

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 Wednesday of month – 7:00 pm
 VFW Post 2894 Headquarters
 3329 Battlefield Boulevard South
 Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

Email: cdpost2894@vfwva.org

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

Webpage: <https://vfw2894.org>

Visit us on FaceBook



POST OFFICERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Commander..... | Bob Gregory |
| Sr. Vice Commander..... | Susan Vitale |
| Jr. Vice Commander..... | Mike Kust |
| Adjutant..... | Dan Eaker |
| Quartermaster..... | John Peterson |
| Chaplain..... | Joseph McGourn |
| Surgeon..... | David Weber |
| Staff Judge Advocate..... | Matt Hamel |
| Service Officer..... | Jim Ireland |

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| President..... | Anne Thompson |
| Sr. Vice President..... | Sharon Peterson |
| Jr. Vice President..... | Rosie Gregory |
| Secretary..... | Sandy Dunbar |
| Treasurer..... | Donna Kust |
| Chaplain..... | Diane Hostetlar |
| Conductress..... | Amy Trahan |
| Guard..... | Grace Schweers |
| Patriotic Instructor..... | Jean Dozier |

NATIONAL

www.vfw.org

STATE

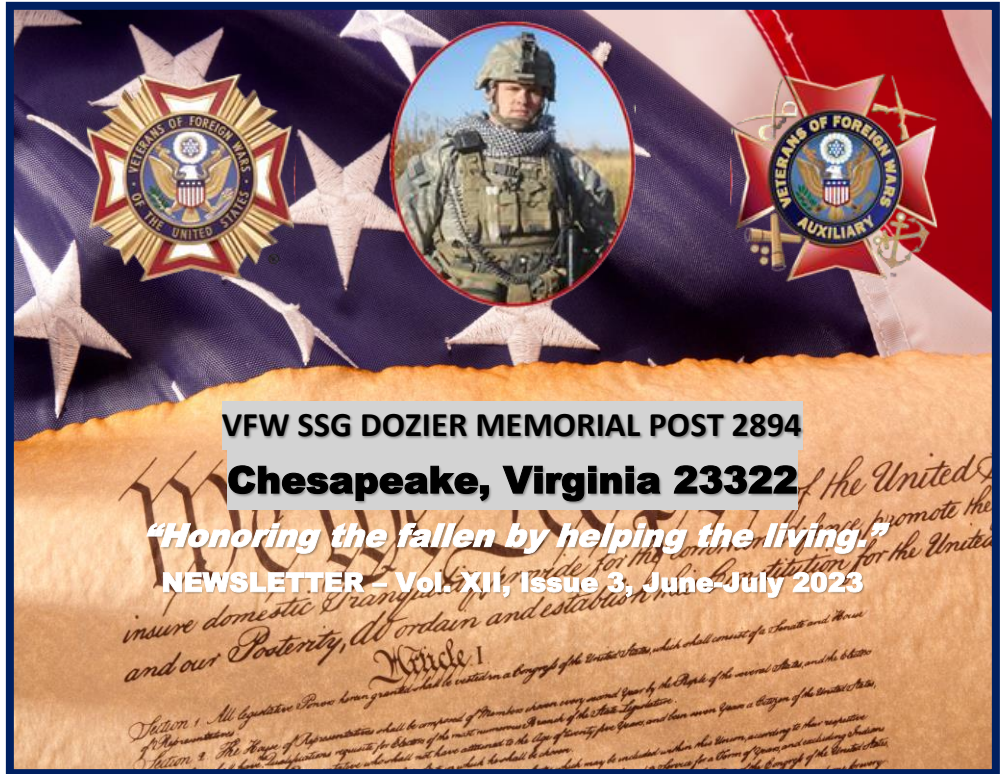
www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2

VFW Post 2894 GoFundMe

<https://gofund.me/483584b0>



**12TH ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH
 MEMORIAL WALK A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!**

Although it was a somewhat dreary morning, it did not dampen the spirits of the participants for the twelfth annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk on Saturday, April 8th at the Great Dismal Swamp Canal Trail. VFW Post 2894 hosted the annual event, which saw participation from many area organizations such as the local Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) units and Marines from the Northwest Security Group, the Chesapeake Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, and more when we hosted this commemorative event. Guest speaker Captain Paul Burkhart, Commanding Officer of the USS Bataan, LHD-5, delivered words to commemorate the anniversary of the brutal march during early April, 1942, after the surrender of Bataan by allied leadership to the Imperial Japanese forces. 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, was held to close the event. (see more photos on page 4)



Participants in the 12th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk at the starting line.

OUTGOING COMMANDER'S CORNER



Hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and cheer!

This is my final newsletter as Post Commander! It's difficult to believe that two years have gone by so fast. There are far too many people to thank without me forgetting some of them. So, I say thank you all! I must thank my staff over the last two years - we all came

blind to the task ahead, but we persevered and got the job done! I would like to give special mention to Past Commander, Chris Mulholland, who stayed on as Adjutant to help guide me through the first year. He did so even as he was fighting his own battles. Carl Dozier has been my mentor ever since I joined the Post. He was also the one who prodded me first to be the Surgeon, then JVC, SVC and finally Cdr! Thanks Carl (I think). Next is Chuck Wolff. I needed a Quartermaster badly, so I asked Chuck if he could take on the job. He accepted even though he was still active duty, had just purchased a new home and had two young children to help raise. Thank you, Chuck! I had one more vital position that needed to be filled, that of Adjutant. Carl and I noticed this new member who started attending the meetings. He was very engaged with the goings on of the meetings and seemed like a very good prospect for the Adj position. I asked Carl to approach him about becoming Adj and he accepted. That person is Dan Eaker. Dan took a very heavy weight off my shoulders as he took over where Chris left off. Dan also resurrected the Post Newsletter, which you are reading now. As you will read later, our newsletter has won a national award! Thank you, Dan!

My #1 mission was to find us a "Home"! I had no idea how I was going to accomplish this mission. All I could do was constantly tell everyone I met that we "Need a Home". I concentrated my efforts on the Chesapeake City Council. All we could do now was pray and the Lord answered our prayers!

We Have a Home! On 21 March 2023 Chesapeake Mayor, Rick West, signed city council resolution 23-R-11 and 23-R-12. The city council voted unanimously in favor, authorizing the city manager to execute a lease to VFW Post 2894. A "Salute" to present city council members Debbie Ritter, Amanda Newins and Robert Ike and former city council members Susan Vitale and Matt Hamel for going above and beyond to help make this possible! On 23 March 2023, the city manager signed the lease making it official and on 5 April 2023 (Passover) at an informal event we were handed the keys and key code to Former Fire Station #7 as our first home! Wow!

With the assistance of Gary Dunbar's brother, Jimmy Zacanti and Penske Truck Rental, we were given a 26-foot truck to use to move all our belongings from the storage unit to our home, which was accomplished in one day. Thank you, Gary, Penske, and the moving crew!

Because I wanted to have the next scheduled meeting (10 May) at our home, the building needed a lot of cleaning and we had no chairs. A quickly organized cleaning crew took care of

the cleaning and Danny Hockman, Commander of Post 2582, called me about forty chairs and eight tables they could donate to us! Thank you, Lord! Not only did we take the tables and chairs, but they also gave us a fridge and microwave oven! Thank you Post 2582!

Additional gratitude to Commander James Cooper, operations manager Cara Buckley, and the membership of Hopewell VFW Post 637 for their very generous donation of \$1000.00!

On 10 May we held our first Post meeting at the new Home/Headquarters. We also held our installation ceremony for the incoming administration presided by District 2 Commander Dave Goldstein. Taking the oath of office was our new Commander Robert Gregory; Senior Vice Commander Susan Vitale; Junior Vice Commander Mike Kust; Quartermaster John Peterson; 1st Year Trustee Carl Dozier; 2nd Year Trustee Matt Hostetlar; and 3rd Year Trustee Joe Hammers. Congratulations to all!

Post Grand Opening. Incoming Commander Bob Gregory has advised us that he is planning a "grand opening" event for the late summer/early fall timeframe.

Post Home Fundraising. Thanks to Mitch and Marie Brinkman who hired a film crew to conduct interviews with several Post and Auxiliary members. This video will be used as a marketing campaign to raise funds to for the remodel on the Post home. They also started a "Go Fund Me Page" for us. The links to the video and "Go Fund Me Page" are below. Please donate/share the page to all on your social media sites. You can also email the links to those not on social media!

https://www.gofundme.com/f/chesapeake-virginia-vfws-new-home?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&fbclid=IwAR30S-g1nXb61KOTRs_QYuU_CRhKdXsb0FJn6kEDUwEQaJIGyCYxxITwOrE

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064837686638>

Website - <https://www.vfw2894.org/vfw-post-2894>

Make it Eight Straight. We have won "All State" Honors for the 8th year in a row! "All American" should follow!

