

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

2nd 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: cdrpost2894@vfwva.org

Visit us on FaceBook

2021-22 POST OFFICERS

Commander.....	José Vazquez
Sr. Vice Commander.....	Bob Gregory
Jr. Vice Commander.....	Mark Rios
Adjutant.....	Chris Mulholland
Quartermaster.....	Craig Devonshire
Chaplain.....	Kimball Thompson
Surgeon.....	Ron Liston
Staff Judge Advocate.....	Matt Hamel
Service Officer.....	Jim Ireland

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President.....	Sandy Dunbar
Sr. Vice President.....	Anne Thompson
Jr. Vice President.....	Grace Schweers
Secretary.....	Jean Dozier
Treasurer.....	Donna Kust
Chaplain.....	Diane Hostettler
Conductress.....	Christina Zinn
Guard.....	Rosie Gregory
Patriotic Instructor.....	Sharon Peterson

NATIONAL

www.vfw.org

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2



POST WINS ALL-STATE & NATIONAL OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST... AGAIN!!!



Through everyone's efforts the Post has once again been named an All-State Post *and* a National Outstanding Community Service Post! The All-State

award is our sixth in a row! The National title is awarded annually to only one post in each state and this is our fifth in six years!!

Thanks to all of you who do the little things every day in our community! Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU!!!! And congratulations to everyone! But especially Gary and Sandy Dunbar, and Jim Ireland who are really the ones responsible for these honors to our Post!



10th Annual ("virtual") Bataan Death March Memorial Walk a Yooge Success!

This year's edition of our annual Bataan Death March (BDM) Memorial Walk was 'something completely different.' Because of the

Wuflu, we held it "virtually" between 13 February and 17 April.

Although virtual for the most part, we still netted more money for the Post's overriding mission of helping veterans, their widows, and their families than in any previous year! (More on that later.)

Participants walked, ran, biked, swam, rolled, wheelchaired, etc., one of 3 distances (1, 5, or 16 miles) at a time and location of their own choosing. They participated as individuals, families, and groups, on a single day or over several days.

(continued on page 11)



OUT-GOING COMMANDER'S CORNER

This is my last newsletter as Post Commander.

First, let me congratulate all the newly elected officers of the Post and wish you all the best over the next twelve months. We've got an enviable track record with a system in place to continue the success.



After eight wonderful years it has been an incredible ride! I was blessed to have inherited a group of enthusiastic veterans who really made my job easy.

As any true leader will admit, surround yourself with good people, let them do extraordinary things, and collect all the accolades! And during my tenure, I have been lucky with the Post being recognized with awards and honors up through National and beyond.

I actually became a member of the VFW 38 years ago when I returned from Beirut. My wife's uncle, George Giannotti, was the Quartermaster of Post 1399 in South Weymouth, Mass and paid for my Life Membership. I wish he could have lived to see what he caused.

I became a member of this Post 9 years ago when Carl Dozier walked up to me in front of city hall, stuck his finger in my chest, and barked out, "How come you're not a member of my post?!"

Not long afterwards he asked for volunteers to step forward and hold office...all I remember is finding myself alone when everyone else took a step BACKWARDS! 'It'll be easy', Carl said, until all of a sudden the "new" guy found himself as the newest commander! Thanks a lot!

But truly, thank you for trusting in me and giving me the opportunity.

Recently, I've been told over and over that no one will be able to replace me. But that's a fallacy. José and his team are more than capable and ready to take over. Saxon White Kissinger wrote a poem called "*The Indispensable Man*" and I heard an outgoing commander quoted it during a change of command. Essentially, a leader is like a hand in a bucket of water:

*Put your hand in it up to the wrist,
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining,
Is a measure of how much you'll be missed.
You can splash all you wish when you enter,
You may stir up the water galore,
But stop, and you'll find that in no time,
It looks quite the same as before.*

I was just a figurehead who pointed in a direction and then got out of the way to let all the great members of our Post do your thing.

I wish I could thank all those by name in the Post, the community, city hall and the VFW but if I tried that I guarantee I'd miss more than a few names. So I'll just say, **Thank You All!**

I do need, however, to thank our family's Rock of Gibraltar, my wife, for putting up with me and allowing me to play outside with my friends while wearing silly hats and costumes. We just celebrated our 39th anniversary so I guess we're stuck with each other now! I love you.

I think most of you know about my recent diagnosis of ALS – what that means for me and my family in the short term is still to be determined though we do know what the longer term result will be. I am at peace with that. I've lived a full and exciting life and have no regrets. I've traveled the world. Served my country in two combat zones. And raised a wonderful family.

"Death smiles at all of us. All a man can do is smile back."
– Marcus Aurelius

My role model for what I'm going through now is my son, Kevin, who has been dealing with Duchenne muscular dystrophy for 30 years. He lives every day with grace, empathy, and serenity – and the faith of the ecstasy to come.

As Lou Gehrig said, "*I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth.*" [Although it kills me that I have to share something with a New York Yankee!]

Thank you all again and I expect everyone to give José all the help and support you gave me! José, best of luck bruddah, and have fun!

John Wayne had a phrase engraved on his tombstone, "*Feo, Fuerte y Formal*". And I think you'll agree that it's very applicable to me as well since it means, "ugly, strong, and dignified"! 😊

My door is always open to those who stop by! I have plenty of bourbon, beer, and camaraderie.

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."
Semper Fidelis!

Chris Mulholland, Post Commander, 2014-'21

PS: After mid-June I won't be using the cdrpost2894 email but you can still contact me at majmule@verizon.net.

IN-COMING COMMANDER'S CORNER



Thank you for the trust and confidence you have given me and the other new officers through your election of us.

It is with very bitter and not so sweet feelings that I take the helm of our ship! I will do my very best to keep her on the course Commander Chris Mulholland has set!

The best way I can convey my

feelings is by comparing them to what Babe Dahlgren must have felt when he had to take over for Lou Gehrig on that faithful at Yankee Stadium.

"The Yankees won the game that day, but nobody cheered..."

May 2, 1939 will always remain one of the saddest days in baseball history. Lou Gehrig took himself out of the Yankee line-up before a game at Detroit between the Tigers and the Yankees, and his 14-year, 2,130 consecutive games streak finally came to an end. Babe Dahlgren, the man who replaced the "Iron Horse", was stunned by the news, and needed some encouragement from Lou before he could take the field."

"Damn the torpedoes, Full speed ahead!"

Before the new fraternal year starts on July 1st, we still have several events in June:

- 3-6 June: VFW Department of Virginia's Annual Convention at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel. Since its local, this is a great opportunity to attend a meeting of all the posts in Virginia. The schedule for the weekend is at the end of this newsletter.
- 8 June/1830: Chris Mulholland will receive recognition from Mayor West and Chesapeake City Council at City Hall. Everyone is invited to share in the honor.
- 9 June: Post meeting and installation of officers – come and wish the new officers good luck!

The planning for our upcoming fraternal year is in full swing! We start the new year right out of the gate with our first event on Saturday, July 3rd, as we once again march in South Norfolk's Independence Day Parade. This is a great, "small town USA" parade. If you've never been, I encourage you to come out with your family and join us!

This year's National VFW Convention was scheduled to be held in Baltimore starting the end of July but was cancelled due to public health concerns of city officials. National VFW has decided to conduct a business only convention in Kansas City in its place.

Our next Post event after the 4th of July Parade is six weeks later – our night with the Tidewater Tides on August 14th. This is a great event for Post members and immediate family. It's also an opportunity to invite a prospective member! The flier is in the back of this newsletter.

If you know of anyone who is eligible for the VFW and would like to give back to the community while helping veterans, please encourage them to consider joining our Post.

Thank you all for what you do to help our veteran community and I look forward to everyone's assistance in the coming year!

José Vazquez, 2021-'22 Post Commander

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from the VFW Auxiliary. Hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the opportunity to start meeting as a group.

I want to welcome our newest members to the Auxiliary. Kylei Priestler, Jill Priestler, Paul Brothers and Jacob Rollins were recommended by Jean and Carl Dozier. Thank

You for joining the VFW Auxiliary.



Members of the Auxiliary donated gift cards to a family that had a house fire on April 1st. They have two young children and a 3rd little one was due on May 1st. Grace Schweers heard about this family at church and asked if we would like to help. Thanks to all who gave to this family.

On Saturday, May 8th, I was installed as District 2 President. I look forward to this challenge and the opportunity to learn more about the Auxiliary and the different ways we can help the Veterans.

Thanks to all of you for what you do for the Veterans. Always Remember our Veterans on Memorial Day and every day. Have a great summer and Be SAFE!

Sandy Dunbar, President, Post 2894 and District 2

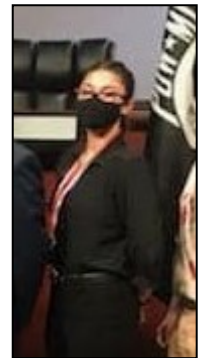
2021 POST AWARDS!

On Friday, May 21st, we finally held our first awards ceremony in two years! We thank all the VIPs and community leaders who joined us to recognize and celebrate our Post honorees. We're also grateful to Mayor West and the Chesapeake City Council for graciously allowing us to use the City Council Chamber as our venue! And special thanks to Councilman Stephen Best for helping us handout the awards.

Here are our winners and what they each accomplished:

Each year more than 130,000 students in grades 6 through 8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest. The contest encourages young people to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern society, by drafting a 300 to 400-word essay, expressing their views on different themes, this year's being, "What is Patriotism to Me?" The winner of **Post 2894's Patriots' Pen for 2020-21** is Michael Sauer, a 7th grader at Hugo Owens Middle School. In his essay, Michael wrote, "...being an American means having the freedom to pursue my dreams. It means having the opportunities to work hard and fight for what is important to me. The United States is a place where these freedoms are valued and protected...Being patriotic means celebrating the ideals of my country and routing for my team, no matter how difficult life may become. It means standing strong and fighting for what we believe in and defending each other no matter what, even if we feel like we are losing. It means respecting our values, believing in each other, and never giving up hope." Congratulations, Michael.

The Voice of Democracy Award is VFW's premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 40,000 high school students compete for more than 2.2 million dollars in scholarships and incentives. These scholarships range up to a national first place prize of \$30,000. The VFW established the program in 1947 to provide high school students the opportunity to express themselves in regards to democratic ideas and principles. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme was: "Is this the country the Founders envisioned?" The winner of this year's **Voice of Democracy** contest for Post 2894 is Ysa Duenas, a senior at Grassfield High School. Here's what she expressed in her



essay, ‘...the core of America holds fast to its original and purposes and principles. Citizens still cherish and defend their rights and freedoms... Patriotism has deep roots within our country, most notably seen when Americans rally together to face challenges injustice...The values that formed the foundation of America as the Founding Fathers constructed it still support our great nation, withstanding through the testaments of time. Our military still commits to “support and defend the Constitution”, and to “bear true faith and allegiance to the same.” And the American people still adhere to the notion that our country is “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” With dedication like this, Ysa was enthusiastically awarded our Post’s Voice of Democracy award.

Some of the VFW’s earliest ties to the community involve youth groups and perhaps none are stronger or more lasting than the relationship between the VFW and America’s scouting organizations. In fact, VFW’s partnership with the Scouts of America dates back to 1915 when VFW Post 2100 helped to establish Boy Scout Troop 1 in Everett, Washington. Through the VFW’s Scout of the Year program, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sea Scouts, and Venture Crew Scouts who display standout citizenship, patriotism and love of country have the opportunity to be rewarded with college scholarships of up to 5,000 dollars.



The winner of this year’s **Scout of the Year award for Post 2894** is Eagle Scout Seth Boucher of Boy Scout Troop 303 and a senior at Great Bridge High School. Seth’s Eagle Scout project is something that hits close to home for us here at Post 2894 since he addressed an issue that takes the lives of 22 veterans every day. His project consisted

of organizing students, teachers, and community outreach members to promote suicide awareness and prevention. He was personally responsible for securing a billboard announcement which was seen by almost 145,000 people, a radio ad which was heard by about 273,000 listeners, and public service announcement seen on TV by 69% of all viewers in southeastern Virginia. He single-handedly raised \$13,700 and organized 37 volunteers who donated 107 volunteer hours. One of his grandfathers retired from the US Navy while the other served in Korea with the US Army. His aspiration is to earn a degree in philosophy before getting his law degree. He has been accepted to several universities and is still waiting on responses from several more. He is an incredibly talented and passionate young man. Congratulations, Seth, and good luck in your future!

The Teacher of the Year program recognizes teachers who promote a sense of national pride in their students. Every year, 7500 VFW posts around the country nominate teachers for awards at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Previous winners from our Post have finished first and third runner-up in the nation – a truly incredible achievement! *There is no more important task than the development of an informed, effective, and responsible citizenry*; and that is what our Post nominees do with their students. Our Post honorees teach their students what it means to be free American citizens with all the rights and responsibilities that that entails. As Alexis de

Toqueville pointed out, each new generation is a new people that must acquire the knowledge, learn the skills, and develop the dispositions or traits of private and public character that undergird a constitutional democracy. We are here to recognize the achievements of three special teachers tonight.

Lee Mongold teaches at Grassfield High School and was our **High School Teacher of the Year in 2020**. She also won both District and State Teacher of the Year and was in the running for National Teacher of the Year. Unfortunately, due to the Wuhan flu, our awards ceremony last year was cancelled and we finally had the opportunity to present her this well-deserved recognition. She led her students in the preservation of Chesapeake’s Cornland School, an early 1900’s one-room schoolhouse for black students. They volunteered alongside Chesapeake Historic Preservation Commission to research history of school to authenticate site and those who once were learners in the school. She is daughter of a US Navy veteran so she understands the sacrifices that military families make to support their loved ones overseas and the role of America around the world; and she is also heavily involved in Grassfield High School’s Field of Valor which honors servicemen and women. Congratulations to our 2020 High School Teacher of the Year!



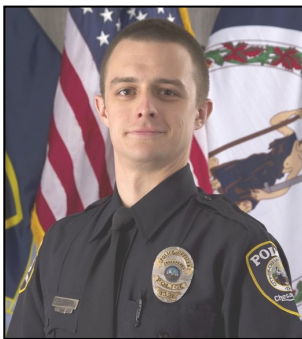
Our **Middle School Teacher of the 2021** is Mrs. Laura Lurf of Hugo Owens Middle School. The lives of the children of military members can be extremely stressful by moving every year or two – changing schools, communities, and even countries. On top of that, one or both parents might be deployed for six months or more away at a time. The parent(s) may have signed up for the military life, but their children didn’t. Fortunately for those kids who attend Hugo Owens Middle School they have a guidance counselor who understands their issues and tries to help them make sense of their situation. Three years ago, Mrs. Lurf recognized their difficulties 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 by celebrating an annual Military Child Month, 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 her school 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. For her interest in our future generations, and her empathy to the children of our veterans, Laura Lurf was awarded our Middle School Post Teacher of the Year award.



Our **High School Teacher for 2021** is Ashley Bullock of Deep Creek High School. She is extremely conscious about taking care of her community and ensures that her students act to help citizens in need. This was particularly evident after a tornado hit the city of Lynchburg in 2018 where she was then teaching. She had them organize a food drive and work crews to help with the massive clean-up. In doing so, Ashley demonstrated to her students the responsibility to one another in civil society, as well as the power of an idea. She made up her mind that the community needed humble leadership and took action. Moments like this quietly show students what it means to be part of something bigger than themselves and the power of patriotism. Over the holidays, she teaches her students to respect and honor our first responders who work while everyone gets to celebrate at home with their families. Her students collect gifts, wrap and then deliver them to local fire stations. Ashley is dedicated to her students, encouraging them to pay attention to local and national elections and issues. She is an engaging teacher who thrives on planning unique learning experiences for her students. She continually stretches her imagination to also stretch that of her students. She turns her classroom into World War I trenches providing students memorable learning experiences that will stay with them. This mindset makes Ashley an eternal student advocate on multiple levels, and a quiet hero in a chaotic world. For her interest in our future generations, and her passion for teaching young adults, Ashley Bullock was awarded our High School Post Teacher of the Year 2021 award.



Officer Daniel Taylor of the Chesapeake Police Department (CPD) was our **Police Officer of the Year 2020**, another hold-over from last year's cancelled ceremony. He is a native Chesapeake, born and raised. Officer Taylor began his career in



Law Enforcement right after high school, joining Elizabeth City PD in 2007. In 2009 he earned a position with their SWAT Team and in 2010 he came back home and joined the CPD. Four years later he was selected to Chesapeake's SWAT Team. Officer Taylor recently returned to uniform patrol and now works in the Western Branch area. He has received

numerous awards from the department including multiple team work and outstanding performer awards. He has also earned the department's award for illegal drug enforcement and the Chief's Award of Excellence. When Officer Taylor is not at work he spends his free time with his wife and two children. His passion outside of work and family is the study and protection of venomous and non-venomous snakes. Congratulations!

Officer Joann Morelos, CPD was selected as our **Police Officer of 2021**. Officer Morelos has been with the

Chesapeake Police Department for 13 years and is currently assigned as the retail crime officer in Greenbrier. She is a constant fixture in the area to the point where she observes crimes in progress. The level of crimes solved are not just specific to shopliftings, and have included crimes of fraud, narcotics, identity theft, and more. In two of the four months she has been assigned to this position, Greenbrier received the lowest number of reported shopliftings in recent years. The diligence she exhibits has increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the precinct as a whole, and has been a remarkable resource to the department. For this and much more, we honored Joann Morelos as our Police Officer of the Year. Congratulations.



Senior Special Agent Kenneth Ottey of the Virginia State Police (VSP) was born in Panama, grew up in Brooklyn, and is a 10 year veteran of the US Army. He has been with the VSP since 1992. Bilingual in Spanish, he employs his skill to further criminal investigations involving suspects, victims, or witnesses who have a language barrier. He has also played a major role in investigating Hispanic street gangs. His primary work today concentrates on fraud perpetrated by government employees. Ken's son has followed his father's example of duty and honor and is also a law enforcement officer. For his lengthy and distinguished service to our country and our community, Senior Special Agent Ottey is our **State Trooper of the Year!**



Deputy Matthew Elliot of the Chesapeake Sheriff's Department is our **Deputy Sheriff of the Year**. Deputy Elliot was an officer in the CPD before joining the Sheriff's Department four years ago. This past year he was involved with



two vital events. In June, he identified and intercepted 3 individuals in a stolen car. After they crashed following a high-speed pursuit, he caught one of the suspects on foot and recovered a firearm. In January, Deputy Elliot responded to the scene of a fire. When he arrived on the scene, he found a four-year-old child had escaped the flames, but that there was still at least one other person inside the home. Elliot entered the

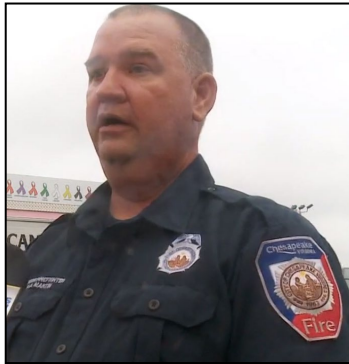
residence and helped the remaining occupant escape. He then ensured all occupants remained safe outside of the home until firefighters arrived. He exhibits a great work ethic, is a quick learner, and has developed an excellent rapport with his peers and the community. Deputy Matthew Elliot is a credit to law enforcement and reflects great pride on the Chesapeake

Sheriff's Office. Congratulations for being our Post Deputy of the Year!

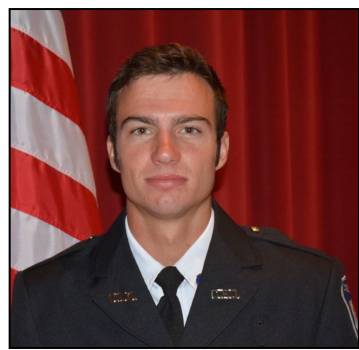
Our next award went to our **Emergency Medical Technician of the Year**, Firefighter Paramedic Nick Askew of the Chesapeake Fire Department (CFD). He began his career with the CFD just over 15 years ago. Nick is committed to excellence. He consistently takes the initiative to develop and implement training for his Battalion. Nick seeks opportunities for personal and professional development consistent with the improvement of the Department. Nick's versatility allows him to serve as a Firefighter, a Paramedic, or as an Acting Officer and every Battalion Chief wants a "Nick" in their battalion: someone who makes a noticeable difference in the daily operations of the battalion. One of his supervisors said, "Without a doubt, Nick is one of the finest EMS providers I have had the privilege to work with." For his outstanding performance and commitment to the city of Chesapeake, Firefighter Paramedic Nick Askew is our Post EMT of the Year!

Our next award went to our **Firefighter of the Year**, Master Firefighter/EMT Patrick Martin. Patrick has been a member of the CFD since August 1st, 1990! He is one of the most

respected Firefighters in the Department. He is a proven leader within the organization, always sharing his experience and knowledge with firefighters, officers, and chief officers. Patrick is trustworthy, helpful, and compassionate, putting the needs of others before himself. For his intense passion for the fire service and the department, Master Firefighter Martin is recognized as our Post Firefighter of the Year.



We then had a very special award, the **National VFW Firefighter of the Year** presented to Firefighter Justin Beazley of the CFD. Firefighter Beazley is one of triplet brothers, born and raised here in Chesapeake. He graduated from Grassfield High School in 2012 and joined the CFD in April 2016. Last



April, Justin became a national – and international – hero in the rescue of a driver who was trapped in a truck dangling off the High Rise Bridge 70 feet above the Elizabeth River. Justin was lowered down with a rope system in heavy rain and wind. As Chief Elliott described it, "Gusts of wind lifted the tractor-trailer. It

was literally hanging over the bridge, dangling by just a little bit of metal." The story of FF Beazley's courage and steadfast made news *around the world* during a period when everyone needed an uplifting tale of one young man's bravery and humanity for a fellow human being. As one of the results of this incredible rescue, FF Beazley was presented with the 2020

Award of Valor by the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce. He has proved he will be an asset to the CFD for years to come. For his fearless courage under immensely dangerous conditions and his intense passion for the fire service and the department, Firefighter Beazley is recognized as our National VFW Firefighter of the Year. He was our seventh National Public Servant awardee in six years!

We also had a number of **Special Awards**:

Mr. Troy Hare is a veteran and the owner of **Hare's Heating Cooling and Electrical in Virginia Beach**. Last year he donated an A/C unit and the labor to install it for an elderly veteran which likely saved her life. The total value of his work and system was over \$2,500. When we offered to help pay him he refused and told us to keep it as a donation to help other veterans. He joined our Post afterwards as a life member. Then he added insult to injury by winning our 'his-and-hers' pistol raffle! In appreciation and recognition of his generosity to needy veterans we presented him with a plaque as a small token of appreciation. Thank you, Troy.



Mr. Scott Conyers is the owner/operator of **All Conyers Heating and Air Conditioning in Virginia Beach**. This great American donated over \$5,000 worth of labor and material to replace all the duct work for a disabled WWII veteran and his wife. In appreciation and recognition of his generosity to one our "greatest generation" we presented him with a plaque as a symbol of our appreciation. Thank you, Scott.



Mr. Marc Reitzel is the owner/operator of **Reitzel Home Improvement in Virginia Beach**. Marc is another roofing contractor who donated the labor to replace the leaking roof of a disabled veteran. As Marc said on the news, "I just want to



show them that, even though I'm not a veteran myself, we care and we appreciate what they do... They sacrifice time away from their families and they're gone. This is just a way to give back to them for what they've given to us."

The veteran he helped was deeply honored and said, "Getting acknowledged being a veteran and then being a female veteran. I'm starting to feel like it more becoming a home again." For his commitment to our veterans' community we presented him with a plaque in thanks from our Post. Thank you, Marc.

Mr. Robert Andrews is the owner/operator of **Andrews Roofing Company in Portsmouth** but was unable to make our awards ceremony. A few months ago, Post Service Officer Jim Ireland found out about a disabled veteran who would have to place pans and buckets throughout her home whenever it rained to catch the dripping water. Jim worked with Habitat for Humanity and the "SRS Raising the Roof Foundation" to

provide the materials for a new roof. He then contacted Mr. Andrews here who volunteered to donate the labor to do the work. The veteran said afterwards, "It has taken a tremendous burden off of my mind. It was like someone lifted a very large weight off my shoulders ...I have never felt important, but today I feel important." For his generosity and dedication to our



veteran community we will present him with this plaque at his office in thanks from our Post. Mr. Eric Gardner is a retired Navy Captain who is the President of the Hampton Roads Chapter of the Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals, or VAREP. His organization is a non-profit 501(c)(3) dedicated to increasing sustainable homeownership, literacy education, VA awareness, and economic opportunity for the active- and veteran communities. This year, our Service Officer elderly, disabled veteran in danger of losing her home defaulted on her mortgage. After we informed him of her situation, Eric single-handedly coordinated the refinance of the home which saved her from losing it. And he did this "pro bono." This is the second time in three years that he has stepped forward to help a veteran in need for us. For his continued interest and dedication to veterans in need we presented him with a plaque in thanks from our Post.



financial-loan

military This past year we found an elderly veteran who was home for mortgage. The

The Civil Air Patrol is a congressionally chartered, federally supported, civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. Its missions are: emergency services, to include search and rescue and disaster relief operations; aerospace education for youth and the general public; and cadet programs for teenage youth.



Membership consists of cadets ranging from 12 to 21 years of age, and senior members 18 years and older. Civil Air Patrol is a major operator of single-engine general aviation aircraft, including orientation flights for cadets and the provision of

significant emergency services. Because of these extensive flying opportunities, many Civil Air Patrol members become licensed pilots. The Post was proud to present Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Tyler Miller with the **Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Award**. Throughout the past year, he distinguished himself as Flight Sergeant, Flight Commander and First Sergeant of Hampton Roads Composite Squadron. Through his leadership and dedication to duty he led his squadron by example. Chief Miller took time to ensure his subordinates understood what was expected in the areas of drill, uniform, leadership and aerospace. His high morals,

trustworthiness, and military conduct were of a high order, worthy of emulation by his squadron. He has clearly demonstrated that he is a cadet noncommissioned officer of the highest caliber and is outstanding among his contemporaries. The efforts of C/CMS Miller reflect credit upon himself and the Civil Air Patrol. Congratulations Cadet Miller!

Every year, we look for fine young Americans who exhibit patriotism, service, and civic duty. We are fortunate that the young citizens of Chesapeake never fail to come through. At the ceremony, we recognized and honored 13-year old **Phoenix Browne**. Last summer, Phoenix tackled a challenge by a national organization called Raising Men Lawn Care Service. They have a program called the "50 Yard Challenge" that challenges young people to cut the lawns of 50 people who are veterans, single parents, elderly or have disabilities. When someone completes it, they get a new lawnmower. Phoenix had already been cutting grass — for a fee — around his Great Bridge neighborhood, and was interested in building some clientele. Once Phoenix agreed to the challenge, Raising Men Lawn Care Service sent him a T-shirt, earplugs and protective eyewear. Phoenix's mother, said it was "amazing to see how just cutting the grass for someone, just really made their day change." He mowed lawns throughout



Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach and was done with the challenge in August. Though he'd mowed the grass for free, some customers insisted on tipping him, so he decided to put that money to good use. With about \$100 in tips, Phoenix bought pizzas and water and set up in various locations including a bus station in Norfolk to distribute it to people who are homeless or otherwise in need. For completing the challenge, Phoenix was received a brand new lawnmower, weed eater and leaf blower. In October, Mayor West and the City Council presented him with a Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Community Service. On behalf of the veterans



he served, we presented him with a plaque of appreciation as well as a donation to his scholarship fund.

Mrs. Heather Barlow, of the local chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) presented beautiful commemorative quilts to Vietnam veterans Keith Lindgren and Jim Keiper in honor of National Vietnam

Veterans Day which is observed every March 29th.

Ms. Charlotte Hurd, USN (ret), is the Military Liaison and Service Academy Coordinator for Senator Mark Warner and presented each awardee a personal letter of gratitude from the Senator.

Lastly, the Commander of the VFW Department of Virginia, Eric Mallett of Post 4809 Norfolk presented Post Commander Mulholland with a very touching letter of appreciation from National Commander Hal Roesch, Post 3219, Phoebus. CDR Mallett made a very interesting comment when he spoke about the creation of three new VFW posts in Virginia. One of the new commanders had mentioned how their success would hinge on having a post home. Eric replied to him, *'Let me tell you about this incredibly successful post without a home in Chesapeake...'*

It was a wonderful evening with some great stories about courage, dedication, and kindness from members of the community.

The Post also awarded VFW medals to JROTC members in Chesapeake's high schools. We award two outstanding cadets, one male and one female, at each of the six high schools. The award recognizes the achievements of the AFJROTC cadets and fosters their morale and *esprit de corps*. Typically, we present the awards at an event hosted at one of the high schools, but this year, our medals were presented "virtually" in a ceremony on 13 May broadcast via Instagram. Here were the awardees:

- Deep Creek: Reilly Jones & Alexander Cackello
- Grassfield: Lillian Fosdick & Zander Snedekero
- Great Bridge: Grace Damato & Thomas Sasso
- Indian River: Amaya Brown & Derik Prasad
- Oscar Smith and Western Branch did not nominate anyone



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR HONOREES!

10TH BDM
(contd from page 1)

Registrants received a t-shirt – 16 milers also earned a medal – and shared their photos and videos on our Facebook page. All the funds raised help local veterans, their widows, and their families. Everyone had fun!

In addition to the revenue from registrations and t-shirt sales, we also had some very generous "Medal Sponsors" who made donations to the Post in support of this event:

- Legion of Merit Sponsors (\$1,000)
 - ITC Defense
 - C5BDI
 - TRANSTECS Corporation
- Distinguished Service Medal Sponsors (\$500)
 - ITA International
 - Andy Saunders Insurance Agency
 - Vannoy, Colvard, Triplett & Vannoy, PLLC
 - Joyce Adamiak, Realtor, Houston TX
 - Walmart, Suffolk

- Meritorious Service Medal Sponsors (\$250)
 - Matt Hamel, Esq.
 - Ron & Debbie Ritter
 - Stephen Best
 - José Vazquez
 - Carl & Jean Dozier

Comrade Bob Gregory rode a stationary bike simulating the 16.22 mile Stage 1 of the Tour de Okinawa Cycling Challenge on a Rouvy app.



Brian Paul Reublinger posted on the BDM Facebook page: "I completed the virtual Chesapeake Bataan Death March back on March 14 on the hillside trails in Reno, Nevada. Back in the early 1980's, I hiked sections of the Bataan Death March in the Philippines with my Dad (serving in the U.S. Army) and the other members of Boy Scout Troop 34 from Sagamihara, Japan. Thank you for making this event virtual. It was nice to challenge myself, while supporting our veterans, and also remembering an adventure from my youth."

Comrade John Newell posted from Ventura Beach, CA with a photo: "I just finished my 16th mile! Hooah!"

Officer Candidates Sean McClain (nephew of Brad Waters) and Claire Charles of the 166th Regimental Training Institute, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, "rucked" their miles in Indian Gap, PA.



On Saturday, 27 March, 70 cadets and chaperones of



Indian River High School's Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFJROTC) met at the Dismal Swamp Trail and participated in the Memorial Walk. Safety being a #1 concern, they divided into three groups

who staggered their start times a couple of hours apart. All the cadets wore masks and enjoyed a lunch served by their cadet senior leadership. The cadets also raised money to support VFW Post 2894's mission of helping veterans in need.

Great Bridge High School's AFJROTC also completed the virtual BDM and donated \$100 to the Post. LtCol Wendler and his Cadets looked good!



CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU, CADETS!
Raymund Dean Manaois of Virginia Beach posted on April 4th: "My battle buddy, Melvin Rubio, and I just ran our 5 miler

this morning at Mt. Trashmore. Happy Easter to you folks too!" Five miles in 54:21! Thank you Raymund and Melvin!

VFW Post 6060 of Elizabeth City NC participated as a group in support our event – thank you Post Commander Scott Seddon!!



Members of VFW Post 6060 pose with their flag

Retired Navy SEAL Josh Hamann and a buddy walked 26.6 miles in New Hampshire carrying 35 pound packs to support our BDM Memorial Walk. He video-casted his walk live and one of his interesting comments about why he was walking was, "Suffering to honor." Thanks Josh!

We received a note from Rob Hall all the way "across the pond" in Stanford le Hope: "Supporting from England, happy to contribute!" THANK YOU, Rob!

We went to Ft Eustis on 17 April to cheer and support 300 soldiers undergoing Advanced Individual Training (AIT) with the 1st BN, 222nd Aviation RGT as they marched 14 miles as part of our 10th Annual BDM. Before they started out, they each shook the hand of 96-year old WWII/Korea USN veteran, Mr. Washington. When they were done we gave each soldier a medal and a BBQ lunch prepared by our chef-extraordinaire,



Becky Waters!

At one point the "chow" line was a really long but thanks to Becky, Rosie Gregory, Jose Vazquez, Jim Keiper, Brad Waters, and Barbara Mulholland they kept the food going



out at a quick pace and the 300 hungry "kids" were fed!

One of the cadre even dressed in period uniform. He carried a flag with 48 stars that actually flew over a landing craft piloted by a Coast Guard coxswain during the landing at Peleliu!

Carl Dozier set up a display about Bataan and Corregidor to educate the youngsters about the events of



1941-42. It was disheartening how many of them had never heard this aspect of WWII. But now they know about and can share it with others.

The staff and cadre of 1/222 said they would definitely participate again next year at Dismal Swamp Park!

It was a beautiful day and we all had fun!!!

Thanks to all the great work of the BDM committee: Matt Schweers, Grace Schweers, Ann Jones, John Guill, Becky Waters, Brad Waters, and Bob Gregory.

But a very special thanks goes to Matt and Grace Schweers! Without their enthusiasm, pluck, and perseverance we would have been nowhere as successful as we were.

You can view many more photos on the Facebook page: Chesapeake Bataan Death March



Incredibly – and startling – this was our most successful march in terms of



raising money. We netted almost 150% of our previous best year! The biggest difference is that we didn't have the overhead costs that we've had

previously (insurance, porta-johns, VIP hotel/per diem/mileage, etc.) We also waited till after the resignation window closed before ordering t-shirts so we had no excess.

This helps to offset the lost revenue from us not being able to hold Buddy Poppy drives this year.

Nonetheless, holding an on-site event is much more personable and socially enriching so we are looking at a combination "real" and "virtual" event next year. Block your calendars now for April 2nd, 2022. SEE YOU THEN!

Postscript: We were blessed with the presence of Mr. Washington at our event at Ft Eustis. The Post gave him a wheelchair so that he could get around, for which he and his family were very grateful. A month after the event we received the following note from his grandson: "I just wanted to let you know that yesterday evening [May 14] Mr. Washington passed away at home surrounded by family. 6 days after the March he had a stroke and went downhill from there. The March was the last time I seen him so happy and he truly enjoyed himself and I cannot thank you and the VFW enough for helping make the event a reality and in turn giving



him joy of knowing that he and his generation won't be forgotten and overall just having a good day out. On behalf of myself and my family, thank you guys for everything and especially the memories I'll forever have with him at the March." RIP Hero!

OTHER POST NEWS

• **Zinn Family Marks Another Milestone!** Just before Christmas,

Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Christina Zinn celebrated the start of a military career when her son, Matt, graduated from Navy bootcamp in Great Lakes, IL. On May 21st, she and her husband, Chief Petty Officer Jimmy Zinn, celebrated his retirement as a Navy SEABEE after 25 years of honorable service. Congratulations, Jimmy and the entire Zinn family! "Fair Winds and Following Seas!"



• **Post Service Officer Responsible for ANOTHER Roof Replacement for a Veteran!** Our Post Service Officer, Jim Ireland, has done it again! On April 14th the roof of a disabled veteran was replaced for free due to Jim's hard work and perseverance, truly living up to our creed: "Helping the Living to Honor the Fallen."

Virginia Beach vet receives new roof as a part of nat'l program

VIRGINIA BEACH

by: Tamara Scott

Posted: Apr 14, 2021 / 08:43 PM EDT



VIRGINIA BEACH, Va (WAVY) - There are many ways we can honor our local heroes every day. Some good deeds can be found in high places. One



example of that was in Virginia Beach on Wednesday. That's where a U.S. Marine Corps veteran got a new roof.

The Owens Corning Roof Deployment Project is a nationwide effort to show gratitude and honor the veterans

who served our country and the families who support them.

Since the inception of the program in 2016, more than 250 military members have received new roofs.

It only takes about six hours to put a new roof on Connie Chadwick's home in Virginia Beach. She is the latest to be assisted by the program.

But she's not only getting a new roof — she is getting her sense of security back.

"It's fascinating. It sounds weird when you're inside the house and they're doing that, it sounds like you got a whole bunch of squirrels," she said.

So, 10 On Your Side's Tamara Scott joined Chadwick outside her home to watch as her new roof was put on.

"I didn't realize how bad it was," Chadwick said.

She said she had been trying to do other home projects but after an HVAC leak and four strokes, the projects kept piling on.

"I've been having to live on bare concrete floors, I've been doing a lot of research on Google," she said.

She can thank her local Habitat for Humanity of South Hampton Roads, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) SSG Dozier Memorial Post 2894 Chesapeake, Reitzel Home Improvement and the Owen's Coming Roof Deployment Project for the new roof.

"We have built 11 homes and sold then to veterans over the years but this is an unusual situation for us where we can reach out and partner with the rest of the community," said Dan Lear with Habitat for Humanity.

"For us were really happy that we can just take one thing off of her plate and that's one less thing she has to worry about," said Mark Reitzel, with Reitzel Home Improvement.

Chadwick says it feels like an honor.

"Getting acknowledged being a veteran and then being a female veteran," she said. "I'm starting to feel like it more becoming a home again."

The contracting company says in addition to repairing her roof, they will also fix smaller side projects like her gutters for no extra fee.



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<https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/virginia-beach/virginia-beach-veteran-receives-new-roof-as-a-part-of-national-program>

Post Installs Wheelchair Ramp for Disabled Veteran

There is no such thing as coincidences. In late April, the family of a deceased local veteran who had recently installed a brand-new 35 foot long aluminum wheelchair ramp worth almost \$10,000 contacted local vet organizations. Because of their loved one's passing it was no longer required and they were looking for someone to



donate it to. The Post offered to take it for a future project yet unknown. Incredibly, less than two days after picking it up we found out about James Martin, a disabled veteran in South Norfolk who had no means of getting out of his house because there were only steps out of the home. His wife, Jayleen, said he hasn't been out of the house since last November for a family get-together and he and his wheelchair had to be carried outside. Needless to say, in an emergency – such as a house fire – he would be trapped inside since his wife was too elderly to assist or carry him. So, a week after finding about his situation, six Post members showed up and installed the donated ramp on May 6th! Jayleen was described as having, “tears of happiness in her eyes.” A special thanks go to Post members José Vazquez, Jim Ireland, Rich Johnson, John Peterson, Ron Mayfield, and Kimball Thompson!

25 YEARS AGO: THE KHOBAR TOWERS BOMBING

No one in the 58th Fighter Squadron (FS), 4404th Wing, could go home from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, until all rooms were clean. The contract airliner was to arrive on June 27, 1996, to fly most of the main body of 100 people home to Eglin AFB, Fla. Six of the squadron's F-15Cs would make the hop

across the Atlantic, while the others were to join an Air Expeditionary Force exercise in progress.

It was Tuesday evening, June 25. For two days, personnel from the 58th had been swapping desks and packing their personal belongings, preparing to hand over duties to the incoming 27th FS. Lt. Col. Doug Cochran, the 58th FS commander, was scrubbing the bathroom in his quarters in Building 127, where most squadron members lived. Others lived in Building 131, at the north corner of the Khobar Towers complex, sharing it with a rescue squadron from Patrick AFB, FL, and people from other units.

Then came the blast. At approximately 9:50 p.m., a truck bomb exploded, throwing the force of more than 20,000 pounds of TNT against the concrete structure of Khobar. By the next day, the Air Force knew the worst. Nineteen Americans had died in the line of duty.

Khobar Towers housed about 3,000 Air Force personnel and several hundred US Army troops. British and French forces also lived in the complex, in their own buildings. Even so, the coalition's buildings took up only a fraction of the high-rises in Khobar Towers. To the south, divided by a fence, many more apartment buildings housed Saudi civilians.

At the northern end of the complex, where US forces lodged, two buildings looked out over a fence and trim parking lot toward a city

park with play areas. Private homes stood across the street from the parking lot. A few hundred yards away, a large new mosque was under construction.



Building #131 after the bombing

At the time, Saudi Arabia offered the great advantage of being almost wholly free of terrorism. Saudi laws were strict and dissent was rare. The Gulf States, which generously funded religious causes, were seldom targets for terrorists. The kingdom was considered one of the world's safest places for US forces.

The First Bomb Explodes

Then, Saudi peace was shattered by the first terrorist bombing. On Nov. 13, 1995, a car bomb with the equivalent of 200 pounds of TNT exploded in the courtyard of the Saudi Arabia National Guard (SANG). The explosion killed five Americans and injured more than 30. The perpetrators were arrested by Saudi authorities, who viewed the incident as an aberration, a one-of-a-kind event that was unlikely to recur.

For the US military, though, the Riyadh bomb was a major event. US diplomats felt the shock, too.

Assessing Vulnerabilities

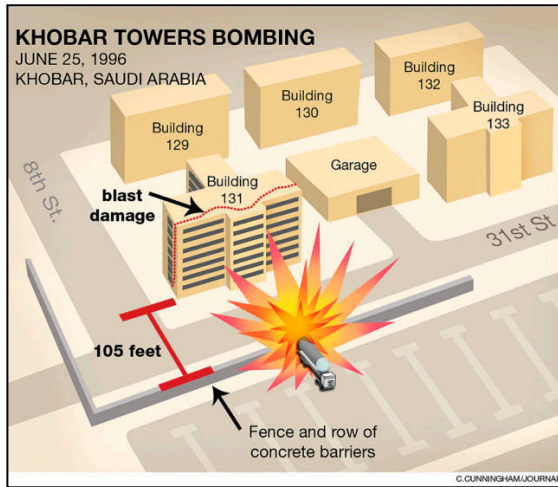
No one could say with any certainty what might be a true threat at Khobar Towers but preventing a car bomb from penetrating the compound emerged as a top priority. Khobar Towers had just one entrance for vehicles. Traffic patterns were reset and lengthened. The wing also tightened controls on who entered the compound.

The Bahrain Bombs

December, January, February, and March were bad months. Two small bombs exploded in post offices in Bahrain. Two major hotels were bombed. More small bombs detonated in a tailor shop, a supermarket, and a shopping center. Bombs hit a bank, two restaurants, and another hotel. Worse yet, the terrorists started to use petrol bombs. Seven persons died in one restaurant attack. The terror in Bahrain was local, not directed at Americans. Still, there was concern was that they were starting to choose places Americans might frequented.

The North Perimeter Fence

Buildings 131 and 133 sat about 80 feet back from the



northern perimeter fence. Across the road and over the fence lay a paved parking lot with neatly tended trees marking the rows. Extra Jersey wall barriers were put up as a direct result of the SANG bomb. Beyond the fence was Saudi territory and Saudi police patrolled outside the fence.

Securing the compound against penetration continued to be the wing's main goal. The barriers on the Saudi side of the fence were moved five feet further out and rows of concertina wire were installed at the top and bottom of the fence.

In April, as an additional measure to protect the perimeter, security police sentries were posted on the roofs of buildings along the perimeter. The job of the sentries was to monitor the perimeter.

Completing the Protection Measures

Khobar Towers residents were experienced in real evacuations. Evacuation plans posted in the rooms gave instructions for where to meet. In the year leading up to the bombing, residents of Khobar Towers carried out several actual evacuations, triggered by suspicious package alerts.

The wing used the "waterfall" method, first alerting top-floor occupants who then helped alert lower floors on their way out.

In the months since the SANG bombing, intelligence traffic regarding possible threats had increased but no clear threat had emerged.

One particularly serious incident did occur in May. A car proceeding on the street

along the eastern side of the compound did something unusual. The driver crossed the dusty median and banged the car against the solid concrete of the Jersey wall barrier. Then the driver backed up the car, nudged it against the barriers again, and drove away. Residents in Khobar Towers spotted the activity and reported it to wing security police. In response, the wing staked down the barriers along the perimeter.

That's a Bomb

As 9 p.m. approached on the evening of June 25, 1996, many of the residents of Khobar Towers were in their rooms. The commander of the 79th FS was writing promotion recommendations in Building 133. Members of the 58th FS were packing in Building 127 and Building 131. Beyond Khobar Towers, the final Muslim prayer call of the day was just ending.

SSgt. Alfredo R. Guerrero, a security policeman and shift supervisor, went up to the top of Building 131 to check in with two sentries posted there. Once on the roof, Guerrero and the other policemen observed a sewage tanker truck and a white car enter the parking lot. They watched the truck slow down, stop, and then back up toward the fence line directly in front of the center of the north facade of Building 131.

That same car and truck were also spotted by then-1st Lt. Michael Harner, who was inside the building beside Guerrero. Harner, who had only been on station for several days, had just returned to his room, opened a sliding glass door and stepped out onto his balcony.

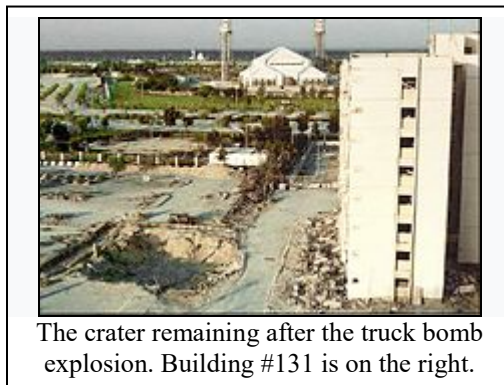
"I watched as it drove right in front of me, and the lights from the compound shone, so I could see the people in the truck, and there was actually a vehicle following the truck," Harner said. "I thought that was very unusual to see that, and I didn't know quite what to do about it, (because) nobody's shooting or nobody's doing anything."

The truck's driver and a passenger then jumped out and hurried to the waiting car, which sped out of the parking lot.

The three security policemen were already in motion. They radioed in the alert and started the evacuation plan to notify each floor of Building 131 in waterfall fashion. A roving security police vehicle heard the alert from the rooftop sentries and rushed to wave people away from the building. They had managed to notify only those residents on the top three floors before they were shaken by an enormous blast.

The bomb exploded with the force of 20,000 to 30,000 pounds of TNT. The sewage truck shaped the charge, and the high clearance between the ground and the truck gave it the more lethal characteristics of an air burst. It was so powerful that all of the windows in a 2-mile radius were blown out.

As the blast waves hit Building 131, the outer walls of the bottom floors were blown into rooms. With no structural support below, the facades of the top three floors sheared off and fell into a pile of rubble. Walls on the east and west ends were blasted four feet from original positions, causing floors in several bedrooms to collapse. Building 131 did not collapse because it was made of prefabricated cubicles that were bolted together. Had it been built in a more traditional manner, it might have caved in from the blast.



The crater remaining after the truck bomb explosion. Building #131 is on the right.

Taking Casualties

At one moment, Air Force personnel had been talking or working with squadron mates. An instant later, survivors nearest the blast found themselves in the dark, thrown across their rooms or out into hallways. Now, as they struggled to understand where they were and what had happened, they shouted and called to each other. The first casualties arrived at the clinic a few minutes after 10 p.m. Ten minutes later the clinic was overwhelmed. By 3 a.m., medical emergency logs had recorded 16 fatalities. Two more bodies were found in the rubble by morning. The 19th was found a few hours later.

The fallen heroes were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Capt Christopher J. Adams | SrA Earl F. Cartrette, Jr. |
| Capt Leland T. Haun | SrA Jeremy A. Taylor |
| MSgt Michael G. Heiser | A1C Christopher B. Lester |
| MSgt Kendall K. Kitson, Jr. | A1C Brent E. Marthaler |
| SSgt Kevin J. Johnson | A1C Brian W. McVeigh |
| SSgt Ronald L. King | A1C Peter J. Morgera |
| Sgt Millard D. Campbell | A1C Joseph E. Rimkus |
| TSgt Daniel B. Cafourek | A1C Joshua E. Woody |
| TSgt Patrick P. Fennig | A1C Justin R. Wood |
| TSgt Thanh Van Nguyen | |

The explosion heavily damaged or destroyed six high rise apartment buildings in the complex. A very large crater, 85 feet wide and 35 feet deep, was left where the truck had been. Within a few hours of the blast, the crater began to fill with salt-water from the [Persian Gulf](#).

Many of the evacuees were in the stairwell when the bomb went off. The stairwell was constructed of heavy marble and was located on the side of the building away from the truck bomb, perhaps the safest location in the building. For his actions, SSgt Guerrero was awarded the [Airman's Medal](#) which is awarded to those service members or those of a friendly nation who, while serving in any capacity with the United States Air Force, distinguish themselves by heroic actions, usually at the voluntary risk of life, but not involving actual combat

In addition to 305 US Airmen, 498 of many nationalities were also wounded.

The 4404th Wing still had to perform its mission. The C-130 squadron resumed operations that same day. On the afternoon of June 28, F-16 fighters from the 79th were back on station for the continuation of Southern Watch.

“Here we were, one of the most lethal air components in the world, an F-15 squadron, and someone sneaks up in the middle of the night and cuts our underbelly,” as one squadron commander put it later. He wished the dead had at least been given the opportunity to look the tiger in the eye, to confront the enemy face to face, and take them on.

The Aftermath

Analysis of the crater soon determined that the bomb was the largest terrorist device ever directed at Americans. The bomb that destroyed the Marine Corps compound in Beirut in 1983, packed the explosive force of 12,000 pounds of TNT equivalent. The Oklahoma City bomb was far smaller. In the new and changed environment caused by the truck bomb with 20,000 pounds or more of force, Khobar Towers could not be protected.

The attackers were reported to have smuggled explosives into Saudi Arabia from [Lebanon](#). They bought a large latrine service [tanker truck](#) in early June 1996 in Saudi Arabia and over a two-week period they converted it into a truck bomb. The group had enough explosives to produce a [shaped charge](#) that directed the blast toward the building. And the relatively high clearance between the truck and the ground gave it the more lethal characteristics of an [air burst](#).

Investigators found the attack had been planned for more than three years by members of the Saudi Hezbollah, with backing from Iran, as a way to force U.S. troops out of the Persian Gulf. Hezbollah and Iran were found guilty by a U.S. federal court in 2006, and Iran was ordered to pay \$254.5 million to survivors. That money has not been collected.

In 2001, 13 Saudis and one Lebanese man were indicted in the attack by the US, with Attorney General John Ashcroft stating “... the Iranian government inspired, supported and supervised members of Saudi Hezbollah.” Charges included conspiracy to kill Americans and US employees, to use weapons of mass destruction and to destroy US property, plus murder and bombing.

Iran denied

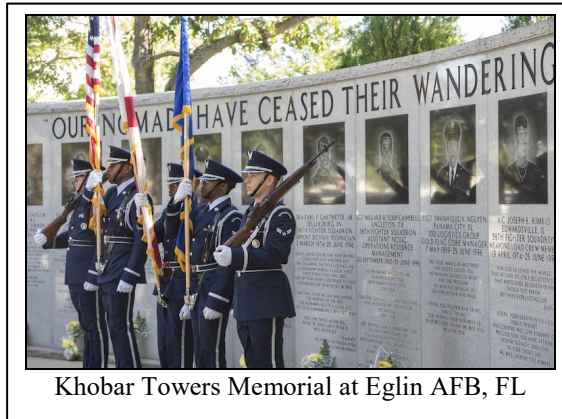
involvement in the attack, and Saudi Arabia said they would not extradite those charged who were in their custody. None of the indicted have been brought to court.

Nearly 20 years later, Ahmad Ibrahim al-Mughassil, a key Hezbollah operative implicated in the attack, was captured and arrested in Beirut in 2015 and moved to Saudi Arabia for interrogation.

A year after the attack, the 4404th relocated to Prince Sultan Air Base near Al Kharj, a remote and highly secure location that offered miles of desert perimeter,



SSgt Guerrero receiving the Airman's Medal.



Khobar Towers Memorial at Eglin AFB, FL



Khobar Towers Memorial at Patrick AFB, FL

with personnel housed in tents. American, British, and French military operations would continue at Prince Sultan until late-2003, when French forces withdrew and American and British operations shifted to [Al Udeid Air Base](#) in [Qatar](#).

[The Department of State is still](#) offering a reward of up to \$5 million for information that brings to justice those responsible for this attack.

Several memorials have erected in memory of the fallen, the most prominent being at Eglin AFB and Patrick AFB.

A Prayer for Memorial Day: Remembering Those Who Have Fought for Our Freedom

by Debbie McDaniel

“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

Freedom is a gift, it’s a treasure. And though we all may agree on that truth, it’s often easy to take for granted the greatest gifts that God has given us in our lives.

But those most precious gifts are never free. They came with a price. With sacrifice. They were worth fighting for. And are still worth fighting for today. Many brave men and women were willing to face hard battles in order for us to enjoy that gift of freedom today.

For all those who have protected our nation, for the men and women in uniform, together, we say “Thank You.”

We take time to remember today, and say a prayer of gratefulness for the many who have been willing to pay a great price for our freedom. May God help us to live so courageously, may we follow the brave examples of those who have gone before us...



Thank you for reminding us that there’s incredible love and sacrifice displayed when one is willing to stand strong and fight for freedom.

This service of love and sacrifice on behalf of all people, points us directly to the greatest love of all, the very gift and sacrifice of Christ.

Our Savior was willing to pay the ultimate price, so that we can live free. Forever.

May God bless America, and all of those who have sacrificed so greatly for our freedom, and faithfully served our nation!

**+ SURGEON’S OFFICE +
JUNE IS POST TRAUMATIC STRESS
DISORDER (PTSD) AWARENESS MONTH**

The National Center for PTSD promotes awareness and effective treatments throughout the year. In 2014, the Senate designated the full month of June for National PTSD Awareness.

After a traumatic event, most people have painful memories. For many people, the effects of the event fade over time. But for others, the memories, thoughts and feelings don’t go away – even months or years after the event is over. Mental health experts are not sure why some people



This article was compiled with information from:

- a) “[Khobar Towers](#)”, by Rebecca Grant [www.airforcemag.com/article/0698khobar](#)
- b) [www.history.com/this-day-in-history/saudi-arabia-khobar-towers-bombing-kills-19](#)
- c) “[20 years later: Remembering the attack on Khobar Towers](#)”, by SSgt. Christopher Gross, USAF [www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/811370/20-years-later-remembering-the-attack-on-khobar-towers/](#)

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’re interested in and let them know you’d like to help:

- **Bataan Death March Committee:** Matt and Grace Schweers, Ann Jones, Becky and Brad Waters, José Vazquez, John Guill and Bob Gregory.
- **Awards Committee:** Brad Waters, Mark Rios, Tony Gravina, and Joe Hammers.
- **Membership Committee:** José Vazquez, John Guill, Mark Rios, and Gary Dunbar
- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Kimball Thompson
- **Scholarship Committee:** Carl Dozier, Joe Hammers, and Kimball Thompson.
- **Health Committee:** Surgeon Dave Weber
- **Budget Committee:** José Vazquez, Mark Rios, Mike Kust, and Carl Dozier.
- **Building Committee:** Carl Dozier, José Vazquez, Becky Waters and Chris Cameron.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS

All of us are contributing to our community in many different ways. Some are Scout leaders, others active participants in church activities; some are coaches, others board members. You’ve attended funerals for veterans; visited them in hospitals, brought them meals, etc. etc. All of these activities are reportable as community activities by Post members. The VFW Department of Virginia has an on-line reporting system (<http://va.vfwportal.net/public/index.php>, password is “post2894”) where you can add the entries yourself. If you’re uncomfortable doing that, drop me an email telling me what you’ve done and I’ll make the entries myself. Chris Mulholland

CHAPLAIN’S FOXHOLE

develop PTSD and others do not. If stress reactions do not improve over time and they disrupt everyday life, it is important to seek help to determine if PTSD is present

The purpose of PTSD Awareness Month is to encourage everyone to raise public awareness of PTSD and effective treatments. We can all help those affected by PTSD.

What can cause PTSD?

Any experience that threatens your life or someone else's can cause PTSD. These types of events are sometimes called **trauma**. Types of traumatic events that can cause PTSD include:

- Combat and other military experiences
- Sexual or physical assault
- Learning about the violent or accidental death or injury of a loved one
- Child sexual or physical abuse



- Serious accidents, like a car wreck
- Natural disasters, like a fire, tornado, hurricane, flood, or earthquake
- Terrorist attacks

During this kind of event, you may not have any control over what's happening, and you may feel very afraid. Anyone who has gone through something like this can develop PTSD.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Going through a traumatic event is not rare. At least half of Americans have had a traumatic event in their lives. Of people who have had trauma, about 1 in 10 men and 2 in 10 women will develop PTSD.

There are some things that make it more likely you'll develop PTSD — for example, having very intense or long-lasting trauma, getting hurt, or having a strong reaction to the event (like shaking, throwing up, or feeling distant from your surroundings).

It's also more common to develop PTSD after certain types of trauma, like combat and sexual assault. But there's no way to know for sure who will develop PTSD.

"I was awarded a Silver Star for bravery. You're not going to tell me I'm a coward. If somebody like me has PTSD, then anybody can have it."

— MAJ Joshua Brandon, US Army (2002–present)

How do I know if I have PTSD?

The only way to know for sure is to talk to a mental health care provider. He will ask you about your trauma, your symptoms, and any other problems you have.

PTSD Screen

Sometimes things happen to people that are unusually or especially frightening, horrible, or traumatic. For example, a serious accident or fire, a physical or sexual assault or abuse, an earthquake or flood, a war, seeing someone be killed or seriously injured, or having a loved one die through homicide or suicide.

Have you ever experienced this kind of event?

If yes, please answer the questions below. **In the past month, have you:**

- Had nightmares about the event(s) or thought about the event(s) when you didn't want to?
- Tried hard not to think about the event(s) or went out of your way to avoid situations that reminded you of the event(s)?
- Been constantly on guard, watchful, or easily startled?
- Felt numb or detached from people, activities, or your surroundings?
- Felt guilty or unable to stop blaming yourself or others for the event(s) or any problems the event(s) may have caused?

If you answered "yes" to 3 or more of these questions, talk to a mental health care provider to learn more about PTSD and PTSD

treatment. Answering "yes" to 3 or more questions does not mean you have PTSD. Only a mental health care provider can tell you for sure.

What if the screening tool says I don't have PTSD?

You may still want to talk to a mental health care provider. If thoughts and feelings from the trauma are bothering you, treatment can help — whether or not you have PTSD.

Is it ever too late to get treatment for PTSD?

It's never too late. Treatment can help even if your trauma happened years ago. And treatment for PTSD has gotten much better over the years. If you tried treatment before and you're still having symptoms, it's a good idea to try again.

What if I don't feel ready for treatment?

It's normal to feel like you're not ready for treatment, or to come up with reasons why now isn't the right time — like you can't afford it or you're too busy. But not wanting to talk or think about the trauma can actually be a symptom of PTSD.

You may never feel truly ready to get help for PTSD — but if you're having symptoms, it's better to get treatment now than to wait. The sooner you get treatment, the sooner you can start to feel better.

Where can I go to get help?

If you're a Veteran, check with the VA about whether you can get treatment there. Visit

www.va.gov/directory/guide/PTSD.asp to find a VA PTSD program near you. If you're looking for care outside the VA, ask your doctor for a referral to a mental health care provider who specializes in PTSD treatment, or visit <https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov> to search for providers in your area. When choosing a mental health care provider, here are some important things to consider:

- Find a provider who uses PTSD treatments proven to work
- Find out what your insurance will cover
- Find someone who is a good fit for you

"My treatment has been a blessing to me and my family. It's hard to put into words just how you feel after you know that you can control your anger, and you can control your emotions."

— Bradley Seitz, US Marine Corps (2002–2005)

+ SAFETY CORNER **+**
JULY IS NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH

As the weather warms up, pools are preparing to open and crowds are gearing up to head to the beach. National Water Safety Month is the perfect time to ensure you and your family are prepared to spend a fun, safe day by the water. And the American Red Cross can help!

Swimming is the most popular summer activity. While the best thing you can do to help your family stay safe is to enroll in age-appropriate swim lessons, it is also important to

Make Water Safety Your Priority

- Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.
- Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone. Even at a public pool or a lifeguarded beach, use the buddy system!
- Ensure that everyone in the family learns to swim well. Enroll in age-appropriate Red Cross water orientation and Learn-to-Swim courses.
- **Never leave a young child unattended near water** and do not trust a child's life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
- Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.
- Establish rules for your family and enforce them without fail. For example, set limits based on each person's ability, do not let anyone play around drains and suction fittings, and do not allow swimmers



to hyperventilate before swimming under water or have breath-holding contests.

- Even if you do not plan on swimming, be cautious around natural bodies of water including ocean shoreline, rivers and lakes. Cold temperatures, currents and underwater hazards can make a fall into these bodies of water dangerous.
- If you go boating, wear a life jacket! Most boating fatalities occur from drowning.
- Avoid alcohol use. Alcohol impairs judgment, balance and coordination; affects swimming and diving skills; and reduces the body's ability to stay warm.

Prevent Unsupervised Access to the Water

- Install and use barriers around your home pool or hot tub. Safety covers and pool alarms should be added as additional layers of protection.
- Ensure that pool barriers enclose the entire pool area, are at least 4-feet high with gates that are self-closing, self-latching and open outward, and away from the pool. The latch should be high enough to be out of a small child's reach.
- If you have an above-ground or inflatable pool, remove access ladders and secure the safety cover whenever the pool is not in use.
- Remove any structures that provide access to the pool, such as outdoor furniture, climbable trees, decorative walls and playground equipment.
- Keep toys that are not in use away from the pool and out of sight. Toys can attract young children to the pool.

Maintain Constant Supervision

- Actively supervise kids whenever around the water—even if lifeguards are present. Do not just drop your kids off at the public pool or leave them at the beach—designate a responsible adult to supervise.
- Always stay within arm's reach of young children and avoid distractions when supervising children around water.

Know What to Do in an Emergency. If a child is missing, check the water first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.

- Know how and when to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.
- If you own a home pool or hot tub, have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment, a cell phone, life jackets and a first aid kit.
- Enroll in Red Cross home pool safety, water safety, first aid and CPR/AED courses to learn how to prevent and respond to emergencies.

FOR FAMILIES IN NEED, 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

QUARTERMASTER DESK

Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$30.

Annual dues can be paid via mail (see our 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 \$45 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, via mail, or in-person at the meetings.

JUNE MILITARY HISTORY

- 1774 British close Port of Boston in punishment for "Tea Party"
- 1862 Battle of Seven Pines: Confederate Gen. Joe Johnston wounded, relinquishes command to Robert E. Lee
- 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor, Day 1
- 1866 Fenians attack Fort Erie, Ontario, from US soil
- 1871 US Sailors & Marines land in Korea, to protect U.S. citizens
- 1877 US troops authorized to pursue bandits & Indians into Mexico
- 1914 SecNav Josephus Daniels' G.O. 99 bars alcohol in fleet
- 1939 Director of Naval Research Laboratory, proposes research in atomic energy for use in subs
- 1944 Allied forces begin covering much of Britain with smoke screens, as troops crowd assembly areas for D-Day
- Feast of St. Elmo, Patron of Sailors
- 1774 Parliament passes Quartering Act, billeting troops in private homes
- 1784 Congress disbands last elements of Continental Army, save for 100 troops guarding supplies at West Point and Ft. Pitt
- 1865 Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department surrenders to Union forces
- 1914 Glenn Curtiss flies his 'Langley Aerodrome'
- 1784 Congress creates US Army, forming 1st American Regt (now 3rd Infantry) on a cadre of 100 troops left over from Continental Army
- 1916 Congress establishes ROTC (based on Norwich Univ. program)
- 1959 First US Air Force Academy graduation
- 1965 First American "spacewalk", Maj. Edward White, Gemini 4
- 1789 Constitution of United States goes into effect
- 1918 US & French halt Germans at Chateau-Thierry
- 1942 Battle of Midway: Japanese lose four CVs, USS Yorktown badly damaged
- 1944 Allied forces liberate Rome

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

JULY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day1: Lee wins, but Union troops fall back on very strong position

- 1864 Battle of Petersburg (to July 31) balls
- 1867 Dominion of Canada formed 1918 Congress establishes Distinguished Service Cross
- 1870 James W Smith becomes first black man to enter West Point 1944 US secures Saipan: 3,200 US, 27,000 Japanese KIA, & many civilian suicides
- 1918 Marines secure Belleau Wood
- 1950 First US ground troops arrive in Korea
- 2 1776 Continental Congress declares Thirteen Colonies independent 10 1821 US takes possession of Florida from Spain
- 1777 Vermont abolishes slavery, first "state" to do so 1943 Operation Husky: US & Commonwealth forces invade Sicily
- 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 2: A draw 1953 American troops abandon Pork Chop Hill, Korea
- 1903 US leases Guantanamo Bay from Cuba for \$2,000 a year 11 1786 US pays Morocco \$10,000 to "protect" merchant ships from piracy
- 1926 US Army Air Corps established and Congress authorizes Distinguished Flying Cross 1798 Congress reactivates USMC, disbanded in 1784
- 1942 JCS authorize "Operation Watchtower," seizure of Guadalcanal 1812 US invades Canada near Detroit
- 1957 'Seawolf' (SSN 575) completed, first sub with liquid metal cooled reactor 1919 US Navy Pay Corps becomes Supply Corps
- 3 1754 Col. George Washington (22) surrenders Ft. Mifflin to French 1943 USN surface ships break German-Italian tank attack at Gela, Sicily
- 1775 George Washington assumes command of Patriot forces investing Boston 1955 USAF Academy opens with 300 cadets at Lowry AFB, CO
- 1863 Battle Gettysburg, Day 3: "Pickett's Charge" is shattered 12 1942 U-Boat lands four German saboteurs on Long Island, soon captured
- 1950 First US-North Korean clash: TF Smith overrun 14 1813 Lt John M. Gamble, becomes only US Marine to command a ship, prize 'Greenwich'
- 1988 USS 'Vincennes' (CG-49) accidentally shoots down Iranian airliner, 290 die 1825 Lafayette reviews 2nd Bn, 11th NY Arty (7th NY), which adopts name "National Guard"
- 4 1776 Independence Day: Two days after voting for independence, Continental Congress adopts formal "Declaration of Independence" 1900 "China Relief Expedition" captures Tientsin from Boxers
- 1777 John Paul Jones hoists Stars and Stripes on USS Ranger, Portsmouth, NH 1959 First nuclear powered cruiser commissioned, USS 'Long Beach' (CGN 9)
- 1801 1st Presidential Review of Marine Band and Marines, at White House. 1972 Vietnam: Jane Fonda makes first of 10 broadcasts on Radio Hanoi.
- 1802 US Military Academy opens at West Point 15 1958 Marines land in Lebanon, to support government
- 1818 Congress rules flag shall have 13 stripes and one star for each state 16 1861 Bull Run Campaign: Gen McDowell advances from Washington toward Fairfax Courthouse
- 1832 Samuel Francis Smith's "America" sung in public for first time 17 1927 USMC pilots conduct first combat dive bombing, Ocotlan, Nicaragua.
- 1863 Vicksburg surrenders to US Grant 18 1863 54th Mass. leads gallant attempt to storm Fort Wagner, near Charleston
- 1942 First American bombing mission over Nazi-occupied Europe 1914 US Army Air Service formed within Signal Corps
- 1942 American Volunteer Group ("Flying Tigers") becomes 14th AF 1944 US troops capture St. Lo, Normandy
- 1950 Carriers USS 'Valley Forge' (CV-45) & HMS 'Triumph' make first UN air strikes of Korean War 19 1812 1st Battle of Sackett's Harbor: Americans beat off British attack across Lake Erie
- 5 1814 Battle of Chippewa: "Those are regulars, by God!" 1886 'Atlanta' commissioned, first USN steel cruiser
- 1814 US Sloop-of-War 'Peacock' captures four British ships 1897 Lt Robert E. Peary departs on year-long Arctic Expedition
- 1861 Skirmish at Newport News: US retakes Gosport Naval Base 20 1881 Sioux leader Sitting Bull surrenders to federal troops
- 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 5: Lee retreats 1942 Congress creates Legion of Merit
- 6 1777 Burgoyne's British & Hessians capture Fort Ticonderoga 1942 First WAACs begin basic training
- 1785 Congress introduces dollar 1944 Marines land on Guam.
- 1911 First naval air station established, Annapolis, MD 1948 US reinstates draft, for Cold War
- 1976 Women admitted to US Naval Academy for first time 21 1823 Lt David G. Farragut leads raid to destroy pirate base in Cuba
- 7 1846 Commodore John D. Sloat takes Monterey, claims California for US 1861 First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas: Confederate Victory
- 1920 USN aircraft tests "radio compass", Norfolk, VA 1930 Veterans' Administration established
- 1941 Iceland: US Marines relieve British forces so they can fight elsewhere 1969 Neil Armstrong's "small step" on moon - 2:56:15 AM GMT
- 1944 Saipan: Japanese troops make final "banzai" charge 22 1802 US Frigate 'Constellation' defeats 9 corsair gunboats off Tripoli
- 1944 US B-29s from China attack Japan. 1905 Remains of John Paul Jones removed from Paris for transportation to Annapolis
- 1966 Marines initiate "Operation Hasting" - to clear NVA from DMZ 1943 Patton captures Palermo
- 8 1853 Commodore Perry sails frigate Susquehanna into Tokyo Bay 1987 USN begins escorting re-flagged Kuwaiti tankers in Persian Gulf
- 1865 C.E. Barnes receives US patent for machine gun 23 1944 US forces land on Japanese-held Tinian from nearby Saipan
- 1945 TF38 arrives off Japan with 20 carriers; to stay until war is over 24 1948 Soviets initiate blockade of Berlin
- 1950 Douglas MacArthur named CinC UN forces in Korea 1969 Muhammad Ali convicted of refusing induction in US Army
- 9 1755 Braddock's Defeat: Battle of Monongahela - Daniel Boone is wagon driver 25 1866 David G. Farragut appointed first Admiral in US Navy
- 1776 Declaration of Independence read to Washington's troops in NY, whereupon citizens pull down George III's statue to make musket 1866 US Grant is named first full general in US Army
- 1947 US Army, Navy, & Air Force subordinated to new DoD 26 1948 Truman initiates integration of Armed Forces
- 27 1909 Orville Wright demonstrates plane for Army, flying 72 minutes

- 1953 North Korea & UN sign armistice
- 1954 Armistice divides Vietnam in two
- 1995 Korean War Veterans Memorial dedicated in Washington
- 28 1898 Skirmish at Ponce, Puerto Rico, which shortly surrenders to US
- 28 1914 Austria-Hungary attacks Serbia, igniting WW I
- 1931 Congress makes "Star-Spangled Banner" national anthem
- 1932 Douglas MacArthur routs Bonus Army against orders
- 1945 Kamikaze sink their last ship, USS 'Callaghan' (DD-792), off Okinawa.
- 1945 US Army B-25 crashes into 79th floor of Empire State Bldg, 14 die
- 29 1949 Berlin Airlift ends, as Soviets end blockade
- 1967 Fire aboard USS 'Forrestal' (CV-59), Gulf of Tonkin, 134 killed
- 30 1864 Petersburg Campaign: Battle of Crater
- 1909 US Army accepts delivery of first military airplane
- 1942 WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) created
- 1945 USS 'Indianapolis' (CA-35) torpedoed & sunk; nearly 900 die over next 4 days
- 1966 US airplanes bomb demilitarized zone in Vietnam
- 31 1777 Marquis de Lafayette becomes major-general in Continental Army
- 1813 British attack Plattsburgh, NY
- 1925 Last Allied occupation forces leave Rhineland

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.

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

NORFOLK TIDES
HARBOR PARK
14 August, 7:05 pm*
vs Memphis Redbirds
(Cardinals)
Followed by fireworks!

VFW Post 2894
"Night Out" with Norfolk Tides

Tickets \$25 (normally \$32.25*) – includes Patio seating & BBQ – adult beverages extra.
Contact cdrpost2894@vfwva.org for reservations by 30 July.

** Meet on Party Patio at 1800 for a short Post meeting*
*** Post paying difference*

**99th ANNUAL CONVENTION
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
RENAISSANCE PORTSMOUTH-NORFOLK WATERFRONT HOTEL
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA
JUNE 3 - 6, 2021**

Eugene Chavis
Convention Chairman

Kathy Good
Convention Vice Chair

Tentative Subject to Change

**Thursday,
June 3, 2021**

11:00 AM	NOON	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING	PORTSMOUTH IV
10:00 AM	4:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	PORTSMOUTH FOYER
12:30 AM	1:30 PM	VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION MEETING	PORTSMOUTH IV
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICES	PORTSMOUTH V-VIII
6:00 PM	9:00 PM	JOINT PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	PORTSMOUTH V-VIII

**Friday,
June 4, 2021**

8:00 AM	5:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	PORTSMOUTH FOYER
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	JOINT OPENING SESSION	PORTSMOUTH V-VIII
11:30 AM	2:00 PM	COMMANDERS CLUB LUNCHEON	PORTSMOUTH I III
2:30 PM	5:00 PM	BUSINESS SESSION (NOMINATION OF STATE OFFICERS)	PORTSMOUTH IV
8:00 PM	1:00 AM	VFW RIDERS DANCE (OPEN TO ALL)	HOLLEY BALLROOM

**Saturday,
June 5, 2021**

7:30 AM	9:00 AM	PAST STATE COMMANDERS/PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST	HOLLEY BALLROOM I-III
8:30 AM	10:30 AM	REGISTRATION, VFW	PORTSMOUTH FOYER
9:30 AM	11:00 AM	BUSINESS SESSION	PORTSMOUTH IV
11:00 AM	1:00 PM	ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	PORTSMOUTH IV
NOON		VFW RIDERS BIKE SHOW	GARAGE TOP FLOOR
1:00 PM	3:00 PM	MOC SCRATCH	MADISON
1:00 PM	2:00 PM	HUMANA (VSO VA PRESENTATION)	PORTSMOUTH III
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW RIDERS MEETING	AMPHITHEATER
5:30 PM	10:00 PM	RECEPTION/ DANCE - DJ	HOLLEY BALLROOM

**Sunday,
June 6, 2021**

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	JOINT DEVOTIONAL SERVICE	MADISON
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	NEW DISTRICT COMMANDERS SCHOOL	AMPHITHEATER
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DISTRICT COMMANDER'S SCHOOL	AMPHITHEATER

Registration \$3.00 (All VFW members are required to register in advance as delegates from their Post)
FRIDAY VFW RIDERS DANCE: (Open to all members) \$10.00 per person

SATURDAY RECEPTION/DANCE WILL BE FREE TO ALL ATTENDING THE STATE CONVENTION

Bottles will be permitted in the ballroom during Fridays dance. The hotel will furnish ice and mix.

HOSPITALITY ROOMS
State - Commodore Room ** Second District -
Tenth District -

NATIONAL COMMANDER HAL ROESCH HOMECOMING

July 8-11, 2021

Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel
425 Water Street Portsmouth, VA 23704

Thursday, July 8th

11am-6pm: Registration

3pm: Hospitality room opens (open bar)

Friday, July 9th

645am: Golf tournament departs from the hotel

10am-5pm: Registration

Tour groups depart

12pm: USS Wisconsin and Nauticus Museum

12pm: Tour of the General of the Army Douglas MacArthur Memorial Museum

12pm-3pm: Hospitality room open (open bar)

630pm: Reception with a "Tailgate Party" theme. Guests are encouraged to wear the jersey of their favorite sports team (casual otherwise).

Hospitality continues until late (open bar).

Saturday, July 10th

11am-4pm: Registration

Tour groups depart

915am: 2-hour narrated Naval Base cruise (on a pleasure boat, 100-person max)

11am: Shopping at Norfolk Premium Outlets

12pm-3pm: Hospitality room open (open bar)

630pm: Dinner with guests encouraged to wear Hal's homecoming shirt (casual otherwise).

Hospitality and entertainment continue until late (open bar).

Sunday, July 11th

All Day: Guests depart

POST 2894 CALENDAR

JUNE	
3-6	Department Convention – Portsmouth
3-6	Virginia International Tattoo – ODU
6	D-Day Anniversary (1944)
8	City Council Ceremony for CDR Mulholland, 1830
9	Post Meeting, 1900 – Officer Install
14	Army “Birthday” (1775) – Flag Day
20	Father’s Day / First Day of Summer
25	Start of Korean War (1950) / Khobar Towers bombing (1996)
27	Korean War Armistice (1953)
30	End of VFW Fraternal Year

JULY	
1	Start of VFW Fraternal Year
3	4 TH of July Parade, S. Norfolk, 0900 Fireworks show, City Park
4	Independence Day
8-11	Natl Cdr Hal Roesch Homecoming, Portsmouth
14	Post Meeting/Quarterly Audit, 1900
27	Anniversary of Korean Armistice (1953)
28	Anniversary of start of WWI (1914)
7/31 - 8/3	VFW National Business Meeting, Kansas City, MO



Place Stamp Here

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



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED