

VFW OBJECTIVES:

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



Meetings

2nd Tuesday of the month – 7:00 pm
 Apostles Lutheran Church,
 370 Johnstown Rd, Chesapeake, VA



Post Address:

VFW Post 2894
 PO Box 15842
 Chesapeake, VA 23328

Email: cdrpost2894@vfwva.org

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

Visit us on FaceBook

POST OFFICERS

Commander..... José Vazquez
 Sr. Vice Commander..... Bob Gregory
 Jr. Vice Commander..... Mike Kust
 Adjutant..... Dan Eaker
 Quartermaster..... Chuck Wolff
 Chaplain..... Kimball Thompson
 Surgeon..... Dave Weber
 Staff Judge Advocate..... Matt Hamel
 Service Officer..... Jim Ireland

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President..... Anne Thompson
 Sr. Vice President..... Rosie Gregory
 Jr. Vice President..... Sharon Peterson
 Secretary..... Jean Dozier
 Treasurer..... Donna Kust
 Chaplain..... Diane Hostetlar
 Conductress..... Ginny Culppepper
 Guard..... Sandy Dunbar
 Patriotic Instructor..... Jacki Conway

NATIONAL

www.vfw.org

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2



POST MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES

November was a busy month, with numerous activities going on that involved many of our Post and Auxiliary members. Here's a quick rundown of all the events supported by our Post veterans and Auxiliary members.

• Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Fundraiser.

The first weekend in November found several of our Post and auxiliary members distributing Buddy Poppies to the public during our Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Fundraiser. This year we worked three locations: Walmart at North Battlefield; Grassfield Walmart; and Tractor Supply on Centerville



VFW Post 2894 and auxiliary members hand out Buddy Poppies at Tractor Supply Company in remembrance of Veterans Day.



VFW Post 2894 members hand out Buddy Poppies at Grassfield Walmart in remembrance of Veterans Day.

Parkway. The fantastic weather was an added bonus that made this year's event both enjoyable and a great success, with over \$4700 raised from the three locations! Thanks to all who came out and helped with the drive and a special thanks to the three locations that made this a tremendously successful event: Walmart on North Battlefield; Grassfield Walmart; and Tractor Supply Company!

• **Veterans Day Field of Valor at Grassfield High School.**



Over two thousand flags were placed on the front lawn of Grassfield High School to honor Veterans, both past and present.

Grassfield High School continued a Veterans Day tribute with its Field of Valor, a display of hundreds of flags representing Veterans who have served or are serving in numerous foreign conflicts. On Thursday, 10 November, the students held a Flag Ceremony to commemorate all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect our American way of life. The numerous flags represented both veterans past and present as well as over 400 Gold Star families from Chesapeake. Thanks to all the donors and especially the students and faculty at Grassfield High School for providing such a spectacular tribute to our veterans.



VFW Post 2894 Veterans attend Grassfield High School Field of Valor Ceremony

• **Chesapeake City Veterans Day Recognition.** On Veterans Day, 11 November, local veterans gathered at the Chesapeake City Hall to remember local veterans, both past and present. The City of Chesapeake and the Mayor’s Commission on Veterans’ Affairs (MCVA) hosted an indoor ceremony in the City Council chambers due to inclement weather. The ceremony honored the 27,000 Chesapeake veterans who have served or are serving in U.S. military forces. Guest speaker, LtCol Jason Harris, a Marine Corps aviator currently serving with Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic, provided a moving oratory that reflected the sacrifices made by our American military personnel, both past and present.



VFW Post 2894 members participated in the Chesapeake City Veterans Day Recognition

• **POST MARINES HOST ANNUAL MARINE CORPS CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY.**



On November 8th, the Marines of VFW Post 2894 hosted an event to commemorate the 247th birthday of the Marine Corps. The Post Marines conducted a traditional cake cutting ceremony. Post Marine veteran Bob Gregory performed the Adjutant duties, looking sharp in his Dress Blues as he boomed out the ceremonial orders. Guest of Honor was our own Chris “Mules” Mulholland, with Mark Rios and Dan Eaker assisting with the narratives and music accompaniment! The oldest Marine present was Vietnam veteran, retired Lt Col Dave Weber, while the youngest Marine was newly accepted member Mitch Brinkman. The ceremony was followed by a social get-together which included the traditional birthday cake, provided by Becky Waters. A good time was had by all! Thanks to everyone for ensuring this was once again a successful event!



Oldest Marine, Colonel Dave Weber, USMC (retired), shares USMC Birthday Cake with youngest Marine, Sgt Mitch Brinkman.



MSgt Bob Gregory, USMC (retired), serves birthday cake to the Guest of Honor, Major Chris Mulholland, USMC (retired).

COMMANDER'S CORNER

On behalf of VFW Post 2894 I would like to wish everyone a “Merry Christmas” and a “Happy New Year”! God bless us all!

Upcoming events:

District 2 Meeting: On 3 Dec we will be attending the district 2 meeting where we will be receiving our “All State” and “All-American” honors for the 7th year in a row!

Chesapeake Christmas Parade: Also, on 3 Dec we will be participating in the Chesapeake Christmas Day Parade. On 13 Dec will hold our Post meeting and annual Christmas Party. On 8 Apr 2023 we will hold our annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk. Plans are in the works. Salute to Gregory Gonzales for taking the helm!

Past events:

Gun Raffle: Our annual Gun Raffle was a great success as we sold 389 out of 400 tickets. That means we added about \$3890.00 to our post general funds. Salute goes out to our SVC Bob Gregory for all his hard work. We would also like to thank “Freedom Outdoors” for donating the firearm. Please visit their site here for all your firearms, munition, and accessory needs: <https://freedomoutdoors.us/>:

Bea Oakley Buddy Poppy/Recruiting Drive: Another great success as we collected over \$4700.00 that go directly to our “Relief” fund. All monies in our relief fund are used exclusively to help Veterans in need! This year we expanded our reach by holding the event in three different locations, Walmart Grassfield, Walmart Battlefield, and the Tractor Supply store. We could have done better if it were not for running out of poppies, lesson learned. Salutes go out to JVC Mike Kust and SVC Bob Gregory for their hard work to make this such a great success. Thanks to all who helped to make this possible!

On the Home/Headquarters front: Cutting through Red Tape takes time! We have waited 26 years for this opportunity so a few months wait is nothing in comparison. “Steady as She Goes”! On 6 Dec we will be having a meeting with the City Manager and Planning staff to go over many details we need to know about. Also, I would like to have a face to face with everyone involved in this “Historic Post Event”. The timeline, at this point, looks like January for the lease to be signed. Will know better after the meeting. Transforming this fire house to our post Home/HQ will be no easy task! I believe a lot of you have skillsets that will be needed so please step forward to be part of this renovation! If you are or know of a Licensed Contractor who may be willing to do “Pro Bono” work, please reach out to them. We will need help in all “Skill Sets”! We have helped many Vets throughout the years, now it’s time to help ourselves. I’m sure Home Depot and Lowes will supply us with the materials needed. You can contact me at cdrpost2894@gmail.com

Also please don’t forget to visit our Post Website where you can find a lot of useful information. Membership- If you know someone who may be interested in joining our Post, they can do so on the site! www.vfw2894.org

José Vazquez, Commander

AUXILIARY 2894 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The hustle and bustle of the Holiday season has begun. For me, the Buddy Poppy Drive and Veterans Day are the big events that kick off the season of Gratitude and Thanksgiving. We helped the Post pass out poppies at Walmart and attended the Veterans Day Ceremony at City Hall. Seeing and talking to these Veterans brings such a rush of emotion. Continuing through the Holidays, the Auxiliary will be assisting in an Angel Tree Gift Giving program for Veterans. In January we will start on a t-shirt quilt for raffle at the Bataan Death March, work on our Buddy Poppy project and collect more gifts for Veterans at the VA Hospital for the Spring.

*We wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!
Remember our Military serving all
over the World.*

Sincerely,
Anne Thompson



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

Surprise Visitors for Christmas Eve



American troops in the Ardennes Forest, 1944.

This well-known photo of American troops marching in the Ardennes highlights the difficult winter weather dealt with during the Battle of the Bulge

On December 16th, 1944, Adolf Hitler launched a surprise attack against the Allied soldiers in Belgium's dense Ardennes Forest in what became known as the Battle of the Bulge. The attack was Hitler's desperate, last-ditch effort to win the war on the Western Front. The fighting was heavy and brutal.

At the same time, the brutal winter weather beginning on December 22nd—snow, blizzards, fog, and rain—made maneuvering on both sides difficult. Many American soldiers were still wearing the same summer uniforms they'd been wearing when they hit the beaches at Normandy six months earlier.

But despite the chaos of war, an example of goodwill and humanity would be found in the midst of battle.



American armored units advance to the front during the Ardennes Forest offensive, 1944.

Winter weather and heavy fog made fighting in the Ardennes even more difficult. Some soldiers got separated from their units in the chaos of battle and ended up lost in the forest

During this time, twelve-year-old Fritz Vincken and his mother, Elizabeth, were staying in an old cabin, not far from the

fighting. Fritz's father had sent them there because Allied bombing had damaged their home back in Aachen, Germany. Unfortunately, he couldn't join them at the cabin on Christmas Eve because of the recent bad snow storm.

In the early evening of December 24th, Elizabeth was making a meager dinner of chicken soup for their Christmas Eve meal when someone knocked on the cabin door. When she opened the door, Elizabeth found herself facing three American soldiers. One of them had sustained a gunshot wound to the leg. Elizabeth spoke no English and they spoke no German. Fortunately, she and one of the soldiers knew a little French and communicated using French, along with sign language.

The American told her they had become lost in the snow storm and that the wounded soldier was bleeding heavily. They also were hungry. Then he asked if they could come in from the cold and spend the night with them because he feared they would freeze to death if they slept outside. Whatever she decided, though, they would abide by her decision. Harboring an enemy soldier was illegal. If it were found out she had taken them in, she would be executed. But, because it was Christmas Eve, Elizabeth invited them into the cabin. She made the wounded soldier as comfortable as she could. Fritz was sent to fetch some potatoes and a rooster the family had been saving to make a Christmas dinner for the exhausted soldiers.



American soldiers take up positions in the Ardennes Forest, 1944.

Freezing temperatures and snow storms made it difficult for troops to stay warm, and many units had not yet received much needed winter supplies

Not long after, another knock sounded on the door. Fritz opened the door—and found himself facing four German soldiers. One of the soldiers told him they had become separated from their unit, were starving, and feared they'd freeze to death during the night if they stayed outside.

Elizabeth went outside. Shutting the door behind her so the Americans couldn't hear, she told the Germans that they could come in and eat, but warned them there were other visitors inside they may not like. One was wounded. "It is the Holy Night," she told them, "and there will be no shooting here." If they left their weapons outside, they could come in, eat, and spend the night.



German soldiers patrol the woods in the Ardennes Forest, 1944.

German soldiers at the Battle of Bulge, Hitler's last-ditch effort to turn the tide of the war back in his favor

The weary but cautious Germans agreed.

Elizabeth went back in and announced that four German soldiers were outside who needed food and a place to spend the night. The Germans, she said, wouldn't try to take them prisoner. But the Americans had to give her their weapons as well.

The Americans complied, and the weapons were stashed in a shed outside the cabin. Then she let the Germans into the cabin.

The meeting was awkward at first, with the Americans sitting on one side of the room and the Germans on the other side. The thaw began when the Germans started singing *Silent Night* in Latin. The Americans joined in, singing in English.

The Germans shared the last of their food—a loaf of bread and some wine—with the Americans. With the tension between them relaxed, one of the Germans spoke in English. He was an ex-medical student, and went to examine the wounded American. With some tending, food, and rest, the American soldier would be able to heal.

By the time the Christmas Eve dinner was ready, the tension had largely subsided. Fritz later recalled that when his mother said grace before the meal, the soldiers from both sides teared up, just as she had – they were all away from home and weary from war. Over dinner, the members of the strange group even found themselves interacting as if old friends.

The truce lasted through the night, and the next morning, the Americans and Germans collected their weapons. One of the Germans brought out a map and compass and showed the Americans how to get back to their lines. A stretcher was fashioned for the injured American. And then, after shaking hands, the two groups parted ways, heading back to their respective lines.

The Rest of the Story

The Vincken family survived the war. Fritz grew up, married, and became an American citizen. He opened a bakery after settling in Honolulu, Hawaii. Yet he never forgot that special Christmas, and he yearned to meet the soldiers again.

Flash forward to 1995. Season 7, Episode 16 of the popular *Unsolved Mysteries* television program recreated the Christmas Eve meeting between the American and German soldiers. In a strange coincidence, a volunteer chaplain at a nursing home in Fredrick, Maryland, had watched the program. The story was

similar to one that an elderly resident in poor health, named Ralph Blank, kept telling anyone who would listen. The chaplain contacted *Unsolved Mysteries* which, in turn, contacted Fritz in Hawaii. Fritz phoned Ralph, who said that he was one of the three Americans who had spent Christmas Eve with him. Fritz flew to Maryland in 1996 and was finally reunited with one of the soldiers he had met on that Christmas so many years prior.

Fritz later was able to find another one of the Americans, but never tracked down the third nor any of the Germans.



Fritz Vincken finally met Ralph Blank once again in 1996.

In an oral history interview with a local student in 1997, Fritz recalled: "Many years have gone since that bloodiest of all wars, but the memories of that night in the Ardennes never left me. The inner strength of a single woman, who, by her wits and intuition, prevented potential bloodshed, taught me the practical meaning of the words: 'Goodwill Toward Mankind'."

CHRISTMAS PARADE,

1700,

DEC 3RD



MARCH WITH US AND

OUR POST FLOAT!!!

VFW, BMBFC Law Collaborate to Assist with Camp Lejeune Claims

WASHINGTON (Nov. 16, 2022) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is today announcing an agreement in which it is entrusting the experienced environmental litigation team at the law firm of Baird Mandalas Brockstedt Federico & Cardea (BMBFC Law) with guiding and assisting its members in navigating legal claims related to exposure to toxic water at Camp Lejeune. The goal of the relationship is to assist and guide veterans and military families affected by toxic water exposure at Camp Lejeune.

The VFW continues to encourage its members and supporters to consult with a VFW-Accredited Service Officer to determine whether filing a lawsuit is the right step for them. This includes determining how the offset required by the law impacts their VA benefits and any possible award from a Camp Lejeune Justice Act claim.

“Ensuring veterans harmed in the line of duty are made whole has been a guiding principle for the VFW since our founding more than 123 years ago,” said VFW National Commander Tim Borland. “We are honored to entrust BMBFC with this vital mission to ensure veterans and their families who benefit from filing a lawsuit are represented by a team with relevant expertise and veterans’ best interest at heart.”

In August, the VFW-championed SFC Health Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 was signed into law. Along with the most significant expansion of health care and benefits in more than a century, Section 804 of the PACT Act, known as the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, authorizes veterans and military families who were exposed to toxic water at Camp Lejeune from August 1953 to December 1987 to file a federal tort claim for harm caused by such exposure.

“Since the PACT Act added another recourse for veterans and their families suffering the effects of toxic exposure at Camp Lejeune, getting the right legal advice is crucial,” added Borland. “That’s why, given their deep experience in obtaining justice for communities affected by groundwater contamination and leadership role in this litigation, we turned to the team at BMBFC Law to provide the best counsel possible for those with claims related to Camp Lejeune.”

The VFW cautions its members and supporters to avoid predatory law firms advertising endlessly on television and other media. To assist those who wish to join the Camp Lejeune Justice Act lawsuit determine if a law firm has their best interest at heart, the VFW has established six guiding principles. BMBFC Law has emphatically agreed to (1) cap attorney fees at a reasonable rate, (2) no upfront costs, (3) work with the VFW to ensure veterans explore their earned Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, (4) counsel claimants on the impact of the offset included in the Camp Lejeune Justice Act before accepting an award, (5) encourage VFW membership to eligible veterans, and (6) provide resources to support the VFW Service Officer Program.

“Veterans and their families harmed by the toxic water at Camp Lejeune deserve representation from attorneys experienced in groundwater contamination litigation and fundamentally committed to representing their best interests,” said Iraq War veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and Chair of BMBFC Law’s

Military Advisory Board, Jason E. Johns. “As a past state commander for the VFW Department of Wisconsin and a longtime VA-accredited attorney, I’ve chosen to partner with BMBFC Law because this prestigious group of attorneys with proven success in matters regarding toxic water shares my dedication to doing right by my brothers and sisters who have served our country, and as importantly, their families who supported them while they did.”

The Camp Lejeune Justice Act contains broad offset language and to date, there are differing opinions on the meaning of that language. The VA is expected to release regulations related to this in the coming months.

The Camp Lejeune Justice Act potentially offers historic benefits to veterans and their families. However, these benefits need to be carefully evaluated by a firm that understands VA disability benefits. The VFW encourages anyone who served or lived at Camp Lejeune from Aug. 1, 1953, to Dec. 31, 1987, to visit Baird Mandalas Brockstedt Federico & Cardea or call (443) 665-0375.

2022-23 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOTS PEN AWARDS

The Post received nomination packages for each of the Patriot’s Pen and the Voice of Democracy contests. Both entries were inspiring reminders that our rising generation still believes in America and the values that she symbolizes to people all around the world. The Voice of Democracy program is open for all high schoolers and requires them to write and record a 3-5 minute essay. This year’s theme was “Why is the Veteran Important?” The national Voice of Democracy winners win a free trip to the VFW National Convention and up to \$30,000! The 2022-23 Patriot’s Pen contest is open for middle schoolers and consisted of a 500 word written essay on “My Pledge to Our Veterans.” The national winners of the Patriot’s Pen get a free trip and up to \$5,000 for first prize. This year’s Post winner for the Voice of Democracy Award is Jenna L. Kocen, a senior at Great Bridge High School; the Patriot Pen Award winner is Elijah Dean Gundayao, an 8th grader at Saint Gregory Catholic School. Both entries were fabulous and should be very competitive at each step of the contest. Congratulations to both our winners for a job well done!

2022-23 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

This year’s Teacher of the Year Award is presented to Ms. Christine Kapko, a Social Studies teacher at Hickory High School. Ms. Kapko’s personal efforts have infused a sense of patriotism in her students by reflecting on local veterans and their contributions to the nation. She was instrumental in spearheading the drive to erect the Fallen Soldier Battle Cross on the lawn at the front entrance to Grassfield High School in honor of 1st Lieutenant Michael E. Johnson, United States Marine Corps, an alum of the school who lost his life in service to his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. Congratulations to Ms. Kapko and her continuing support to her students and our veterans!

• **POST MEMBER EXPLORES THE MEDITERRANEAN (AGAIN!).**

Jean and Carl Dozier took off in October to continue their cruising adventures. Here's their firsthand account, per Carl's on-site reporting.

"Jean and I flew to Athens, Greece, and boarded the *Jewel of the Seas* to begin our Mediterranean and Trans-Atlantic adventure. We spent the first day beautiful Santorini where we nearly killed ourselves walking the donkey trail, since the line for the cable car was much too long (587 steps), but it did provide for some awesome views.

"Next port was Olympia. We had been to the ruins of the Olympic Stadium (original) on a previous trip, so we decided to spend time in the shops and bought some unique Greek honey.



Carl and Jean Dozier in Pompeii, Italy.

We sailed the following day, stopping in Siracusa and traveling to the beautiful mountain top town of Taormina, with a great view of Mt. Etna. The next day we arrived in Naples and we visited Pompeii – we had not seen it on last year's Mediterranean trip and it was everything we had imagined.

"The following day we arrived in Corsica and had to visit the childhood home of Napoleon

Bonaparte. We next arrived in Ville de France, but since we had been there the previous year, we decided a rest day was in order and spent the time relaxing and catching our breath.

"Next stop was Toulon, home to the French Mediterranean Fleet. The city, with its huge open-air market, was truly enjoyable. The next day we arrived in Barcelona where they took a Hop-on-Hop Off tour of the city, seeing the Olympic and Soccer Stadiums and walking (forever) to view the inside of the La Sagrada Familia. When we got there, there was no guarantee that we could go inside, so Jean convinced me that we should just take a taxi back to the ship.



Carl Dozier poses by French War Veterans monument in Toulon, France.

"Due to heavy seas in the vicinity of Madera, Spain, the tour itinerary was adjusted and we spent two days sailing to the Canary Islands, visiting Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Las Palmas de Gran Canarias. We were very impressed with the cosmopolitan nature of the cities. I celebrated my 76th birthday in fashion and

was treated royally by the dining staff!

"The following day the ship set sail for seven days, crossing the Atlantic. Halloween festivities were celebrated on board, and of course, everyone dressed accordingly and had an enjoyable evening!

"For the most part the weather was great until we were south of Bermuda and we experienced some fourteen-foot seas. We fared well, but many others did not.

"Upon arrival in Port Canaveral, we spent a week in Orlando just in time for Nicole to pay a visit."

Nothing like a little breeze to help their adventure end on a high note! Thank you, Carl, for that report - we all look forward to hearing more details of your travels in the future.



The Doziers in full costume for the ship's Halloween party.

**SCOUT OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS
DUE 1 MARCH**



Now's the time to start thinking about Scout of the Year!

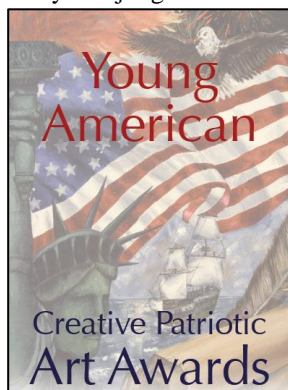
Nomination packages for the Scout of the Year Award are due to the Post by 1 March 2023. To be eligible, nominees must:

- Be a registered Scout who is an active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troup, Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship;
- Be a recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award, or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award;
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting, and community; and
- There is no minimum age requirement for applicants as long as all other eligibility criteria has been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old and if an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year, they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline.
- **Entry forms can be downloaded from the VFW website at:**
<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scout-of-the-year>

PATRIOTIC ARTIST NOMINATIONS DUE 31 MARCH

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 be in high school, no older than 18, and a US citizen or national.

Entry forms 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 can be downloaded at:
<https://vfwauxiliary.org/illustrating-america/>

OTHER POST NEWS

- **POST PISTOL RAFFLE WINNER!** The winning pistol raffle ticket was drawn by Post member and City Councilwoman Susan Vitale at the conclusion of the City of Chesapeake's Veterans Day ceremony. This year's winner is Rick Hall. Congratulations and enjoy your new Sig Saur P365X Romeo Zero pistol!



VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez displays winning raffle ticket as Post member Susan Vitale looks on.

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 our committees. Contact one of the members of the committee you're interested in and let them know you'd like to help:

- **Bataan Death March (15 Apr 2023) Committee:** Gregory Gonzales, 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
- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Kimball Thompson
- **Health Committee:** Surgeon Dave Weber
- **Scholarship Committee:** Carl Dozier and Kimball Thompson

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN YOUR OWN FUNERAL*

This may sound like a morbid subject but, if you think about it, most of you reading this have already taken actions to make things easier for your family after you are gone. You bought life insurance to take care of your family's financial needs. You made out a will and likely a power of attorney to help your family with legal issues.

So why, in their most grievous time right after death, are you forcing them to guess what you would want for your funeral? Things like: which funeral home to use; where you wish to be buried; what your obituary will say; what photo of you to use; do you desire a religious service; if yes, what are your preferred songs and readings; do you desire to be buried in uniform and, if so, which one; and even more details.

When I was diagnosed with ALS, aka Lou Gehrig's Disease, two years ago, it forced me to look at the world and my future - and especially my family's - in a new light. While a virtual death sentence it did offer me a silver lining... it gave me time to plan out my own funeral. Before then, if I had been hit by a bus, my family would have been left to make a myriad of decisions when all they would want to do is grieve in private.

After I wrote down all my desires, my wife and I met with my selected funeral director who also happens to be a friend of mine. Much to my astonishment was how little my wife knew of my wishes. It wasn't a subject which had ever come up for discussion between us, and it probably doesn't in most families. But surprisingly, once I broached the subject with her, it turned out to be an easy discussion. I am sure the same will be true in most households.

Funeral directors welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss funeral planning. Too often, they experience meetings with distraught spouses and children who are unsure of their loved one's desires.

If you desire to be buried in a national cemetery, fill out in advance a VA Form 40-10007, "Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery".

The VA pays a flat rate for burial and plot or interment that includes a \$300 payment for non-service-connected death in addition to a \$300 plot allowance or interment allowance. A service-connected death qualifies for a burial benefit of \$2,000. These payments are subject to yearly revisions based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.

There are two ways to apply for the VA burial benefit. You can apply online at [Vets.gov](https://www.va.gov), or you can fill out and mail in a paper application, VA Form 21P-530, "Application for Burial Allowance," via U.S. postal mail to the VA Pension Management Center in your state.

VA benefit rules state that proof of death is required to claim the VA burial benefit, and all applicants for this benefit will need to submit bills and receipts showing that the applicant was financially responsible for burial.

This must include a statement from the funeral home or other service provider that shows the following information:

- The name of the deceased Veteran
- The nature and cost of the funeral or memorial services

- Nature and cost of any merchandise purchased
- The amount of any credits offered to the payer
- The amount of any remaining unpaid balance for services, merchandise, etc.

You can also visit a regional VA benefit office, or get the help of an accredited Veterans Service Officer at an agency such as the VFW, state veterans' affairs offices, etc.

If you die in the line of duty while still on active duty or from a service-related injury or illness as a veteran, your surviving spouse, child, or parent may be able to get a tax-free monetary benefit called VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA DIC).

If you die while on active duty, a military Casualty Assistance Officer will help your family to complete an "Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child" (VA Form 21P-534a). The officer will also help mail the form to the correct VA regional office.

If you're a Veteran, your surviving spouse or child can fill out a "Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits" (VA Form 21P-534EZ). Or a surviving parent can fill out an "application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parent(s)" (VA Form 21P-535).

If you desire and are eligible for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, be aware that there is a 5 to 7 month wait from time of death to the burial; this is regardless of rank or seniority, everyone starts at the back of the line. Reputable funeral homes will store your body and make the transportation arrangements to Arlington.

The bottom line is this: ***make things easier for your family and don't hesitate! The time to start planning your funeral is now!***



Here is an example of a planning checklist you can use:

- Choose the type of disposition you'd like:
 - Burial (in the ground or at sea)
 - Cremation
 - Green burial (eco-friendly)
 - Anatomical donation (ending in cremation)
- Choose the type of gathering, service, ceremony, or memorial you'd like to have:
 - Visitation, viewing, wake, or rosary
 - Do you want a private family viewing or public viewing?
 - Do you want a wake at home or a visitation at the funeral home?
 - Celebration of life service personalized to reflect the life lived
 - Traditional funeral service
 - Do you want your body present or not?

- Do you want the casket open or closed?
- Military service with flag, honor guard and Taps - let your funeral director know and he/she will make the arrangements.
- What clothes do you want to be buried in?
 - If a uniform, put it together now with all your ribbons or medals, and badges - you're likely the only one in the family who can set up your uniform properly. Then store it in a garment bag or plastic storage tote until it's needed.
- Graveside service or a service at the crematory
- Memorial service (takes place after burial or cremation)
 - Any special honorary services like Knights of Columbus, Masons, VFW, American Legion, etc.
 - Home funeral service and/or burial
 - Scattering of ashes ceremony at a place which reflects your interests such as a park, a golf course, a lake, garden, beach, event center, theater, art gallery, church, or stadium. Choose an alternate location if you want to have the service outdoors in case of inclement weather.
- Speaker such as a clergy member or funeral celebrant
- Pallbearers, eulogist, assistants, and attendees
- Catered or pot luck meal
- Prayers, poems, or other readings
- Songs, hymns, live or recorded
- Memorial video set to special music
- Monument, memorial, or virtual memorials, such as a grave marker, headstone, video tribute, or online memorial website
 - Veterans are eligible for a free headstone or marker, your funeral director will help you with this. See <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items/headstones-markers-medallions/> for details and options. Decide on what you want inscribed on your headstone/marker.
- Collect and scan all the photos/videos you wish to include in your memorial tribute on a thumb drive and store with your funeral plans.
- Identify what you desire to have on display during any of the services such as shadow box, plaques, etc.
- Memorial contributions to charity organization(s)
- Choose the place of final rest:
 - Burial in a private cemetery, veterans cemetery, at sea, or on private property
 - Keepsake jewelry, such as cremation jewelry
 - Organ donation or anatomical donation
- Choose a method of payment:
 - If you want to prearrange your funeral, you can opt for funeral insurance through a funeral home, which sometimes offers a guarantee of their current prices. Other options include a funeral trust or pay on death account.
 - If you are paying for services during a time of need, you can ask family members to help pay for different parts of the funeral or to contribute in different ways, such as bringing food or sending flowers. Sites like www.youcaring.com or gofundme.com can assist with crowdfunding to help pay for services if money is tight.
- Choose a way to record your final wishes:
 - Contact a funeral provider to help you create a plan that ensures your wishes will be followed.
 - Complete a funeral planning guide.
 - Verbally share your final wishes (but do not rely solely on verbal instructions, as loved ones may forget or disagree on what you said you wanted!)

- Record your wishes in a voice or video recording.
- To assist loved ones:
 - Collect important documents and notify your next of kin about where they are held.
 - Store a copy of your will, marriage and birth certificates, DD-214(s), military service records, life and health insurance policies, social security information, and other estate planning documents where your next of kin can easily find them.
 - Write your own obituary or gather important biographical information for your obituary.
 - Select a photograph to accompany the obituary - the higher the resolution the better.
 - Keep a copy of your funeral plans on file with a funeral provider and notify at least two other emergency contacts of where your funeral will be held and where your final wishes are recorded.
 - Inform your funeral director that you desire 10 copies of your death certificate for your family, they will need at least that many to settle all your accounts.



**Chris Mulholland is a VFW National Deputy Chief of Staff, and Gold Legacy Life member of VFW Post 2894 in Chesapeake, VA. Chris was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in November, 2020, but continues active participation with the Post through regular electronic dialogue and literary contributions.*

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

FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE



The holiday season is upon us. There are over 200 hundred celebration days, remembrance days and holidays in December. Some of the more important for Veterans include; Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, International Volunteer Day. National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence

Against Women, National Guard Birthday, Forefathers' Day, Pledge of Allegiance Day and others.

Various cultures and religions consider this a holy time. Regardless of your background and beliefs, and before anyone gets too focused on the parties and commercialism, take some time to remember "the reason for the season." Here are some examples of December holidays and their history:

Hanukkah, also known as the **Festival of Lights** is a Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BCE.

Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25th as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. A feast central to the Christian liturgical year, it is preceded by the season of Advent or the Nativity Fast and initiates the season of Christmastide, which historically in the West lasts twelve days and culminates on Twelfth Night. Christmas Day is a public holiday in many countries, is celebrated religiously by a majority of Christians, as well as culturally by many non-Christians, and forms an integral part of the holiday season organized around it.

Saturnalia, held in mid-December, is an ancient Roman pagan festival honoring the agricultural god Saturn. Because of when the holiday occurred—near the winter solstice—Saturnalia celebrations are the source of many of the traditions we now associate with Christmas, such as wreaths, candles, feasting and gift-giving.

Boxing Day is a holiday celebrated after Christmas Day, occurring on the second day of Christmastide (26 December). Though it originated as a holiday to give gifts to the poor, today Boxing Day is primarily known as a shopping holiday. It originated in Great Britain and is celebrated in a number of countries that previously formed part of the British Empire. The attached bank holiday or public holiday may take place on 28 December if necessary to ensure it falls on a weekday. Boxing Day is also concurrent with the Catholic holiday Saint Stephen's Day.

Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African-American Culture from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a communal feast called *Karamu*, usually on the sixth day. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of West and South-East Africa. Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966.

So, I hope all of you have a safe and happy holiday season and from me a very merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Kimball Thompson - Post Chaplain

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 \$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.

WOMEN AT WAR Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs)

Between 1942 and 1944, at the height of World War II, more than a thousand women left their homes and jobs for the opportunity of a lifetime- to become the first in history to fly for the U.S. military. They volunteered as civilian pilots in an experimental Army Air Corp program to see if women could serve as pilots and relieve men for overseas duty. These women became the



WASP pilots after ferrying a Boeing B-17 "Flying Fortress" bomber, 1944.

Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II, better known as the WASP. Under the determined leadership of Jacqueline Cochran, Nancy Harkness Love, and General Henry "Hap" Arnold, the WASP exceeded beyond all expectations. The WASP logged more than 60 million miles and flew every plane the Army Air Forces possessed and every type of mission a male pilot flew during WWII except combat.

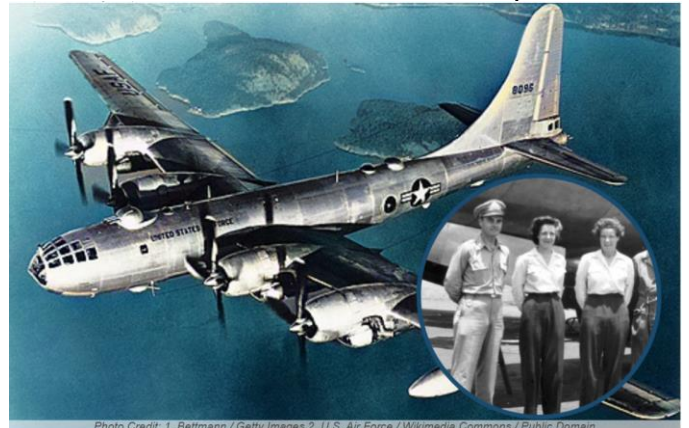
In the lead up to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Paul Tibbets was tasked with training a group of pilots on the newly-produced Boeing B-29 Superfortress. However, he soon ran into a problem: the men refused to get into the aircraft.

The bomber was larger and less thoroughly-tested than other aircraft used throughout the Second World War, and the pilots thought it was too dangerous to fly. Refusal to use the B-29s, however, was not an option, so Tibbets concocted a plan to train two female pilots to give flight demonstrations to the men. His plan was a resounding success.

Paul Tibbets, having served in both the European and Pacific Theaters, was called back to the US in 1943 to help with the development of the B-29 Superfortress. After testing of the bomber was complete, he was reassigned as the director of operations for the 17th Bombardment Operational Training Wing (Very Heavy) and tasked with training pilots to fly the new aircraft. The men were very reluctant to learn, and they had a valid reason to be wary, as the B-29 had unreliable engines,

caught fire regularly and hadn't undergone the kind of testing other aircraft had. On top of that, it was also much larger than other bombers the US Army Air Forces had flown up until that point.

Tibbets thought that if he could get female pilots to train on the aircraft, the men might not be scared to fly the B-29. He recruited two Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) for the role. He didn't disclose to Dora Dougherty Strother or Dorothea Johnson "Didi" Moorman that there had been issues with the aircraft, and the pair didn't experience any problems when piloting them. Neither woman had even flown a four-engine aircraft, which is why they were picked for the job – Tibbets wanted to show that anyone could fly a B-29. He trained Strother and Moorman for only three days before deciding they were ready to give demonstrations to the male pilots. The pair flew various flights out of the base in Alamogordo, New Mexico, with different aircrews onboard each time. Strother and Moorman were successful in getting the male pilots to fly the B-29s. A maintenance bulletin written by Maj. Harry Shilling gave them praise for both their flying abilities and knowledge of the aircraft. He encouraged the men on the base to ask them questions about how to handle the bombers and emulate their impressive takeoffs.



B-29 Superfortress, 1944; Inset: LtCol Paul Tibbets with WASP pilots Dora Dougherty Strother and Dorothea Johnson "Didi" Moorman.

Despite their success, Strother and Moorman didn't have their jobs as demonstration pilots for long. When Tibbets' superiors found out he was letting women fly the B-29s, they forced him to shut down the program. Air Staff Maj. Gen. Barney Giles told him that the women were "putting the big football players to shame."

Although their role as demonstration pilots may seem small, it wasn't viewed as such by the men who watched them. On August 2, 1995, Harry McKeown, a retired lieutenant colonel with the US Air Force, wrote a letter to Strother about her role flying the B-29s. He'd met her and Moorman in 1944 when they brought a B-29 to Clovis Army Airfield, where he served as the Director of Maintenance & Supply and a test pilot. He said that after their demonstration "we never had a pilot who didn't want to fly the B-29," and ended his letter on a more personal note. "I still want to thank you for your helping me that day at Clovis," he wrote. "I will admit that I was scared... You made the difference in my flying from then on. I wasn't the only pilot that felt this way, and I am sure that they would thank you too if they knew where you were."*

*Reference: <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/world-war-ii/women-b29-superfortress.html?edg-c=1&A1c=1>

HALL OF VALOR
Doris Miller, U.S. Navy
December 7th, 1941

Doris Miller was born in Waco, Texas, on October 12, 1919, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a mess attendant third class at the Naval Recruiting Station in Dallas, Texas, on September 16, 1939. Mess attendant was one of the few ratings open at the time to black sailors. He was transferred to the Naval Training Center, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Virginia, arriving on September 19. After training school, he was assigned to the ammunition ship *Pyro* (AE-1) and then transferred on January 2, 1940, to the Colorado-class battleship *West Virginia* (BB-48).



Doris Miller - World War II Sailor

Miller woke up at 6 a.m. on December 7, 1941, aboard *West Virginia*. He served breakfast mess and was collecting laundry at 7:57 a.m. when planes from the Japanese aircraft carrier *Akagi* fired the first of seven torpedoes that hit *West Virginia*. The "battle stations" alarm went off; Miller headed for his

battle station, an anti-aircraft battery magazine amidships, only to discover that a torpedo had destroyed it.

He went then to "Times Square" on deck, a central spot aboard the ship where the fore-to-aft and port-to-starboard passageways crossed, reporting himself available for other duty and was assigned to help carry wounded sailors to places of greater safety. Lieutenant Commander Doir C. Johnson, the ship's communications officer, spotted Miller and saw his physical prowess, so he ordered him to accompany him to the conning tower on the flag bridge to assist in moving the ship's captain, Mervyn Bennion, who had a gaping wound in his abdomen where he had apparently been hit by shrapnel after the first Japanese attack. Miller and another sailor lifted the skipper, but were unable to remove him from the bridge, so they carried him on a cot from his exposed position on the damaged bridge to a sheltered spot on the deck behind the conning tower where he remained during the second Japanese attack.

Lieutenant Frederic H. White had ordered Miller to help him and Ensign Victor Delano load the unmanned number 1 and number 2 Browning .50 caliber anti-aircraft machine guns aft of the conning tower. Miller was not familiar with the weapon, but White and Delano instructed him on how to operate it. Delano expected Miller to feed ammunition to one gun, but his attention was diverted and, when he looked again, Miller was firing one of the guns. White then loaded ammunition into both guns and assigned Miller the starboard gun.

Miller fired the gun until he ran out of ammunition. He was officially credited with downing at least two hostile planes. "I think I got one of those Jap planes. They were diving pretty close to us," he said later. Japanese aircraft eventually dropped two

armor-piercing bombs through the deck of the battleship and launched five 18-inch (460mm) aircraft torpedoes into her port side. When the attack finally lessened, Miller helped move injured sailors through oil and water to the quarterdeck, thereby "unquestionably saving the lives of a number of people who might otherwise have been lost".

The ship was heavily damaged by bombs, torpedoes, and resulting explosions & fires, but the crew prevented her from capsizing by counter-flooding a number of compartments. Instead, *West Virginia* sank to the harbor bottom in shallow water as her surviving crew abandoned ship, including Miller.

On January 1, 1942, the Navy released a list of commendations for actions on December 7. Among them was a single commendation for an unnamed black man. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) had asked President Franklin D. Roosevelt to award the Distinguished Service Cross to the unknown black sailor. The Navy Board of Awards received a recommendation that the sailor be considered for recognition. On March 12, an Associated Press story named Miller as the sailor and Miller was recognized as one of the "first US heroes of World War II".

In the following days, Senator James M. Mead (D-NY) introduced a Senate bill to award Miller the Medal of Honor, and Representative John D. Dingell, Sr. (D-MI) introduced a matching House bill. On April 4, the *Pittsburgh Courier* urged readers to write to members of the congressional Naval Affairs Committee in support of awarding the Medal of Honor to Miller. Upon the recommendation of Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, it was decided against awarding Miller the Medal of Honor and on May 11, 1942, President Roosevelt approved the Navy Cross

for Miller, which he received from Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, aboard the carrier USS *Enterprise* (CV-6).



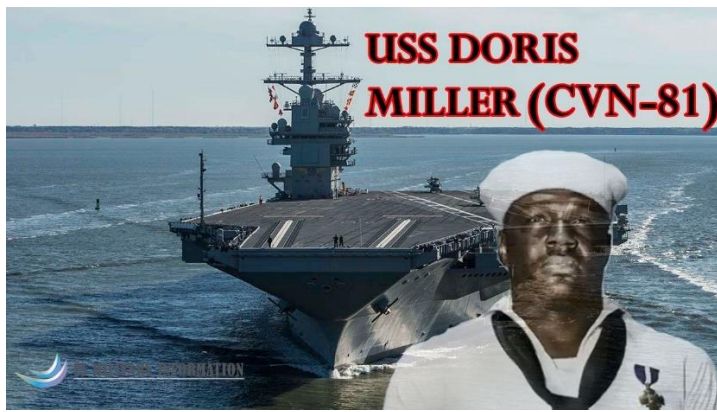
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz pins a Navy Cross on Mess Attendant Second Class Miller during a ceremony aboard the USS Enterprise (CV-6) at Pearl Harbor, on May 27, 1942.

After completing a War Bonds tour in the first half of 1943, Miller was assigned to the newly constructed escort carrier *Liscome Bay* (CVE-56), the flagship for Carrier Division 24. After training in Hawaii waters, *Liscome Bay* left Pearl Harbor on November 10, 1943, to join the Northern Task Force, Task

Group 52. Miller's carrier took part in the Battle of Makin which had begun on November 20. On November 24, the day after Makin was captured by American soldiers and the eve of Thanksgiving that year, *Liscome Bay* was cruising near

Butaritari (Makin Atoll's main island) when it was struck just before dawn in the stern by a torpedo from the Japanese submarine I-175. The carrier's own torpedoes and aircraft bombs, including 2,000-pounders, detonated a few moments later, causing the ship to sink in 23 minutes. There were 272 survivors from the crew of over 900, but Miller was among the two-thirds of the crew listed as "presumed dead".

Since his death nearly 80 years ago, Doris Miller continues to be recognized posthumously for his patriotism and extraordinary bravery. Two more recent examples are: On December 18, 2014, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) honored Miller for his heroism by naming the VA medical center in Waco, Texas, after him. On January 19, 2020, the U.S. Navy announced construction of the aircraft carrier USS *Doris Miller* (CVN-81), an honor traditionally reserved for U.S. Presidents or other high-ranking individuals. The ship is scheduled to be commissioned in January 2030.



Additionally, there is a current effort underway to upgrade Doris Miller's Navy Cross to the Medal of Honor.

- References:
- a. Doris Miller - Wikipedia
 - b. The Virginia Pilot, Friday, November 11, 2022

+ DECEMBER SAFETY CORNER +
NATIONAL DRUNK AND DRUGGED
DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH



Since 1981, high officials all across America have worked their hardest promoting the importance of staying sober while driving during the month of December, proclaimed National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month or National Impaired

Driving Prevention Month, and it all stemmed from one woman and her resolve.

On May 3, 1980, thirteen-year-old Cari Lightner was struck and killed by Clarence Busch in a drunk driving accident. When police arrested Clarence, they found this was not his first occurrence, even down to a hit-and-run drunk driving fine less than a week before his accident with Cari. At the time, driving while intoxicated was a misdemeanor that was barely

prosecuted, meaning that Busch was very unlikely to have gone to jail.



This unacceptable fact motivated Cari's mother, Candy Lightner, to take action. The result was the non-profit organization known as *MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving*. Candy's movement quickly grew across the nation. She pushed to a stricter definition of what drunk driving was, having legislators pass stricter laws and prosecutions that included jail time and license suspensions, up to having President Reagan establish 21 as the minimum drinking age and appointing Lightner as part of a commission developed to tackle the issue.

To this day, Candy continues to advocate for anti-drunk, drugged and distracted driving legislation as president of *We Save Lives*. "I am not against drinking. I am for responsible drinking. We don't let people walk around with a loaded gun in our neighborhood. But we let them drive when they drink."

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

1. Do a sober period

During December, try to challenge yourself and set a period of time without drinking alcohol. Be it one week, two weeks, make it as long as you would like. You may even see some benefits on laying off the drinks for a while, save money, lose weight, and much more.

2. Take a cab or use a ride-sharing app after a party or visiting a bar

No one says you can't party and let loose for a while. But if you've had too much, get home safely. Call a cab, or better yet, use your ride-sharing app and let the professionals do the driving. That way, you'll be around for the festivities next year.

3. Be a Designated Driver

You'll make a great impression for being the one friend others can trust to drive back home. It is an overall small sacrifice for a night that won't affect your chances to have a great time, so offer yourself up and give your friends a helping hand!

5 FACTS ABOUT DRUNK DRIVING

1. 27 people daily

Is the amount of people who die in a drunk driving accident in the US

2. South Africa has the highest rate

Around six out of every ten fatalities on South Africa's roads are drunk-driving related accidents.

3. The first ever arrest was in 1897

George Smith was the first person ever convicted of drunk driving after he slammed his cab into a building.

4. The two deadliest holidays

On Average, New Year's Eve is the day with most DUI arrests, but Fourth of July has the most drunk driving related deaths.

5. There is no "sobering" element

Neither coffee or showers will make a person sober up, only time does.

Driving Awareness Month is of utmost importance to bring a change.

How You Can Observe Teen Driving Awareness Month

You can observe National Teen Driving Awareness Month in one (or more) of these quick, easy ways. They won't cost you anything but a little of your time:

1. Encourage parental involvement

As parents, it is their responsibility to ensure that their children are engaged in safe driving practices. To encourage this participation and involvement of parents, different awareness campaigns can be initiated.

2. On-road awareness posters and banners

Who does not like arts and poster making? Call in a few people and teenagers from the society to participate in an awareness-based poster-making session that can later be put on the roadsides to indirectly build awareness in people and teenagers especially.

3. Insist on enforcing strict laws and punishments

A few good examples of strict action against lawbreakers by the police, and enough support towards those policemen for their conduct should do the trick to instill fear in teenagers. This fear should serve as a trigger for responsible driving.

**+ JANUARY SAFETY CORNER +
Teen Driving Awareness Month
January 2023**



Teen Driving Awareness Month is observed every year in January to spread awareness about teen driving and the risks associated with it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(C.D.C.) reports that every day, six teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19 die in car crashes. This roughly equates to 2,100 teenagers dying every year. We can certainly play our part in preventing such cases. Teen Driving Awareness Month is celebrated as a full month every year to spread awareness about the issue.

Generally, in the U.S., the minimum driving age in most states is 16 years old. At this age, one would be in high school, dependent on his or her parents. Basically, the point is that at this age, one would technically consider people of this age as children who are maturing but have not fully matured and need proper adult guidance. Unfortunately, the norm here is that these children learn to drive without any supervision from adults and then drive recklessly on the streets. In this situation, they not only put themselves in danger but they risk the safety of others as well.

Now, with the imagery clearly in front of us, and some unfortunate events happening in the past, some social works organizations took the initiative to organize awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of safe driving and imposing a few strict measures to safeguard the lives of our teenage kids and others around them. Among the initiatives taken we have Teen Driving Awareness Day, Teen Driving Awareness Week, and now stressing on the need to do more in this regard, we now have an entire month dedicated to talking about this issue, spread as much awareness as possible about the issue, and to emphasize on the importance of the role of parents (or guardians) in the lives of their children.

Although the situation has improved over the years there is still room for improvement and why not. The lives that are lost in these accidents are not recoverable. These people are irreplaceable and everything that can be done should be done to protect these lives. Hence this month-long observation of Teen



A big shout out to our friends at Lowe's Home Improvement for their assistance with all the VFW service projects, past, present and future!

Thanks for your generous donations.

FROM THE EDITOR

If you are interested in submitting articles, photos, updates on events, for inclusion in the newsletter, please send them to Dan Eaker at: vfwpost2894@aol.com.

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 will be 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 us know.

Semper fidelis,
Dan Eaker

DECEMBER MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1909** President Taft severs official relations with Nicaragua's government and declares support for revolutionaries.
- 1918** American army of occupation enters Germany.
- 1955** Rosa Parks refuses to sit in back of Montgomery, AL, bus, defying South's segregationist laws.
- 1969** America's first draft lottery since 1942.
- 2 1823** President Monroe proclaims Monroe Doctrine, 'American continents, by free and independent condition... are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by European powers.'
- 1921** First successful helium dirigible, C-7, makes test flight in Portsmouth, Va.
- 1927** New Ford Model A introduced to American public.
- 1942** Allies repel strong Axis attack in Tunisia, North Africa.
- 1944** General Patton's troops enter Saar Valley and break through Siegfried line.
- 3 1918** Allied Conference ends in London deciding that Germany must pay for war.
- 1989** Presidents Bush and Gorbachev announce official end to Cold War at meeting in Malta.
- 4 1862** Winchester, VA, falls into Union hands, resulting in capture of 145 Southern soldiers.
- 1915** Frank Friday Fletcher is first US admiral to receive Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 1942** US planes make first raids on Naples, Italy.
- 1991** Last American hostages held in Lebanon released.
- 5 1933** 21st Amendment ends Prohibition in US, begun 13 years earlier.
- 1955** Bus boycott begins under Rev. ML King, Jr., in Montgomery.
- 1978** Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George H.W. Bush, declare the Cold War over.
- 1989** Soviet Union signs 20-year friendship pact with Afghanistan.
- 6 1492** Columbus lands on Santo Domingo in search of gold.
- 1934** American Ambassador Davis says Japan is grave security threat in Pacific.
- 1941** President FDR issues personal appeal to Emperor Hirohito to use influence to avoid war.
- 2001** Battle of Tora Bora begins in a cave complex in Eastern Afghanistan's White Mountains.
- 7 1917** US declares war on Austria-Hungary.
- 1941** Japanese planes raid Pearl Harbor in surprise attack.
- 1942** USN launches USS *New Jersey*, largest battleship ever built.
- 2001** Kandahar, the last major stronghold of the Taliban, falls.
- 8 1943** US carrier-based planes sink 2 cruisers and down 72 planes in Marshall Islands.
- 1944** US conducts longest, most effective air raid on Iwo Jima.
- 9 1941** FDR tells Americans to plan for a long war.
- 1992** US Marines land in Somalia to ensure food and medicine reach deprived areas.
- 10 1898** US and Spain sign Treaty of Paris, ceding Spanish possessions, including Philippines, to US.
- 1918** US troops called to guard Berlin as coup is feared.
- 1941** Japanese troops invade Philippine island of Luzon.
- 1949** 150,000 French troops mass at border in Vietnam to prevent Chinese invasion.
- 11 1941** US declares war on Italy and Germany.
- 1945** Boeing B-29 Superfortress shatters records by crossing US in 5 hours and 27 min.
- 12 1753** George Washington, adjutant of Virginia, delivers ultimatum to French forces at Fort Le Boeuf, reiterating Britain's claim to Ohio River valley.
- 1863** Orders given in Richmond, Virginia, that no more supplies from Union be received by Federal prisoners.
- 1967** US ends airlift of 6,500 men to Vietnam.
- 13 1862** Battle of Fredericksburg ends with bloody slaughter of Union troops at Marye's Heights.
- 2003** Saddam Hussein is captured by U.S. soldiers in ad-Dawr, Iraq.
- 14 1799** George Washington dies on Mount Vernon estate.
- 1960** US Boeing B-52 bomber sets 10,000-mile non-stop record without refueling.
- 15 1890** US soldiers attempt to arrest Sitting Bull in Standing Rock, SD; shooting breaks out and Lt. Bullhead shoots great Sioux leader.
- 1924** Soviet Union warns US against repeated entry of ships into Soviet territorial waters.
- 1938** Washington sends fourth note to Berlin demanding amnesty for Jews.
- 1965** US drops 12 tons of bombs on industrial center near Haiphong Harbor, North Vietnam.
- 16 1773** Young Americans, disguised as Indians, throw chests of tea in Boston Harbor.
- 1944** Germany opens Battle of Bulge in Ardennes Forest in Belgium.
- 1950** President Truman declares National Emergency as Chinese communists invade deeper into S. Korea.
- 1998** US launches missile attack on Iraq for failing to comply with UN weapons inspectors.
- 17 1903** Wright brothers' 1st successful flight near Kitty Hawk, NC.
- 1943** US forces invade Japanese-held New Britain Island in New Guinea.
- 1944** US approves end to internment of Japanese Americans.
- 18 1865** Slavery abolished in US. 13th Amendment formally adopted into Constitution.
- 1941** Defended by 610, American-held island of Guam falls to more than 5,000 Japanese invaders in 3-hour battle.
- 1972** President Nixon declares bombing of North Vietnam will continue until accord reached.
- 19 1959** Last civil war veteran, Walter Williams, dies at 117 in Houston.
- 20 1941** Flying Tigers, American pilots in China, enter combat against Japanese over Kunming.
- 1989** US troops invade Panama to oust General Noriega.
- 21 1620** Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock.
- 1862** Congress authorizes Medal of Honor for Navy personnel.
- 1944** German troops surround 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne in Belgium.
- 1945** General Patton dies at age 60 after injured in car accident.
- 22 1775** Esek Hopkins takes command of Continental Navy — total of 7 ships.
- 1944** During Battle of Bulge, General McAuliffe responds to German surrender request with: "Nuts!"
- 23 1941** US defenders on Wake Island capitulate to 2nd Japanese assault.
- 1944** Gen. Eisenhower confirms death sentence of PVT Slovik, only American shot for desertion since Civil War.
- 1948** Japan's Prime Minister Tojo and 6 others hanged for war crimes.
- 1974** B-1 bomber makes first successful test flight.
- 24 1814** Treaty between US and Britain, ending War of 1812, signed. News does not reach US until 2 weeks later (after Battle of New Orleans).
- 1943** General Eisenhower appointed Allied Supreme Commander.

- 26 1776** After crossing Delaware River night before, Washington leads attack on Hessian mercenaries at Trenton, takes 900 men prisoner.
- 27 1941** Japanese bombers attack Manila, despite claim as open city.
- 1944** General Patton's Third Army relieves Bastogne in Belgium.
- 1979** President Amin of Afghanistan murdered in coup backed by Soviet Union, beginning 10 year war.
- 28 1946** French declare martial law in Vietnam as war appears inevitable.
- 2014** The War in Afghanistan officially ends.
- 29 1778** British, attempting new strategy to defeat colonials, capture Savannah.
- 1890** Last major conflict of Indian wars as 7th Cavalry tries to disarm Chief Big Foot and followers at Wounded Knee SD.
- 1965** Christmas truce observed in Vietnam, while President Johnson tries to get North Vietnamese to bargaining table.
- 30 1803** US takes possession of Louisiana area from France.
- 1972** President Nixon halts air offensive and agrees to resume peace negotiations with Hanoi representative.
- 2006** Saddam Hussein hanged for crimes committed against own people during rule.
- 31 1775** George Washington orders recruiting officers to accept free blacks into army.
- 1942** After 5 months of battle, Emperor Hirohito allows Japanese commanders at Guadalcanal to retreat.
- 1945 Luzon: 6th Army lands in Lingayen Gulf.
- 1952 USMC recalls Ted Williams to active duty for Korean War
- 10 1847** US Navy-Marine Corps landing party occupies Los Angeles
- 1943 Guadalcanal: US forces begin general offensive to eliminate Japanese.
- 1946 Army Signal Corps bounces radar beam off moon.
- 11 1785** Continental Congress convenes in New York
- 1945 Japanese decide to put remaining resources into suicide weapons.
- 1991 Congress authorizes Pres G.H.W. Bush to undertake offensive operations against Iraq
- 12 1946** 82nd Airborne Division marches up Fifth Avenue to tumultuous greeting
- 14 1784** Congress ratifies Treaty of Paris, ending Revolutionary War
- 1867 Alfred Nobel makes first public demonstration of dynamite
- 1943 Casablanca Conference: FDR, Churchill, & Stalin
- 1969 Fire aboard USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), off Vietnam, 28 die, 344 injured
- 15 1865** Union soldiers, sailors, & Marines take Ft Fisher, NC
- 1973 Pres Nixon suspends all US offensive action over North Vietnam
- 16 1776** Continental Congress approves enlistment of free blacks
- 1944 Gen Eisenhower takes command of Operation Overlord
- 1957 Three B-52s leave California on first non-stop world flight
- 1970 Col Kadhaffi becomes premier of Libya
- 17 1781** Battle of Cowpens: Dan Morgan annihilates Tarleton's Anglo-Tory force
- 1955 USS 'Nautilus' (SSN-571) gets underway on nuclear power
- 1966 B-52 carrying four hydrogen bombs crashes off Spanish coast
- 1991 Operation Desert Storm: Coalition airstrikes against Iraq
- 18 1911** First airplane lands on ship: Eugene Ely in Curtiss Flyer on USS 'Pennsylvania' (ACR-4)
- 19 1920** Senate rejects American membership in League of Nations
- 20 1778** 1st American court martial opens, Cambridge, MA
- 1783 Hostilities cease in Revolutionary War
- 1887 Senate approves lease of Pearl Harbor for a base
- 1914 USN opens school for aviators at Pensacola, Fla.
- 1944 Rapido River: US 36th Div begins two-day attempt to force German defenses
- 1981 Illegally held by Iranian government for 444 days, 52 Americans are finally released
- 2019 U.S. Space Force established
- 21 1903** "Dick Act" creates modern National Guard
- 1968 Battle of Khe Sanh begins -- ends Apr 8
- 22 1944** Operation Shingle: Allies land at Anzio
- 23 1968** North Koreans capture USS 'Pueblo' & 83 crew in East Sea/Sea of Japan
- 24 1847** Col. Price defeats 1,500 Indians & Mexicans to secure New Mexico for US
- 25 1945** Audie Murphy earns Medal of Honor
- 1969 US-North Vietnamese peace talks begin in Paris
- 26 1862** Lincoln issues General War Order #1, calling for Union offensive
- 1911 Glenn Curtiss tests first successful sea plane, San Diego
- 1913 John Paul Jones laid to rest in Chapel of US Naval Academy
- 1942 Marines land in Northern Ireland - 1st US troops to reach Europe
- 1948 Executive Order 9981: Truman orders Segregation in Armed Forces ended
- 27 1915** US Marines begin occupation of Haiti
- 1943 First USAAF raid on Germany, at Wilhelmshafen

JANUARY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1776** British torch Norfolk, Virginia
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect
- 1950 First woman doctor commissioned in USN, Mary T. Sproul
- 1950 Indo-China: Viet Minh open a major offensive against the French
- 1951 Massive Chinese/North Korean assault on UN-lines
- 1962 US Navy SEAL teams established.
- 2 1776** First American flag displayed
- 1945 USN convoys depart Leyte to invade Luzon, while beating off Kamikaze.
- 3 1777** Battle of Princeton: Washington defeats British
- 1944 Marine ace "Pappy" Boyington (28 kills) captured by Japanese
- 1990 Panama's Gen Manuel Noriega surrenders to US authorities
- 4 1989** Second Gulf of Sidra Incident: two USN F-14s down two Libyan MiG-23s
- 5 1608** Capt. John Smith is captured by Indians
- 1781 Richmond burned by British forces under Benedict Arnold
- 6 1776** "NY Provincial Company of Artillery" organized; now 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, senior unit of Regular Army
- 1927 US Marines sent to Nicaragua
- 1941 FDR's "Four Freedoms" address; of speech & worship, from want & fear.
- 7 1942** Bataan: 15,000 US & 65,000 Philippine troops go on half-rations, as Japanese close in
- 1953 Pres Truman announces development of hydrogen bomb
- 8 1815** Battle of New Orleans, 15 days after Treaty of Ghent
- 1877 Battle of Wolf Mountain, Montana: Crazy Horse defeated by US Army - last battle of Great Sioux War
- 1973 Secret peace talks between US & North Vietnam resume near Paris
- 9 1861** First Shot of Civil War: US steamer 'Star of the West' is fired on by Confederate batteries off Charleston
- 1936 Garand M-1 semi-automatic rifle adopted by US Army
- 1942 FDR establishes Joint Chiefs of Staff

- 1973 US and North Vietnam sign cease-fire
- 1977 Pres Carter pardons most Vietnam War draft evaders
- 28** 1915 US Coast Guard created from Life Saving and Revenue Cutter Services
- 1942 Ens. Donald Mason radios, "Sighted sub, sank same."
- 29** 1944 USS 'Missouri' (BB-63) launched in Brooklyn
- 30** 1781 Articles of Confederation, establishing perpetual union of "United States of America"
- 1945 Philippines - Cabanatuan: 126 US & Filipino raiders liberate 500 prisoners from a Japanese P/W camp
- 31** 1944 U.S. troops land on Kwajalein and nearby islands in the Marshalls
- 1945 11th Airborne Div lands - by sea - at south entrance to Manila Bay.
- 1961 Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr., becomes first black American to command warship, 'Falgout' (DE-324)
- 1968 Beginning of Tet Offensive in South Vietnam
- 1981 Last enlisted USN aviator retires



A big shout out to our friends at Home Depot for their assistance with all the VFW service projects - past, present and future! Thanks for your generous donations.



*'Tis The Season
Join Us!*

***VFW Post 2894
Christmas Party***

*Tuesday, 13 December, at 1900 (7 pm)
Apostles Lutheran Church
370 Johnstown Road, Chesapeake*

Bring dish to share – Families invited!

RSVP by 5 Dec: cdrpost2894@vfwva.org

McHarville
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SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program



WHAT IS THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM?

Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recognizes individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

- Be the recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.
- Be a registered, active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship at the time the above reward was received.
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting and community.

Prior National Scout of the Year winners are ineligible. There is no minimum age requirement for applicants as long as all other eligibility criteria has been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old. If an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year, they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline. A Scout may enter through only one VFW Post. A local Post can be identified by zip code at vfw.org/FindaPost.

WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

- Deadline for entry to VFW Post is **March 1**.
- One candidate with full entry criteria must be submitted by a VFW Post to the next level of judging by **April 1**. The VFW Department Scouting chairman can provide this information.
- The Department winner must be selected and submitted by their Department Scouting chairman to the VFW National Headquarters by **May 1**.

Questions should be directed to 816.756.3390, ext 6155. during normal business hours Monday through Friday or emailed to scouting@vfw.org.

Official Entry Form

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH CONTESTANT and submitted directly to a VFW post in your community.

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Home Phone

Email

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Scout Troop Number

SCOUT/VENTURE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing information is accurate and if I am the winner, I will make myself available to receive the award at a presentation ceremony as designated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Scout/Venture Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

UNIT LEADER'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above-named Scout/Venture is an active member of our unit or was when the award was received and the information supplied by the candidate is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Unit Leader's Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

PARENT'S CONSENT

I hereby certify that all information on this application is correct. I willingly submit this name for consideration as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States' Scout of the Year. If this individual is selected as the winner, I will ensure that he/she is allowed to attend a presentation ceremony as designed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Father, Mother or Guardian Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)



SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

PHONE: _____

SPONSORING VFW POST

POST NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE:

DISTRICT CERTIFICATION
IF APPLICABLE, CHECK WITH THE VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT #: _____

DISTRICT CDR.: _____

DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION
MUST BE COMPLETED BY DEPARTMENT VFW SCOUTING CHAIRMAN OR DEPT. COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____

SIGNATURE:

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED?

The following documentation should be submitted:

- **Photograph of the Scout** — must be attached to this form. The Scout must appear in correct, complete uniform for their current rank. Recommended size 3" x 5".
- **School Participation Record** — a single page, one-sided resume of the candidate's school activities indicating academic achievements, offices held, honors received and significant participation in other activities.
- **Scouting Record** — maximum of three pages, one side only, listing of all Scouting participation beginning with Cub Scouts or Brownies - years of participation, unit numbers and sponsors. Also include when Eagle, Gold, Summit or Quartermaster Award was received and Palms. Identify leadership positions held at all levels, participation in Scouting activities (jamborees, Order of the Arrow conferences, etc.) and the candidate's Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster Project.
- **Community Service Record** — a single page, one-sided resume listing participation in community and religious service organizations (excluding Scouting and school), noting leadership positions held and any recognition received.
- **Letters of Recommendation** — Submit three letters, no more than two pages in length from:
 - A scout leader.
 - A community member.
 - A teacher/faculty member (if homeschooled, a parent letter is allowed).
 - In addition, you may include one or two additional letters, no more than two pages in length from local community members who have special knowledge of the candidate's abilities/accomplishments.
- **Completed Entry Form** – submitted to a local VFW Post. Local Posts can be identified by zip code at vfw.org/FindaPost.

WHO MAKES UP THE VFW SCOUTING TEAM?

The backbone of Scouting in the VFW is the VFW Scouting Team. These VFW members are deeply involved in Scouting, most with decades of experience.

Appointed by their Department Commander, they are responsible for promoting scouting in their state. They are available to encourage Posts to sponsor units, support units and individual Scout projects. They should be the Department's "expert" on all phases of scouting. Many Departments have multiple members of the VFW Scouting Team, but every Department should have at least one individual to promote the values of scouting to youth and to the VFW itself. For more information on the VFW Scouting Team call 816.756.3390, ext 6155, or email scouting@vfw.org



Revised 06/2021



Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship

The VFW National Auxiliary is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique, total impact of work.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries if matted must be matted in white. Do not use color mats.
- Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. Do not frame art.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8" x 10" and not larger than 18" x 24", not including mat larger than 18" in any direction.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used.
- Complete contest application and attached to back of entry.
- Complete typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less) and attached to back of entry.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest application.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art and photography are not accepted.

Contest Eligibility

- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or National winners of previous Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are **NOT** eligible.

National Scholarships

- First place - \$15,000
- Second place - \$7,500
- Third place - \$3,500
- Fourth - Fifth place \$1,500
- Sixth - Seventh \$1,000
- Eighth - Thirteenth place - \$500

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email info@vfwauxiliary.org

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- **April 15:** One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
- **May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- **July:** Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form.
- **August:** First through third place winners named on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.
- **September:** Art will be returned to address on entry form.

Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical or trade school of the winners' choice.

Please note that the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest is a separate scholarship than the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest.



Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship

Contest Entry Form

Please **print** or complete fillable form at vfwauxiliary.org and attach to back of entry with a typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less).

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Title of Artwork: _____ Date Completed: _____

Source: _____ Media used: _____

State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, TV, newspaper, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artwork must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by other artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of other artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

Student Signature: * _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature:* _____ Date: _____

**I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the VFW Auxiliary Magazine and on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if I win one of the top National awards.*

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email info@vfwauxiliary.org

This section to be filled out by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.

National Headquarters only accepts Department level winners.

Any other entries received at National Headquarters will be disqualified and returned to student after National judging.

Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.: _____ Department of: _____

VFW Auxiliary Judging deadline date March 31.

Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

VFW Auxiliary Department Judging deadline date April 15.

Department Scholarships Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

Final Level - Department first-place entry must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by **May 5** or it will be disqualified.
ATTN: Program Awards Administrator



3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship

The VFW National Auxiliary is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique, total impact of work.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be three dimensional.
- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entries may not be larger than 18" in any direction
- Entries may not weigh more than 5 pounds.
- Entries may be paper, papier mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc.
- Complete contest application and attached to back of entry.
- Complete typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less) and attached to back of entry.
- Teacher or supervisory adult signature required on contest application.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art, photography and jewelry is **NOT** accepted.

Contest Eligibility

- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or National winners of previous 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests are **NOT** eligible.

National Scholarships

First place - \$2,500
Second place - \$1,000
Third place - \$500

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email info@vfwauxiliary.org

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- **April 15:** One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
- **May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- **July:** Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form.
- **August:** First through third place winners named on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.
- **September:** Art will be returned to address on entry form.

Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical or trade school of the winners' choice.
Please note that the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is a separate scholarship than the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.



3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship

Contest Entry Form

Please **print** or complete fillable form at vfwauxiliary.org and attach to entry with a typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less).

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Title of Artwork: _____ Date Completed: _____

Source: _____ Media used: _____

State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, TV, newspaper, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artwork must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by other artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of other artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

Student Signature*: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature*: _____ Date: _____

**I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the VFW Auxiliary Magazine and on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if I win one of the top National awards.*

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email info@vfwauxiliary.org

This section to be filled out by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.

National Headquarters only accepts Department level winners.

Any other entries received at National Headquarters will be disqualified and returned to student after National judging.

Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.: _____ Department of: _____

VFW Auxiliary Judging deadline date March 31.

Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

VFW Auxiliary Department Judging deadline date April 15.

Department Scholarships Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

Final Level - Department first-place entry must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by **May 5** or it will be disqualified.
ATTN: Program Awards Administrator



VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contest

An Art contest for students in grades K-8

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

**I hereby grant permission of the artwork by the student listed above to be published in VFW Auxiliary Magazine, on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if named a winner of one of the top national awards. I hereby verifying that the entry was done by the student listed above.*

Parent/Guardian signature: * _____

This section to be filled out by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.
National Headquarters only accepts Department level first place winners.
Any other entries received at National Headquarters will be disqualified.

Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.: _____ Department of: _____

Please check the appropriate grade division.

This first place entry is for: **GradeK-2** _____ **OR** **Grade3-5** _____ **OR** **Grade 6-8** _____

VFW Auxiliary Judging deadline date March 31
Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____
Artwork is property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

Department Judging deadline date April 15th
Department Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____
Artwork is property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

Final Level - Department winning entries must be received at
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by May 5 or they will be disqualified.
ATTN: Program Awards Administrator

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>DECEMBER '22</u>	
2-4	Battle of Great Bridge Reenactment
3	Chesapeake Christmas Parade
3	District 2 Meeting, Norfolk
7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
13	Post Meeting/ Christmas Party, 1900
	Wreaths Across America, Suffolk, 0900
17	Wreath Laying, Horton Veterans Cemetery
18	Beginning of Hanukkah
21	Winter Begins
24/25	Christmas Eve/Christmas
26	End of Hanukkah
31	New Year's Eve

<u>JANUARY '23</u>	
1	New Year's Day
6-8	Department Winter Council, Portsmouth
9	Sinsil 8 Anniversary (2008)
10	Post Meeting, 1900 (Quarterly Audit)
16	Martin Luther King Day

Fold here



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



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED