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

 $\label{eq:cdrpost2894@vfwva.org} \mbox{Web Site: } https://www.vfw2894.org$

Webpage: https://vfw2894.org
Visit us on FaceBook



POST OFFICERS

Commander **Bob Gregory** Sr. Vice Commander Susan Vitale Jr. Vice Commander Mike Kust Dan Eaker Adjutant 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 Rosie Gregory Jr. Vice President Secretary Sandy Dunbar Treasurer Donna Kust Chaplain Diane Hostetlar Conductress Amy Trahan Grace Schweers Guard 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



VFW POST 2894 RECEIVES A SECOND NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez proudly displays the VFW National Community Service Project Award to the VFW National Convention 2023 crowd. (Story on page 3)

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Comrades, thanks to all of you, the Post was recognized as an <u>ALL-AMERICAN POST</u>...for the <u>EIGHTH</u> year in a row! We were in the 10th out of 50 posts in Division 5 which put us in the top 100 post worldwide! It was each

of you – doing as much as you can whether it was 5 minutes, 5 hours or 5 days – to help the Post with what we do best: taking care of veterans, their widows, and their families.

We also won the 2023 VFW Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award, a prestigious award that recognizes VFW Posts for notable and exceptional community service projects for the second time in four years. In early 2020, U.S. Navy Petty Officer Victoria Bullard and her husband, Christopher Edmonds, who was also on active-duty service in the Navy, purchased a home with the seller agreeing to make necessary repairs prior to the couple's return from their respective overseas tours. Victoria was dismayed when she returned from deployment to discover the seller had not completed any of the work, leaving her family with a home nearly uninhabitable. With Christopher still deployed, Victoria faced the sole responsibility of moving into a home that needed major repairs, and she didn't know where to turn.

When members of VFW Post 2894 heard Victoria's story, they stepped in without hesitation. From repairing a large hole in the kitchen floor and replacing flooring throughout the home, to renovating the kitchen and repairing the backyard deck, together with the community and local groups like The Home Depot, iSell757 and Habitat for Humanity, Post members didn't stop working until the Bullard's house became a safe home.

VFW National Commander Tim Borland will present VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez and Services Officer Jim Ireland with the 2023 VFW Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award during the 124th VFW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

As you all know we're not your father's VFW. With over 35, 000 veterans in Chesapeake as well as nearly 11,000 active duty members — we have LOTS of room to grow and now that we have our own home we can continue to grow by leaps and bounds!!

I want to thank those who came out to the Independence Day Parade in South Norfolk and to our First Annual 4th of July Burger Burn. The parade was a lot of fun and really reminds me of older times in small town America. But the burger burn was outstanding! Again, thanks to everyone who attended.

We started a new fraternal year on 1 July and have already started planning fund-raising activities. As we stated at the last monthly meeting, we need more comrades to volunteer for the different committees i.e. Services, Membership, home, etc., so please take a look at where we need committee members and help out.

Remember to look at both out website and Facebook pages for more information on up-coming events.

Semper Fidelis! - Bob Gregory, Commander

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As we look forward to assisting Veterans in our new home on South Battlefield, we also want to welcome new members. The Auxiliary will soon be hosting a "Meet and Greet" for family members of Veterans. Are you a Daughter, Son, Brother, Sister, Father, Mother, Grandmother/Father of a Veteran? You qualify to join us in helping the Veterans in our community.

Is your spouse a member of our Post and you don't know anything about us? Come meet us with no strings attached. Contact me or the Post Commander for Information. We have fun while giving our diverse talents to a worthy cause- our Veterans. We have lots of ideas for bring the community together and welcome new ideas!! The simplest way to support your Veterans is to fly the flag. Opportunities this Fall will be September 11 and November 11- Patriots Day and Veterans Day.

Sincerely,

Anne Thompson VFW Auxiliary President 2894

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)

Semper fidelis,

Dan Eaker

VFW POST 2894 RECEIVES SECOND NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT AWARD

It all started with an investigative news report by a local television station that blossomed in to a \$100,000.00 project, resulting in a home remodel for two very deserving Navy veterans. In March of 2022, Chief Petty Officer Victoria Bullard was desperate for some relief from the stress of mounting repair costs on her and her husband's recently purchased home. She called WAVY 10 News who sent veteran reporter Chris Horne to gather details and provide an initial news report. Upon seeing the report, a friend of the VFW Post 2894 Commander passed along the information and the Post Service Officer, Jim Ireland, took the lead to help coordinate all the aspects of getting the residence up to livable standards. With his contacts throughout the community, Jim was able to provide assistance from local supply stores and realtors to provide the necessary repairs and renovations to the structure. Not only was the foundation and flooring repaired, but the entire kitchen was equipped with upgraded cabinets and appliances as well as fresh coats of paint throughout the home. After ten months of negotiations,



VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez and Service Officer Jim Ireland with Fred C. Hall Community Service Project Award.

were able to comfortably enjoy their new home. After completing the project, it was suggested the Post submit it for Community Service/Special **Projects** recognition the Department and potentially National levels.

With

donations and

work, Victoria and her husband

construction

assistance of previous awards submission packages and Comrade Chris Mulholland's help, Jim Ireland and Dan Eaker were able to develop a Community Service Project package for submission by the 30 April 2023 deadline. After several weeks, the Post got the word that our project had been awarded the Fred C. Hall Community Service Project Award, with both the Post Commander and Service Officer receiving invitations to the VFW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona in July to be recognized and receive the award! Both Jose Vazquez and Jim Ireland received airline tickets, hotel rooms and spending money (per diem) to represent our Post at the July Convention. Catch them when you can to get all the scoop coming from the National level!

VFW POST 2894 AWARDED ALL-STATE POST

VFW Post 2894 was awarded the All-State Post designation for the 8th year in a row. For a VFW post to be designated "All-State" it must accomplish the following:

- Meet 100% membership requirements
- Post Quartermaster must be bonded
- Be inspected and submit Inspection Reports on time
- Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, or Junior Vice Commander must attend each District meeting
- Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, or Junior Vice Commander must attend School of Instruction
- Send a Post officer to the State Recruiting School
- Audit reports turned in per procedures of By-Laws and Manual of Procedure
- Purchase 500 Buddy Poppies per 100 members
- Donate to the Department of Virginia Veterans Foundation (\$110 annually for our Post)
- Submit reports for each of the five reporting categories
- Participate in two of the three programs (Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year Program)
- Recruit at least one new member

Congratulations to all for assisting with our All-State status!

VFW POST 2894 AWARDED ALL AMERICAN POST FOR EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

VFW Post 2894 was awarded the All-American Post designation for the 8th year in a row also. What exactly does "All-American" status signify? For a VFW post to be designated "All-American" it must accomplish the following:

- Membership greater than 100%
- Must conduct at least two Membership recruiting events
- Post election report must be submitted to National HQs
- Meet all designated Program Participation criteria:
 - Minimum of one entry in the Voice of Democracy Contest
 - o Minimum of one entry in the Patriots Pen Contest
 - Hold a fundraiser with proceeds going to Veterans and Military Support Programs Services
 - o Submit a National Citizenship Education Teachers Award that is advanced to the next level of judging
 - Submit a Community Service Report to their respective department for submission to National HQs
 - o Purchase Buddy Poppies for post fundraisers

VFW Post 2894 has been extremely fortunate to have dedicated members who volunteer and participate in the various projects throughout the years. A heartfelt thanks to all the Post and Auxiliary members whose contributions have continued to make our Post successful and respected by the local community!

OTHER POST NEWS

• VFW Post 2894 Members Attend VFW Department of Virginia Annual Convention. During the first week of June, several members represented our Post at the semi-annual



Comrade Jose Vazquez, VFW Post 2894 Commander, accepts the State Winner Award for the Clair C. Poff Public Relations Award.

Department of Virginia Convention. The Convention started Thursday on a evening with an Awards Ceremony recognized that VFW districts and posts throughout the state. Our Post was recognized for receiving the Silver Award for the National Clair C. Poff **Public** Relations Award. as well as the Auxiliary for their contributions Veterans and Support Family programs.



VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary member Sandy Dunbar accepts the 1st Place Auxiliary Veteran Family Support Program award at the VFW State Convention.

• VFW POST 2894 Thanks Mission Barbeque. Mission Barbeque has been a staunch supporter of VFW Post 2894 for many years now, allowing our Post to host events at their locations and providing catering services to several Post events such as the annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk and other meetings. To express our sincere gratitude for their unwavering support, the Post presented an Outstanding Support Award plaque to the organization's managers – Ms. Angela Criss and Mr. Aaron Underhil.



VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez (right) and Comrade Carl Dozier present an Outstanding Supporter Award to Mission Barbeque Managers Angela Criss and Aaron Underhil.

• Raffle Participant Wins Prize for Second Time. The VFW Post 2894 held the Sig Sauer P365X-Macro Pistol Raffle on the 4th of July and the lucky winner was none other than Rick Hall! Rick was also the winner of last year's raffle – guess



Pistol Raffle winner Rick Hall proudly displays his new acquisition.

buying several hundred dollars worth of tickets definitely pays off!. Thanks to all those who participated in the raffle, both those who bought and SOLD tickets, which enabled the Post to net almost \$4000! Our tremendous gratitude goes out to Freedom Shooting Center for their donation of the weapon. Hey Rick – don't get into any trouble with your new acquisition!

• <u>Post Comrade Competes in National Veterans</u> Wheelchair Games. Our own Ron Mayfield participated in the



Southeast 2023 at the end of May and travelled across the country to Portland, Oregon, to participate in the National Veterans

Wheelchair Games the first week of July. Ron returned

victorious with four medals! He received a bronze medal for the breaststroke swimming competition; a bronze medal for the team relay/obstacle course; a silver for freestyle swimming; and a GOLD for the bowling competition. Well done, Ron!!!



Comrade Ron Mayfield displays the medals he won at the National Wheelchair Games, flanked by VFW Post Commander Bob Gregory.

• Post and Auxiliary Members Participate in Flag Retirement Ceremony. On 10 June several Post and Auxiliary members attended a U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony sponsored by American Legion Post 280. The beautiful weather made for a memorable event as several national standards were disposed off in an extremely respectful fashion. Thanks to Comrades Bob Gregory, Carl Dozier, Gary Dunbar and Mike Kust and Auxiliary members Sandy Dunbar, Donna Kust, Jean Dozier and Rosie Greogory for representing our Post for this somber occasion.



VFW Post 2894 and Auxiliary members participate in the American Legion Post 280 Flag Retirement Ceremony. Left to right: Mike Kust, Donna Kust, Rosie Gregory, Gary Dunbar, Sandy Dunbar, Bob Gregory and Carl Dozier.



VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary member Jean Dozier assists with U.S. flag retirement ceremony.



VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory assists with U.S. flag retirement ceremony.

• <u>VFW Post 2894 Participates in South Norfolk 4th of July Parade</u>. On the 4th of July several Post and Auxiliary members decked out in red, white and blue, decorated their cars/trucks



Uncle Sam prepares for his ride in the parade.

and joined the parade in South Norfolk to celebrate the 248th birthday of our nation. The cooperative weather allowed the parade to be a

weather allowed the parade to be a memorable event, especially since this is the first time for an official parade since the pandemic

shutdown.

Afterwards the Post
hosted a "burger
burn" at the new
Headquarters,
where many Post

where many Post and Auxiliary members enjoyed a

bit of camaraderie as well as meeting some new members. Thanks to Comrades Carl Dozier and Jim Keiper for preparing the facility as well as all the other members of the Post and Auxiliary who brought complementary dishes to make this initial Post-hosted event a tremendous success!



Comrade Jose Vazquez stands proudly by his decorated truck representing VFW Post 2894.



VFW Post 2894 comrades and Auxiliary members enjoy themselves at the Post barbeque after the 4th of July Parade.



Comrade Carl Dozier shows his colors at the South Norfolk 4th of July Parade.



Comrade Al Peterson whipped up a delightfully tasty cassoulet (that's French for beans and sausage for those of us wondering).

planning rent this upper area to another veteran, so all the items on

second level had to be moved to the

level

Post

made

the

only

ensures

the

lower

The

move

of

that

boxes

storage rooms.

comrades that volunteered to assist with the

short work of the task and the relocation

all

took a couple of hours. big thank you for a job well

• Post Members Assist Disabled Navy Veteran with Home Storage. On the 15th of July several Post members pitched in to help a disabled U.S. Navy veteran rearrange his personal storage at his residence. The Post has been involved with Mr. Kavitsky for several years now and ironically had just recently moved much of his personal belongings from a storage unit to his home, putting them on the second level of the residence. He



Comrade Mark Rios loads boxes for movement down to lower level.

Mr. Kavitsky will continue to reside in his home.



VFW Post 2894 volunteers for Kavitsky Project (left to right): Mark Rios, Frank Sgromolo, Bob Gregory, Brad Waters, Jason Trahan and Kimball Thompson (kneeling).



Comrade Brad Waters makes another trip up the stairs for more boxes.

VFW Post 2894 Headquarters Building Receives an **Upgrade.** On the 22nd of July several Post members gathered to start much needed renovations to the new Post home. To create more meeting space, it was decided to remove the existing wall so that a sliding partition can be emplaced.



VFW Post 2894 member Frank Sgromolo, Tony Affa and Jim Keiper initiate demolition of the existing wall.

group of volunteers gathered on Saturday morning and started the demolition, ensuring the remaining opening would support the planned sliding partition.

After completing the removal of the existing wall, the group recycled several wooden studs to create a frame in preparation for the installation of the new partition. Stay tuned as the Post building continues its metamorphosis from the lump of coal/diamond in the rough to a comfortable, inviting location that will be inviting to all. Thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time to this worthwhile effort!



Comrade Kimball Thompson prepares to begin the demolition of the existing wall.



Comrade Kimball Thompson uses a saws-all saw to remove existing support wall studs as other volunteers assist.



Comrade Tony Affa prepares removed wooden studs for reuse in the creation of the partition support frame.



Post volunteers create the partition support frame from recycled studs from the removed wall.



VFW Post 2894 demolition team (left to right): Jim Keiper, Ron Mayfield, Jim Ireland, Brad Waters, Bob Gregory, Kimball Thompson, Tony Affa and Frank Sgromolo.

WOMEN AT WAR The B-29 Superfortress Conundrum

In the summer of 1944, the 25-year-old U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Paul W. Tibbets had a problem. He was in charge of training pilots on the Army Air Forces' newest, biggest and most complicated bomber yet, and the task was turning out to be much more onerous than he'd anticipated. Tibbets' men were putting up unprecedented resistance. In point of fact, the pilots had every reason to be wary. The B-29 was not only much larger and heavier than any bomber the U.S. had flown before, it also hadn't gone through the years of operational testing to which Boeing had subjected its predecessor the B-17. Initially engine fires were one of the major problems. The planes' Wright engines were often called the Wrong engines. Part of the trouble could be traced to the engine cowlings that were too tight and often caused fires even before the planes had taken off. Although engine improvements were made over time, fires remained a problem throughout World War II.¹ Problems were still being encountered at the combat crew-training bases, and Tibbets felt that something needed to be done to reduce delays and losses that were occurring. His plan was to train two women to fly a B-29 and tour the training bases to demonstrate that risks of flying the big b6mber could be reduced to tolerable levels.²



A B-29 Superfortress drops bombs on targets in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II.

Tibbets decided that the way to convince the men to fly the plane was to show that women could do it.³ Enter the Women Air Force Service Pilots, known as WASPs during World War II. Formed to provide relief to the ever-shrinking pool of trained pilots, the WASP Program was created in 1943, with the women undergoing the same training regimen as their male counterparts. As the war progressed and the WASPs proved themselves to be more than capable fliers, the Army further expanded their range of responsibilities. Many, in addition to towing targets, became test pilots, instructors, weather pilots, utility and cargo pilots, and trainers.

The young Colonel recruited Dora Dougherty-Strother and Dorothea Johnson Moorman to be his demo pilots. Dougherty-Strother remembers that at that point, she had never even been in a four-engine plane before which was why they were given the task. Tibbets needed to prove that the B-29 could be flown by anyone — even women.

Tibbets did not warn his new recruits of the engine fire problem. Instead, he trained them to take off without the standard power checks. On one occasion Strother was in the air with Tibbets when an engine started smoking. Reacting with aplomb, "She did everything just like the book said to do it," Tibbets stated in a later interview. After three days, the colonel decided his women pilots were ready for their demonstration.

"It was an easy airplane to fly," Strother said later. "We were surprised when we sat at the controls: It was so well engineered. I was impressed with the size of it; although it was a large plane, it was easier to fly than some of the twin-engine planes."⁴



B-29 aptly named "Ladybird," just prior to departure for the tour on June 27, 1944. Crew members, left to right: Lt. Col. Paul W. Tibbets, D. D. Moorman, Dora Dougherty, Cpl. Raymond Gallagher, Sgt. Don Duzenbury, S/Sgt. Floyd A. Lemly, Sgt. Wade H. Wolfe, Sgt. Henry Ellis.⁸

After gaining familiarity with the plane, Strother and Moorman flew it from Birmingham, Alabama, to Clovis, New Mexico, where they took male crews on flights to show what the



LtCol Paul Tibbets waves from the cockpit of the B-29 bomber "Enola Gay" prior to taking off for Hiroshima, August 1945.

B-29 could do and further trained them, demonstrating the feasibility of flying the B-29 for a few days, and the crews' attitude towards the B-29 improved.

For several days, Dougherty and Johnson ferried pilots, crew chiefs and navigators from the very-heavy-bomber base at Alamogordo, New Mexico across the state. Tibbets' plan was a terrific success: After watching the women fly the four-engine bomber, the men stopped complaining about the plane. Air Staff Major General Barney Giles brought the

demonstrations to an abrupt halt after just a few days, telling Tibbets that the women were "putting the big football players to shame." Giles was also worried that an accident would unleash tremendous adverse publicity. The two women were sent back to Eglin Field, Florida, and never flew a B-29 again. But the plane they'd demonstrated went on to play a decisive role in the Allied victory in World War II.⁵

On August 6, 1945 a specially modified B-29 took off from the runway on the Pacific Island of Tinian carrying the first of only two atomic weapons ever to be used in war. Piloted by Lieutenant Colonel Paul Tibbets (the same officer who had trained the two WASP pilots), the "Enola Gay" headed for Hiroshima. At 09:15 local time, the bomber dropped its deadly 9,000-pound weapon over the Japanese city. By years end 140,000 people had died from the attack. Three days later a second B-29 named "Boxcar" and carrying an even more powerful atomic weapon destroyed the Japanese city of Nagasaki.⁶

A letter from B-29 pilot Harry McKeown sent to Dora Strother in 1995 reflects the attitude and gratitude of the male trainees:

"Dear Dr. Strother:

"Before you throw this letter into the trash-basket, let me introduce myself. In 1944 I met you with Col. Tibbets and Didi Moorman when you brought a B-29 to Clovis AFB, Clovis, N.M. I was the Director of Maintenance & Supply and Base Test Pilot at the time. You came to show us that the B-29 plane was not one to be feared. You were the pilot that day and demonstrated your excellent flying skills and convinced us the B-29 was the plane that any pilot could be proud to fly. From that day on we never had a pilot who didn't want to fly the B-29.

"It has been many years but I have never forgotten that day at Clovis and never will. I recently read about you in the Confederate Air Force "Dispatch" dated July/Aug. 1985, that a friend of mine had given me. I have asked the CAF to send this letter on to you and hope that you will receive it. I realize that it was a long time ago, but I still want to thank you for your helping me that day at Clovis. I will admit that I was scared, even though I had just returned from flying B-24s in North Africa. You made the difference in my flying from then on. I wasn't the only pilot that felt this way, and I am sure that they would thank you too if they knew where you were."

- ¹ Ref: Women Fly the B-29 | American Experience | Official Site | PBS
- ² Ref: Women Fly the B-29 | American Experience | Official Site | PBS
- ³ Ref: Fly Girl | Northwestern Spring 2002 | by Negar Tekeei
- ⁴ Ref: Ibid
- ⁵ Ref: The B-29 | American Experience | Official Site | PBS
- ⁶ Ref: The B-29 | American Experience | Official Site | PBS
- ⁷ Ref: Women Fly the B-29 | American Experience | Official Site | PBS
- ⁸ Ref: A Summary of the Mission of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress, "Ladybird" | WESTWIND Online | Wade H. Wolfe

CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE



A Prayer for Patriots Day

Eternal God, Source and Creator of Life; From the depths we have called to you and we call to you again for courage, strength and wisdom on this ten-year anniversary of our nation's tragedy. Grant us courage to confront

our enemies. Comfort those who stand alone without spouse, parent, brother, sister, or friend. Open our hearts to them and to the children orphaned twenty years ago today. Enable us to love

more deeply all children who suffer. Accept with mercy our prayers of healing on behalf of the families of the victims and on behalf of the second responders who became ill at Ground Zero. Despite the horror and tragedy of 9/11, our country remains a shelter of peace, a symbol of freedom a beacon light of compassion and justice to the downtrodden and oppressed of the world. Strengthen the hands of our people to defend this country and our common values of freedom and justice. Inspire our leaders and diplomats to act wisely and to pursue peace everywhere in the world. May we teach our children to learn and to think, to consider and to reason, to be courageous in thought and in deed, and to nurture hearts of wisdom that they may do battle against fear, hatred and bigotry using weapons of the spirit and loving hearts. We offer our prayers on behalf of our country and government, our President and judiciary, our officials and institutions, our soldiers and citizens, upon all who faithfully toil for the good of our country, to preserve democracy in our land, to advocate for civility between adversaries, and to treat every human being as infinitely worthy and dignified by virtue of being created b'Tzelem Elohim, in the Divine image. Bestow upon us all the blessings of peace, and may we live to see the day when swords will be converted into ploughshares and nations will not learn war anymore. Amen.

- Rabbi John L. Rosove, Temple Israel of Hollywood, CA

+ SAFETY CORNER +AUGUST IS DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH



One person is killed about every 45 minutes due to drunk driving, totaling more than 11,000 deaths every year. A person driving under the influence of alcohol is impaired, period!

Alcohol in your body impairs your thinking, your visual acuteness, your

coordination, and your decision making. Even just one drink can influence you. Sadly, the alcohol effect on a person's



reasoning can result in their thinking, "Hey, I'm still OK to drive!" Have you ever had the experience in trying to convince a drunk person that no, they are not OK to drive?

Whether you are doing the driving or just riding along with someone, there are several things you can do to prevent tragedy:

- Before drinking at a function, plan a way to get a safe ride home.
- If you know someone who has been drinking, don't let them get behind the wheel. Get those keys!
- If you are riding with someone who has been drinking, do not get in the car. If they can't be stopped, find another ride home.
- If you are hosting a function, keep an eye on your guests and make sure they have a safe ride home. Help those trying to ensure everyone has a safe ride home.
- If you see an impaired driver, call 911. You may save a life.

would need to survive for several days. Included should be non-perishable food and water, flashlights, radios, extra batteries, and a first aid kit. Also, consider other specific items to care for pets, older adults, and individuals with disabilities. Go to *Ready.gov/kit* to see a comprehensive list of recommended items.

Emergency Plan:

To facilitate your safe response to an emergency, you should have a plan. For example, as the storm approaches, how are you going to receive alerts and warnings? Where are your local shelters? What are your evacuation routes? Do all family members know what to do, or where to go? Where are your emergency kit items stored? A handy guide for plan preparation can be found on *Ready.gov/plan*.

To remain safe in a disaster such as we might face, we all should review our plans for what to do when faced with a weather-related catastrophe. Remember the 5 P's we all learned during our service years ... Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance!

+ SAFETY CORNER +SEPTEMBER IS PREPAREDNESS MONTH



The National theme for September is "Preparedness". Here in Tidewater, we face possible disaster every year since we seem to be in an area that faces furious hurricanes and Nor'easters, either which can result in extensive wind damage or massive flooding. And, every year, we are

bombarded with local hints and warnings for these disasters. This month's safety tips will focus on two areas: 1 -an emergency kit, and 2 – an emergency plan.



Emergency Kit:

To be properly prepared, everyone and their families should have an emergency kit. The kit should have everything that you

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:

- <u>Bataan Death March Committee:</u> Ted Roberts, John Peterson, Ann Jones, Grace Schweers, Becky Waters, Brad Waters, Matt Hostetlar, Diane Hostetlar, Jose Vazquez and Bob Gregory
- <u>Budget Committee:</u> Susan Vitale, John Peterson, Bob Gregory, Mark Rios, Brad Waters, Mike Kust, Dan Eaker and Carl Dozier
- <u>By-Laws Committee:</u> Bob Gregory, Matt Hostetlar, Frank Sgromolo and Jose Vazquez
- <u>Community Service Committee</u>: Jim Ireland, Susan Vitale, John Guill, David Weber, Frank Sgromolo, Kimball Thompson, Ron Mayfield and John Peterson
- <u>Awards/Scholarship Committee:</u> Dan Eaker, Mark Rios, Joe Hammers, Chuck Wolff, Carl Dozier, Ron Liston, Otmar Guzman and Kimball Thompson
- <u>Membership/Recruiting Committee:</u> Bob Gregory, Susan Vitale, José Vazquez and Dan Eaker
- <u>Building Committee:</u> Kimball Thompson, Jim Ireland, Susan Vitale, Gary Dunbar, Anne Thompson, Amy Trahan, Ken Belkofer, Matt Overbeck and Jim Keiper
- Visiting Committee: Chaplain Joe McGourn, Dan Eaker
- <u>Health/Safety Committee:</u> Surgeon David Weber, Frank Sgromolo

OUARTERMASTER DESK



<u>Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$35 IF you go</u> <u>through our Post</u> – 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.

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 onetime 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.

<u>Age</u>	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

PISTOL RAFFLE SCHEDULED FOR VETERANS DAY

All members – take note. Next pistol raffle drawing will be on Veterans Day, Saturday, 11 November. Similar to the one raffled on the 4th of July, this Sig Sauer P365 9mm Luger 3.1 inch Nitron Micro Compact semi-automatic pistol has a twelve round magazine capacity and pistol comes with two magazines. Tickets are \$10 each – and only 500 tickets will be sold, so get yours now before the word gets out and they're sold out!



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

AUGUST MILITARY HISTORY

-					
1		Air Force Day		1953	Gen Omar Bradley becomes Chairman of JCS
	1944	George S. Patton's Third Army begins 281 days of operations		1961	Communists begin construction of Berlin Wall
	1944	Marines crush Japanese resistance on Tinian	14		National Navajo Code Talkers Day
	1946	Office of Naval Research is established		1912	US Marines occupy Nicaragua
	1946	Battle of Athens, GA: WW II vets take up arms to prevent corrupt		1942	First American air victory in Atlantic: Lt Ezra Shahan in P-38
		politicians rig local election			shoots down Luftwaffe Condor patrol bomber off Iceland
2	1819	First parachute jump in US, from a balloon		1945	V-J Day; Japan surrenders
	1887	Rowell Hodge receives a patent for barbed wire	15	1845	US Naval Academy is established at Ft Severn, Annapolis
	1950	1st Marine Provisional Bde lands at Pusan, Korea		1943	Kiska: US and Canadian troops land with heavy naval and air
	1964	Gulf of Tonkin: North Vietnamese patrol boats attack USS Maddox			support`
	1990	Iraq invades & occupies Kuwait - onset of Desert Shield/Desert		1944	Operation Anvil-Dragoon: Allied troops land in Provence
		Storm		1945	Hirohito's surrender message broadcast to Japanese people.
3	1804	USN squadron bombards Tripoli	16	400 D	National Airborne Day, US
	1861	First manned balloon ascent from a ship, USS 'Fanny', Hampton			C Leonidas reaches Thermopylae with 300 Spartans and 700 Allies
		Roads		1777	Battle of Bennington, VT: Americans defeat British
	1861	US Navy authorizes three ironclads: 'Monitor', 'Galena', & 'New		1780	Battle of Camden: British decisively defeat Americans
		Ironsides'		1918	US troops capture Archangelsk
	1958	US sub 'Nautilus' (SS 571) passes under ice at North Pole		1934	US ends occupation of Haiti, begun in 1915
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	1=	1943	4th Marine Div activated at Camp Pendleton
4	1790	Revenue Cutter Service formed, origins of USCG		1943	US troops under Gen Patton capture Messina
	1914	German forces march into Belgium starting WWI	18	1911	Esther Voorhees Hasson appointed first Sup't of Navy Nurse Corp
	2005	USS 'New York' (LPD-21) receives bow of 24 tons of steel from	10	1961	Construction on Berlin Wall completed
		World Trade Center	19	1001	National Aviation Day
5	1864	Battle of Mobile Bay: Farragut "damns" torpedoes	20	1981	USS 'Nimitz' (CVN-68) A/C down Libyan A/C – "Line of Death"
5	1898	US and Spanish troops skirmish outside Manila	20	1781	Washington marches from NY to fight Cornwallis at Yorktown
	1898	US landing party goes ashore at Cape San Juan, Puerto Rico	21	1982	US Marines land in Beirut
	1921	Yangtze River Patrol Force established within US Asiatic Fleet.		1800	First public concert by USMC Band, Wash. DC
	1964	US begins bombing North Vietnam		1864	Geneva Convention: 12 nations establish International Red Cross
			23	10.11	National Airborne Day
6	1780	Battle of Hanging Rock: Tarleton's dragoons annihilate American	2.4	1944	6th Marine Div begins forming on Guadalcanal.
		column - Andrew Jackson (13) becomes a POW	24	1944	Franco-American troops liberate Marseilles
	1945	A-Bomb destroys Hiroshima, over 75,000 die		1814	British burn Washington, after Sir George Cockburn eats Pres.
7	1702	Comment Westington and the Design of Military Marita Design I Hand	25	10.40	Madison's dinner in White House
/	1782	George Washington creates Badge of Military Merit - Purple Heart	25	1949	North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) established
	1789 1942	US War Department established		1921	US signs peace treaty with Germany
	1942	Guadalcanal: 1st Marine Div lands against light resistance	26	1943	US forces land on New Georgia, Solomon Islands
8	1942	Operation Desert Shield: First American troops reach Saudi Arabia	20	1944 1775	Paris liberated from Nazi occupation
0	1942	Guadalcanal: Marines capture unfinished airstrip. Russian troops begin pulling out of Afghanistan after 9 year war		1839	First Congressional action on veterans' benefits
9	1945	Second Atomic Bomb dropped on Nagasaki, c. 30,000 die	27	1039	US Revenue Cutter 'Washington' seizes Spanish ship 'Amistad', manned by self-liberated slaves, off Montauk Point
	1918	Alvin York captures "whole damned German Army"	21	1943	US bombers in China attack Japanese installations in Hong Kong.
10	1921	Congress forms US Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics		1945	Third Fleet enters Sagami Bay, south of Tokyo Bay, as US troops
	1949	Congress creates Department of Defense	29	1743	begin occupation of Japan
11	1909	First use of "SOS"; SS 'Arapahoe', off Cape Hatteras	29	1944	15,000 American troops march down Champs Elysee
	1645	Massachusetts Council orders third of men in each militia company	30	1958	Air Force Academy moves to new facilities at Colorado Springs
	10.0	"be ready on half an hour's warning for any service" - first "Minute	30	1781	Battle of Chesapeake: French fleet defeats Royal Navy, sealing fat
		Men"		1/01	of Yorktown
	1942	Guadalcanal: First US airplane reaches Henderson Field	31	1945	Gen MacArthur arrives in Japan
	1959	First firing of Polaris missile from ship	31	1944	Allied offensive against Gothic Line in Italy
	1972	Last American ground troops leave Vietnam		1949	83rd - and last - GAR encampment, attended by 6 of 14 remaining
13	1846	CDR Robert Stockton leads an Army-Navy-Marine party to seize		-/ ./	members
	0	Los Angeles		1994	last Russian troops in Germany are withdrawn
	1898	Spanish-American War: Armistice declared			are troops in comming are mittatemin
	1945	Okinawa: USS 'LaGrange' (APA-124) last US ship hit by kamikaze			
		in WW II			

SEPTEMBER MILITARY HISTORY

- 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

in WW II

- 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

- 1754 Col. George Washington (22) surrenders Ft. Necessity 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
- 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,

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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 Monangahela 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, Ocotal, 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
 - 1966 US airplanes bomb demilitarized zone in Vietnam



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.

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>AUGUST</u>				
1	US Air Force Day			
4	US Coast Guard Birthday (1790)			
7	Purple Heart Day/Start of Vietnam War			
	(1964)			
7	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ			
9	Post Meeting, Post HQ			
12	VFW District 2 Meeting, Post 392			
14	Japan surrenders, ending WWII 1945			
16	National Airborne Day			
19	National Aviation Day			

<u>SEPTEMBER</u>			
2	VJ Day – Japan Signs Formal Surrender,		
	1945		
4	Labor Day		
9-16	POW/MIA Display, Central Library		
10	Grandparents Day		
11	Patriot Day		
	National Day of Service & Remembrance		
11	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ		
13	Post Meeting, Post HQ		
13	Tides Baseball Game		
14	National VFW Auxiliary Birthday (1914)		
15	POW/MIA Recognition Day		
16	First Day of Oktoberfest		
17	Constitution and Citizenship Day		
17-23	Gold Star Families Remembrance Week		
18	US Air Force Birthday (1947)		
22	First day of fall		
26	Gold Star Mother's Day		
29	VFW Birthday (1899)		
30	SSG Jon Dozier's Birthday (1977)		

VFW POST 2894



PISTOL RAFFLE



SIG SAUER P365 9MM LUGER 3.1IN NITRON MICRO COMPACT SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL WITH TWO MAGAZINES.

LOADS 12+1 ROUNDS



\$10 PER TICKET, ONLY 500 TO BE SOLD

Drawing will be held Veteran's Day, November 11th, at the Chesapeake Veterans Memorial, City Hall

Need not be present to Win!

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

Contact a VFW Post 2894 member to purchase your ticket(S) today!!! SSG Dozier VFW Post 2894 Newsletter - Vol. XII, Issue 4, Aug/Sep 2023

Family-friendly event with routes of varying length

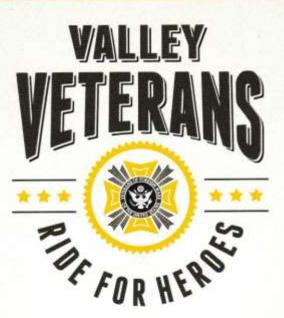
Exhibits and displays

Relax at Stable Craft Brewing before and after the ride

PACKET PICK-UP & REGISTRATION

September 9, 7-8

Stable Craft Brewing 375 Madrid Road Waynesboro, Virginia



Enjoy either a 26 mile, 44 mile, or Metric Century 63 mile bicycle route through the beauty of the rolling hills and lush fields of the central Shenandoah Valley countryside.

September 9, 2023

Last rider off: Metric Century 9 am / 44 mile 9 am / 26 mile 9:30 am Meet at Stable Craft Brewing 375 Madrid Road, Waynesboro, Virginia

We ride to support our combat veterans and to raise funds for Boulder Crest Retreat, a therapeutic and wellness facility which enables our combat veterans and their families to recover, rest, recharge, and reconnect.

TURN STRUGGLE INTO STRENGTH

REGISTER ONLINE VVr4h.org





