We got Silver. The Post newsletter received the silver award from VFW National in the Clair C. Poff Public Relations Award competition -

Silver Award

SSG Dozier VFW Post 2894 Newsletter

Dan Eaker, Editor

Department of Virginia

The award was recognized by the Commander, VFW Department of Virginia in the June General Orders: "We [VFW Virginia] learned that we had a Silver Award winner in the National VFW Publications Contest for Best Post/District Publication (large frequency). Congratulations to Post 2894 and Dan Eaker, editor." Bravo Dan!

Bataan Death March Memorial Walk/Run: Thanks to John Peterson, the BDM Committee, and all the volunteers who helped the Post have another very successful event! We netted over \$10,600.00! Great job all! This will help with the remodeling of our home!

Buddy Poppy Drive: Thanks to JVC Mike Kust and all the volunteers who provided time energy for this fundraising event – when all was said and done, we netted over \$4100.00 in donations that will be used in various Post service projects throughout the coming year!

Membership! Even though we do not have regular hours at the Post yet, we have had many Veterans stop in to join the Post. Having a place to call home helps. We have signed up more members in the past month than we have in the last 6 months! Many have already volunteered at some of our events and helped with the moving and clean-up!

It has been an absolute Honor to serve as Commander of “SSG Jonathan K. Dozier Memorial VFW Post 2894” God Bless Us All, God Bless the USA!

Jose Vazquez, Commander

INCOMING COMMANDER’S CORNER



I want to thank each and every one of you for entrusting me and the new officers with the leadership of the best Post in Virginia, I am truly humbled by your support and promise to continue the great work of the Commanders who came

before me. I believe in my heart of hearts this year will be a great adventure for all of us. With the continued remodeling of our home and the many different projects we'll surely encounter it will be a fun, interesting and productive year. Some of my goals for the upcoming year will be to continue to pursue All-State and All-American honors; continue to build our new home, with the plan to have a hard opening sometime in September and of course, outshine all other Posts. As any true leader will admit, surround yourself with good people, let them do extraordinary things, and collect the accolades and that's what I plan on doing.

Remember our success derives from being about "Service to Others"!

Remember to check both our website, Facebook page and your emails for upcoming events and important messages.

Thank you all for what you do for the veterans of Chesapeake, and I look forward to working with you all this year!

Semper Fidelis!

Bob Gregory
2023-2024 Post Commander

PRESIDENT’S CORNER



Hello, it’s almost Summer!! What an exciting time! The Auxiliary has moved into the new Post with the Veterans and we are working the plan of getting comfortable in our new space day by day. Memorial Day and the Gold Star Family Memorial are the unofficial starts to summer, but we know they are solemn moments to remember all those that gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy.

We will move on to settling into the Post and for a little while we will focus on ourselves and our new environment so that we may better serve the Veteran community in the fall.

We have newly elected officers for the next year. Please congratulate our newest officers-**Sharon Peterson-Sr Vice; Rosie Gregory-Jr Vice; Sandy Dunbar-Secretary; Amy Trahan- Conductress; Grace Schweers-Guard, and Jean Dozier-Patriotic Instructor.** Donna Kust will remain as Treasurer, Dianne Hostettler will remain as Chaplin, and I, **Anne Thompson**, will remain as President. We are looking for fundraising ideas and Veteran projects so if you hear of anything that we can consider, please share the idea with us. Have a fun, healthy and safe summer!

Sincerely,

Anne Thompson
President

4h OF JULY PARADE, SOUTH NORFOLK

We will be participating in this year’s Independence Day Parade in South Norfolk again on 4 July with lineup at 0800 at the South Norfolk Baptist Church at 101 Chesapeake Avenue. The parade actually starts at 1000 and it is only one mile. The parade finishes at Lakeside Park which, if you’ve never been there, includes a war memorial to all of the Gold Star Heroes of South Norfolk, Norfolk County and Chesapeake since WWI.

The parade will be followed with entertainment, food, games, paddleboat rides, children's crafts and family fun! The event is presented by the South Norfolk Civic League and Chesapeake Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

Anyhow, come on out. It’s a relaxing event. And let’s have some fun!!!

(BDM continued from page 1)



An impressive display of WWII weapons/equipment was provided by the U.S. Army Ground Forces (WW2-Reenacted) organization.



VFW 2894 Auxiliary members assist with registrations at the BDM Memorial Walk.



Marines from Marine Security Force Training Company participate in the Bataan Death March Memorial Walk.



Comrade John Peterson presents BDM Memorial Walk T-shirt.



Bill Stulb, Spectrum COO, presents a donation for the BDM event to VFW 2894 Post member Brad Waters as Chris Stoney looks on.

For more photos, go to the VFW Post 2894 BDM website: www.vfw2894.org/bdm

VFW POST 2894
AWARDED ALL-STATE POST

VFW Post 2894 was awarded the All-State Post designation for the 8th year in a row. Congratulations to all the members for helping to ensure we maintain our All-State status! Next stop – All American Post!

2023 POST AWARDS!

We held our annual awards ceremony on the evening of May 18th. A special thanks goes out to the City Council who graciously allowed us to host the ceremony in their chambers at City Hall. Additionally, we are extremely grateful to all those members of the Post who contributed their time and talent to ensure the tremendous success of this year's event! Kudos to Mark Rios who provided particularly entertaining narratives and Chuck Wolff who created the plaques that were a big hit at the ceremony.

Each year, nearly 68,800 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards. The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief.

The theme for 2022-23 was "My Pledge to Our Veterans." The VFW Post 2894 winning entry was submitted by Elijah Dean Gundayao, an eighth grader at Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School. Elijah will be continuing his education at Bishop Catholic High School, but was not quite sure what the future holds for him after high school. No worries there – he has more than enough time to figure that one out. Elijah also placed third at the District 2 competition - congratulations Elijah!



VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez shakes hands with Patriots' Pen Awardee Elijah Gundayao as Joe Branco, Principal of Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School, looks on.

Established in 1947, the VFW Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1.3 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The theme for the 2022-23 year was "Why Is the Veteran Important?" This year's award goes to Ms. Jenna Kocen, a senior at Great Bridge High School. After graduation, Jenna will



Voice of Democracy Awardee Jenna Kocen is handed \$400 prize check by VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez as Senior Vice Commander Bob Gregory looks on.

continue her education at Old Dominion University, where she plans to study Biology in her quest to become a middle school biology teacher. Congratulations Jenna and good luck with your educational endeavors!

The Teacher of the Year program recognizes teachers who promote a sense of national pride in their students. Every year, 7500 VFW posts around the country nominate teachers for awards at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Previous Post 2894 winners have finished first in the nation and third runner-up – truly incredible achievements! There is no more important task than the development of an informed, effective, and responsible citizenry.

The VFW launched the Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in 1999 to recognize certified teachers for promoting citizenship education. Three teachers, one from each level (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) are nominated by local VFW posts and those selected continue to compete at the department and national levels. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism. Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award.

This year's Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award is presented to Mrs. Christine Kapko. Pulled from the private sector of business and corporate America, Mrs. Kapko now serves her country as a Government and History teacher at Hickory High School in Chesapeake, Virginia. Through her calling as an educator and her dedication to honor American service members, Mrs. Kapko instills the values of the VFW and makes citizenship come to life with meaningful

experiences that make honor, sacrifice, and dedication a spirit of citizenship in our next generation of young adults.

Driven to make the history and government curriculum meaningful, Mrs. Kapko focused on honoring the military and the sacrifice made by service members and their families. To



Mrs. Christine Kapko displays the "Crystal Apple" Teacher of the Year Award, flanked by VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez (left) and Senior Vice Commander Bob Gregory.

experience true dedication and sacrifice, Mrs. Kapko brought her students to a local veterans cemetery, where an accompanying teacher's parents, both U.S. Navy veterans, are laid to rest. A group of her students participated in Memorial Day by placing American flags on the graves of veterans, an experience for many that was a powerful moment and solemn reminder that being a member of the U.S. military is a calling of duty, dedication, and often true sacrifice.

During the same time period, Mrs. Kapko challenged a group of dedicated students to seek out Hickory High School alumni who served in the U.S. military, where the names were engraved on individual placards and added to the Military Wall of Honor on prominent display inside the school cafeteria/commons area. It was discovered that a 2002 Hickory High School graduate, U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lieutenant Michael E. Johnson, lost his life during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan on



Teacher of the Year Mrs. Christine Kapko displays prize check of \$500, flanked by VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez (left) and Senior Vice Commander Bob Gregory.

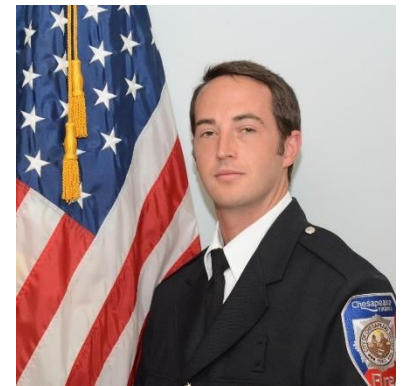
September 8th, 2009. It was a striking discovery for the students to learn that a Hickory Hawk (the school mascot), who walked the halls of the school, laid down his life for their freedom. This past April saw the unveiling of the Fallen Soldier Battle Cross erected in honor of Lieutenant Johnson at the front entrance to the school.

Mrs. Kapko facilitates community support and fund-raising activities to ensure projects such as the Fallen Soldier Battle Cross are successful. She is passionate about making citizenship, history, and government relative and meaningful to our young people. Of note – Mrs. Kapko was also selected as the District 2 and VFW Department of Virginia Teacher of the Year, so a hearty congratulations for such an outstanding achievement!

The Firefighter of the Year Award is an annual presentation to that firefighter who, in the eyes of their peers, has demonstrated outstanding service to the department and community through the execution of their duties as a firefighter.

This year, the VFW Firefighter of the Year Award for 2022-23 was presented to Firefighter/EMT Michael Rucka.

Although only being with the Chesapeake Fire Department for a short time, Firefighter/EMT Rucka accomplished many things. He earned his bachelor's degree in Homeland Security,



become an active member of the Mayday team, and accepted the responsibility of purchasing, tracking, and deploying resources for the Mayday and On-Deck bags.

Firefighter/EMT Rucka had many incredible incidents over the course of 2022, such as:

- Acting Officer for a call to Perdue AgriBusiness where this facility is known to be a hazardous and difficult facility to fight fire.
- Acting Officer for a commercial structure fire in CFD Station 5's area, where multiple calls of praise were received by his supervisor, Captain Barakat, about his performance. Additionally, CFD Division Chief of Operations Thibeault acknowledged Firefighter/EMT Rucka's ability and skill to search the B and D exposures without causing damage to the very expensive commercial door.
- Driver/Operator on a Department Fire Engine supporting the Walmart Active Shooter in March 2023, where he performed exactly as trained by entering the warm zone with the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, performed triage, and treated patients. When Medical Unit 1 needed an additional provider, he jumped into the back of the vehicle to assist.
- Firefighter for a residential fire in Station 5's area where he arrived on scene ready for action masked up and quickly deployed a handline to the front door, made entry, and extinguished the fire.

Firefighter/EMT Rucka embodied the City of Chesapeake's CARES Standard by assisting the homeowners and their children with gathering personal items and explaining the how and why of the mission of the Chesapeake Fire Department.



Firefighter/EMT Michael Rucka accepts the Firefighter of the Year Award from VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez as Deputy Fire Chief Sam Gulisano and Battalion Chief JR Reynolds observe.

The EMS Provider of the Year Award is an annual presentation to that EMS provider who, in the eyes of their peers, has demonstrated outstanding service to the department and community through the execution of their duties as an EMS provider. The EMS Provider performed these duties in a manner that reflects mission of the fire department and represents the City of Chesapeake.



The VFW Post 2894 EMS Provider of the Year Award for 2022-23 is presented to Firefighter/Paramedic Bailey Phillips!

Firefighter/EMT Phillips' passion for the EMS was evident by his going above and beyond the call of duty on every medical incident. He personifies the highest standards of dedication and determination found in outstanding pre-hospital providers.

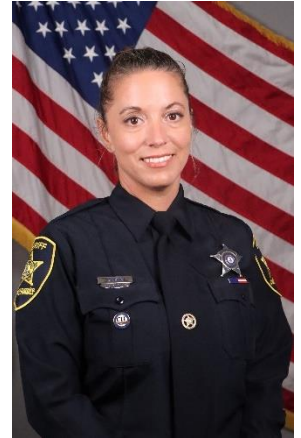


Firefighter/Paramedic Bailey Phillips accepts the EMS Provider of the Year Award from VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez flanked by his wife and Deputy Fire Chief Sam Gulisano and Battalion Chief JR Reynolds.

His extreme knowledge and experience reflect a mastery of virtually every aspect of EMS. He is constantly educating others to improve their skills and is eager to assist other providers on calls—even offering to fill out the paperwork, so the patients receive additional assistance from Mobile Integrated Health. His competence and confidence enabled him to make correct decisions quickly, resulting in many lives being saved.

Additionally, Firefighter/Paramedic Bailey Phillips joined the Dive Medic program and obtained his open water dive certification. Through his involvement in the Clinical Innovations Committee and working with the Chief Medical Officer, a logical and beneficial change to the bag system was developed and is currently used on every call.

The Chesapeake Sheriff's Department Deputy of the Year is Deputy Sheriff Diana Kubitschek-Brann. Deputy Brann has served the Chesapeake Sheriff's Office for seven years. She is currently assigned to Work Force as a crew leader. In May 2022, Deputy Brann was with her crew on Cedar Road when she witnessed a two-vehicle crash; one of the cars overturned. Deputy Brann ran towards the vehicles as another deputy secured their crews. The occupants of the first vehicle were not seriously injured, so Deputy Brann proceeded to the overturned car. The driver was trapped in the vehicle by his seatbelt. Deputy Brann climbed on top of the vehicle, reached through the broken windshield, and helped the driver escape. When paramedics arrived, the occupants of both vehicles were safely on the side of



VFW Post 2894 Deputy Sheriff of the Year Diana Kubitschek-Brann displays award plaque and check between Post Commander Jose Vazquez and Captain O.T. Holton.

the road. For her quick actions and ability to stay cool under pressure, Sheriff O'Sullivan named Deputy Diana Kubitschek-Brann the Deputy of the Year and VFW Post 2894 followed suit by naming her the Post Deputy Sheriff of the Year.

Officer Albert White is our Police Officer of the Year. On November 22nd, multiple units responded to an active shooter at the Walmart Shopping Center in Greenbrier. Officer White was the first officer on the scene and as soon as he exited his police vehicle, he was met by an employee that was suffering from a gunshot wound to the neck. The victim was bleeding profusely, and Officer White began rendering life-saving measures to the victim, which included packing the wound on her neck. Officer White maintained pressure on the wound and was then met by another employee who had been shot in the chest. Officer White directed other officers that were now on scene to assist with the original victim and he began rendering additional life-saving measures for the second victim who was spitting up blood.



Officer White packed the wound, directed medical personnel to triage the most serious victim, and eventually had the victim give self-care so that he could find additional work at the incident. Officer White's actions were exemplary and model the training we receive department wide. It is for these reasons Officer White was elected Officer of the 4th Quarter of 2022 and Officer of the Year for 2022.

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Investigation Section, Insurance Fraud Unit. She also served on the department's Tactical Field Force with deployments to different regions of the state for civil protests, a Defensive Tactics Instructor for the department, a mentor for the Department's Staff and Leadership Employee Development Program (SLED), and a Field Training Agent to newly promoted special agents.



VFWS Post 2894 Virginia State Police Officer of the Year, Special Agent Elessie Smith, holds the award plaque and check as she is flanked by Post Commander Jose Vazquez (left), her husband and 1st Sergeant Phillip Edmonds.



VFWS Post 2894 Police Officer of the Year Albert White displays the award plaque and check flanked by Post Commander Jose Vazquez, his wife and Deputy Chief Mark Solesky.

The Virginia State Police Officer of the Year is Special Agent Elessie Smith. Born in Norfolk, Virginia and a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School. She previously had a career in banking before joining the Virginia State Police in 2006 as a Trooper and assigned to patrol duties in Area 32 (encompassing the cities of Norfolk and Virginia Beach).



In 2014, she was promoted to Special Agent and assigned to the Chesapeake Field Office, General

Special Agent Smith is the longest tenured member of the Insurance Fraud Unit in the Chesapeake Field Office. She primarily investigates cases involving insurance fraud. She investigates other fraud related crimes such as forgery and uttering. She is always willing to attend community outreach programs educating the public on matters of insurance fraud and auto theft by assisting the Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) unit. Although assigned to the insurance fraud unit, SA Smith investigates other crimes when called upon such as shootings, sexual assaults, and serves as a forensic technician. SA Smith displays a positive demeanor towards the public, her supervisors, and peers, and she is known for her dedication, consistency, reliability, and always being a team player.

The Awards Ceremony continued with special recognition of organizations, businesses and individuals who have been supportive of the Post's service projects at various levels for the past year. The efforts of these organizations and individuals continue to have significant impacts on area veterans and their families.

Mr. George Lutz, founder of Honor and Remember, was recognized for his personal contributions and dedication in continuing the push for formalizing the Honor and Remember Flag so that veterans and their families are remembered for their personal sacrifice that continues to protect the freedoms we so enjoy in our country. On December 29, 2005, George Anthony Lutz II, George's son, was killed in Fallujah, Iraq. His family and friends endured the shock, emotional agony and overwhelming loss that accompanied the news of Tony's death, just like the many families who have suffered the same tragedy.



Mr. George Lutz, founder of Honor and Remember, receives VFW Award from VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez.

In the months that followed Tony's death, George visited other families who had lost loved ones in the Iraq war. He began to sense that he had joined the ranks of a unique fellowship. These families were only the latest additions to a group that originated with the American Revolution, when the first soldiers to shed their blood for our freedom gave their lives.

George found another commonality among the families of fallen soldiers. Many families wanted to know two things: their sacrifice was not in vain and the nation would never forget. These concerns led George on a quest to discover if there was a universally recognized symbol that specifically acknowledges the American service men and women who never made it home. To his surprise, he found nothing. Thus, the Honor and Remember Flag was conceived. Its purpose is to perpetually remind Americans of the sacrifices of military fallen service members and the loss their families endure.

The VFW Post 2894 recognizes Mr. George Lutz for his continuing efforts in establishing the Honor and Remember tribute to America's fallen and the assistance provided by the Honor and Remember team to those family members who have suffered the loss of a loved one to military service.

A major Post Special Project was the result of a news broadcast on a local television station. Chris Horne, an investigative reporter for WAVY News 10 "On Your Side," provided initial information about a Navy veteran couple who were having significant problems with a recent home purchase. After the seller reneged on the agreement to make much needed repairs to make the house habitable, the distraught couple reached out to WAVY News 10 for assistance. The issue was televised and VFW Post 2894 took note of the situation. Through regular reporting updates and working with local organizations like Home Depot and 757 Real Estate Team, the Post was able to contribute to the successful repair and upgrade of the residence that allowed the veteran couple to happily move in to the home with no further issues.

For his persistent efforts in providing visibility of this issue to the community and his sincere concern for veterans in the Chesapeake area, Chris Horne was recognized with a Top Supporter plaque from the Post.



Chris Horne of WAVY News 10 (center), accepts the Top Supporter Award as Jose Vazquez, Post Commander (left), and Jim Ireland, Post Service Officer, look on.

Freedom Outdoors Shooting Center has been an ardent supporter of VFW Post 2894 over the past few years, donating several weapons at no cost for raffles that have netted over \$10,000 for the Post. The Sig Sauer P365X-Macro with Holosun red-dot sight that is the focus of the Post's 4th of July Raffle was a donation from Freedom Outdoors. For their generous support, Freedom Outdoors was recognized with a Top Supporter Plaque, with Ms. Erin Crooks present to accept the award.



Ms. Erin Crooks, Freedom Outdoor Shooting Center, accepts the Top Supporter Award from VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez, as Senior Vice Commander Bob Gregory looks on.

Mr. Troy Hare, owner of Hare Heating, Air Conditioning and Electrical, was honored for his continuing support to the various VFW Post 2894 service projects and generous donations of both labor and material to enhance the living conditions for many veterans and their families in the area. Working with the company's skilled staff, as evidenced by Jeremy Grovatt, who was honored with a VFW Certificate of Appreciation, the Post Service Officer was able to satisfy the various residential construction requirements for many service projects completed by the Post. The Post is extremely grateful to Mr. Hare's

company for their assistance that ensures the success of many Post service projects to local veterans and their families!

- Western Branch: Dymond Dallas-Townsel & Brenden Escobar



Jeremy Grovatt, (2nd from left) of Hare Heating, Air Conditioning and Electrical, displays his Certificate of Appreciation as Jose Vazquez, Commander of VFW Post 2894, Troy Hare, owner of the company, and Jim Ireland, Post Service Officer, look on.



LtCol David Weber, USMC (ret), and VFW Post 2894 member, presents VFW Medals to twelve AF JROTC cadets at the Annual Awards Ceremony in May.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR HONOREES!

VFW POST 2894 ELECTIONS AND OFFICER INSTALLATION 2023-24

Election of Post officers was held at the April membership meeting with the following results for Fiscal Year 2023-24:

- Commander – Bob Gregory
- Senior Vice Commander – Susan Vitale
- Junior Vice Commander – Mike Kust
- Quartermaster – John Peterson
- Chaplain – Joseph McGourn
- 1st Year Trustee – Carl Dozier
- 2nd Year Trustee – Matt Hostetlar
- 3rd Year Trustee – Joe Hammers



All the VFW Post 2894 Awards Ceremony honorees pose for a group photo.

POST Awards VFW Medals



At an Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFJROTC) Awards Ceremony hosted at Grassfield High School on May 10, the Post awarded VFW medals to AFJROTC members in six of Chesapeake's high schools. The awards recognize the achievements of the cadets and fosters their morale and esprit de corps. The awards went to two outstanding cadets, one male and one female, at the respective schools. Here are the awardees:

- Deep Creek; Bella Dome & Amar Ruiz
- Grassfield; Catherine Schwind & Vincent Torres
- Great Bridge; Elaney Helton & Logan Lawhorn
- Indian River; Kaitlyn Grimm & Aden Velazquez
- Oscar Smith; Donalyn Woodard & Tristan Davis



VFW Post 2894 newly elected officers are installed by Dave Goldstein, Commander, VFW Virginia District 2.

The installation of officers was conducted at the Post May membership meeting at the new Post location at the former Chesapeake Fire Station #7 on South Battlefield Boulevard. David Goldstein, District 2 Commander, administered the oath and welcomed the new officers in to their respective leadership roles. Passing of the gavel from Jose Vazquez, outgoing Post Commander, to Bob Gregory, incoming Post Commander, was the first official leadership transfer at the new Post home.

The new officers will officially take over after the June VFW Department of Virginia Convention on the 1st of July, the beginning of the VFW 2023-24 fiscal year. Congratulations to all the newly installed officers and our tremendous appreciation and thanks to Jose Vazquez for ensuring the Post continued its focus on service to veterans in our community as well as maintaining a solid foundation for the next term of officers to build on.



VFW Virginia District 2 Commander Dave Goldstein provides comments at Post 2894 officer installation.



Outgoing VFW 2894 Post Commander Jose Vazquez (right) passes the gavel to incoming Commander Bob Gregory.

IN MEMORIUM Comrade Francis Sean Gorman 1950 – 2023



F. Sean Gorman, 72, of Chesapeake, affectionately known as Bobby, passed away peacefully on April 3, 2023, surrounded by his family in the comfort of his own home after battling cancer for several years.

Sean was born on May 7, 1950, in Queens, New York. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Connecticut and joined the United States Navy, earning his wings as a naval Aviator. He attended the Navy's Top Gun school. He also served as an Aviation Maintenance Officer aboard the USS John F. Kennedy during Operation Desert Storm. He was a mentor and teacher to many and received various medals for his accomplishments. Commander Gorman was known for his passion and he respected those who tried their hardest. He retired after 20 years of service and received a Master of Education from Old Dominion University.

Sean exchanged his Naval uniform for his daily dad wear: khaki pants secured with a belt squarely fitted at the waist and a tasteful short sleeve button-up. Completing the look were Birkenstock sandals or cowboy boots and a Stetson, depending on how yee-haw he was feeling.

His passion for teaching others led him to teach physics and science at St. Matthew's, Christ the King, and St. Patrick's Catholic Schools.

Sean married Lucille Brzezinski in 1976 beginning a life of love and adventure. Together they faced endless moves around the country, sailed the eastern seaboard, and raised four amazing children. They supported one another's passions and honored one another's dreams.

He excelled at motorcycle racing, aviation, and sailing, and was an accomplished HAM radio operator. He was a phenomenal photographer, with an inexplicable ability to see the beauty in the world, whether a tree branch, a rocky shore, or a tight jet formation. He was a devoted father who unconditionally loved his daughters. On his last day alive he said, "I'm so proud of all my girls." Alas, no official word on who the favorite daughter was.

Sean is survived by his beloved wife, Lucille Brzezinski Gorman; his daughters Jennifer (Mike), Luce (Todd), Eli (Evan), and Joan (Christopher); dis grandchildren Mia, Annabelle, Levi, Tilly, and Laird; his brother Hugh Dennis (Sally); his sister Christina (Gregg); his best friends Stephen, Phil, and Mikey; nieces and nephews; cousins; in-laws, and many other friends.

A funeral Mass was held on April 18, 2023, at St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church, and he was laid to rest at Albert G. Horton, Jr State Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk.

IN MEMORIUM
Auxiliary Member Jacqueline Conway
1947 – 2023



Jacqueline Oran Klefman Choiniere Brinkman Conway, 75, passed away on April 4, 2023 in Chesapeake, Virginia. Jackie was born in Cleveland, Ohio on June 26, 1947, daughter to the late Henry and Margaret (Spotila) Ositkowski Oran.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her sister,

Linda Clark Cole; grandson, Kevin James Taft; and father of her children, Melvin Paul Klefman.

She leaves behind her loving husband, Raymond Conway; children, Paula Klefman Choiniere and Mark Klefman; grandchildren: David Adam Choiniere, Chauntell Taft, Brady Allen Klefman, and Grace Klefman; great-grandchildren; step-children; and siblings: Tina Wilson, Dale Henry Oran, and Lisa Barrington.

Jackie had one of the biggest hearts, knowing no strangers. She was loved by all who met her. She will be missed by her loving husband, siblings, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-children, extended family, friends, and anyone who ever met her.

Jackie enjoyed all types of activities over the years. She loved traveling, painting, shopping, quilting, crafting (especially jewelry-making), and she shot pool on a league for many years.

A celebration of her life was held for Jacki on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at the American Legion #280. Another celebration of Jackie's life will be held in Ohio at a later date. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, please come help celebrate Jackie's life.

OTHER POST NEWS

• **Post Elections:** The newly elected Post officers for the fraternal year 2023-24 are:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Commander | Bob Gregory |
| Senior Vice Cdr | Susan Vitale |
| Junior Vice Cdr | Mike Kust |
| Quartermaster | John Peterson |
| Chaplain | Joseph McGourn |
| 1 Year Trustee | Carl Dozier |
| 2 Year Trustee | Matt Hostetler |
| 3 Year Trustee | Joe Hammers |

Appointed Officers:

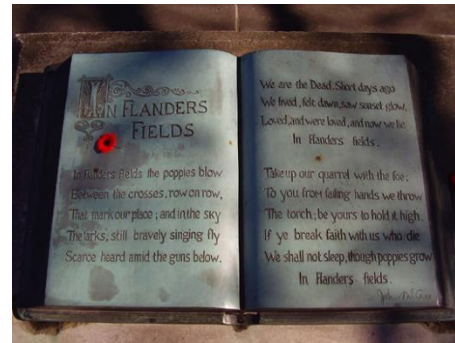
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Adjutant | Dan Eaker |
| Service Officer | Jim Ireland |
| Surgeon | David Weber |

Auxiliary Elections: The Auxiliary officer slate for the 2023-24 year is:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| President | Anne Thompson |
| Sr Vice | Sharon Peterson |
| Jr Vice | Rosie Gregory |
| Secretary | Sandy Dunbar |
| Treasurer | Donna Kust |
| Chaplain | Dianne Hostetlar |
| Conductress | Amy Trahan |
| Guard | Grace Schweers |
| 3 rd yr Trustee | Amy Trahan |
| 2 nd yr Trustee | Liz Lewis |
| 1 st yr Trustee | Sharon Peterson |
| Patriotic Instructor | Jean Dozier |

Congratulations to everyone – thanks for stepping up in these important leadership roles!

• **Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Fundraiser Again a Success.**



The VFW Post 2894 and Auxiliary had its semi-annual Buddy Poppy Fundraiser on the weekend before Memorial Day, 20-21 May. The sites at Walmart

Supercenters located at both Battlefield and

Grassfield netted over \$4000! Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to ensure the success of this event.



VFW Post 2894 Comrades Carl Dozier, Chuck Wolff and Ron Liston hand out Buddy Poppies for Memorial Day.

• **VFW Post 2894 Members Attend Tidewater Gold Star Memorial Monument Dedication.**

On May 28, 2023, several members from the Post attended the Tidewater Virginia Gold Star Families Memorial Monument dedication at Chesapeake City Park. Although the weather was less than cooperative, it did let



Tidewater Gold Star Memorial Monument located at Chesapeake City Park - dedicated on 28 May 2023.

up a bit so the Gold Star families and other attendees could walk down to the location for the official unveiling. Sponsored by the Woody Williams Foundation, this is the 124th Gold Star Memorial Monument to be dedicated in the United States and the second in Virginia. A third monument is planned for Lexington,

Virginia, to be dedicated by the end of this year. The goal of the foundation is to honor, recognize, and serve Gold Star Families and the legacy of their loved ones who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. We encourage everyone to take some time out of your day and visit the Memorial and remember all those families who are constantly enduring the grief associated with the sacrifice of a loved one for the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

• **VFW Post 2894 Members Attend Chesapeake Memorial Day Ceremonies at City Hall.** On Memorial Day, 29 May, several members from VFW Post 2894 were present for the annual Memorial Day Ceremony sponsored by the Mayor's Council for Veterans Affairs. The ceremony was well attended



MCPO Paul Abney, USN (retired) shakes hands with other U.S.S. Cole members at the Chesapeake Memorial Day Ceremony as Mayor West looks on.

by several veterans organizations such as the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps League as well as representatives from Chesapeake first responders. Chesapeake Boy Scout Troop 6 assisted with handing out programs, Buddy Poppies and Remembrance ribbons as well as leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Paul Abney, a retired U.S. Navy Master Chief Petty Officer and survivor of the U.S. Cole bombing in October of 2000, gave a deeply emotional and moving memorial dedication to all those servicemen and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country and the freedoms we enjoy in America today.

• **Mutts With a Mission Update – Ash Becomes Full-fledged Service Dog!** Mutts With a Mission is a nonprofit organization that provides Service Dogs to Veterans, First Responders, Law Enforcement Officers, and Federal Agents with documented line-of-service/duty related disabilities. Their goal is for our country and community heroes to regain their freedom and independence.

On April 9, 2023, Ash became a Service Dog upon graduation from Mutts With a Mission Service Dog Organization and was received by Doug Monda, a retired law enforcement officer from Florida. Doug began his career in public safety in 2001 and joined the Cocoa Beach Police Department S.W.A.T team, attending U.S. Marine Corps Scout-Sniper training before spending fifteen years working with the Police Department S.W.A.T Team. In 2013 Doug's own mental health was impacted by his law enforcement experiences and the personal impacts of PTSD led him to establish the non-profit organization *Survive First*, providing mental health support and resources to first responders and their families. Doug is also the co-founder of Trauma Behind the Badge. Currently Doug is a national keynote speaker with the personal mission of spreading awareness of PTSD, depression, and suicide in first responders to break the stigma so that help can be received before it is too late. For more information about these organizations, please visit www.survivefirst.us and www.traumabehindthebadge.us.



Doug Monda with his new service dog Ash at graduation - Puppy Raiser Donna Kust looks on.

Thanks to Donna Kust for the incredible dedication and commitment to Puppy Raising Ash. And this isn't her first one, as she has been a part of fifteen dogs training to be Service Dogs, and has made a significant contribution to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities. It takes a special kind of person to take on the responsibility of puppy raising, and it's clear that Donna has a true passion for this important work

We wish Doug and Ash all the best as they

continue their journey together, and we look forward to hearing about their progress. Their partnership is a testament to the incredible bond between humans and animals, and a reminder of the important role that Service Dogs play in our lives.

• **Post Member is a Guest on Local TV Talk Show.** Jim Ireland, Service Officer for VFW Post 2894, was a guest on the Memorial Day episode of the local television station WGNT-27 "Poolside Cooking" show. The show aired on the Sunday before Memorial Day with guests from different services who talked about their branches and experiences. It was a casual setting around the pool at the home of producer Jemmalyn Hewlett, where the food was outstanding, thanks to chef Wombi, and the people were up-beat, interesting and friendly.

Jim represented veterans and discussed the VFW Post 2894 new home location in southern Chesapeake. He mentioned the aspect of not having a home for 27 years and the elation of the membership in finally having a permanent place to congregate and socialize. It was an up-beat fun experience for all plus the fact that Jim was able to highlight the VFW and our Post! For those that missed the Saturday episode, it will be available on YouTube to view at your leisure. A link to the show will be posted on the Post website once it's published so stay tuned for a viewing of this event.

• **Post Pistol Raffle to be held in July.** The VFW Post 2894 will be holding a raffle for a Sig Sauer P365X-Macro with Holosun red-dot sight on the 4th of July. The Post will only be selling 500 tickets for \$10 each, so get yours now if you are interested in this state-of-the-art, high-quality pistol. Our thanks to Freedom Shooting Center for their generous donation!



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: 3329 Battlefield Blvd S., Chesapeake, VA 23322, 757-572-3946 or adjpost2894@vfwva.org. Comments are always welcome.

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 newsletter is disseminated to the membership and friends of the Post via e-mail as well as being available on the Post website: [Newsletters \(vfw2894.org\)](http://Newsletters(vfw2894.org))

Semper fidelis, *Dan Eaker*

• **Post Sponsors Comrade in National Veterans Wheelchair Games.**



Our own Ron Mayfield participated in the Valor Games Southeast 2023 at the end of May and will be traveling across the country to Portland, Oregon, to participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games the first week of July. The Post provided a stipend that will assist in covering travel expenses incurred getting to/from the event. Good luck to Ron in his quest for "gold" as he continues to compete in these events throughout the year!



VFW Post 2894 Comrade Ron Mayfield competes in archery competition during VALOR Games 2022.

• **VFW Post 2894 Helps Injured Veteran with Yard Work.**

VFW Post 2894 volunteers helps injured veteran regain control of his yard.

Eight volunteers showed up on Memorial Day weekend to help an elderly Navy veteran who is the primary caregiver for wheelchair bound wife and he himself suffers from poor health. He recently fell, breaking three ribs and injuring a vertebra and is unable to keep up with it all work involved with maintaining the property.

Post 2894 volunteers stepped in, taking some of the pressure and concern off his mind by trimming bushes, trees, hauling dirt, edging the lawn, pulling weeds and clearing flower beds and the wooded area behind the house, bagging and hauling away trimmings and branches, mowing his yard and blowing off his



VFW Post 2894 Comrades Brad and Becky Waters help beautify the front flower beds.



VFW Post 2894 Comrade Kimball Thompson trims up the bushes and trees around the Gross home.

deck, porch and drive way (Spring cleanup).

It was a labor of love for a deserving veteran in need!



VFW Post 2894 Comrade John Guill provides finishing touches to the shrubbery.



VFW Post 2894 Comrade Dan Eaker cuts the yard at the Gross home.

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



U.S. Navy Veteran Anthony Gross (center with cane) is surrounded by VFW Post 2894 volunteers (clockwise from left): Bob Gregory, Jim Ireland, John Guill, Dan Eaker, Becky Waters, Brad Waters, David Weber and Kimball Thompson.

• **Post Holds “Soft Opening” at New Post Home.** On April 5, 2023, the Post Commander accepted the keys/combination from the Chesapeake City Manager to the building that was formerly Chesapeake Fire Station #7. The building at 3329 South Battlefield Boulevard is now officially the home for VFW Post 2894. On this bright sunny day many Post and Auxiliary members gathered to witness the monumental, historic occasion!

Afterwards, Post Commander Jose Vazquez provided additional information to WAVY News 10 correspondent Chris Horne, who will be documenting the development of the Post Home for a future documentary.



Post Commander Jose Vazquez accepts the keys to the new VFW Post 2894 home - formerly Fire Station #7



VFW Post 2894 prepares for first meeting at new Post location on Battlefield Boulevard.

CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE



Some thoughts on Humility: William Beebe, the naturalist, used to tell this story about Teddy Roosevelt: At Sagamore Hill, after an evening of talk, the two would go out on the lawn and search the skies for a certain spot of star-like light near the lower left-hand corner of the Great Square of Pegasus. Then Roosevelt would recite: "That is the Spiral Galaxy in Andromeda. It is as large as our Milky Way. It is one of a hundred million galaxies. It consists of one hundred billion suns, each larger than our sun." Then Roosevelt would grin and say, "Now I think we are small enough! Let's go to bed."

Winston Churchill was once asked, "Doesn't it thrill you to know that every time you make a speech, the hall is packed to overflowing?" "It's quite flattering," replied Sir Winston. "But whenever I feel that way, I always remember that if instead of making a political speech I was being hanged, the crowd would be twice as big." - Norman McGowan, *My Years With Winston Churchill*, Souvenir Press, London

A Prayer for the Nation

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable ministry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people, the multitude brought SSG Dozier VFW Post 2894 Newsletter – Vol. VI, Issue 3, Jun/Jul 2017 Page 13 hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endow with Thy spirit of wisdom those whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth. In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of



VFW Post 2894 members salute the colors at their new home

trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - President Thomas Jefferson, Washington D.C., March 4, 1801.

2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, capable of igniting clothing and causing 3rd degree burns.

- Do not attempt to relight any dud or malfunctioning



fireworks. Douse them thoroughly with water and throw them away.

- Light your fireworks one at a time, ensuring you are clear of nearby structures and on dry, uncluttered ground, without any debris that can ignite.
 - Do have a functioning garden hose or buckets of water nearby to douse accidental fires.
 - Stay at least 500 feet from commercial fireworks displays.

Stay safe, have some great food, and enjoy your 4th of July!

+ HEALTH TIPS +

REMEMBER TO GET REGULAR CHECK-UPS

Men are notorious for ignoring or not being proactive about their health. We seem to believe the saying of “if it ain’t broke, why fix it?”. Yet, we diligently check our cars and trucks for peak performance. So, this article is addressed to our male comrades.



Male health is much more than sexual health. Sure, erectile dysfunction and prostate problems are among our top concerns. But, what about high blood pressure, heart disease, and stroke? Not many of us die from ED.

A good place to start is having an annual health checkup, allowing us and our healthcare providers a chance to be proactive about issues such as weight, blood pressure, exercise tolerance,



and high cholesterol. Heart disease is a leading killer among American men. Laboratory and diagnostic testing can identify and highlight areas of concern, while developing a program of regular exercise and healthy

+ SAFETY CORNER +

JUNE IS ACCIDENT REDUCTION MONTH



Accident reduction is a continuous effort. One area for focus for June is tool safety. We all use tools to complete everyday tasks, but don't want to experience painful and bothersome injuries as a result. Key safety tips include:

- Inspect all tools before use. Do not use tools with damaged handles, excessive wear, dull blades or bits, or worn gripping surfaces.
- Use the right tool for the right job. A screwdriver is not a miniature pry bar.
- Use appropriate safety gear, such as goggles and work gloves.
 - Perform regular maintenance on your tools. This is especially important with power tools. Ensure that:
 - The power source (cord or battery) is undamaged.
 - There are no fluid leaks.
 - There are no worn or damaged cutting blades.
 - There are no areas of standing water or wet conditions in the work area.



- Keep the work area clear of fallen objects or spills. Keep safety in mind and enjoy the successful completions of your DIY project!

+ SAFETY CORNER +

JULY IS FIREWORKS SAFETY MONTH

Summer is a wonderful time to gather with family and friends for good food and fun times.

July 4th is the perfect example. Who (except for your neighbor's dog) doesn't enjoy fireworks? Sadly, the fireworks displays and private use result in over 19,000 fires and 11,500 injuries every year, to include some deaths.



Proper procedures for handling and observing fireworks include:

- Do not try to make your own fireworks, or to disassemble commercial fireworks.
- Do not point sparklers or fireworks at yourself or others, especially when lighting them.
- Do not allow children to handle fireworks. Sparklers are especially dangerous for children, burning at around

eating can help reduce the chance of developing heart disease, Type 2 Diabetes, and stroke. Combine these actions with a reduction in smoking and alcohol consumption, and you will improve your chances of a full and active life.

By the way, during your annual health checkup, don't forget to discuss with your healthcare provider your emotional health. Besides your physical health, emotional wellbeing is critical and can reduce the possible occurrence of depression and/or suicide.

Live long and prosper!

POST COMMITTEES – YOU CAN HELP!

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

- **Bataan Death March Committee:** John Peterson, Ann Jones, Becky Waters, Brad Waters, Matt Hostetlar, Diane Hostetlar, Jose Vazquez and Bob Gregory
- **Budget Committee:** Chuck Wolff, José Vazquez, Bob Gregory, Mark Rios, Brad Waters, Mike Kust and Carl Dozier
- **By-Laws Committee:** Bob Gregory, Matt Hostetlar and Jose Vazquez)
- **Awards Committee:** Mark Rios, Bob Gregory, Mike Kust, Dan Eaker, Joe Hammers
- **Membership Committee:** José Vazquez, Bob Gregory and Dan Eaker
- **Building Committee:** Kimball Thompson, Jim Ireland, Susan Vitale, Gary Dunbar, Anne Thompson, Amy Trahan, Ken Belkofer, Matt Overbeck and Jim Keiper
- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Joe McGourn
- **Health Committee:** Surgeon David Weber
 - **Scholarship Committee:** Carl Dozier, Jose Vazquez and Kimball Thompson

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 Quartersmaster 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.

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

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 Quartersmaster'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.

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>

JUNE MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1774 British close Port of Boston in punishment for "Tea Party"
- 1862 Battle of Seven Pines: Confederate Gen. Joe Johnston wounded, relinquishes command to Robert E. Lee
- 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor, Day 1
- 1866 Fenians attack Fort Erie, Ontario, from US soil
- 1871 US Sailors & Marines land in Korea, to protect U.S. citizens
- 1877 US troops authorized to pursue bandits & Indians into Mexico
- 1914 SecNav Josephus Daniels' G.O. 99 bars alcohol in fleet
- 1939 Director of Naval Research Laboratory, proposes research in atomic energy for use in subs
- 1944 Allied forces begin covering much of Britain with smoke screens, as troops crowd assembly areas for D-Day
- 2 Feast of St. Elmo, Patron of Sailors
- 1774 Parliament passes Quartering Act, billeting troops in private homes
- 1784 Congress disbands last elements of Continental Army, save for 100 troops guarding supplies at West Point and Ft. Pitt
- 1865 Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department surrenders to Union forces
- 1914 Glenn Curtiss flies his 'Langley Aerodrome'
- 3 1784 Congress creates US Army, forming 1st American Regt (now 3rd Infantry) on a cadre of 100 troops left over from Continental Army
- 1916 Congress establishes ROTC (based on Norwich Univ. program)
- 1959 First US Air Force Academy graduation
- 1965 First American "spacewalk", Maj. Edward White, Gemini 4
- 4 1789 Constitution of United States goes into effect
- 1918 US & French halt Germans at Chateau-Thierry
- 1942 Battle of Midway: Japanese lose four CVs, USS Yorktown badly damaged
- 1944 Allied forces liberate Rome
- 5 1917 US begins draft registration: 10 million eventually sign up
- 1944 First B-29 raid over Tokyo; one lost to engine failure
- 1947 SecState George C Marshall outlines "Marshall Plan"
- 1967 Six Day War begins between Israel & Arab neighbors
- 6 1898 Marines land at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- 1898 Action at Santiago, Cuba: US ships exchange fire with Spanish batteries
- 1918 US Marines secure Belleau Wood
- 1944 D-Day – www.strategypage.com/cic/docs/cic174b.asp#three
- 1944 Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., earns Medal of Honor on Utah Beach
- 1945 Okinawa: Marines capture Naha airfield
- 7 1775 "United Colonies" change name to "United States"
- 1912 US Army Air Service tests an airplane-mounted machine gun
- 1917 Liverpool: first American troops reach Europe
- 1942 Aleutians Campaign: Japanese troops land on Attu.
- 1942 Midway Campaign: 'Yorktown' (CV-5) sunk
- 8 1965 US troops ordered to fight offensively in Vietnam
- 1967 Israeli air and naval forces attack USS 'Liberty' (AGTR-5), 34 Americans die
- 9 1863 Battle of Brandy Station; largest cavalry fight of Civil War
- 1944 Normandy: U.S. VII & V Corps link up to form continuous beachhead
- 1945 Luzon: Sixth Army manages to isolate Japanese forces.
- 1945 Premier Kantaro Suzuki declares Japan will never surrender
- 1959 First ballistic missile sub launched, USS 'George Washington' (SSBN-598)
- 10 1776 Congress appoints committee to write a Declaration of Independence
- 1801 Tripoli declares war on US, for refusing to pay protection, initiating First Barbary War (1801-1805)
- 12 1987 Ronald Reagan says, "Mr. Gorbachov, tear down this wall."
- 1999 NATO peacekeeping forces begin operating in Kosovo, Yugoslavia
- 13 1900 Boxer Rebellion begins in China
- 1912 First successful parachute jump from airplane, Capt Albert Berry, Jefferson, MS
- 14 1775 US Army formed from New England forces before Boston
- 1777 Congress replaces "Grand Union Flag" with "Stars & Stripes"
- 1777 John Paul Jones takes command of USS 'Ranger'
- 1942 Bazooka goes into production at Bridgeport, Ct
- 1949 State of Vietnam formed within 'French Union' under Emperor Bao Dai
- 1982 Falklands: Argentines surrender to Britain; 74-day war ends
- 1985 Lebanese Shiite gunmen hijack TWA 847 after takeoff from Athens
- 15 1776 Americans burn and abandon Montreal
- 1864 Battle of Petersburg: Grant's first assault
- 1864 Robert E Lee's home, Arlington, becomes military cemetery
- 1877 Henry O Flipper becomes first black cadet to graduate from West Point
- 1944 US Marines land on Saipan
- 1955 First nationwide civil defense drill - "Duck and Cover!"
- 1978 Soyuz 29 carries two cosmonauts to Salyut 6, to stay 139 days
- 1991 Mt Pinatubo, Philippines erupts, closes Clark Air Force Base
- 16 1858 Lincoln says "A house divided against itself cannot stand"
- 1864 Siege of Petersburg & Richmond begins
- 17 1745 American colonials capture Louisburg, Cape Breton I., from French
- 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill (Breeds' Hill)
- 1777 19-year-old Marquis de La Fayette (Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier) & several other French volunteers for American Revolution land at Charleston
- 1898 Navy Hospital Corps ("Corpsmen") established
- 1916 Pershing leads Punitive Expedition into Mexico in unsuccessful attempt to kill Pancho Villa
- 1945 Final Japanese defensive line on Okinawa breached
- 1965 Vietnam: First B-52 raid, 50 km north of Saigon
- 1972 Watergate: Republican operatives break into Democratic Party offices at Watergate Hotel in Washington
- 18 1778 British evacuate Philadelphia
- 1812 US declares war against Britain
- 1878 Congress creates US Life Saving Service ("Coast Guard")
- 19 1778 Washington's troops leave Valley Forge
- 1878 Congress passes Posse Comitatus Act, to prevent military from enforcing civil rights laws
- 1944 "Marianas Turkey Shoot" - Battle of Philippine Sea: in 2 days Japanese lose 3 CVs, 426 a/c, US 70 a/c.
- 1967 Muhammad Ali convicted of refusing induction into Army

- 20 1675 Wampanoag Indians raid Swansea, Mass., initiating "King Philip's War" (1675-1676)
- 1782 Congress adopts Great Seal of United States
- 1813 War of 1812: US gunboats engage three British ships at Hampton Roads, VA
- 1867 US buys Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million
- 1941 US Army Air Corps is reorganized as Army Air Forces
- 1947 Cold War: Congress charters CIA
- 1963 Cold War: Washington-Moscow "hot line" established
- 21 1876 Gen Terry sends Custer's 7th Cav to scout Little Bighorn River
- 1948 Berlin Airlift begins
- 22 1938 Joe "Brown Bomber" Louis KO's Max "Hitler's Heavyweight" Schmeling at 2:04 into their rematch, in Yankee Stadium
- 1942 US introduces "V-Mail" for military personnel
- 1944 FDR signs "Servicemen's Readjustment Act", better known as "GI Bill of Rights"
- 1945 Okinawa secured: 110,000 Japanese troops, 100,000 civilians, 17,520 US troops died
- 23 1938 Congress establishes US Maritime Service
- 25 1864 Petersburg: Union troops begin a tunnel under Confederate lines
- 1876 Battle of Little Big Horn: Crazy Horse does in Custer
- 1942 Eisenhower takes command of US forces in Europe
- 1950 North Korea invades South Korea, claiming "self-defense"
- 1996 Dhahran, Saudi Arabia: Islamists bomb Khobar Towers, 19 Americans die, 500 Saudis & Americans injured
- 26 1917 First American combat troops arrive in France
- 1924 US Marines leave Dominican Republic, after 8 years of occupation
- 1963 Berlin: Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner" is wildly applauded
- 27 1927 USMC adopts "Sgt Jiggs," an English bulldog, as its mascot
- 1950 US sends 35 military advisers to South Vietnam
- 28 1948 Berlin Airlift begins
- 1965 President Johnson orders US ground forces to Vietnam
- 29 1863 Lee orders his forces to concentrate near Gettysburg
- 1945 Operation Olympic: Truman sets invasion of Japan for Nov 1st

JULY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 1: Lee wins, but Union troops fall back on very strong position
- 1864 Battle of Petersburg (to July 31)
- 1867 Dominion of Canada formed
- 1870 James W Smith becomes first black man to enter West Point
- 1918 Marines secure Belleau Wood
- 1950 First US ground troops arrive in Korea
- 2 1776 Continental Congress declares Thirteen Colonies independent
- 1777 Vermont abolishes slavery, first "state" to do so
- 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 2: A draw
- 1903 US leases Guantanamo Bay from Cuba for \$2,000 a year
- 1926 US Army Air Corps established and Congress authorizes Distinguished Flying Cross
- 1942 JCS authorize "Operation Watchtower," seizure of Guadalcanal
- 1957 'Seawolf' (SSN 575) completed, first sub with liquid metal cooled reactor
- 3 1754 Col. George Washington (22) surrenders Ft. Mifflin to French
- 1775 George Washington assumes command of Patriot forces investing Boston
- 1863 Battle Gettysburg, Day 3: "Pickett's Charge" is shattered
- 1950 First US-North Korean clash: TF Smith overrun
- 1988 USS 'Vincennes' (CG-49) accidentally shoots down Iranian airliner, 290 die
- 4 1776 Independence Day: Two days after voting for independence, Continental Congress adopts formal "Declaration of Independence"
- 1777 John Paul Jones hoists Stars and Stripes on USS Ranger, Portsmouth, NH
- 1801 1st Presidential Review of Marine Band and Marines, at White House.
- 1802 US Military Academy opens at West Point
- 1818 Congress rules flag shall have 13 stripes and one star for each state
- 1832 Samuel Francis Smith's "America" sung in public for first time
- 1863 Vicksburg surrenders to US Grant
- 1942 First American bombing mission over Nazi-occupied Europe
- 1942 American Volunteer Group ("Flying Tigers") becomes 14th AF
- 1950 Carriers USS 'Valley Forge' (CV-45) & HMS 'Triumph' make first UN air strikes of Korean War
- 5 1814 Battle of Chippewa: "Those are regulars, by God!"
- 1814 US Sloop-of-War 'Peacock' captures four British ships
- 1861 Skirmish at Newport News: US retakes Gosport Naval Base
- 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 5: Lee retreats
- 6 1777 Burgoyne's British & Hessians capture Fort Ticonderoga
- 1785 Congress introduces dollar
- 1911 First naval air station established, Annapolis, MD
- 1976 Women admitted to US Naval Academy for first time
- 7 1846 Commodore John D. Sloat takes Monterey, claims California for US
- 1920 USN aircraft tests "radio compass", Norfolk, VA
- 1941 Iceland: US Marines relieve British forces so they can fight elsewhere
- 1944 Saipan: Japanese troops make final "banzai" charge
- 1944 US B-29s from China attack Japan.
- 1966 Marines initiate "Operation Hasting" - to clear NVA from DMZ
- 8 1853 Commodore Perry sails frigate Susquehanna into Tokyo Bay
- 1865 C.E. Barnes receives US patent for machine gun
- 1945 TF38 arrives off Japan with 20 carriers; to stay until war is over
- 1950 Douglas MacArthur named CinC UN forces in Korea
- 9 1755 Braddock's Defeat: Battle of Monongahela - Daniel Boone is wagon driver
- 1776 Declaration of Independence read to Washington's troops in NY, whereupon citizens pull down George III's statue to make musket balls
- 1918 Congress establishes Distinguished Service Cross
- 1944 US secures Saipan: 3,200 US, 27,000 Japanese KIA, & many civilian suicides
- 10 1821 US takes possession of Florida from Spain
- 1943 Operation Husky: US & Commonwealth forces invade Sicily
- 1953 American troops abandon Pork Chop Hill, Korea
- 11 1786 US pays Morocco \$10,000 to "protect" merchant ships from piracy
- 1798 Congress reactivates USMC, disbanded in 1784

- 1812 US invades Canada near Detroit
- 1919 US Navy Pay Corps becomes Supply Corps
- 1943 USN surface ships break German-Italian tank attack at Gela, Sicily
- 1955 USAF Academy opens with 300 cadets at Lowry AFB, CO
- 12 1942 U-Boat lands four German saboteurs on Long Island, soon captured
- 14 1813 Lt John M. Gamble, becomes only US Marine to command a ship, prize 'Greenwich'
- 1825 Lafayette reviews 2nd Bn, 11th NY Arty (7th NY), which adopts name "National Guard"
- 1900 "China Relief Expedition" captures Tientsin from Boxers
- 1959 First nuclear-powered cruiser commissioned, USS 'Long Beach' (CGN 9)
- 1972 Vietnam: Jane Fonda makes first of 10 broadcasts on Radio Hanoi.
- 15 1958 Marines land in Lebanon, to support government
- 16 1861 Bull Run Campaign: Gen McDowell advances from Washington toward Fairfax Courthouse
- 17 1927 USMC pilots conduct first combat dive bombing, Ocotol, Nicaragua.
- 18 1863 54th Mass. leads gallant attempt to storm Fort Wagner, near Charleston
- 1914 US Army Air Service formed within Signal Corps
- 1944 US troops capture St. Lo, Normandy
- 19 1812 1st Battle of Sackett's Harbor: Americans beat off British attack across Lake Erie
- 1886 'Atlanta' commissioned, first USN steel cruiser
- 1897 Lt Robert E. Peary departs on year-long Arctic Expedition
- 20 1881 Sioux leader Sitting Bull surrenders to federal troops
- 1942 Congress creates Legion of Merit
- 1942 First WAACs begin basic training
- 1944 Marines land on Guam.
- 1948 US reinstitutes draft, for Cold War
- 21 1823 Lt David G. Farragut leads raid to destroy pirate base in Cuba
- 1861 First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas: Confederate Victory
- 1930 Veterans' Administration established
- 1969 Neil Armstrong's "small step" on moon - 2:56:15 AM GMT
- 22 1802 US Frigate 'Constellation' defeats 9 corsair gunboats off Tripoli
- 1905 Remains of John Paul Jones removed from Paris for transportation to Annapolis
- 1943 Patton captures Palermo
- 1987 USN begins escorting re-flagged Kuwaiti tankers in Persian Gulf
- 23 1944 US forces land on Japanese-held Tinian from nearby Saipan
- 24 1948 Soviets initiate blockade of Berlin
- 1969 Muhammad Ali convicted of refusing induction in US Army
- 25 1866 David G. Farragut appointed first Admiral in US Navy
- 1866 US Grant is named first full general in US Army
- 1947 US Army, Navy, & Air Force subordinated to new DoD
- 26 1948 Truman initiates integration of Armed Forces
- 27 1909 Orville Wright demonstrates plane for Army, flying 72 minutes
- 1953 North Korea & UN sign armistice
- 1954 Armistice divides Vietnam in two
- 1995 Korean War Veterans Memorial dedicated in Washington
- 28 1898 Skirmish at Ponce, Puerto Rico, which shortly surrenders to US
- 28 1914 Austria-Hungary attacks Serbia, igniting WW I
- 1931 Congress makes "Star-Spangled Banner" national anthem
- 1932 Douglas MacArthur routs Bonus Army against orders
- 1945 Kamikaze sink their last ship, USS 'Callaghan' (DD-792), off Okinawa.
- 1945 US Army B-25 crashes into 79th floor of Empire State Bldg, 14 die
- 29 1949 Berlin Airlift ends, as Soviets end blockade
- 1967 Fire aboard USS 'Forrestal' (CV-59), Gulf of Tonkin, 134 killed
- 30 1864 Petersburg Campaign: Battle of Crater
- 1909 US Army accepts delivery of first military airplane
- 1942 WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) created
- 1945 USS 'Indianapolis' (CA-35) torpedoed & sunk; nearly 900 die over next 4 days
- 1966 US airplanes bomb demilitarized zone in Vietnam
- 31 1777 Marquis de Lafayette becomes major-general in Continental Army
- 1813 British attack Plattsburgh, NY
- 1925 Last Allied occupation forces leave Rhineland



VFW Post 2894 wants to thank Freedom Shooting Center for their generous donation of the Sig Sauer P365X Macro 9mm pistol for the Pistol Raffle this year.

It is through sponsors like this that assist the essential fundraising that ensures the continued success of VFW service projects throughout the year.

VFW Post 2894



Gun Raffle



**SIG SAUER P365X MACRO WITH HOLOSUN
RED DOT OPTICAL W/2 17 RD MAGAZINES &
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All-New Macro-Compact Grip Module Featuring Standard 1913 Rail
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Interchangeable Small, Medium, and Large Blackstrap Included
3.1" BARREL
XRAY3 Day/Night Sights

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Drawing at Start of 4th of July Parade

Need not be present to win

Must 21 years of age and legally eligible to purchase a firearm

**Contact a VFW Post 2894 member to
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POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>JUNE</u>	
1-4	VFW State Convention, Portsmouth
6	D-Day Anniversary - WWII
12	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
14	Post Meeting, Post HQ
14	Army "Birthday" (1775) – Flag Day
21	First Day of Summer
25	Start of Korean War (1950) Khobar Towers bombing (1996)
27	Korean War Armistice (1953)
30	End of VFW Fraternal Year

<u>JULY</u>	
1	Start of VFW Fraternal Year
4	4 th of July Parade, S. Norfolk
10	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
12	Post Meeting/Quarterly Audit, Post HQ
23-27	VFW National Convention, Phoenix, AZ
28	Anniversary of start of WWI (1914)



Amazing Glazed

How Sweet They Are

A tremendous **THANK YOU** to our friends at Amazing Glazed for their support during our Post renovation. The dozen glazed donuts were delicious and hit the spot and were appreciated by all those members present that Saturday.



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.