

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



POST OFFICERS

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

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

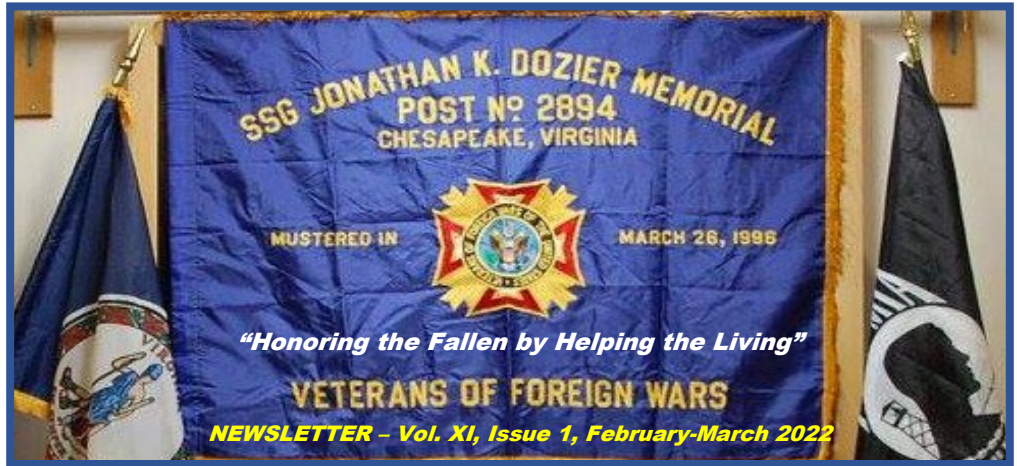
President..... Sandy Dunbar
Sr. Vice President..... Anne Thompson
Jr. Vice President..... Grace Schweers
Secretary..... Jean Dozier
Treasurer..... Donna Kust
Chaplain..... Diane Hostettlar
Conductress..... Christina Zinn
Guard..... Rosie Gregory
Patriotic Instructor..... Sharon Peterson

NATIONAL

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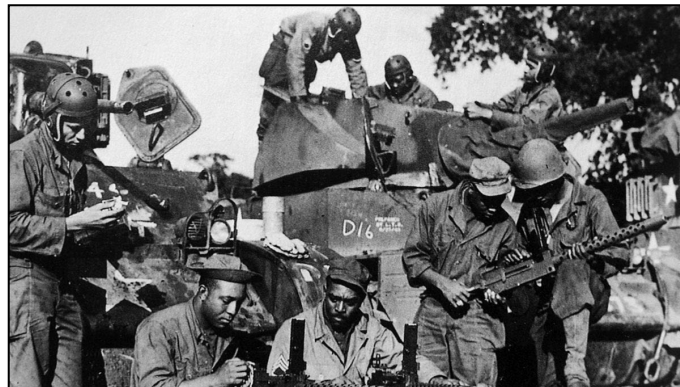
STATE

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FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

How Patton’s All-Black Tank Battalion Took the Fight to the Nazis



With the blessing of General George S. Patton, the 761st Tank Battalion, also known as the Black Panthers, became the first all-black tank unit to see combat during WWII. (Courtesy of the Patton Museum)

by Joseph E. Wilson Jr.
The 761st “Black Panther” Tank Battalion was the first African American armored unit to see combat.

Before and during mobilization for World War II, officials in Washington, D.C., debated whether or not African American soldiers should be used in armored units. Many military men and politicians believed that blacks did not have the brains, quickness or moral stamina to fight in a war.

Referring to his World War I experiences, Colonel James A. Moss, commander of the 367th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Division, stated, “As fighting troops, the Negro must be rated as second-class material, this primarily to his inferior intelligence and lack of mental

and moral qualities.” Colonel Perry L. Miles, commander of the 371st Infantry Regiment, 93rd Division, voiced a similar opinion: “In a future war, the main use of

the Negro should be in labor organizations.” General George S. Patton Jr., in a letter to his wife, wrote that “a colored soldier cannot think fast enough to fight in armor.”

The armed forces embraced these beliefs even though African Americans had fought with courage and distinction in the Revolutionary War and every other war ever waged by the United States. These commanders overlooked the fact that during World War I, four regiments of the 93rd Division had served with the French. Their valiant efforts were recognized by the French government, who awarded the coveted Croix de Guerre to three of the four regiments and to a company of the fourth, as well as to the 1st Battalion, 367th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Division.

Lieutenant General Leslie J. McNair, chief of the U.S. Army ground forces, was the main reason African Americans were allowed to serve in armored units. He believed his nation could ill afford to exclude such a potentially important source of manpower. The black press, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Congress of Racial Equality also placed increasing pressure on the War Department and

(continued on page 8)

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and cheer!



Here we are in 2022. To say 2021 was a crazy year would be putting it very mildly. All we can do is hope that we find calmer seas in 2022!

Saturday March 26th, 2022 will mark the 26th Birthday of our Post. This year we will be celebrating it at Mack's All-American Grill (801 N Battlefield Blvd, Chesapeake, VA 23320) from 3pm until 6pm. So

please mark your calendar and come join our Birthday celebration!

Recently we held our Post All American Patriot Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year completions. Our heartfelt thanks to all the contestants. After reading and listening to all the written and audio essay's our committee selected the following students and teacher as the winners of the Post competition. Congratulations to all!

Patriot Pen - Mackenzie L. Radford. Mackenzie is a 6th grader at Oaktree Academy in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Her teacher is Deborah Bryant.

Voice of Democracy - Lucas D. Evans. Lucas is a senior at Senior at Grassfield High School in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Teacher of the Year - Middle School (grades 6-8) - Jennifer M. Siler. Jennifer is a 7th Grade teacher at Hugo Owens Middle School in Chesapeake, Virginia where she teaches US History. Jennifer not only won the Post competition she also went on to win the VFW VA District 2 award!

We will be notifying all the winners as to the date, place and time of the Post and District Award Ceremonies!

It is **Post Election** time again. If you are interested in running for any Officer position, please contact our Election Committee Chairman Kimball Thompson at (thompson15@cox.net)

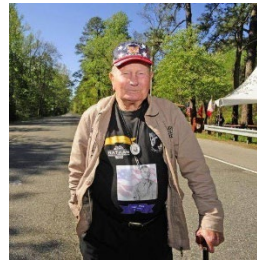
Nominations for **VFW's Scout of the Year** are due by 1 March!

Bataan Death March Memorial Walk/Run! Our biggest fund raiser of the year will happen on **April 2nd, 2022**. BUT I am very sad to say, that it will be our first without a Survivor of the actual Bataan Death March. Since our first Bataan Death March Memorial Walk in April of 2012, we have had three heroes honor us with their presence.

Chief Master Sergeant Alcide S. "Bull" Benini, United States Air Force (October 15, 1921-April 16, 2015). "Bull" was 93 years old at his passing. On May 20 2016, the 844-foot flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan was named the Bull Benini field during a ceremony in Norfolk, Virginia. Read more about "Bull" Benini here: www.militarynews.com/norfolk-navy-flagship/news/top_stories/bataan-



[honors-death-march-survivor/article_c3ecc597-90ba-5765-b22c-5fc40b612d8e.html](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/173268513/john-leroy-mims)



Sergeant First Class (Retired US Army), John Leroy Mims. (25 Nov 1922 - 27 Nov 2016). SFC Mims was 94 years old at his passing. John gives credit to God with his survival and hopes history will remember the efforts of the Allies on the eastern front. Read more about John here:

www.findagrave.com/memorial/173268513/john-leroy-mims

SSG Daniel W Crowley United States Army (May 22, 1922-September 16, 2021) Dan was 99 years old at his passing. The one main thing Dan told us was that they were "Surrendered". They never would have surrendered on their own accord. Dan received the "Prisoner of War Medal" Dan is also an Honorary Member of VFW Post 2894. Read more about Dan here: www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-ct-wwii-former-prisoner-honored-20210104-ptmhnkmipbb6zk6dzs3uwimez4-story.html



This year's Bataan Death March will be BOTH an actual onsite walk/run AND a virtual walk/run. So, you can be anywhere in the world and still be able to participate. As always we are asking for your support by passing along links to the event by posting it on your social media page, handing out our poster and sending sponsorship letter to individuals and or businesses in your circle. I will be emailing the poster and sponsorship letters soon. Here are the links to the BDM Facebook page and our website where you can get all the information you need.

www.facebook.com/Chesapeake-Bataan-Death-March-464188050284397/
<https://walkchesapeake.wixsite.com/chesapeakebataan/about-t2-clczd>

I pray to God to fill your lives with eternal joy and happiness... to bless you with the best of the health and success.... To always protect you from the negatives and enemies.... To always take care of your family.... Wishing you a Happy New Year full of smiles and success.

José Vazquez, Commander

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings from the Auxiliary. We hope

everyone that has caught COVID is recovering and you will soon be fully recovered. Those of Us that



have not caught COVID, we hope that you stay healthy.

The Auxiliary is close for our Membership Goal. We need 2 more new Members. If you have a family member that might be interested, please have them get in touch with any member of the Auxiliary.

Dates to Remember: District 2 Meeting – February 12th at VFW Post 4411 in Franklin. Lunch will be at noon and the joint meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. We will be handing out the awards for the Voice of Democracy, Patriotic Pen and Teacher of the Year for the District. under Good of the Order.

April 2, 2022 will be the Bataan Death March. Registration is now open. The Auxiliary is planning on walking as a team several times until we reach our goal of 16 miles. We look forward to helping on April 2, 2022 at the Dismal Swamp.

April 16, 2022 District 2 is hosting Fund Raiser playing Minature Golf. More details will be coming out. team of 4 will be \$80.00.

Election of Officers will be in April. Please consider holding an office in the Auxiliary. Everyone has a voice in the Auxiliary and it takes Everyone to make an Auxiliary successful.

Thank You for Everything you do for the Veterans.
Sandy Dunbar, President

veterans of World War II and the Korean War. The event is free and open to all. The flyer for this event can be found at the end of this newsletter along with a sponsorship form. **PLEASE SHARE WITH FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, FAMILY – EVERYONE!**

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

- **Legion of Merit Sponsor - \$1000** (or \$1000 of In-kind) Donation: Large name or company logo on our tee shirts and banner as well as special recognition in media and in the closing ceremony.
- **Distinguished Service Sponsor - \$500** (or \$500 of In-kind) Donation: Name or company logo on our tee shirt and banners
- **Meritorious Service Sponsor - \$250** (or \$250 of In-kind) Donation: Name or company logo on our tee shirt
- **Honorable Mention Sponsor** – Donation of any kind or amount: Our sincere Thanks

You can find more information on the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Chesapeake-Bataan-Death-March/464188050284397

11TH ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK, 2 APR 2022

Keep your calendar clear for the eleventh annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk on Saturday, April 2nd at the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail in Deep Creek just off Route 17. Since Post 2894 is hosting this event, we would like to see all the members come “virtual”

participation was such a success, we are offering that option this year as well. We will also be receiving assistance from the Marines of

Northwest Security Group, the Chesapeake Sheriff’s Department, Fire Department, and more as we host this commemorative event. We will close with a memorial ceremony dedicated to the survivors and families of Bataan/Corregidor as well as all the



POST MARCHED IN CHESAPEAKE’S 2021 CHRISTMAS PARADE

The annual Chesapeake Christmas Parade is held on the first weekend of December in Great Bridge and run by the Rotary Club. Last year’s edition – the 37th – was cancelled due to the Wuhan virus. The Post kept the community tradition “alive” by holding our own parade – we even had Santa with us! Although a much smaller parade than normal, we said “it was the thought that counts” and managed to keep the tradition going. We had great support along the way with lots of waves, shouts of encouragement, and car horns. It was our “peaceful protest”! Even Mayor West thanked us for keeping the tradition alive!

This year, the Post marched as one of several veteran service organizations (VSOs) under the banner of the Mayor’s Commission on Veterans Affairs. This year’s 38th annual Chesapeake Rotary Christmas Parade was held on December 4, 2021 with the largest number of spectators in the history of the parade. A great time was had by all since it was the first official parade in two years. We had two elves join us – one kinda cute and one kinda creepy. This year’s Grand Marshall was hometown hero and Olympian medalist, Grant Holloway.



Some of the 2894 "elves" before the parade



Comrade Susan Vitale and her daughter pose with this year's Grand Marshall was hometown hero and Olympian medalist, Grant Holloway.



The parade was televised by Channel 48



Our "cute elf" Rosie Gregory with Post President Sandy Dunbar before the parade – and our Jefe Elf!



EMMA & AMY DOZIER WERE ON NATIONAL TV!



America's Gold Star families are top of mind at Christmas with this foundation's help

During an appearance on 'Fox & Friends' on Wednesday, the founder and CEO of Believe With Me explained how it's giving back to the loved ones of America's fallen service members

By Maureen Mackey | Fox News | 22 December 2021



During an interview on Wednesday morning on "Fox & Friends," the founder and CEO of the Believe With Me foundation, Lyette Reback, shared the critical ways in which her organization along with many Americans are giving back to the families of fallen service members this Christmas season — gifts from the heart that last well beyond the holidays.

"Believe With Me takes the opportunity at Christmas to serve 1,400 children who have lost a parent serving in the military," said Reback on Wednesday morning.

On its website, the Believe With Me foundation, based in North Palm Beach, Fla. says, "We live in a world where kids just don't realize that their opportunities have cost many generations much sacrifice."

It continues, "Most children today have no idea that over 1.5 million American patriots have paid the ultimate price for their freedoms and opportunities to succeed at school, sports, and life."

The nonprofit group also says, "At Believe With Me, that cost is up close and personal as we wrap gifts for hundreds of Gold Star children at Christmas, serve alongside veterans and Gold Star family members at a Gold Star home renovation project, or serve Gold Star Mothers [for] Mother's Day."

"We resolve to remember the fallen and let their life of sacrifice light the way for the next generation," the group adds.

Also appearing on "Fox & Friends" on Wednesday morning were Amy Dozier, widow of Army Staff Sgt. Jonathan Dozier, as well as Emma Dozier, the couple's young daughter.

Jonathan Dozier lost his life on Jan. 9, 2008, in Iraq due to a makeshift bomb — leaving behind his wife Amy and daughter Emma, who was just 13 months old at the time of her father's passing.

Dozier's obituary from 2008 noted that he was only 30 when he died during combat operations in Sinsil, Iraq.

OTHER POST NEWS

• **Post Judge Advocate Is Our New Commonwealth's Attorney!** On New Year's Day, Matt Hamel assumed his position as Chesapeake's newest Commonwealth's Attorney. Two weeks prior, he held a, "super spontaneous, informal, but meaningful swearing-in." Appropriately, the ceremony was held at the city's Public Safety Memorial next to the Court House. With his wife, Karen, by his side, Matt was administered the oath of office by Clerk of Court Alan Krasnoff. Matt said, "I am extremely humbled yet ready to hit the ground running on January 1st."



• **Post Donates to Charities.** For the Christmas season, the Post donated \$150 each to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots, the Gary Sinise Foundation's Snowball Express, Fisher House, Horton Wreath Society, and the United Service Organizations (USO) of Hampton Roads/Central Virginia.

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



Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military & veteran



Emma Dozier (left), and her mom, Amy Dozier (far right), appeared with Lyette Reback of the Believe With Me foundation on 'Fox and Friends' on Wed., Dec. 22, 2021. Young Emma is holding what she calls her 'Daddy Doll.' (Fox News)

Jonathan Dozier was born in Norfolk, Va., and attended Great Bridge Schools, Fork Union Military Academy, VCU, and Middle Tennessee State University, the obituary also noted. "He will be remembered for his sensitivity, caring ways, and his ability to gather his many friends for 'celebrations,'" it pointed out.

Dozier received many medals and honors during his time in the Army, among them the Bronze Star for Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, according to the obituary.

"We feel incredibly blessed to be remembered by [the Believe With Me organization] throughout the year."

— Amy Dozier on "Fox & Friends" on Wednesday

Amy Dozier, his widow, said that her husband was killed just weeks after Christmas all those years ago — and that the family, at the time, received the Christmas gifts he'd mailed out to them during his service. Those are gifts they greatly cherish to this day.

The last time Amy Dozier spoke with her husband was Christmas Day of 2007.

"We feel incredibly blessed to be a part of this organization, to be remembered by Lyette and her organization throughout the year," she said about Believe With Me.

Lyette Reback of Believe With Me has appeared previously on Fox News to share information about her nonprofit and how Americans can help grieving military families who appreciate any little bit of extra thought and care during the holidays and all year long.

Jonathan Dozier was interred with full military honors on Jan. 22, 2008, in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

Said young Emma Dozier, in part, on Wednesday morning, "The Believe With Me foundation helps me remember that people don't forget my dad and what we've sacrificed to have freedom [in this country]."

<https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/america-gold-star-families-christmas->

families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world. Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room, and an inviting living room.

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



Horton Wreath Society (HWS) is a 501(c)3 organization that was organized to raise funds to place a live evergreen wreath on each marker in the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, Virginia. Similar to Wreaths Across America, its focus is strictly on supporting Horton Veterans Cemetery. Their slogan is: “REMEMBER the sacrifices; RESPECT our veterans; EDUCATE future generations!”

Founded during WWII, the USO sought to be the GI’s “home away from home” and began a tradition of entertaining the troops that continues today. Although congressionally-chartered, it is not a government agency. The USO has over 200 locations around the world in 14 countries (including the U.S.) and 27 states. During a gala marking the USO’s 75th anniversary in 2016, retired Army Gen. George Casey, Jr., the current chairman of the USO Board of Governors, estimated that the USO has served more than 35 million Americans over its history.



• **Post remembers the Sinsil 8.** On January 9th, 2008, our Post namesake, SSG (posthumously promoted to SFC) Jonathan K. Dozier, was killed in an IED explosion along with five other soldiers and one translator that collapsed a house on them. In October 2011, an eighth soldier, Jordan Riddle, who had been critically wounded in the blast, died as a result of his sorrow and a broken heart. Now they are all collectively known as the “Sinsil 8.” Every year, Jon’s father, Comrade Carl Dozier, hosts a ceremony where candles are lit, each individual is remembered, and a prayer

is read. Later, everyone met at a local restaurant to raise a beer in remembrance.



Carl Dozier organized and led the ceremony

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

An elderly disabled veteran called the Post and requested assistance with his yardwork. The following weekend (21 Nov.) our Service officer, Jim Ireland, organized a working party of volunteers who mowed, raked and trimmed for four hours. The veteran was extremely happy and wrote out a generous donation check to the Post.



The tired – but contented – “Croo” afterwards.

• **She Said Yes!** Christmas was extra special for Señorita Maria Emilia Liberttini of Pellegrini, Argentina when Santa had something special in her stocking this year! Auxiliary member Chris Mulholland presented her with a beautiful diamond ring and asked her to marry him and she said yes! Fortuitously Emilia’s parents happened to be in the US visiting her and her sister who lives in South Carolina. Chris secretly asked her father’s permission and he gladly gave him his blessing. There will be two weddings. The first one will take place relatively soon in front of a Justice of the Peace so they can get her citizenship process going.

While a more formal wedding is yet to be scheduled. Both sets of parents couldn't be happier! Congratulations to the future Mr. and Mrs. Christopher and Emilia Mulholland!



HAL ROESCH RUNNING FOR NATIONAL VFW QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

Hal Roesch, Virginia's first and only National Commander-in-Chief, has thrown his hat into the ring as our next National Quartermaster General. Hal issued the following statement: "After lots of encouragement from all of my VFW family and friends, and the support of my beautiful bride Beth, I am an official candidate for the position of National VFW Quartermaster General. I have an extensive Fiduciary, Financial and Insurance background. 7 years experience at the national VFW level as National Council Member, Inspector, Jr & Sr-Vice and Commander-in-Chief. Ready, Willing and Qualified to serve." Good luck, Hal!

JOIN US FOR THE 53RD OCEAN VIEW ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE, 12 MARCH

COME MARCH WITH US!!! Post 2894 will participate in this year's Ocean View Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Norfolk along with the Tidewater Military Vehicles Association. The parade is on March 12th. Bring your families, bring your friends. This is the 53rd year for the fun-filled Irish parade with marching bands, clowns, floats, cars, and people making an exciting and enjoyable parade. Everyone is Irish both in and along the parade route. After the parade there will be a party with live music, food, and fun hosted by The Columbian Club of Ocean View. 211 W. Government Ave, Norfolk, VA. It is open to the public (21 and up). We will provide more details (as they finalize) via e-mail.



PLEASE CALL YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REP AND URGE THEM TO SUPPORT THE "JUSTICE FOR ALS VETERANS ACT"!

by Chris Mulholland

ALS, aka Lou Gehrig's disease, has a disproportionate effect on the veteran community. Veterans are diagnosed with the disease at least twice the rate of the US population. It is an overwhelmingly veteran issue.

Thankfully, on December 23rd, fifty years to the day after President Nixon signed the National Cancer Act into law, President Biden signed the bipartisan "Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS" (ACT for ALS) declaring a war on ALS. ACT for ALS will help veterans and non-veterans alike access promising ALS therapies in clinical trials.

However, there is still a glaring inequity facing veterans battling ALS and their surviving spouses. Because ALS veterans die so quickly their survivors are not eligible for a benefit provided to 'slower dying' veterans. This is a travesty and injustice which must be rectified. Veteran's spouses already go thru so much alone - long separations,

the fear of death or injury of their loved one, raising of children as a single parent – this last insult to their sacrifices cannot go uncorrected.

that, sadly, many spouses of veterans are unable to meet the existing eight-year total disability requirement to become eligible for the additional “kicker” compensation benefit.

H.R. 5607, the *Justice for ALS Veterans Act* would provide increased DIC payments to surviving spouses of veterans who die from ALS regardless of how long they had been rated as totally disabled prior to death.

PLEASE CALL YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE NOW!

Chris Mulholland is a VFW National Deputy Chief of Staff, and Gold Legacy Life member of VFW Post 2894 in Chesapeake, Virginia – he was diagnosed with ALS on Friday the 13th, November 2020.

PATTON'S BLACK PANTHERS
(continued from page 1)

President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration to allow black soldiers to serve on an equal footing with white soldiers.

In the summer of 1940, Congress passed into law the Selective Training and Service Act, which said, “In the selection and training of men under this act, there shall be no discrimination against any person on account of race and color.” In October, however, the White House issued a statement saying that, while “the services of Negroes would be utilized on a fair and equitable basis,” the policy of segregation in the armed forces would continue.

In March 1941, 98 black enlisted men reported to Fort Knox, Kentucky, from Fort Custer, Michigan, for armored warfare training with the 758th Tank Battalion (light). The pioneer black tankers trained in light tank operations, mechanics and related phases of mechanized warfare, as enlisted men from other Army units joined their ranks.

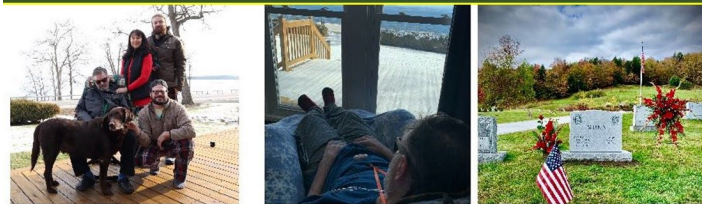
The 758th trained on the M-5 light tank, which carried a crew of four. Powered by twin Cadillac engines, it could reach a maximum speed of 40 mph and had an open-road cruising range of 172 miles. It was armed with a .30 caliber machine gun mounted to fire along the same axis as the tank’s main armament, a 37mm cannon. When the tracer bullets from the .30 caliber registered on a target, the cannon would be fired, hopefully scoring a direct hit. The M-5 was also armed with two more .30-caliber machine guns, one on the turret and one in the bow. The light tank was employed to provide fire support, mobility and crew protection in screening and reconnaissance missions.

The 5th Tank Group, commanded by Colonel LeRoy Nichols, was to be made up of black enlisted personnel and white officers. With the 758th Tank Battalion in place, two more tank battalions were needed to complete the 5th Tank Group.

On March 15, 1942, the War Department ordered the activation of the 761st Tank Battalion (light) at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, with an authorized strength of 36 officers and 593 enlisted men. (The final battalion—the 784th—would be activated on April 1, 1943.) On September 15, 1943, the 761st Battalion moved to Camp Hood, Texas, for advanced training; there they changed from light to medium tanks.



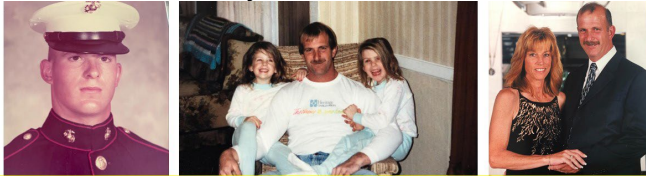
A Veteran's Life, COL Chris Munn...Before and After ALS



ALS is an aggressive disease that leaves many veterans totally incapacitated and reliant on family members and caregivers. It takes a terrible toll on the spouses and families who spend countless hours and money taking care of their loved ones during the last months of their lives. VA already recognizes ALS as a presumptive service-connected disease and due to its progressive nature, automatically rates any diagnosed veteran as 100% service disabled.

H.R. 5607, the *Justice for ALS Veterans Act*, was introduced on Oct. 19, 2020, by Representatives Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) as a bipartisan bill. This legislation would provide the survivors of veterans who die of ALS an extra compensation of DIC (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation) without meeting the required eight-year total disability rating time period.

Current law allows an additional DIC monthly payment to survivors in the case of a veteran, who at the time of death was receiving compensation for a 100% service-connected disability for a period of **at least eight years** immediately preceding death. This extra compensation installment is commonly referred to as the DIC “kicker.”



A Vet's Life, LCpl James Prosser...Before & After ALS



However, veterans diagnosed with ALS only have an average lifespan of between two to five years meaning

On July 6, 1944, one of the 761st's few black officers, Lieutenant Jackie Robinson, was riding a civilian bus from Camp Hood to the nearby town of Belton. He refused to move to the back of the bus when told to do so by the driver. Court-martial charges ensued but could not proceed because the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Paul L. Bates, would not consent to the charges. The top brass at Camp Hood then transferred Robinson to the 758th Tank Battalion, whose commander



Staff Sergeant Ruben Rivers was fatally wounded providing cover fire while his men retreated from an enemy attack. (U.S. Army)

immediately signed the court-martial consent.

The lieutenant's trial opened on August 2 and lasted for 17 days, during which time the 761st departed Camp Hood. Robinson was charged with violating the 63rd and 64th Articles of War. The first charge specified, "Lieutenant Robinson behaved with disrespect toward Captain Gerald M. Bear, Corps Military Police, by contemptuously bowing to him and giving several sloppy

salutes while repeating, O'okay Sir, O'okay Sir, in an insolent, impertinent and rude manner." The second charge stipulated, "Lieutenant Robinson having received a lawful command by Captain Bear to remain in a receiving room at the MP station disobeyed such order." Robinson was eventually acquitted, and he was not charged for his actions on the bus. Three years later, Robinson was riding buses in the major leagues after breaking baseball's color barrier.

In October 1944, after two years of intense armored training, the 761st Tank Battalion, known as the "Black Panthers," landed in France. The tankers received a welcome from the Third Army commander, Lieutenant General George S. Patton Jr., who had observed the 761st conducting training maneuvers in the States: "Men, you're the first Negro tankers to ever fight in the American Army. I would never have asked for you if you weren't good. I have nothing but the best in my Army. I don't care what color you are as long as you go up there and kill those Kraut sons of bitches. Everyone has their eyes on you and is expecting great things from you. Most of all your race is looking forward to you. Don't let them down and damn you, don't let me down!"

On November 8, 1944, the Black Panthers became the first African American armored unit to enter combat, smashing into the towns of Moyenvic and Vic-sur-Seille. During the attack, Staff Sergeant Ruben Rivers, in Able Company's lead tank, encountered a roadblock that held up the advance. With utter disregard for his personal safety, he courageously climbed out of his tank under direct enemy fire, attached a cable to the roadblock and removed it. His prompt action prevented a serious delay in the offensive and was instrumental in the success of the attack.

On November 9, Charlie Company ran into an antitank ditch near Morville. The crack German 11th Panzer Division began to knock out tanks one by one down the line. The tankers crawled through the freezing muddy waters of the ditch under pelting rain and snow while hot shell fragments fell all around them. When German artillery began to walk a line toward the ditch, the tankers' situation looked hopeless.

After exiting his burning tank, 1st Sergeant Samuel Turley organized a dismounted combat team. When the team found itself pinned down by a counterattack and unable to return fire, Turley ordered his men to retreat, climbed from the ditch and provided covering fire that allowed them to escape.

Correspondent Trezzvant Anderson described Turley's devotion to duty: "Standing behind the ditch, straight up, with a machine gun and an ammo belt around his neck, Turley was spraying the enemy with machine-gun shots as fast as they could come out of the muzzle of the red-hot barrel. He stood there covering for his men, and then fell, cut through the middle by German machine-gun bullets that ripped through his body as he stood there firing the M.G. to the last. That's how Turley went down and his body crumpled to the earth, his fingers still gripped that trigger....But we made it!"

On November 10, Sergeant Warren G.H. Crecy fought through enemy positions to aid his men until his tank was destroyed. He immediately took command of another vehicle, armed with only a .30-caliber machine gun, and liquidated the enemy position that had destroyed his tank. Still under heavy fire, he helped eliminate the enemy forward observers who were directing the artillery fire that had been pinning down the American infantry.

The next day, Crecy's tank became bogged down in the mud. He dismounted and fearlessly faced antitank, artillery and machine-gun fire as he extricated his tank. While freeing his tank, he saw that the accompanying infantry was pinned down and that the enemy had begun a counterattack. Crecy climbed up on the rear of his immobilized tank and held off the Germans with his .50-caliber machine gun while the foot soldiers withdrew. Later that day, he again exposed himself to enemy fire as he wiped out several machine-gun nests and an antitank position with only his machine gun. The more fire he drew, the harder he fought. After the battle, Crecy had to be pried away from his machine gun.

Trezzvant Anderson said of Sergeant Crecy: "To look at Warren G.H. Crecy (the G.H. stands for Gamaliel Harding) you'd never think that here was a 'killer,' who had slain more of the enemy than any man in the 761st. He extracted a toll of lives from the enemy that would have formed the composition of 3 or 4 companies, with his machine guns alone. And yet, he is such a quiet, easy-going, meek-looking fellow, that you'd think that the fuzz which a youngster tries to cultivate for a mustache would never grow on his baby-skinned chin. And that he'd never use a word stronger than 'damn.' But here was a youth who went so primitively savage on the battlefield that his only thought was to 'kill, kill, kill,' and he poured his rain of death pellets into German bodies with so much reckless abandon and joy that he was the nemesis of all the foes of the 761st. And other men craved to ride with Crecy and share the reckless thrill of killing the hated enemy that had killed their comrades. And he is now living on borrowed time. By all human equations Warren G.H. Crecy should have been dead long ago, and should have had the Congressional Medal of Honor, at least!"

The Black Panthers pushed on. It was rough going through the rain, mud, cold and driving sleet, fighting an enemy who bitterly contested every inch of ground. The 761st smashed through the French towns of Obreck, Dedeline and Château Voue with Rivers leading the way for Able Company.

Rivers, a tank platoon sergeant, became adept at liquidating the enemy with his .50-caliber machine gun. The dashing young fighter from Oklahoma was soon a legend in the battalion. One lieutenant recalled telling Rivers, via radio, "Don't go into that town, Sergeant, it's too hot in there." Rivers respectfully replied, "I'm sorry, sir, I'm already through that town!"

On the way to Guebling, France, on November 16, 1944, Rivers' tank ran over a Teller antitank mine. The explosion blew off the right track, the volute springs and the undercarriage, hurling the tank sideways. When the medical team arrived, they found Rivers behind his tank holding one leg, which was ripped to the bone. There was a hole in his leg where part of his knee had been, and bone protruded through his trousers. The medics cleansed and dressed the wound and attempted to inject Rivers with morphine, but he refused. He wanted to remain alert. The medics informed River's commanding officer, Captain David J. Williams II, that Rivers should be evacuated immediately. Rivers refused. Pulling himself to his feet, he pushed past the captain and took over a second tank. At that moment a hail of enemy fire came in. The captain gave orders to disperse and take cover.

The 761st was to cross a river into Guebling, after combat engineers constructed a Bailey bridge. The Germans tried desperately to stop the construction, but the Black Panthers held them off. The bridge was completed on the afternoon of November 17. Rivers led the way across, and the Black Panthers took up positions in and around Guebling. On the way into town, Rivers, despite his wounds, engaged two German tanks and disabled them both. Still in great pain, he took on two more tanks and forced them to withdraw. The Black Panthers spent that evening in continuous combat.

Before dawn on November 18, the captain and the medical team visited each tank. When they reached Rivers, it was obvious that he was in extreme pain. Rivers' leg was reexamined and found to be infected. The medical team said that if he was not evacuated immediately, the leg would have to be amputated. Rivers still insisted that he would not abandon his men. Throughout the day, both sides held and defended their positions.

At dawn on November 19, the 761st began an assault on the village of Bougaltroff. When the Black Panthers emerged from cover, the morning air outside Guebling lit up with tracers from enemy guns. Rivers spotted the antitank guns and directed a concentrated barrage on them, allowing his trapped comrades to escape with their lives.

Rivers continued to fire until several tracers were seen going into his turret. "From a comparatively close range of 200 yards, the Germans threw in two H.E. [high explosive] shots that scored," Anderson wrote. "The first shot hit near the front of the tank, and penetrated with ricocheting fragments confined inside its steel walls. The second scored inside the tank. The first shot had blown Rivers' brains out against the back of the tank, and the second went into his head, emerging from the rear, and the intrepid leader, the fearless, daring fighter was no more."

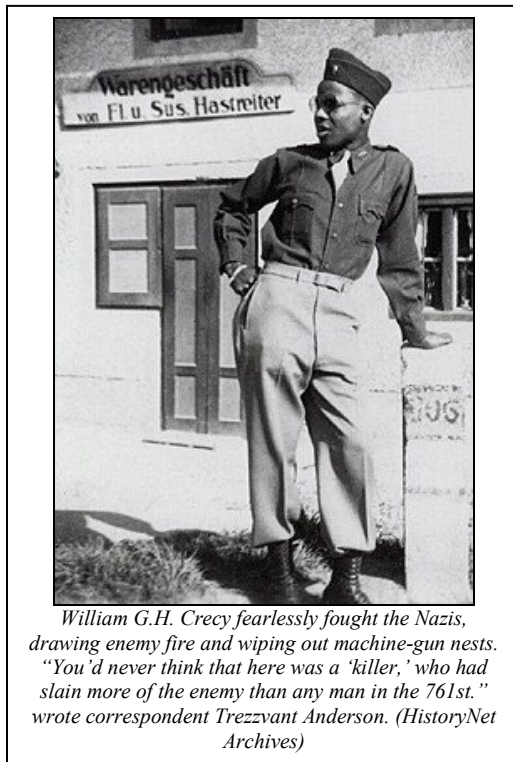
Ruben Rivers did not have to die on that cold, dreary November morning in France. Three days earlier, he had received what GIs called a "million-dollar wound." He could have been evacuated to the rear and gone home a war hero with his Silver Star and Purple Heart, knowing that the Black Panthers loved and respected him as an outstanding soldier and comrade. But he stayed—and he died.

The Black Panthers pushed on. From December 31, 1944, to February 2, 1945, the 761st took part in the American counteroffensive following the Battle of the Bulge. In a major battle at Tillet, Belgium, the 761st operated for two continuous days against German panzer and infantry units, who withdrew in the face of the Black Panthers' attack. The operations of the 761st in the Bulge split the enemy lines at three points—the Houffalize-Bastogne road, the St. Vith-Bastogne highway, and the St. Vith-Trier road—preventing the resupply of German forces encircling American troops at Bastogne.

Later, as the armored spearhead for the 103rd Infantry Division, the 761st took part in assaults that resulted in the breach of the Siegfried Line. From March 20 to 23, 1945,

operating far in advance of friendly artillery and in the face of vicious German resistance, elements of the 761st attacked and destroyed many defensive positions along the Siegfried Line. The 761st captured seven German towns, more than 400 vehicles, 80 heavy weapons, 200 horses and thousands of small arms. During that three-day period, the battalion inflicted more than 4,000 casualties on the German army. It was later determined that the 761st had fought against elements of 14 German divisions.

The Black Panthers were also among the first American units to link up with Soviet forces. On May 5, 1945, the 761st reached Steyr, Austria, on the Enns River, where they joined the Russians.



Through six months of battle, without relief, the 761st Tank Battalion served as a separate battalion with the 26th, 71st, 79th, 87th, 95th and 103rd Infantry divisions and the 17th Airborne



Division. Assigned at various times to the Third, Seventh and Ninth armies, the Black Panthers fought major engagements in six European countries and participated in four major Allied campaigns. During that time, the unit inflicted 130,000 casualties on the German army and captured, destroyed or aided in the liberation of more than 30 towns, several concentration camps, four airfields, three ammunition supply dumps, 461 wheeled vehicles, 34 tanks, 113 large guns, and thousands of individual and crew-served weapons. This was accomplished in spite of extremely adverse weather conditions, difficult terrain not suited to armor, heavily fortified enemy positions, extreme shortages of replacement personnel and equipment, an overall casualty rate approaching 50 percent and the loss of 71 tanks.

In 1978—33 years after the end of World War II—the 761st Tank Battalion received a Presidential Unit Citation. In 1997, 53 years after giving his life on the battlefield, Sergeant Ruben Rivers was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. The motto of the 761st Tank Battalion has always been “Come Out Fighting.” In World War II, that is exactly what the Black Panthers did.

This article was written by Joseph E. Wilson, Jr. and originally published in World War II magazine in January 1998.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR **Due March 1st**

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



To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

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

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

The deadline for this coming year is March 1st, 2021

Entry forms were in the last newsletter and are available on VFW website at:

www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scout-of-the-year

PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST NOMINATIONS **- Due March 31st**

The VFW Auxiliary’s Young American Creative Patriotic Art Awards are presented by the VFW Auxiliary and judged on their originality of concept, presentation, and patriotism expressed; the content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas; the design technique; total impact of work; and uniqueness. Students must in high school, no older than 18, and a US citizen or national.

Entry forms were in the last newsletter and can be downloaded at: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/>

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA NOMINATIONS **DUE 31 MARCH**

Illustrating America is another VFW Auxiliary art contest but for students in grades 1-8 who are enrolled in public, private, parochial or home study programs. The contest consists of three grade divisions: 1-2, 3-5 and 6-8, with national awards for first, second and third place in each grade division. They must be US citizens or Nationals but don’t have to be related to anyone in the VFW or Auxiliary. Art must be two-dimensional, on canvas or paper, sized between 8”x10” and 18”x24”. Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are not accepted. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. If the American flag is used, it does not need to conform to Federal code regarding colors or number of stars and stripes.

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

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

CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE

In honor of St. Patrick's Day let us share his prayer:

St. Patrick's Breastplate

May the strength of God guide me this day, and may his power preserve me. May the wisdom of God instruct me; the eye of God watch over me; the ear of God hear me; the word of God give sweetness to my speech; the hand of God defend me; and may I follow the way of God.



*Christ be with me, Christ before me,
Christ be after me, Christ within me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ at my right hand, Christ at my left,
Christ in the fort, Christ in the chariot,
Christ in the ship,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks to me.
Christ in every eye that sees me.
Christ in every ear that hears me.*

+ SAFETY CORNER +

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL MONTH

February is American Heart Month, a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health.

In 2017, the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association published new guidelines for hypertension management and defined high hypertension as a blood pressure at or above 130/80 mmHg. Stage 2 hypertension is defined as a blood pressure at or above 140/90 mmHg.

- Hypertension puts you at risk for heart disease and stroke, which are leading causes of death in the United States.
- In 2019, more than half a million deaths in the United States had hypertension as a primary or contributing cause.
- Nearly half of adults in the United States (47%, or 116 million) have hypertension, defined as a systolic blood pressure greater than 130 mmHg or a diastolic blood pressure greater than 80 mmHg or are taking medication for hypertension.
- Only about 1 in 4 adults (24%) with hypertension have their condition under control.



- About half of adults (45%) with uncontrolled hypertension have a blood pressure of 140/90 mmHg or higher. This includes 37 million U.S. adults.
 - About 34 million adults who are recommended to take medication may need it to be prescribed and to start taking it. Almost two out of three of this group (19 million) have a blood pressure of 140/90 mmHg or higher.
 - High blood pressure was a primary or contributing cause of death for 516,955 people in the United States in 2019.
 - High blood pressure costs the United States about \$131 billion each year, averaged over 12 years from 2003 to 2014.
- Whatever your age, you can take steps each day to keep your blood pressure in a healthy range.**

Manage High Blood Pressure

You can measure your blood pressure at home with a home blood pressure monitor, or you can visit your doctor or nurse to have your blood pressure checked.

Learn steps you can take to lower your risk for health problems from high blood pressure (also called hypertension), such as heart disease and stroke.

Measure Your Blood Pressure on a Regular Basis

Measuring your blood pressure is an important step toward keeping a healthy blood pressure. Because high blood pressure and elevated blood pressure often have no symptoms, checking your blood pressure is the only way to know for sure whether it is too high.



You can measure your blood pressure at home with a home blood pressure monitor, or you can visit your doctor or nurse to have your blood pressure checked.

If you learn that you have high blood pressure, you should take steps to control your blood pressure to lower your risk for heart disease and stroke.

Manage Diabetes

Most people with diabetes—about 6 out of 10—also have high blood pressure. If your health care professional thinks you have symptoms of diabetes, he or she may recommend that you get tested.

If you have diabetes, monitor your blood glucose (also called blood sugar) levels carefully and talk with your health care team about treatment options. Your doctor or health care professional may recommend certain lifestyle changes to help keep your blood glucose levels under good control. Those actions will also help reduce your risk for high blood pressure.

Take Your Medicine

If you take medicine to treat high blood pressure or other health conditions, follow your doctor's or health care professional's instructions carefully. Always ask questions if you do not understand something, and never stop taking your medicine without talking to your doctor or pharmacist first. Stopping your blood pressure medicine without first talking to your health care team could lead to serious health consequences. Learn more about blood pressure medicines.

Make Lifestyle Changes

If you have high blood pressure, you can help lower it by being physically active, eating a healthy diet, and making other lifestyle changes. Learn more about ways to prevent and manage high blood pressure.

Talk with Your Health Care Team

You and your health care team can work together to prevent or treat the medical conditions that lead to high blood pressure.

Discuss your treatment plan regularly and bring a list of questions to your appointments.

- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Kimball Thompson
- **Health Committee:** Surgeon Ron Liston
- **Scholarship Committee:** Carl Dozier, Chris Mulholland, and Kimball Thompson

+ SAFETY CORNER +
MARCH IS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

March is National Kidney Month, a time when communities across the country raise awareness about kidney disease. This year's focus is on taking charge of your health and the many factors that go into managing your kidney disease.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a serious condition affecting 37 million people. Often overlooked until symptoms appear, CKD is progressive and can put you at risk for serious health complications including kidney failure. Adopting a healthy lifestyle can help you manage and slow progression of CKD and its complications.



Follow these healthy lifestyle tips to take charge of your kidney health.

- Meet regularly with your health care team. Staying connected with your doctor, whether in-person or using telehealth via phone or computer, can help you maintain your kidney health.
- Manage blood pressure and monitor blood glucose levels. Work with your health care team to develop a plan to meet your blood pressure goals and check your blood glucose level regularly if you have diabetes.
- Take medicine as prescribed and avoid NSAIDs like ibuprofen and naproxen. Your pharmacist and doctor need to know about all the medicines you take.
- Aim for a healthy weight. Create a healthy meal plan and consider working with your doctor to develop a weight-loss plan that works for you.
- Reduce stress and make physical activity part of your routine. Consider healthy stress-reducing activities and get at least 30 minutes or more of physical activity each day.
- Make time for sleep. Aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep per night.
- Quit smoking. If you smoke, take steps to quit.

It may seem difficult, but small changes can go a long way to keeping your kidneys and you healthier for longer.

POST COMMITTEES – YOU CAN HELP!

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

- **Bataan Death March (2 Apr 2022) Committee:** Ted Roberts, John Peterson, Ann Jones, Becky & Brad Waters, Anne Thompson, Matt & Diane Hostetlar, and Bob Gregory
- **Budget Committee:** Chuck Wolff, José Vazquez, Mark Rios, and Carl Dozier
- **Awards Committee:** Brad & Becky Waters, Mark Rios, Joe Hammers, and John Guill
- **Membership Committee:** José Vazquez, John Guill, Mark Rios, and Gary Dunbar
- **Building Committee:** Carl Dozier, José Vazquez, Becky Waters and Chris Cameron

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

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

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

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

1-800-313-4200, help@vfwnationalhome.org

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP – AND CONSIDER A LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

QUARTERMASTER DESK



Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$30 *IF you go through our Post* – if you go through National make sure you indicate Post 2894!

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

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

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

31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement.

<u>Age</u>	<u>One-Time Payment</u>	<u>Installment Payment</u>
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.

FEBRUARY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1800 USS 'Constellation' takes French 'Vengeance' in 5-hour night battle
- 1862 Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of Republic" is published
- 1865 Sherman begins marching through South Carolina
- 1968 Saigon: Nguyen Ngoc Loan summarily executes Viet Cong murderer
- 2** 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends Mexican-American War
- 1901 US Army Nurse Corps established
- 1945 Escape attempt at Mauthausen concentration camp
- 1989 Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, ending 9 years of war
- 3** 1783 Spain recognizes US independence
- 1943 USS Dorchester sunk – the "Four Chaplains" immortalized
- 4** 1779 John Paul Jones takes command of 'Bonhomme Richard'
- 1941 USO (United Service Organization) is formed
- 1944 US 7th Infantry Division completes capture of Kwajalein
- 1945 Yalta Conference begins: FDR, Churchill, & Stalin
- 1959 Keel laid for USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), 1st nuclear aircraft carrier
- 5** 1918 Stephen W Thompson becomes first US pilot to down an enemy airplane
- 6** 1778 France recognizes US, signs treaty of aid in Paris
- 1832 US ship destroys Sumatran village in retaliation for piracy
- 1899 Spanish-American War officially ends
- 1945 Battle for Manila begins
- 1945 Over 4,000 American POWs freed from Luzon prison camps
- 7** 1800 Frigate USS 'Essex' becomes 1st U.S. warship to cross Equator
- 1945 General Douglas MacArthur returns to Manila
- 8** 1865 Martin Delany becomes first black major in US Army
- 1910 Boy Scouts of America founded.
- 1918 "The Stars and Stripes" begins publication in France
- 9** 1918 U.S. Army Chaplains' School formed at Fort Monroe
- 1943 Japanese complete evacuation of Guadalcanal, as US columns make contact at Cape Esperance, ending epic campaign
- 10** 1676 Battle of Lancaster: Massachusetts militia attack & defeat Wampanoag Indians
- 1763 Treaty of Paris ends French & Indian/Seven Years' War
- 1807 Congress establishes US Coast Survey
- 1962 USSR swaps U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for spy Rudolph Abel
- 12** 1948 First black Regular Army Nurse is commissioned: 1st Lt Nancy Leftenant; retires 1965 as major, USAF
- 1955 Pres Eisenhower sends US advisors to South Vietnam

- 13** 1861 1st Medal of Honor action: Asst Surg Bernard Erwin, Apache Pass, Az (awarded 1894)
- 1945 Allies begin fire-bombing of Dresden, about 50,000 die
- 14** 1778 USS Ranger carries recently adopted Stars and Stripes to foreign port for first time on arrival in France
- 1912 US sub 'E-1' (SS-24) commissioned, 1st American diesel boat
- 1945 US troops reach Bataan peninsula outside Manila
- 15** 1856 USS 'Supply' loads 21 camels at Smyrna, Turkey, for US Army
- 1898 Havana Harbor: Second class battleship USS 'Maine' blows up from undetermined causes, 258 killed
- 1919 American Legion formed in Paris
- 1944 Italy: Allies commence bombing & shelling Monte Cassino
- 16** 1804 Stephen Decatur retakes and burns USS 'Philadelphia', which had been captured by Dey of Tripoli
- 1945 US airborne forces land on Corregidor (fighting lasts until March 3)
- 1959 Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba
- 17** 1621 Plymouth Colony elects Miles Standish "Captain" of militia
- 1864 CSS 'H.L. Hunley' sinks USS 'Housatonic', and herself: 1st submarine victory, albeit Pyrrhic
- 1915 Edward Stone, 1st US combatant to die in WW I, mortally wounded
- 1943 "Joltin' Joe" DiMaggio joins Army
- 1944 US forces land on Eniwetok Atoll, which is secured on Feb 22
- 1945 US Navy "frogmen" clearing beaches at Iwo Jima take heavy losses
- 1947 Voice of America begins broadcasting to USSR
- 18** 1846 US Navy adopts "port" in place of traditional "larboard"
- 1865 Sherman captures Charleston, SC
- 1941 CINCUS Husband Kimmel writes, "I feel that an attack . . . on Pearl Harbor is a possibility."
- 19** 1942 FDR orders internment of Japanese-Americans on West Coast
- 1943 Battle of Kasserine Pass: Rommel's panzers hit US troops
- 1943 US Naval forces under MacArthur designated Seventh Fleet
- 1945 US Marines land on Iwo Jima
- 20** 1942 E. H. "Butch" O'Hare downs 5 Japanese aircraft, helping USS 'Lexington' (CV-2) beat off an air attack
- 1962 John Glenn becomes first American in orbit
- 21** 1903 Cornerstone laid for Army War College (now NDU)
- 22** 1821 Spain sells East Florida to United States
- 1909 Great White Fleet returns to Hampton Roads after world cruise
- 1915 Germany begins "restricted" submarine warfare
- 1935 Airplanes are prohibited from flying over White House
- 1942 FDR orders MacArthur to leave Philippines for Australia
- 1943 'Iowa' (BB-61) commissioned in Brooklyn
- 1944 US Eighth Air Force erroneously bombs Enschede, Arnhem, Nijmegen, Netherlands, kill about 800
- 1974 First woman naval aviator: Lt, j.g., Barbara Ann Allen
- 23** 1778 Baron von Steuben joins Continental Army at Valley Forge
- 1795 USN Supply Corps founded as Office of Purveyor of Supplies
- 1836 Santa Anna lays siege to Alamo, stormed on March 6
- 1903 US leases Guantanamo Bay from Cuba for \$4,000 a year; Castro has refused to cash checks since 1959
- 1942 Japanese submarine 'I-17' shells Elwood, California.
- 1945 Iwo Jima: 28th Marines raise US flag on Mount Suribachi
- 1945 Operation Grenade: Gen Simpson's Ninth Army attacks Ruhr
- 1945 Liberation of captives in Japanese internment camp at Los Baños, Philippines
- 1946 Yamashita Tomoyuki, 60, Japanese general, "Tiger of Malaya", hanged by Allies

- 1979 Frank Peterson Jr. becomes first black Marine Corps general
- 24** 1779 George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes from British
- 1917 Britain gives "Zimmermann Note" to US, revealing German efforts to get Mexico to invade southwest
- 1945 Manila liberated, after heavy fighting & serious civilian casualties
- 1968 US and Vietnamese troops complete liberation of Hue City
- 1991 Ground Phase of Operation Desert Storm begins, resulting in liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation
- 25** 1836 Samuel Colt patents a practical revolver
- 1945 First B-29 fire bomb raid on Tokyo, burns 10,000 acres
- 26** 1775 Battle of Salem, Mass.: British expedition to seize colonists' arms is turned back, "Leslie's Retreat"
- 1848 Marx & Engels publish "The Communist Manifesto"
- 1863 Lincoln signs National Currency Act, establishing greenbacks
- 1940 US Air Defense Command established at Mitchell Field, LI, NY
- 1942 USN aviator Don Mason signals, "Sighted sub, sank same"
- 1944 First woman USN captain, Sue Dauser, Navy Nurse Corps
- 1949 USAF plane begins first nonstop around-the-world flight
- 1993 Islamist terrorists bomb World Trade Center, 7 die
- 2001 Taliban destroy Great Buddhas of Bamiyan, in Afghanistan
- 27** 1704 Indian raid on Deerfield, Ma; 40 die, 100 captured
- 1991 Operation Desert Storm: Iraqis ousted from Kuwait
- 28** 1893 USS 'Indiana' (BB-1) launched, first American 1st class battleship
- 1991 Desert Storm ground war ends after 100 hours
- 29** 1692 Salem witch trials begin
- 1704 Deerfield Massacre: French & Indian raid on Mass. town leaves about 100 dead
- 1864 President Lincoln signs U.S. Grant's commission as first substantive lieutenant general in army since Washington
- 1931 Congress adopts "Star Spangled Banner" as national anthem
- 4 1789 U.S. Constitution goes into effect
- 1814 Battle of Longwood: Americans defeat British, near Wardsville, Ontario.
- 1861 CSA adopts "Stars & Bars" as national flag
- 1877 5-times wounded veteran Rutherford B Hayes inaugurated as president
- 1881 Former Maj Gen James A Garfield inaugurated as president
- 1889 Bvt Brig Gen. Benjamin Harrison inaugurated as 21st president
- 1897 Bvt Maj William McKinley inaugurated as 23rd president
- 1943 Battle of Bismarck Sea ends: Japanese lost 12 ships, thousands of men.
- 5 1770 The Boston Massacre
- 1821 Veteran James Monroe is inaugurated as 5th president
- 1945 US VII Corps captures Cologne (Köln)
- 1960 Elvis honorably discharged from US Army
- 6 1822 USS 'Enterprise' captures 4 pirate ships in Gulf of Mexico
- 1831 Edgar Allen Poe expelled from West Point
- 1836 Santa Anna's Mexicans storm Alamo, after 13 day siege
- 1944 USAF begins daylight bombing of Berlin
- 7 1774 British close port of Boston to all commerce
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell is granted a patent for telephone
- 1942 First black cadets graduate from USAAF flying school at Tuskegee
- 1945 9th Arm Div captures Ludendorff Bridge over Rhine at Remagen and enters Germany
- 8 1945 1st African-American Navy Nurse commissioned: Ens. Phyllis Daley
- 1945 Luzon: Sixth Army offensive against Japanese Shimbu Line.
- 1950 First woman medical officer assigned to US naval vessel: B R Walters
- 1950 USSR announces development of atomic bomb
- 1958 'Wisconsin' (BB-64) decommissioned; for first time in 62 years, USN has no battleships in commission
- 1965 Vietnam: First US combat troops arrive (3,500 Marines)
- 9 1798 Dr George Balfour appointed first surgeon in USN
- 1847 Winfield Scott lands army at Veracruz, Mexico, and begins siege.
- 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads II: USS 'Monitor' fights CSS 'Virginia' to a draw, preserving blockade
- 1945 US B-29s bomb Tokyo, est. 80,000-120,000 die - highest toll in a single air raid, exceeding even atomic bombs
- 10 1942 NY's 27th Inf Div sails for Hawaii - first division to ship out in WW II.
- 11 1779 US Army Corps of Engineers established
- 1942 Bataan: MacArthur leaves for Mindanao on PT-Boat
- 1943 American Volunteer Group ("Flying Tigers") renamed Fourteenth Air Force
- 12 1912 Girl Scouts of America founded
- 1942 Burma: Joseph Stilwell assumes combined U.S./Chinese command.
- 1947 US announces "Truman Doctrine," to fight communism
- 13 1942 Julia Flikke, Nurse Corps, becomes first woman colonel in US Army
- 15 1493 Columbus returns to Spain from his first voyage
- 1781 Battle of Guilford Court House: British barely defeat Colonists and retire from Carolinas to Yorktown, Virginia
- 1916 Pershing begins 10-month pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico
- 1944 Abbey of Monte Cassino destroyed by Allied bombing
- 16 1882 US Senate ratifies treaty establishing International Red Cross
- 1945 Iwo Jima: organized Japanese resistance ends, mopping up continues.

MARCH MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1781 Continental Congress adopts "Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union."
- 1954 Bikini: US detonates 15 megaton hydrogen bomb
- 1954 Puerto Rican nationalists open fire in Congress, 5 wounded
- 1961 Peace Corps is established
- 2008 USS 'New York' (LPD-21), incorporating steel from World Trade Center, christened at New Orleans
- 2 1776 Americans begin shelling British troops in Boston
- 1807 Congress bans importation of slaves effective Jan 1, 1808
- 1836 Texas declares independence from Mexico
- 1859 Paddle steamer USS 'Saginaw' commissioned, first American warship built on West Coast, at Mare Island
- 1867 US Navy Civil Engineering Corps founded
- 1938 15th Infantry leaves China after 26 years in garrison at Tientsin & Peking.
- 1945 Philippines: Japanese resistance on Corregidor ends.
- 3 1776 US squadron under Commo Esek Hopkins attacks Nassau, Bahamas: First American overseas expedition
- 1813 Office of Surgeon General of US Army is established
- 1815 Second Barbary War: US declares war on Algiers for piratical acts, 3 years after Algerians declared war on US
- 1863 Congress passes "Enrollment Act," initiating federal conscription
- 1871 US Navy Medical Corps established
- 1899 George Dewey is promoted to Admiral of the Navy
- 1915 Congress authorizes a Chief of Naval Operations (CNO)
- 1915 Congress creates Naval Reserve

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

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 adjpost2894@vfwva.org

If you know of a business or anyone who would like to help sponsor Post 2894, please let them know that their help will be recognized in the newsletter.

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

Semper fidelis, *Chris Mulholland*

**YOUR AD COULD
BE HERE!!!**





11th ANNUAL



BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK



APRIL 2nd, 2022 | DISMAL SWAMP TRAIL, CHESAPEAKE

Take a part in a walking event commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March of World War II. Honor the 90,000 US and Filipino Servicemen who suffered and endured one of the most harrowing events in history.

Onsite Events:

16.6 mile walk | 7:00AM start

5 mile walk | 10:00 AM

1 mile family walk | 11:00 AM

Closing Ceremony | 12:00PM

Registration starts @ 6:00AM



Sponsored by
VFW Post 2894

SSG Jon K. Dozier Memorial

Virtual Event:

16.6mile/5mile/1mile

Walk/run/bike/swim/roll - ANY
WAY YOU WANT, ANYTIME,
ANYWHERE!


15 JAN - APR 2, 2022

Military Displays and Lots of family friendly activities!



For more information, visit <https://walkchesapeake.wixsite.com/chesapeakebataan>
Register by April 2nd at <https://walkchesapeake.wixsite.com/chesapeakebataan/register>
Walk-on registrations welcome

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
1	National Freedom Day
2	Groundhog Day
9	Post Mtg (1900)/Slate of Officers
12	Lincoln's Birthday
12	District 2 Mtg, Post 4411 (1200 lunch/1300 meeting)
13	NFL Superbowl 
14	♥ Valentine's Day ♥
21	Presidents' Day/ Washington's Birthday

<u>MARCH</u>	
1	Scout of the Year Nominations due
2	Ash Wednesday
9	Post Meeting (1900)/Nomination of Officers
12	Norfolk Saint Patrick's Day Parade
13	Daylight savings begins ("spring ahead")
17	♣ St. Patrick's Day ♣
20	First Day of Spring
26	Anniversary of Post founding (1996) Mack's American Grill (1500-1800)
29	National Vietnam Veterans Day ('73)
31	Patriotic Art Nominations due

2 APRIL – BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK!!!



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

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Stamp
Here



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED