent of these poisonings occur in the home.
- The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than 6 years old.
- Although children younger than 6 years accounted for about half of all the poison exposure calls to poison center in 2010,

adults accounted for 92 percent of all poison-related deaths reported to poison centers.

• Poisoning is now the leading cause of death from injuries in the United States as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.

• **For more tips and information, call your local poison center at 1-800-222-1222.**

When spring is approaching, there are numerous things to keep in mind to help prevent accidental poisonings. Simple tips can keep your family safe as you begin spring cleaning and working in your yard.

**Household Cleaners and Other Chemicals**

• Lock up pesticides and household chemicals out of the reach of children – preferably in a high cabinet.

• Keep poisons in the containers they came in with the original label intact. Do not use food containers to store household cleaners and other strong chemicals.

• Never mix chemicals. Doing so can create a poisonous gas.

• Turn on fans and open windows when using strong chemicals.

Wear masks or respirators when recommended.

• Do not expose your skin to strong chemicals. Drain openers, toilet cleaners, rust removers, and oven cleaners can cause burns.

• Never sniff containers to see what's inside.

• Discard old or outdated products. First aid advice on those containers may be incorrect or outdated.

• Do some spring cleaning. Since National Poison Prevention Week and Spring fall in the same week, this is the perfect time to deep clean the rooms in your home, get rid of old and outdated products, and open windows when using strong chemicals to allow air into the house.



**Pesticides**

• **READ THE LABEL FIRST!**

• Pesticide labels provide instructions about proper handling, use, and application rates of the product, and precautions to protect people and the environment.

• Pesticides can be absorbed through the skin or by inhalation.

• Pesticides can be extremely poisonous. Stay away from areas that have been sprayed until the spray has dried for at least one hour.

• Wear protective clothing when using spray products. Put on a long-sleeve shirt, long pants, socks, shoes, and gloves. Leather shoes and gloves do not offer full protection so be sure to remove and wash clothing after using chemicals.

• If pesticides are splashed onto the skin, rinse with running water for 15-20 minutes.

**Medicine Cabinet**

• Keep medicines out of sight from children.

• Periodically clean out your medicine cabinet.

• The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends two primary options for disposing of unused or expired medicines: prescription take-back programs or household trash:

• Many local law enforcement agencies also have their own drug take-back programs, and some pharmacies have disposal kiosks. Contact your city or county government, pharmacist or the DEA to find a program or authorized disposal location near you.



• Nearly all medicines can be thrown into your household trash can. This includes prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) varieties of pills, liquids, inhalers, drops, patches and creams. The FDA recommends following these steps for safe disposal:

1. Remove the medicines from their original containers and mix them with something foul-tasting such as used coffee grounds, dirt or cat litter (do not crush pills or tablets). This step makes the drug less desirable to children and pets and less recognizable to someone who might intentionally look through trash for drugs.
2. Put the mixture into a sealable container such as a zipper storage bag or used coffee can.
3. Throw the container into your household trash can.
4. Before throwing away empty prescription containers and packaging, mark out all personal information to protect your privacy and identity. Then throw the packaging in the garbage.

• There are also special drug deactivation bags that render medicines useless and are considered safe for the environment. You can request them from your local pharmacy, mail-order pharmacy or online retailer. Some local drug coalitions provide them for free while supplies last.

#### **What Should You Do if You Suspect Someone Has Been Poisoned?**

- DO stay calm.
- DO call 9-1-1 and your local poison center at 1-800-222-1222.
- DO be prepared to give the facts (age, weight, etc.).
- DO have the label ready when you call.
- DO listen carefully and follow instructions exactly.

It is important to remember that almost anything has the potential to be poisonous if used in the wrong way, in the wrong amount, or by the wrong person. Poison centers are your first resource for advice and help in the event of an actual or suspected poisoning.

Help is a phone call away, and knowing what to do when a poisoning exposure occurs can be the difference between a close call and a fatality. The toll-free Poison Help line will connect callers to their local poison center. The phone number **1-800-222-1222**. Post it somewhere in your home where others will see it and program it in your home and mobile phones. The toll-free Poison Help number works anywhere in the United States, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year.

When accidents happen with pesticides, chemicals, medicine or household products, call Poison Help and get help right away from a local poison expert.

National Poison Prevention Week is a great way to raise awareness about ways to prevent unintentional poisonings. It is the perfect opportunity to inspect your home for medicines or household products such as detergents, cleaning products, pesticides and fertilizers that may not be stored properly. Take steps to correct the situation immediately by contacting your local hazardous household waste and drug drop-off programs.

#### **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:** Matt Schweers, Ann Jones, Grace Schweers, Becky Waters, Brad Waters, Anne Thompson, John Guill, and Bob Gregory.

- **Budget Committee:** José Vazquez, Mark Rios, Mike Kust, and Carl Dozier.
- **Awards Committee:** Brad Waters, Mark Rios, Tony Gravina, and Joe Hammers.
- **Membership Committee:** José Vazquez, John Guill, Mark Rios, and Gary Dunbar
- **Building Committee:** Carl Dozier, José Vazquez, Becky Waters and Chris Cameron.
- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Kimball Thompson
- **Health Committee:** Surgeon David Weber
- **Scholarship Committee:** Carl Dozier, Joe Hammers, Elizabeth Van Velzen, and Kimball Thompson.

#### **FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES IN NEED, THE NATIONAL HOME HELPLINE IS JUST A TOLL-FREE CALL AWAY**

The National Home Helpline is the gateway to help for military and veterans' families, providing connections with supportive services and resources in communities all across the nation as well as referrals to our on-campus programs.

And our war heroes can take comfort in knowing that their call will be answered by a caring professional who understands the unique challenges faced by today's military and veterans' families.

The toll-free Helpline is answered Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

**1-800-313-4200**, [help@vfnationalhome.org](mailto:help@vfnationalhome.org)

#### **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP – AND CONSIDER A LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Every year, we have members who forget to renew their annual memberships. They then become ineligible to hold office in the Post and have to scramble to renew their status.

If you are approaching the end of your annual membership, please renew ASAP! And consider upgrading to a Life Membership. As a Life Member you will:

- Avoid annual dues and renewals.
- Maintain your membership in any Post you choose, worldwide!
- Never pay an increase in dues — Guaranteed!
- Receive a 10% discount on exclusive VFW Store merchandise for the first year.

You can become a VFW Life Member by making a one-time payment as describe in the Quartermaster's Desk below. You can also pay for your Life Membership through an installment plan, with an initial \$45 payment, with the Life Membership amount billed over an 11-month period as shown in the table below.

#### **QUARTERMASTER DESK**

**Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$30 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 front of 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.

Age	One-Time Payment	Installment Payment
18-30	\$ 425	\$ 38.64
31-40	\$ 410	\$ 37.27
41-50	\$ 375	\$ 34.09
51-60	\$ 335	\$ 30.45
61-70	\$ 290	\$ 26.36
71-80	\$ 225	\$ 20.45
81 & over	\$ 170	\$ 15.45

<http://www.vfw.org/Join/Dues-Structure>

Life Memberships can be paid online at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), via mail, or in-person at the meetings.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 fire bomb 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 1<sup>st</sup> class battleship  
1991 Desert Storm ground war ends after 100 hours
- 29** 1692 Salem witch trials begin  
1704 Deerfield Massacre: French & Indian raid on Mass. town leaves about 100 dead  
1864 President Lincoln signs U.S. Grant's commission as first substantive lieutenant general in army since Washington
- 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)

## **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  
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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## 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: 505 Piping Rock Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322, 757-482-4981 or [cdrpost2894@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrpost2894@vfwva.org)

**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 primary means for disseminating the newsletter is via e-mail. If you prefer a 'hard-copy' via 'snail-mail' (a 'paper copy' via 'US Postal Service' for you old(er) farts!) please let know.

Semper fidelis, *Chris Mulholland*

## YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!!!



**You are invited to**

***Join us***

**In a Celebration of the**

***25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

**Of the Founding of**

***VFW POST 2894***

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**At 1900 (7 pm)**

**FOP Lodge #9**

**110 Kempsville Road**

**Chesapeake**

## POST 2894 CALENDAR

<b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b>	
1	National Freedom Day
2	Groundhog Day
6	VFW Auxiliary National President visits Post Auxiliary (1430)
9	City Council presentation to Post Commander (1830)
10	Post Mtg (1900)/Slate of Officers
12	Lincoln's Birthday
13	District 2 Mtg, Post 8545 (1200 lunch/1300 meeting)
14	♥ Valentine's Day ♥
15	Presidents' Day
22	Washington's Birthday
17	Ash Wednesday

<b><u>MARCH</u></b>	
1	Scout of the Year Nominations due
10	Post Meeting (1900)/Nomination of Officers/25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
14	Daylight savings begins ("spring ahead")
17	♣ St. Patrick's Day ♣
20	First Day of Spring
25- 28	VFW National CinC, Hal Roesch, Homecoming, Portsmouth
26	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Post founding (1996)
28	Palm Sunday
30	National Vietnam Veterans Day ('73)
31	Patriotic Art Nominations due

### **17 APRIL – BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK!!!**



VFW SSG Dozier Post 2894  
PO Box 15842  
Chesapeake, VA 23328

Place  
Stamp  
Here



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED