

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.



Post 2894

Meetings

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

Post Address:

VFW Post 2894

PO Box 15842

Chesapeake, VA 23328

Email: cdmpost2894@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 Hostettler
Conductress.....	Ginny Culpepper
Guard.....	Sandy Dunbar
Patriotic Instructor.....	Jacki Conway

NATIONAL

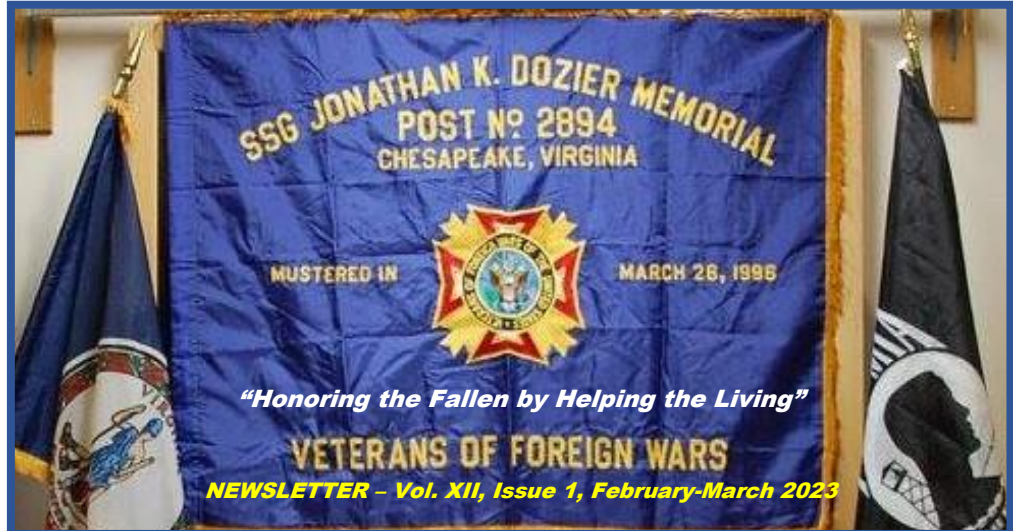
www.vfw.org

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2



VFW Post 2894 Awarded All-American Post for Seventh Year in a Row!!!



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Tuskegee Airmen Take on the Luftwaffe in WWII*
The 332nd "Red Tails" Fighter Group Provides Air Cover for Bombers Over Europe



As the first Black aviators to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps, the Tuskegee Airmen broke through a massive segregation barrier in the American military. Their success and heroism during World War II, fighting Germans in the skies over Europe, shattered pervasive stereotypes that African Americans had neither the character nor the aptitude for combat. And their achievements laid crucial groundwork for civil rights progress in the decades to come.

(continued on page 3)

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and cheer! As we enter our 27th Birthday, I would like to share some of our Post History.

VFW Post 2894 is the **FOURTH** VFW Post in Chesapeake! "Tidewater Post 2163" was formed by a group of WWI and WWII veterans in February 1945 and met in South Norfolk until 1963 when they merged with Post 4809 in Norfolk. In 1987, Post 3829 "Great Bridge" was established by a group of Vietnam veterans but was merged with Post 4809 in April 1991. Sometime thereafter, the "E.A. Martin, Jr. Memorial Post 8291" was established but it too merged with 4809 in July 1995. Eight months later, on 26 March 1996, Post 2894 was chartered in Chesapeake. In 2009 the Post was named the "Staff Sergeant Jonathan Kilian Dozier Memorial Post" in honor of one of Chesapeake's own who made the ultimate sacrifice on 9 January 2008 while serving our country in Sinsil, Diyala Province, Iraq. The Post flag was dedicated on 10 April 2013. The many streamers on the flag represent the honors received by the Post and the many campaigns which our members have participated in, from WWII to today. On 8 April 2015, the Ladies Auxiliary of Post 2894 was established with 18 charter members.

The Post has been named an **All-American Post** (top 2% of posts worldwide) for seven years in a row and is on track to win it again this year! We have also been recognized for five of the last six years as a **National Outstanding Community Service Post** – only 50 Posts worldwide receive this each year and we have done it five times! In 2016, our Post newsletter won the **National Grand Award** and in 2019 the **National Bronze Award**. (Thanks to our Post Adjutant and Newsletter editor, Dan Eaker, we have submitted our newsletter for consideration once again.) In 2015, our **Teacher of the Year**, Craig Blackman, won the National VFW award, and, in 2016, Kimberly Hammers was National 3rd runner-up! **This year our Post Teacher of the Year, Christine Kapko from Hickory HS, has won the District and State Title and now advances to the National competition!** We have also had seven **National VFW Public Servant** awards: police officers Selena Beaver (2015), Heather Bishop ('17) and Norwood King ('19); two EMTs, David Brock ('16) and Richard Gray ('20); a State Trooper, Shawn Ford ('20); and a firefighter, Justin Beazley ('21). In 2020 the Post was presented with the **Fred C. Hall National Community Service Project Award** for completing the rebuilding of the home of an active duty single mom in need. In 2021, the Post received our third **National Award for Excellence for an Outstanding Service Project** – in 2018, we were one of only 3 posts world-wide to receive it – ours was for the 2017 Bataan Death March.

The main goals of Post 2894 are to: give aid to needy comrades; provide a helping hand to veterans' widows and orphans; and defend the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of

happiness. Our motto is, "**Honoring the Fallen by Helping the Living.**"

Bataan Death March Memorial Walk/Run- The BDM is our biggest fund raiser of the year and will kick off on 8 April. Check our Facebook page for updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/Bataan-Death-March-Memorial-Walk-536454583227810>

On the Post Home Front – The Post received a lease agreement from the City Manager's Office and it is currently under review by the Post leadership. Please check our Post website and Facebook page for updates: <https://vfw2894.org/vfw-post-2894> and <https://www.facebook.com/VFW-SSG-Jonathan-Kilian-Dozier-Memorial-Post-2894-257157270284>

More information will be presented at the next membership meeting.

- Jose Vazquez, Post Commander

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy New Year to our Auxiliary Members!

Our fall activities were great fun while serving our Veterans. The Buddy Poppy Fundraiser, table at the Food Fest, Angel Tree gifts and holiday cards sent to sailors on board a ship were all well received. We also welcomed new members, Jacob Zinn and Amy Trahan.

For our spring schedule, we are making a raffle quilt. Tickets will be sold during the month of February and at the Bataan Death March. The quilt will have nine t-shirts from past BDM events. Please consider buying tickets for this beautiful project!

We will continue to share our blessings with 75 Veterans at the Veterans Hospital for the spring holidays with bags of toiletries.

Finally, we hope to be moved into our new home at the fire station on South Battlefield and will be feverishly painting, moving furniture and getting accustomed to a new home. Since many of us have moved many times and remember the drudgery work of packing, this move will be the **MOST** satisfying of any moves made. It will be our joint home, a place where we can hang our awards and accolades, and a place where WE control the keys. I'm looking forward to all that the renewal of Spring offers - even if we have a few more months of winter.

If we remember to think of our Veterans every day, we will never forget our mission to take care of them. Happy Valentine's Day, Happy St. Patrick's Day, Happy Easter, and Passover.

Sincerely, Anne Thompson



(Tuskegee Airmen - continued from Page 1)

In the summer of 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Civilian Pilot Training Program Act to train civilian aviators at colleges and vocational schools in preparation for a national emergency. The law contained a provision that "none of the benefits of training or programs shall be denied on account of race, creed, or color." At the time, there were only 124 licensed Black pilots in the United States—and none in the Army Air Corps.

Of six historically Black colleges and universities included in the program, the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama became the most renowned. In January 1941, the War Department, under pressure from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to include Black aviators, established at Tuskegee the nation's first Black flying unit: the 99th Pursuit Squadron, which was later renamed the 99th Fighter Squadron.



Pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group at Ramitelli Airfield, Italy, 1944

Between 1941 and 1945, more than 1,000 pilots trained in the Tuskegee program; of those, 450 saw combat during World II in the 99th and 332nd Fighter groups. In aerial battles over North Africa and Europe, these pilots flew more than 1,500 missions, largely as escort planes for the bombers, but sometimes in direct combat. By the time the 332nd flew its last combat mission on April 26, 1945, two weeks before the German surrender, the Tuskegee Airmen had flown more than 15,000 individual sorties over two years in combat. They had destroyed or damaged 36 German planes in the air and 237 on the ground, as well as nearly 1,000 rail cars and transport vehicles and a German destroyer. In all, 66 Tuskegee-trained aviators were killed in action during World War II, while another 32 were captured as POWs after being shot down.

*References

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuskegee_Airmen
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_McGee_\(pilot\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_McGee_(pilot))

12TH ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK, 8 APR 2023



Keep your calendar clear for the eleventh annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk on Saturday, April 8th at the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail in Deep Creek just off Route 17. Since Post 2894 is hosting this event, we would like to see all the members come out and support it. We will also be

receiving assistance from several Service organizations as well as the Chesapeake Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, and more. We will close with a memorial ceremony dedicated to the survivors and families of Bataan/Corregidor as well as all the veterans of World War II and the Korean War. Additionally, we are continuing the virtual participation option since it was so successful in the past. The event is free and open to all. The flyer for this event can be found at the end of this newsletter along with a sponsorship form. **PLEASE SHARE WITH FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, FAMILY – EVERYONE!**

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

- **Legion of Merit Sponsor - \$1000** (or \$1000 of In-kind)
Donation: Large name or company logo on our tee shirts and



banner as well as special recognition in media and in the closing ceremony.

- **Distinguished Service Sponsor - \$500** (or \$500 of In-kind)
Donation: Name or company logo on our tee shirt and banners
- **Meritorious Service Sponsor - \$250** (or \$250 of In-kind)
Donation: Name or company logo on our tee shirt
- **Honorable Mention Sponsor** – Donation of any kind or amount: Our sincere Thanks

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

POST PARTICIPATED IN CHESAPEAKE'S 2022 CHRISTMAS PARADE

The annual Chesapeake Christmas Parade is held on the first weekend of December in Great Bridge and run by the Rotary Club. This year's 39th annual Chesapeake Rotary Christmas Parade was held on December 3, 2022 and the Post marched as one of several Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) under the banner of the Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs. Although it was a little damp, the balmy weather ensured a great time for both the participants and all those who came out to enjoy the parade. It was quite a festive evening, with some enticing entertainment by the Post's very own "elves"! Thanks to all the Post and Auxiliary members who came out and assisted with the "float" so that our Post made a noticeable contribution to this year's event!



VFW Post 2894 participates in the 2022 Chesapeake Christmas Parade.



Auxiliary members Jean Dozier, Sandy Dunbar, Cheryl Campbell and Rosetta Gregory participate in the Chesapeake Christmas Parade.



Other Post members participating in the Christmas parade included: front (l-r) - Dan Eaker, Brad Waters and Jim Ireland; rear (l-r) - David Weber, Ron Liston, Jose Vazquez, and Bob Gregory.



Post Christmas "Elves" Jean and Carl Dozier

OTHER POST NEWS

• **VFW Post 2894 Receives All-American Post Award for Seventh Year in a Row!** At the December District 2 meeting, the Post Commander accepted the All-American Post Award for VFW Post 2894. This is the seventh award received by the Post to date. To qualify for the award a post must complete a plethora of requirements, from timely administrative report submission to participating in VFW and community-sponsored events. VFW Post 2894 has been involved with numerous activities across the board and the efforts have been noticed at higher levels! Keep up the good work!



VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez accepts All-American Post Award from State Commander Geoffrey Lyster

• **Post Nominee Awarded District/State Teacher of the Year.**

Congratulations to Ms. Christine Kapko who was honored with the VFW State Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award at the VFW Winter Council on 14 January. Ms. Kapko teaches History and Government at Hickory High School. Her package will be forwarded to the National VFW Teacher of the Year Award for further consideration with the other VFW State awardees. Good luck to Ms. Kapko in the quest for national recognition!



Ms. Christine Kapko, VFW Virginia Teacher of the Year Awardee, with VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez.



VFW Post 2894 comrades with VFW Virginia State Teacher of the Year Awardee Ms. Christine Kapko.

• **Post Receives Donation for Chesapeake Memorial Monument.**

At the January Post membership meeting, Ms. Jennifer Sharer-Knight presented a check from the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, Chesapeake Womens Division, for \$400. The donation will go towards the Tidewater Gold Star Memorial Monument - Woody Williams Foundation. Through the various area contacts provided by Post members, the Foundation gathered donations of over \$20,000, the largest being \$15,000 from the Beazley Foundation. Donations totaled over \$60,000 in twenty months! Thanks to all who contributed to this fundraising event.



• **Post Donates to Charities.** For the Christmas season, the Post donated \$100 to both the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots and the United Service Organizations (USO) of Hampton Roads/Central Virginia.

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



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

Additionally, the Post provided a \$105 donation to the Navy SEAL Foundation in honor of Commander Robert Ramirez who died at his home in San Diego, CA. CDR Ramirez had just recently taken command of SEAL Team 1 in November.



• **Post Volunteers Assist with Veteran Homeowner Service Project.**

On 16 January 2023, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service, VFW Post 2894 reaches closure to a ten-month campaign to help a Navy active duty couple repair their home. Navy Petty Officer Chris Edmonds and his wife, Victoria, purchased a house in Chesapeake, Virginia, in March 2020. The seller left town and did not make the contractual repairs required. The wife (Victoria) had to take on the responsibility of moving into their new home while her husband was still deployed overseas. To add to the pressure, Victoria was also under medical care at the time. Upon moving in to the house, she discovered the repairs had not been made and tried to contact the seller to coordinate a remedy. The seller left town and refused to fulfill their obligations specified in the contract. Without funds to make the necessary repairs themselves or hire a lawyer, Victoria did not know what to do so she called "WAVY TV 10 ON YOUR SIDE" for help.



VFW Post 2894 Comrades volunteer assistance with veteran home upgrades. Front row: Brad Waters, Kimball Thompson, Dan Eaker; Back row: Carl Dozier, Jim Keiper, Jim Ireland, Jose Vazquez, Bob Gregory, Dave Weber, Ron Mayfield and Ron Liston.

Chesapeake VFW Post 2894 Commander, Jose Vazquez, saw the WAVY TV 10 ON YOUR SIDE feature on the issue and decided to step in to help the couple. He brought in his Service Officer, Jim Ireland, and asked him to look at the situation and see what the Post could do to help. Jim immediately reached out



VFW Post 2894 Service Officer Jim Ireland responds to questions from WAVY News 10 correspondent Chris Mann.

to three proven professional organizations that he knew would help as they had always done in the past. The first was either LOWES or HOME DEPOT. HOME DEPOT was better positioned at the time to help, so they were selected. They volunteered to submit a grant for materials. The second contacted was "757 The Real-Estate Group" headed by Ms. Alexandra Serrano, a true professional that has always had a spot in her heart for people in need, especially military veterans. Thankfully, she said yes! The 757 The Real-Estate Group provided the labor and some materials not provided by HOME DEPOT. The third organization was Habitat for Humanity, South Hampton Roads (HFHSHR) who provided partial funding. In short, with help from these three organizations, VFW POST 2894 was ready to move forward. And on 16 January 2023, this group of professionals were able to restore Chris and Victoria's house to a safe livable home at little to no cost to them. With the money they saved from the renovation of their house, it gives them the financial ability to pursue legal action against those responsible for the breach of contract. This was a great team effort!



Volunteers work together to repair deck boards on the Bullard residence.

• **Post Remembers the Sinsil 8.** On January 9th, 2008, our Post namesake, SSG (posthumously promoted to SFC) Jonathan K. Dozier, led a group of soldiers in the search of a house in Sinsil, Diyala Province, about sixty miles north of Baghdad, Iraq. The structure had been checked out and cleared of hazards about two weeks earlier, but insurgents apparently had snuck back into it afterwards and rigged it with explosives. After Jon and his men entered the building, Sunni insurgents detonated a massive improvised explosive device (IED) that collapsed the house on them, killing all six soldiers and one translator. In October 2011, an eighth soldier, Jordan Riddle, who had been critically wounded in the blast, died as a result of his sorrow and a broken



heart. Now they are all collectively known as the "Sinsil 8."

Every year Jon's father, Comrade Carl Dozier, hosts a ceremony that commemorates the sacrifice made by these individual heroes. Candles are lit for each of the brave men killed on that fateful day and prayers are recited for all. Then the participating Post and Auxiliary members adjourn for some camaraderie and remembrance. This year the "Angelversary" was held at Big Woody's Bar and Grill and we all raised a glass in memory of our fallen comrades – they will never be forgotten!



Comrade Carl Dozier and wife Jean at SFC Jon Dozier/Sinsil 8 "Angelversary".

• POST COMRADE RELIVES THE BATTLE OF GREAT BRIDGE

The Battle of Great Bridge was fought during the American Revolution on December 9th, 1775, and is commemorated annually in Chesapeake, Virginia, the first week in December. Kimball Thompson, a member of VFW Post 2894, is an avid



Comrade Kimball Thompson (white trousers facing left) portraying a Sergeant in the 2nd Virginia Regiment prepares to drill troops and conduct weapons inspections.

Revolutionary War reenactor who regularly participates in the yearly reenactment, as well as other simulated engagements throughout the area.

This year's event happened on the 3rd and 4th of December, 2022, where the Battle of Great Bridge was reenacted on Army Corps of Engineers property adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway. This location is very close to the site of the original battle. The Patriot fortification was just to the east, bisecting what is now Battlefield Boulevard. In 1775 Battlefield Boulevard was known as the Great Road and was the land route for transporting agricultural and manufactured goods into and out of the Norfolk area. The original Great Bridge spanned the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River, which was used as a water route for the same sort of goods and materials transportation.

The juxtaposition of water and land routes resulted in the strategic importance of Great Bridge and as a consequence Lord Dunmore, the Colonial Governor appointed by King George III, had a fort constructed just to the north and east of the Great Bridge. Colonel William Woodford's mandate, as the commander of the 2nd Virginia Regiment, was to try and push British troops out of Great Bridge and Norfolk as well. As it happened, the British forces attacked the fortified Patriot position and suffered devastating losses. The Patriots suffered only one slightly wounded man. Ultimately, Lord Dunmore was pushed out of Norfolk and, soon after, the British left Virginia.

This battle, although somewhat small and short, allowed for the transportation of supplies to General Washington's troops via Norfolk and the Chesapeake Bay and was the first land battle in Virginia.

Kimball is also a docent at the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Museum, providing detailed accounts of both the battle itself as well as other information about living in the American colonies during the late 18th century.

Recently local Revolutionary War enactors were featured in a U.S. Army recruiting commercial – go to the website below and see if you can spot Kimball in the two-minute ad!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IowDiwxW9Jg>



Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Museum, Chesapeake, Virginia

For more information, go to the museum website at [Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Foundation \(gbbattlefield.org\)](http://GreatBridgeBattlefield&WaterwaysFoundation.org)

JOIN US for the 54th OCEAN VIEW ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE, 18 MARCH



COME MARCH WITH US!!! Post 2894 will participate in this year's Ocean View Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Norfolk along with the Tidewater Military Vehicles Association. The parade is on March 18th. Bring your families, bring your friends. This is the 56th year for the fun-filled Irish parade with marching bands, clowns, floats, cars, and people making an exciting and enjoyable parade. Everyone is Irish both in and along the parade route. After the parade there will be a party with live music, food, and fun hosted by The Columbian Club of Ocean View, 211 W. Government Ave, Norfolk, VA. It is open to the public (21 and up). We will provide more details (as they finalize) via e-mail.

THE VFW NATIONAL HOME



Born from the belief that America needs to care for the children and families of men and women who sacrificed for our country, the VFW National Home is a place of healing, support and refuge.

It was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their servicemember didn't come home.

Today's families face different challenges — reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, among others — and the National Home has evolved over our decades-long history to meet those changing needs.

The National Home offers families of veterans, active-duty military and members of the VFW and its Auxiliary opportunities for growth and development in our nurturing community. All 42 of our beautiful homes are located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. The VFW National Home is a transitional housing program that focuses on the strengths and needs of each participating family to help them achieve their goals. The families and their children are assigned a personal case manager that works directly with them throughout their time in our program to get the family to a place where they are comfortable with transitioning out on their own.

Benefits of the Program include:

- Housing in one of the 42 beautiful single-family homes in our community
- Case Management
- Classes
- Campus Events
- Many Activities throughout campus
- On Site Licensed Daycare (ages 0-5)
- On Site Pre-School program
- Tutoring for Children and Adults

- So Much More!

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

DEPLOYING -

- May include unaccompanied tours
- Parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Can be a spouse with children, or to assist in supporting a guardian serving as the family plan for deployment.
- Single or married with dependent child(ren)

VETERAN -

- Honorably discharged or still serving in the National Guard or Reserves
- Parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Single or married with dependent child(ren)

VFW/AUXILIARY -

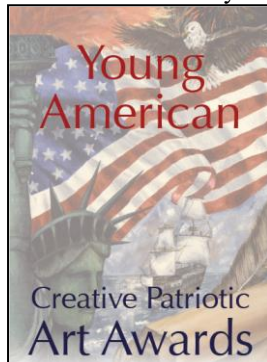
- Parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Child has a parent or grandparent in the VFW or Auxiliary in good standing or if deceased, in good standing at the time of death.
- Single or married with dependent child(ren)

Please reach out to our Helpline with questions at [800-313-4200](tel:800-313-4200), calls answered M-F 8:00 AM-4:30 PM Eastern Time.

Website: www.vfwnationalhome.org/help

PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST NOMINATIONS - Due March 31st

The VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art



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

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

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

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!!! **(BUSINESS CARD SIZE)**

BUSINESS CARD - \$25/ISSUE; \$100/YEAR
QUARTER PAGE - \$35/ISSUE; \$150/YEAR
HALF PAGE - \$45/ISSUE; \$200/YEAR
VFW MBRS/VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES
RECEIVE A 20% DISCOUNT

WOMEN AT WAR

Integration of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES)*

Quite suddenly, and contrary to expectations, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt agreed to reopen the Navy to African-American women in October 1944. Not since World War I had African-American women been permitted to serve. Roosevelt's order also produced a breakthrough: the commissioning of the Navy's first two African-American female officers. In great haste, the leaders of the WAVES — Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, or, essentially, the women's reserve branch of the Navy—selected the two most capable African-American recruits: Harriet Ida Pickens and Frances Eliza Wills, two highly accomplished women of New York City.

The first African-American WAVES reported for training on 28 December 1944 at Hunter College in New York City. Coming from the North and the South—Minnesota, Massachusetts, Illinois, New York, Georgia, and Alabama—the first recruits entered on a fully integrated basis. In early 1945, they reported to integrated duty stations across the country. By all accounts, the Navy refused to tolerate any backlash from white WAVES, the more vocal of whom were forced out of the service entirely with “neuropsychic discharges.” Still, instances of hostility and everyday indignities came and went with some frequency.

By 1944, when she joined the WAVES, Harriet Pickens already had an impressive record, especially considering the opposition and hostility African-American women faced in making careers for themselves in the 1930s and 40s. Pickens had been born in Talladega, Alabama, to distinguished parents: Her father had been one of the founders of the NAACP. She completed her undergraduate degree at Smith College, in Massachusetts, before pursuing further study at Columbia University and Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina. In 1934, she became the supervisor of a large-scale recreation program maintained by the Works Progress Administration for the Juvenile Aid Bureau of the New York City Police Department. After four successful years in that capacity, Pickens accepted the position of executive secretary in the Harlem Tuberculosis and Health Committee, a public health organization that attended to some of her city's most formidable challenges. As a Naval Reserve Officer, Pickens would use her expertise and experience to organize and administer physical training to enlisted WAVES.

Frances Wills had a similarly impressive career, as social worker. She decided to join the WAVES upon seeing in the paper that the service was now open to African-American women. Already an accomplished professional, with degrees from Hunter College and the University of Pittsburgh, as well as several years' experience in the employment department of the YMCA and elsewhere, Wills would be an ideal officer candidate. As a Naval Reserve officer, she would be responsible for job training and selection for enlisted WAVES.

Both women were sworn into the Navy on 13 November 1944 and sent immediately to join other (white) officer candidates at the training station on the campus of Smith College, where Pickens and Wills managed to catch up with their classmates, who were already a week into their studies.



Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Harriet Ida Pickens (left) and Ensign Frances Wills close a suitcase after graduating from the Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School (WR), circa December 1944.

Their training completed some five weeks later, Pickens and Wills earned their commission as the Navy's first female African-American officers on 26 December 1944. Although their options for advancement remained limited by the expectations and prejudices of the Navy leadership and the American public more generally, Lieutenant (j.g.) Pickens and Ensign Wills became the first in a long line of female officers and enlistees who, gradually, came to enjoy greater and greater purviews. Edna Young, for example, one of the wartime WAVES enlistees, became one of the first women to enter the regular Navy, in 1948, and the first African-American woman to do so.

The demands of World War II drew African-American women to the services, including the Navy, and animated African-American rights organizations to campaign on their behalf. This process and others like it generated the momentum that eventually produced the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, which in turn precipitated further integration of the Navy and other institutions.

The integration of the WAVES and the commissioning of the first female African-American officers—Lieutenant (j.g.) Harriet Pickens and Ensign Ida Wills—were the result of efforts toward racial and gender equality that persist to the present and continue to inspire reform throughout the Navy, the Department of Defense, and American society at large.

*Reference: <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/diversity/women-in-the-navy/first-african-american-female-officers.html>

SCOUT OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS Due 1 MARCH

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



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/scoutof-the-year>

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA NOMINATIONS DUE 31 MARCH



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

Entry forms were in the last newsletter and can be downloaded at: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/illustrating-america/>

CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE



What are origins of Saint Valentine (with thanks to Beth Daley of *The Conversation*). It appears there were at least three men named Valentinus, who were African, Roman and Umbrian. A couple of them were executed by the Emperor Gothicus because of their Christian faith. Sorry ladies. None of them appear to be romantics. It's possible, perhaps unlikely, that the early church used the martyrdom of these men to coincide with the rowdy Roman festival of Lupercalia.

We can likely attribute the romance angle to Geoffrey Chaucer and his *Canterbury Tales* where he writes about birds pairing in the month of February. Now we have some love birds! Nature-minded European nobility used this season to send love notes. Like many other religious holidays, Saint Valentine's Day has evolved over time and has become somewhat commercialized.

There is however, a Saint Valentines' prayer:

Grant, we beseech thee, O Almighty God,
That we who solemnize the festival of blessed Valentine,
Thy Martyr, may, by his intercession,
Be delivered from all the evils that threaten us.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saint Valentine, advocate and protector, pray for us.



+ SAFETY CORNER +

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL MONTH



February is the month we try to avoid slips, trips, and falls. No matter what our age, a fall can result in a severe injury and really put a damper on your New Year.

• Make sure your home is free of trip hazards. Loose throw rugs, items left on the floor, even a sleeping pet, can result in a painful tumble.

• Dim lighting in your hallways and on your porches can make walking hazardous.

• Unnoticed spills in the kitchen can bring down the cook quickly! Clean up the spills right away.

Outside, be aware that the leaves of autumn may hide the tree branches



fallen in the latest storm. Be careful when working or just walking outside. Holes in the yard, loose rocks, and storm debris can all make our fun with the family a trip to the Emergency Department.

The Post may soon be working on our new Post home. As we volunteer to "make it our own," be aware of the trip hazards as we clean up the clutter. Loose cables and wires are especially dangerous. Ladders and stools can be precarious. Do not forget to look out for each other! A warning to "watch out" may save your fellow veteran from injury.

+ SAFETY CORNER + **MARCH IS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH**

"March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb" is a familiar axiom for us. Known for severe weather, March requires us to be aware and plan for storms, tornados, and high winds. Oh, yeah ... we also often get snow in March.

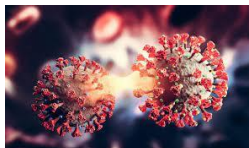
- Stay informed about current weather conditions through your TV, radio, or weather apps.
- Have an emergency plan in case you need to seek shelter. An interior room is safest in cases of high winds or tornados.
- Ensure you have a battery operated or crank-operated radio in case of a power loss. Add blankets and water supplies as the heat and local water may be lost during power outages.
- If you see lightning or hear thunder, stay indoors. If outside, seek shelter. Count the number of seconds between lightning and subsequent thunder and divide by 5; the answer is the number of miles from the storm. Anything less than ten means that you are susceptible to lightning injury or death.



Health Safety

These midwinter months can be tedious and drab. Catching the flu or COVID would only make the time worse. Take preventive measures to stay infection free!

- The more experienced among us (over 65) are at higher risk of serious flu complications. Our immune systems decrease in effectiveness. Between 70 and 85% of flu-related deaths occur in people 65 and older. Getting a flu shot will decrease your risk of serious illness or hospitalization.
- Even if you decline a flu shot, be aware of group gatherings. If family members or friends are ill, avoid close contact. Where a mask if you like.
- If you have a fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches and/or fatigue, you may have the flu. Rest and fluids may help but seek medical care if you have breathing problems.
- Similar symptoms are noted with COVID infection. If you are



not vaccinated against COVID (including a booster dose), get a COVID test quickly. COVID treatments are effective if given early.

- Anytime you or a loved one has flu/COVID symptoms and have new onsets of confusion, inability to stay awake, or gray or blue tints to skin, lips, or fingernails, call 911.

In the rare case of snow, take extra precautions if you decide to shovel off the driveway! Most of us are no longer as physically fit as we were in our twenties or thirties. Dress in layers, work slowly with frequent rest periods, and STOP at the first sign of breathing difficulties or chest pains.

POST COMMITTEES – YOU CAN HELP!

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

- **Bataan Death March (8 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

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.

FROM THE EDITOR

If you are interested in submitting articles, photos, updates on events, for inclusion in the newsletter, please send them to me at: 604 Edgewood Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322, 757-572-3946 or adjpost2894@vfwva.org

Your personal/business advertisement can be included in the newsletter. Just submit your desired write-up/graphic/card to the email address above. Rates for advertising in the VFW Post 2894 bimonthly newsletter are as follows:

- Business Card - \$25/issue; \$100/year
- Quarter page - \$35/issue; \$150/year
- Half Page - \$45/issue; \$200/year

VFW members/Veteran-owned businesses are eligible for a 20% discount on advertising rates.

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

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

Semper fidelis,

Dan Eaker

QUARTERMASTER DESK



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

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

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

Life Memberships can be paid online at www.vfw.org, via mail, or in-person at the meetings.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!!!

**BUSINESS CARD - \$25/ISSUE; \$100/YEAR
QUARTER PAGE - \$35/ISSUE; \$150/YEAR
HALF PAGE - \$45/ISSUE; \$200/YEAR
VFW MEMBERS/VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES
RECEIVE A 20% DISCOUNT**

FEBRUARY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1800 USS 'Constellation' takes French 'Vengeance' in 5-hour night battle
1862 Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of Republic" is published
1865 Sherman begins marching through South Carolina
1968 Saigon: Nguyen Ngoc Loan summarily executes Viet Cong murderer
- 2** 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends Mexican-American War
1901 US Army Nurse Corps established
1945 Escape attempt at Mauthausen concentration camp
1989 Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, ending 9 years of war
- 3** 1783 Spain recognizes US independence
1943 USS Dorchester sunk - the "Four Chaplains" immortalized
- 4** 1779 John Paul Jones takes command of 'Bonhomme Richard'
1941 USO (United Service Organization) is formed
1944 US 7th Infantry Division completes capture of Kwajalein
1945 Yalta Conference begins: FDR, Churchill, & Stalin
1959 Keel laid for USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), 1st nuclear aircraft carrier
- 5** 1918 Stephen W Thompson becomes first US pilot to down an enemy airplane
- 6** 1778 France recognizes US, signs treaty of aid in Paris
1832 US ship destroys Sumatran village in retaliation for piracy
1899 Spanish-American War officially ends
1945 Battle for Manila begins
1945 Over 4,000 American POWs freed from Luzon prison camps
- 7** 1800 Frigate USS 'Essex' becomes 1st U.S. warship to cross Equator
1945 General Douglas MacArthur returns to Manila
- 8** 1865 Martin Delany becomes first black major in US Army
1910 Boy Scouts of America founded.
1918 "The Stars and Stripes" begins publication in France
- 9** 1918 U.S. Army Chaplains' School formed at Fort Monroe
1943 Japanese complete evacuation of Guadalcanal, as US columns make contact at Cape Esperance, ending epic campaign
- 10** 1676 Battle of Lancaster: Massachusetts militia attack & defeat Wampanoag Indians
1763 Treaty of Paris ends French & Indian/Seven Years' War
1807 Congress establishes US Coast Survey
1962 USSR swaps U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for spy Rudolph Abel
- 12** 1948 First black Regular Army Nurse is commissioned: 1st Lt Nancy Leftenant; retires 1965 as major, USAF
1955 Pres Eisenhower sends US advisors to South Vietnam
- 13** 1861 1st Medal of Honor action: Asst Surg Bernard Erwin, Apache Pass, Az (awarded 1894)
1945 Allies begin fire-bombing of Dresden, about 50,000 die
- 14** 1778 USS Ranger carries recently adopted Stars and Stripes to foreign port for first time on arrival in France
1912 US sub 'E-1' (SS-24) commissioned, 1st American diesel boat
1945 US troops reach Bataan peninsula outside Manila
- 15** 1856 USS 'Supply' loads 21 camels at Smyrna, Turkey, for US Army
1898 Havana Harbor: Second class battleship USS 'Maine' blows up from undetermined causes, 258 killed
1919 American Legion formed in Paris
1944 Italy: Allies commence bombing & shelling Monte Cassino
- 16** 1804 Stephen Decatur retakes and burns USS 'Philadelphia', which had been captured by Dey of Tripoli
- 17** 1945 US airborne forces land on Corregidor (fighting lasts until March 3)
1959 Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba
- 18** 1621 Plymouth Colony elects Miles Standish "Captain" of militia
1864 CSS 'H.L. Hunley' sinks USS 'Housatonic', and herself: 1st submarine victory, albeit Pyrrhic
1915 Edward Stone, 1st US combatant to die in WW I, mortally wounded
1943 "Joltin' Joe" DiMaggio joins Army
1944 US forces land on Eniwetok Atoll, which is secured on Feb 22
1945 US Navy "frogmen" clearing beaches at Iwo Jima take heavy losses
1947 Voice of America begins broadcasting to USSR
- 19** 1846 US Navy adopts "port" in place of traditional "larboard"
1865 Sherman captures Charleston, SC
1941 CINCUS Husband Kimmel writes, "I feel that an attack . . . on Pearl Harbor is a possibility."
- 20** 1942 FDR orders internment of Japanese-Americans on West Coast
1943 Battle of Kasserine Pass: Rommel's panzers hit US troops
1943 US Naval forces under MacArthur designated Seventh Fleet
1945 US Marines land on Iwo Jima
- 21** 1942 E. H. "Butch" O'Hare downs 5 Japanese aircraft, helping USS 'Lexington' (CV-2) beat off an air attack
1962 John Glenn becomes first American in orbit
- 22** 1903 Cornerstone laid for Army War College (now NDU)
1821 Spain sells East Florida to United States
1909 Great White Fleet returns to Hampton Roads after world cruise
1915 Germany begins "restricted" submarine warfare
1935 Airplanes are prohibited from flying over White House
1942 FDR orders MacArthur to leave Philippines for Australia
1943 'Iowa' (BB-61) commissioned in Brooklyn
1944 US Eighth Air Force erroneously bombs Enschede, Arnhem, Nijmegen, Netherlands, kill about 800
1974 First woman naval aviator: Lt, j.g., Barbara Ann Allen
- 23** 1778 Baron von Steuben joins Continental Army at Valley Forge
1795 USN Supply Corps founded as Office of Purveyor of Supplies
1836 Santa Anna lays siege to Alamo, stormed on March 6
1903 US leases Guantanamo Bay from Cuba for \$4,000 a year; Castro has refused to cash checks since 1959
1942 Japanese submarine 'I-17' shells Elwood, California.
1945 Iwo Jima: 28th Marines raise US flag on Mount Suribachi
1945 Operation Grenade: Gen Simpson's Ninth Army attacks Ruhr
1945 Liberation of captives in Japanese internment camp at Los Baños, Philippines
1946 Yamashita Tomoyuki, 60, Japanese general, "Tiger of Malaya", hanged by Allies
1979 Frank Peterson Jr. becomes first black Marine Corps general
- 24** 1779 George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes from British
1917 Britain gives "Zimmermann Note" to US, revealing German efforts to get Mexico to invade southwest
1945 Manila liberated, after heavy fighting & serious civilian casualties
1968 US and Vietnamese troops complete liberation of Hue City
1991 Ground Phase of Operation Desert Storm begins, resulting in liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation
- 25** 1836 Samuel Colt patents a practical revolver
1945 First B-29 fire bomb raid on Tokyo, burns 10,000 acres
- 26** 1775 Battle of Salem, Mass.: British expedition to seize colonists' arms is turned back, "Leslie's Retreat"

- 1848 Marx & Engels publish "The Communist Manifesto"
- 1863 Lincoln signs National Currency Act, establishing greenbacks
- 1940 US Air Defense Command established at Mitchell Field, LI, NY
- 1942 USN aviator Don Mason signals, "Sighted sub, sank same"
- 1944 First woman USN captain, Sue Dauser, Navy Nurse Corps
- 1949 USAF plane begins first nonstop around-the-world flight
- 1993 Islamist terrorists bomb World Trade Center, 7 die
- 2001 Taliban destroy Great Buddhas of Bamiyan, in Afghanistan
- 27 1704 Indian raid on Deerfield, Ma; 40 die, 100 captured
- 1991 Operation Desert Storm: Iraqis ousted from Kuwait
- 28 1893 USS 'Indiana' (BB-1) launched, first American 1st class battleship
- 1991 Desert Storm ground war ends after 100 hours
- 29 1692 Salem witch trials begin
- 1704 Deerfield Massacre: French & Indian raid on Mass. town leaves about 100 dead
- 1864 President Lincoln signs U.S. Grant's commission as first substantive lieutenant general in army since Washington
- 5 1770 The Boston Massacre
- 1821 Veteran James Monroe is inaugurated as 5th president
- 1945 US VII Corps captures Cologne (Köln)
- 1960 Elvis honorably discharged from US Army
- 6 1822 USS 'Enterprise' captures 4 pirate ships in Gulf of Mexico
- 1831 Edgar Allen Poe expelled from West Point
- 1836 Santa Anna's Mexicans storm Alamo, after 13 day siege
- 1944 USAF begins daylight bombing of Berlin
- 7 1774 British close port of Boston to all commerce
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell is granted a patent for telephone
- 1942 First black cadets graduate from USAAF flying school at Tuskegee
- 1945 9th Arm Div captures Ludendorff Bridge over Rhine at Remagen and enters Germany
- 8 1945 1st African-American Navy Nurse commissioned: Ens. Phyllis Daley
- 1945 Luzon: Sixth Army offensive against Japanese Shimbu Line.
- 1950 First woman medical officer assigned to US naval vessel: B R Walters
- 1950 USSR announces development of atomic bomb
- 1958 'Wisconsin' (BB-64) decommissioned; for first time in 62 years, USN has no battleships in commission
- 1965 Vietnam: First US combat troops arrive (3,500 Marines)
- 9 1798 Dr George Balfour appointed first surgeon in USN
- 1847 Winfield Scott lands army at Veracruz, Mexico, and begins siege.
- 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads II: USS 'Monitor' fights CSS 'Virginia' to a draw, preserving blockade
- 1945 US B-29s bomb Tokyo, est. 80,000-120,000 die - highest toll in a single air raid, exceeding even atomic bombs
- 10 1942 NY's 27th Inf Div sails for Hawaii - first division to ship out in WW II.
- 11 1779 US Army Corps of Engineers established
- 1942 Bataan: MacArthur leaves for Mindanao on PT-Boat
- 1943 American Volunteer Group ("Flying Tigers") renamed Fourteenth Air Force
- 12 1912 Girl Scouts of America founded
- 1942 Burma: Joseph Stilwell assumes combined U.S./Chinese command.
- 1947 US announces "Truman Doctrine," to fight communism
- 13 1942 Julia Flikke, Nurse Corps, becomes first woman colonel in US Army
- 15 1493 Columbus returns to Spain from his first voyage
- 1781 Battle of Guilford Court House: British barely defeat Colonists and retire from Carolinas to Yorktown, Virginia
- 1916 Pershing begins 10-month pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico
- 1944 Abbey of Monte Cassino destroyed by Allied bombing
- 16 1882 US Senate ratifies treaty establishing International Red Cross
- 1945 Iwo Jima: organized Japanese resistance ends, mopping up continues.
- 1968 My Lai Massacre, perhaps 450 die
- 1985 AP correspondent Terry Anderson taken hostage in Beirut
- 17 1762 First St Patrick's Day parade in New York City
- 1776 British forces evacuate Boston; George Washington orders extra gill of whiskey to every Irish soldier in army
- 1966 US mini-sub locates missing H-bomb in Mediterranean off Palomares, Spain
- 18 1776 George Washington's army occupies Boston
- 1952 Communist offensive in Korea begins
- 1951 Herman Wouk's novel "Caine Mutiny" is published
- 1989 Maiden flight of Boeing V-22 Osprey VTOL aircraft

MARCH MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1781 Continental Congress adopts "Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union."
- 1954 Bikini: US detonates 15 megaton hydrogen bomb
- 1954 Puerto Rican nationalists open fire in Congress, 5 wounded
- 1961 Peace Corps is established
- 2008 USS 'New York' (LPD-21), incorporating steel from World Trade Center, christened at New Orleans
- 2 1776 Americans begin shelling British troops in Boston
- 1807 Congress bans importation of slaves effective Jan 1, 1808
- 1836 Texas declares independence from Mexico
- 1859 Paddle steamer USS 'Saginaw' commissioned, first American warship built on West Coast, at Mare Island
- 1867 US Navy Civil Engineering Corps founded
- 1938 15th Infantry leaves China after 26 years in garrison at Tientsin & Peking.
- 1945 Philippines: Japanese resistance on Corregidor ends.
- 3 1776 US squadron under Commo Esek Hopkins attacks Nassau, Bahamas: First American overseas expedition
- 1813 Office of Surgeon General of US Army is established
- 1815 Second Barbary War: US declares war on Algiers for piratical acts, 3 years after Algerians declared war on US
- 1863 Congress passes "Enrollment Act," initiating federal conscription
- 1871 US Navy Medical Corps established
- 1899 George Dewey is promoted to Admiral of the Navy
- 1915 Congress authorizes a Chief of Naval Operations (CNO)
- 1915 Congress creates Naval Reserve
- 1931 Congress adopts "Star Spangled Banner" as national anthem
- 4 1789 U.S. Constitution goes into effect
- 1814 Battle of Longwood: Americans defeat British, near Wardsville, Ontario.
- 1861 CSA adopts "Stars & Bars" as national flag
- 1877 5-times wounded veteran Rutherford B Hayes inaugurated as president
- 1881 Former Maj Gen James A Garfield inaugurated as president
- 1889 Bvt Brig Gen. Benjamin Harrison inaugurated as 21st president
- 1897 Bvt Maj William McKinley inaugurated as 23rd president
- 1943 Battle of Bismarck Sea ends: Japanese lost 12 ships, thousands of men.
- 5 1770 The Boston Massacre
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| <p>19 2003 Operation Iraqi Freedom begins (2003-2011)</p> <p>20 1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" published</p> <p>1896 Marines land in Nicaragua to protect US citizens</p> <p>1922 First US carrier commissioned: 'Langley' (CV-1)</p> <p>1939 Naval Research Lab proposes development of nuke power</p> <p>1942 Gen MacArthur vows "I shall return"</p> <p>21 1866 Congress authorizes national soldiers' homes</p> <p>1942 Jimmy Stewart enlists in USAAF</p> <p>1946 Strategic Air Command is formed</p> <p>1951 Julius & Ethel Rosenberg convicted of espionage</p> <p>22 1622 1st Indian War: Powhatan attacks Jamestown, 347 die</p> <p>1794 Congress prohibits export of slaves from United States.</p> <p>1917 3rd Lt. Elmer F. Stone becomes USCG Aviator No. 1</p> <p>1945 Patton's Third Army crosses Rhine</p> <p>23 1775 Virginian Patrick Henry famously states "...give me liberty or give me death!"</p> <p>1806 Lewis & Clark reach Pacific Coast</p> <p>1882 USN establishes Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI)</p> <p>1903 Wright Brothers receive patent for their airplane</p> <p>1957 US army sells its last homing pigeons</p> <p>1965 Gemini 3 launched, first US 2-man space flight (Grissom & Young)</p> <p>2003 USMC Task Force Tarawa captures An Nasiriyah after hot fight</p> <p>24 1898 Battleships 'Kearsarge' (BB 5) & 'Kentucky' (BB 6) launched at Newport News</p> <p>1919 New York's 27th Division returns from Great War, marches up Fifth Avenue</p> | <p>1920 1st USCG air station established, Morehead City, NC</p> <p>1944 The Great Escape: 76 Allied officers flee Stalag Luft 3</p> <p>1945 Operation Varsity: Allied airborne crossing of Rhine</p> <p>1945 Gen. George S. Patton pisses in Rhine from pontoon bridge near Oppenheim, Germany</p> <p>1986 US & Libya air-sea clash in Gulf of Sidra</p> <p>1999 Kosovo Campaign begins</p> <p>25 1655 Battle at Annapolis, MD: between Puritans & Royalists</p> <p>1813 USS 'Essex' takes 'Neryeda', first USN victory in Pacific</p> <p>1905 Most battle flags captured during Civil War returned to South</p> <p>1915 1st USN submarine disaster: USS 'F-4' sinks off Hawaii, 21 die</p> <p>1945 US First Army breaks out of Remagen bridgehead</p> <p>26 1943 First woman awarded Air Medal: Army Nurse Elsie Ott</p> <p>1945 Okinawa: Kamikaze attack US fleet</p> <p>1951 USAF flag approved</p> <p>27 1794 Congress approves construction of 6 frigates, including USS 'Constitution'</p> <p>1814 Battle of Horseshoe Bend: Andrew Jackson defeats Creeks</p> <p>1945 Wiesbaden falls to US XX Corps</p> <p>29 1973 Last US troops leave Vietnam, 9 years after Tonkin Gulf</p> <p>31 1854 Commo Perry forces Japan to open ports to foreign trade</p> <p>1917 US gains Virgin Islands from Denmark for \$25 million</p> <p>1968 LBJ announces he will not seek re-election</p> <p>1995 Somalia Campaign ends</p> |
|---|---|

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!!!

BUSINESS CARD - \$25/ISSUE; \$100/YEAR

QUARTER PAGE - \$35/ISSUE; \$150/YEAR

HALF PAGE - \$45/ISSUE; \$200/YEAR

**VFW MEMBERS/VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES
RECEIVE A 20% DISCOUNT**

Bataan Death March April 9, 1942 66 miles of Hell



CAMP O'DONNELL

**"It was easy to die.
But it was hard to live"**

**6,500 Filipino Casualties
2,500 American Casualties**



**Visit BDM Website:
<https://vfw2894.org/bdm>
for additional information**



**DEATH MARCH
BEGINS
Mariveles**

**VFW POST 2894, CHESAPEAKE, VA
COMMEMORATIVE MARCH
APRIL 8, 2023
THE GREAT DISMAL SWAMP TRAIL**



Angel Wings for Veterans

Is lack of transportation stopping you from getting the physical, mental, or emotional care you need?

Angel Wings for Veterans can help!

Our mission is to assist service members, Veterans, and their families from all era's, all branches, and all character of discharge determinations, with non-emergency medical/clinical transportation.

Care eligible for transportation assistance:

- Retreats
- Medical Care
- PTS/TBI Treatment
- Rehabilitation
- Service Dog Acquisition
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy
- Counseling
- Adaptive Sports Events

Travel is provided in the air through commercial airline tickets and volunteer pilots; and on the ground with gas cards, bus, and train tickets.

www.AngelWingsForVeterans.org



For assistance, please apply online by scanning the QR code or going to
www.AngelWingsForVeterans.org

Angel Wings for Veterans, a program of Mercy Medical Angels, a 501(c)(3) organization.

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
1	National Freedom Day
2	Groundhog Day
4	VFW Adj/QM Training, Fredericksburg
10	Post Staff Meeting, Big Woody's B&G
11	District 2 Mtg, Post 8545 (1200 lunch/1300 meeting)
12	Lincoln's Birthday
12	NFL Superbowl 🏈
14	Post Mtg (1900)/Slate of Officers
14	♥ Valentine's Day ♥
20	Presidents' Day/ Washington's Birthday
22	Ash Wednesday

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

8 APRIL – BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK!!!



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

Place
Stamp
Here



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED