

VFW OBJECTIVES:

- TO ENSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength
- TO ASSIST THE SPOUSES, ORPHANS and 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>



IN REMEMBRANCE - THE BEIRUT BOMBING 1983

Forty years ago, Sgt. Stephen Russell was sitting in his guard booth outside a barracks in Beirut. He was one of about 1,600 Marines who'd been sent to Lebanon as neutral peacekeepers but found little peace to keep. He says he heard something snap behind him and a diesel engine revving.

He turned.

What he saw, at 6:22 a.m. that bright Sunday in the fourth decade of the Cold War, was the future, coming straight at him, in the form of a 5-ton truck. It was Oct. 23, 1983, a day Ronald Reagan called the saddest of his presidency, maybe his life.

The truck would shatter the Marines' building with a bomb more powerful than 12,000 pounds of TNT — the biggest non-nuclear explosion since World War II, the FBI concluded.

It would kill 241 servicemembers, including 220 Marines — the Corps' bloodiest day since Iwo Jima. It would drive the U.S. out of Lebanon and lead some, including al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden, to conclude that when America gets its nose bloodied, it pulls back.

For Americans, Beirut was a seminal moment on a timeline that led to the 9/11 attacks, Afghanistan, Iraq and beyond. It was a first shot in a clash with a militant, fundamentalist Islam — exemplified by groups such as Hezbollah and nations such as Iran — that would replace Soviet communism as the USA's chief adversary.

Marine commandant P.X. Kelley called the bombing "mass murder," but it was really a different kind of war, one of bombing and suicide.

It was Sgt. Russell's war.

The yellow Mercedes truck had plowed through the Marine compound's barbed-wire perimeter and was speeding toward the building immediately behind his booth, where hundreds of men slept.

The truck passed between two sentry posts. Russell says the sentries' rifles, as ordered, were unloaded. Neither got off a shot. Russell grabbed his .45-caliber pistol and stepped from the booth. He would not be able to stop the truck. It was too big, too close, too fast.

Russell says that as he stood there in the path of the truck, for a second he looked the bearded driver in the eye. He was smiling — a big, leering grin, as if to say, "Gotcha!"

The Marines had come to Beirut as part of a multinational force designed, by its mere presence, to help stabilize Lebanon after years of war there among Israelis, Palestinians and Christian and Muslim Lebanese. (continued on page 3)

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings Comrades! Our (hot) summer is over, the kids are back in school, our fraternal year is in full swing again, and we are on the busy path of helping others, building our home and hopefully, having some fun in the process.

And now, we embark on some of the busiest times of the year. Our Membership Committee Chairwomen is working hard to set up several events where we can put up a table and do some recruiting. The following is a list of events she has planned: Neptune Festival, 30-31 Sep 2023, 1100-1500, 20th Street, Spot 2009, Virginia Beach, VA. This event is a recruiting effort hosted by District 2. The next event is the Chesapeake Food Fest, 4 Oct 2023 from 1600-1900 and the last event is the Chesapeake Wine Festival, 14 Oct 2023 from 1200-1800. Please volunteer to help us out at one or all if available. Please contact our Senior Vice Commander, Susan Vitale for more information and to sign up.

The weekend prior to Veteran's Day, 4-5 November 2023 we will need everyone's help with our Buddy Poppy Drive. We'll be distributing poppies at the Grassfield Walmart and Sam's Circle Walmart. We need 2 shifts a day of 4-5 people at each store to cover down on two doors per store. Please contact our Jr. Vice Commander Mike Kust to sign up.

Please don't forget that Veteran's Day is quickly approaching. Remember, to come to City Hall on November 11th at 1100 to remember all those who have served.

Our Post Chaplin and Activities Committee Chairman is coordinating our entry into this year's Chesapeake City Christmas Parade. As in the past we'll be looking for max participation in this event. It's a great experience if you've never been in a parade.

And of course we continue to work on our home. Slowly but surely it's coming together. But still requires a lot of work to get her to where we want her.

Please tell family, friends, co-workers and neighbors about what we do, what our Post does, and what the VFW does. Then suggest to those who are eligible that they join us in helping others.

A reminder, our SIG SAUER P365X NITRO raffle is ongoing and that with everyone's help, we can raise a lot of money for the Post. This will help us in our mission of "Honoring the Fallen by Helping the Living."

Hope everyone had a great – and safe – summer and that you're all looking forward to cooler weather and fall!

Semper Fidelis!

- Bob Gregory, Commander

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Fall is brightly colored leaves, craft fairs, cooler weather and our chance to finally feel comfortable getting outside again! The Post mapped out their fall schedule and we will be right behind them at recruiting events and the Buddy Poppy fundraiser. My family was blessed to have my father, a Korean War Veteran, buried in Arlington in September. It is a somber place and reminds me that if all those people could give their lives to our country, the least I can do is to be the best support to our living Veterans that I can be. The Auxiliary members are family members to the Post - husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, daughters, sons. We support the members of the Post, and all Veterans that cross our paths. We could use the time and talents of some great men & women who want to give back in honor of their loved ones while joining our group. While fundraising to support Veterans will be an important part of our year, getting out to the community will be our second goal. Talking to people in the commissary or exchange, while you wait in line, makes the wait more bearable and opens the door to a conversation about what city they live in and who in their family serves or served. We will continue to send our holiday cards to the active-duty servicemen and women who will not be home with loved ones. We will be elves at a Christmas party this year serving Veterans food, drink and presents. We invite you to come visit us and see what we do. Have a good Fall!

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 \(vfw2894.org\)](http://Newsletters(vfw2894.org))

Semper fidelis,

Dan Eaker, VFW Post 2894 Newsletter Editor

Beirut Bombing Remembered (continued from pg 1)

But in April 1983, a van bomb at the U.S. Embassy killed 46, including 16 Americans.

Increasingly, Muslim factions associated the Marines with the Christian ones.

The situation changed, but the Marines' orders — not to appear "warlike" — did not.

As interpreted by the Marine commanders, the mission precluded fortifications at their compound at Beirut International Airport that might suggest the Marines weren't peacekeepers — such as a perimeter fence that would stop anything bigger than a car.

Similarly, sentries directly facing the airport were ordered to carry their ammunition on their belts — not in their rifles — to avoid an accidental shooting.

Adding to its vulnerability, the compound was surrounded by high ground occupied by Muslim militia artillery. So to Marines leery of gunfire, the compound's sturdy, four-story cinderblock building seemed like a haven.

It turned out to be a tomb.

The Marines sensed their peril. At bedtime on Oct. 22, Cpl. Jeff Nashton's buddy told him to put on his dog tags, "so I'll be able to ID you."

Nashton would remember the man's words, because they were his last.

The unit was due to leave in a few weeks. In a last letter already mailed, Cpl. Craig Wyche told his fiancée, Scherna Sutton, he was looking forward to seeing her but worrying he wouldn't.

"I don't want to die," he wrote.

Cpl. Doug Held had sent his parents an audiotape. "It's pretty messed up over here," he said. "I'm really tired. Day by day we get deeper and deeper into it. If we don't get out of here soon ... I have never been so scared in my entire life. ... I just hate it."



A pillar of smoke billows above the USMC Headquarters building after it was attacked by a suicide bomber on 23 October 1983.

By 6:15 that Sunday morning, the compound was beginning to stir. Cpl. John Chipura, a radio operator from Brooklyn, was walking toward the barracks when he ran into a buddy going in the opposite direction. He stopped to chat, he later told his family.

A few minutes later came shouts. Russell says he had run into the building's lobby, which was a courtyard open to the outside

with an atrium reaching to the roof, with the truck gaining on him. "HIT THE DECK!" he yelled.

The truck had plowed through Russell's guard booth and cut open sandbags around it, flooding the lobby with sand.

Russell dashed out the opposite side of the building, where he turned to see the truck roll to a halt in the center of the lobby. There was a flash, and fire spread across the truck's grill. The last thing Russell remembered was a wave of intense heat.

When Russell came to, he was lying inside a cloud of gray ash. The building was a pile of rubble.

"That SOB!" Russell said to himself. "He did it."

The blast lifted the building as much as a foot off the ground. Then the floors pancaked down, killing many of those inside, including Wyche and Held.

Rooftop sentries saw the truck disappear into the building, according to a Defense Department report on the bombing.

Moments later, the roof buckled and one sentry, Cpl. Robert Calhoun, rode one slab all the way to the ground. He walked out of the rubble in his bare feet.

Because he'd stopped to talk, John Chipura was still 50 yards from the barracks when it collapsed.

He joined a horde of other Marines on the rubble pile searching for survivors. The last, a chaplain, was buried for almost six hours.



Marines survey the destruction and assist wounded comrades at the USMC Headquarters after the bombing on 23 October 1983.

Back in the U.S., Marine families waited for word. Chipura's family did not learn he was alive until he called that Tuesday.

Many of the wounded were taken to military hospitals in Europe. Jeff Nashton wound up in Germany, where Marine commandant Kelley stopped en route to Beirut.

Kelley walked into the ward where Nashton was lying in bed. He'd later say that he never had seen more tubes coming out of one man.

The dust had temporarily blinded Nashton, and when Kelley introduced himself, Nashton says he thought someone was putting him on. So he reached up and grabbed the man's collar. He felt one star, two, three, four.

Nashton, who couldn't speak because of the tubes, made a writing gesture. Someone handed him a pen and his medical chart. He wrote something and handed it to Kelley.

It read: "Semper Fi."

A few weeks later, Kelley visited Nashton in a Maryland hospital and gave him the same four stars, framed in a case.

"You deserve them more than I do," he said. (Today, Jeff Nashon, who lost most of his platoon in the bombing, keeps the framed stars Kelley gave him on his living room wall.)

In 1988, a monument to the dead was dedicated at Camp Lejeune, the Marine base in North Carolina.

Each Oct. 23, survivors and relatives gather there at 6 a.m. with lit candles to read the names of the dead. At precisely 6:22, they blow the candles out.

Ref: http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/military/2008-10-15-beirut-barracks_n.htm

CORRECTIONS TO AUGUST/SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

A couple of adjustments to the previous newsletter sent out in August. The caption in the photo below failed to recognize Hal Roesch, a former VFW National Commander from Virginia. He is standing with VFW Post 2894 comrades Jose Vazquez and Jim Ireland after the Post was presented with the Fred C. Hall Community Service Award at this year's National VFW Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

Additionally, a late arrival was not able to make the print deadline but still deserves recognition, albeit a bit after the fact. The incoming National Commander, Duane Sarmiento, presented the Fred C. Hall Community Service Project Award to VFW Post 2894 at the Convention. Receiving the award for the Post was past Commander Jose Vazquez and Service Officer Jim Ireland.



VFW Post 2894 Commander Jose Vazquez and Service Officer Jim Ireland with former VFW National Commander Hal Roesch proudly show the Fred C. Hall Community Service Project Award.



Incoming VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento (right) presents the Fred C. Hall Community Service Project Award to Jim Ireland (left) and Jose Vazquez (center), representing VFW Post 2894.

VFW POST 2894 COMMEMORATES 9/11 TERRORISTS ATTACKS

On Monday morning and afternoon, September 11, 2023, members of VFW Post 2894 gathered to remember those that perished on the fateful morning of September 11, 2001, when nineteen Al Quida terrorists hijacked four American jumbo jets and steered them towards their civilian targets. Two airliners crashed into the Twin Towers in New York, causing massive destruction to both buildings that eventually collapsed due to the extensive heat that fatigued the metal supporting the two structures, killing over 2600 people between the two towers. A third plane targeted the west side of the Pentagon, flying in a ground level and destroying a large portion of the structure, killing 125 and injuring scores of others present in the building. The fourth airplane was headed to an unknown target when the passengers aboard learned of the previous attacks and heroically confronted the terrorists, sacrificing themselves and causing the plane to crash tragically in a Pennsylvania field, killing all on board (44 total). These deaths of almost 3000 people, most of them civilians, made the attack on the World Trade Center's towers the deadliest act of terrorism in human history.

Most of us remember that fateful day, but a new generation is asking questions about the cause and effects of that

momentous occasion. Take the time to explain how this one event changed the way we currently live in the world today.



VFW Post 2894 members salute the colors during Patriot Day recognition ceremony.

NOVEMBER 2004: THE SECOND BATTLE OF FALLUJAH

Fallujah is a city in Iraq's Anbar Province, situated on the Euphrates River seventy kilometers west of Baghdad. In the early 2000s, it was a densely populated industrial city with an estimated population of 250,000 to 300,000 residents, spanning around twenty-five square kilometers and consisting of over two thousand city blocks that had tens of thousands of various buildings and structures.

In March 2004, four American contractors had been ambushed, killed, and publicly mutilated by Iraqi insurgents. At the same time a U.S. Army combat engineer team supporting the 82nd Airborne Division was hit by the largest roadside bomb at that point in the war, killing five and wounding several others.

The security responsibility for Anbar Province had been transferred to the U.S. Marine Corps at the beginning of March and a strategy of foot patrols, less aggressive raids and cooperation with local leaders had been planned to assist in the peaceful transition of the area. After these ambushes took place, all those plans were suspended and orders to proceed with military

operations against the guerrillas in Fallujah were received by the Marine units. In early April American forces launched a major assault on the city, surrounding it with around 2000 troops. The ensuing fighting over the next few days took an alarming toll on the local population as well as the insurgents, pressuring the coalition to come to a ceasefire to



U.S. Marines take cover as an M1A1 Abrams tank fires on insurgent sniper positions during the first Battle of Fallujah.

facilitate negotiations between the Iraqi Governing Council, insurgents and city spokespersons, as well as allow humanitarian aid to be delivered to the local residents. The Marines withdrew from Fallujah in early May, allowing the remaining operations to be conducted by the newly formed Fallujah Brigade. Unfortunately, the Brigade dissolved over the next several months, with the Brigade soldiers declaring loyalty to the insurgent groups and providing them with all their supplied weapons and equipment. After the ceasefire, the insurgency strengthened, and under the leadership of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi became a terrorist safe haven with strict enforcement of Wahhabi law.

Due to the potential for the insurgents under al Zarqawi becoming an opposition power to the legitimate Iraqi Interim Government, the Iraqi and coalition leaders came to the consensus that a second assault on Fallujah was warranted. Operation Phantom Fury (later renamed Operation al-Fajr ("Dawn" in Arabic) by the Iraqi Prime Minister to reflect official Iraqi leadership approval), commenced, with the 1st Marine Division commanding over 15,000 American, British and Iraqi security forces for the upcoming battle. By November, approximately 3000 insurgents had occupied the city and prepared fortified defenses throughout the numerous structures, to include interconnecting trenches and underground tunnels connecting the various firing positions and ammunition/supply caches.

Learning from the first Battle of Fallujah, the coalition forces concentrated on intelligence efforts to ensure proper planning, preparation and positioning of the various forces that were to be involved in the assault. The months prior to the attack provided time for U.S. Army and Marine units to learn each other's operational procedures and tactics to ensure a fully integrated and coordinated effort as they prepared for the overall operation.

Another tactic was a full out effort to gain and maintain information dominance. Many journalists were embedded with coalition forces who helped expose the violence against the civilian population committed by the insurgents. Citizens of Fallujah were encouraged to leave the area prior to the ensuing battle to reduce the civilian casualties, a successful effort that saw the population reduced to less than 30,000.

On 7 November, the Marines initiated the assault by swiftly crossing the Euphrates River on the western side of Fallujah and securing both bridges and the hospital in that sector, a location

that was being used by the insurgents as a command center. The following day a massive air bombardment of the city's south and southeastern sectors commenced to force the insurgent focus in



U.S. Marines patrol the war-torn streets of Fallujah in November 2004.

that direction, a planned deception that allowed coalition forces to enter the city from the north away from the strength of the insurgent defenses. Coalition forces also closed entry points in to the city to ensure no additional foreign fighters would slip in to reinforce the insurgent forces currently defending Fallujah perimeter.

The two Marine task forces that moved in from the north of the city employed effective combined arms tactics to quickly sweep into the neighborhoods, using armor, artillery and close air support to subdue the insurgent forces. In two days the Marines were able to reach Highway 10, a dividing line that was almost halfway through the city. As the coalition forces continued their advance they employed tactics that had succeeded in previous urban warfare battles of World War II – attack first with air strikes, followed by artillery or mortar barrage and then armor-infantry teams supported by combat engineers to clear the individual buildings where they had received hostile fire.

The insurgents quickly realized that the overwhelming firepower of the coalition forces required them to fight in small units from inside buildings for protection and to cause maximum casualties. They would either attack the Americans to kill as many as possible and then retreat in the labyrinth of hidden passageways and tunnels, or they would fight to the death, killing as many as possible before martyring themselves in the fight.

Typical for urban warfare, fighting was up close and personal. Coalition forces used the overwhelming firepower of armor, artillery, mortars and close air support from both helicopter gunships and fixed wing aircraft to root out the defenders. Over four thousand artillery rounds and ten thousand mortar rounds were fired on Fallujah; aircraft and gunships dropped 318 bombs and fired 391 rockets, as well as 93,000 machine gun rounds in support of the ground forces.

By mid-November American officials were able to announce they had secured the majority of the city and were now only engaging isolated pockets of resistance. Now the task turned to the methodical task of clearing the city of explosive devices, weapons caches and small elements of resistance to enable the local population to return to a safe and habitable area.

Reconstruction and humanitarian assistance efforts helped return the city to a basic state of normalcy and civilians were allowed to return after passing a basic security screening.

Casualties for the Second Battle of Fallujah fifty coalition forces killed (thirty-eight American, four British and eight Iraqis) and over three hundred wounded. Insurgent casualties were estimated at 1000-1500 killed and another 1500 captured. Approximately 800 civilians were killed during the battle, as well as over sixty percent of the city's building were damaged, with twenty percent being destroyed. The battle was the heaviest urban combat involving American forces since the Battle of Hue in 1968 in the Vietnam War.



U.S. Army Staff Sergeant David Bellavia receives the Medal of Honor from President Donald Trump on June 25, 2019, for his actions during the Second Battle of Fallujah.

REMEMBERING VETERANS DAY

Though the Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28 June 1919, Armistice Day, declared on 11 November 1918, remained in the public imagination as the date that marked the end of the Great War. Every year Post 2894 republishes the famous poem written during the height of World War I by the late Colonel John McCrae of the Canadian Forces:

IN FLANDERS FIELD
- by John McCrae

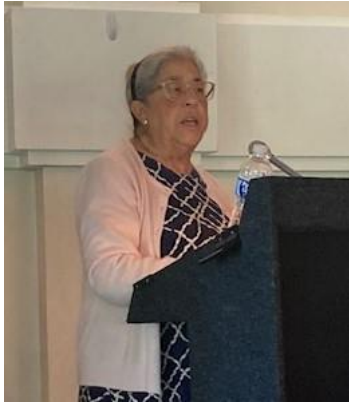
*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved and now we lie,
In Flanders Fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe*

To you, from failing hands, we throw,
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us, who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,
In Flanders Fields.

OTHER POST NEWS

• **VFW Post 2894 Members Attend Mayor’s Commission for Veterans Affairs Breakfast.**

The Mayor’s Commission for Veterans Affairs (MCVA) held its annual breakfast for veterans on Saturday, 16 September, in the Chesapeake Golf Club’s Event Hall. Veterans from numerous organizations were in attendance, as well as others who came for a warm meal and some camaraderie with fellow warriors. Initial remarks were provided by Chesapeake Councilwoman Debbie Ritter who reiterated how the area Veterans Service Organizations are aiding veterans and their families throughout the city. The guest speaker was Mr. Marlon Sterling, a Veterans Service Officer who provided a personal insight into the challenges that face active service members transitioning into the various civilian sectors. His words of



Chesapeake City Councilwoman Debbie Ritter addresses the audience at the Mayor’s Commission on Veterans Affairs Breakfast.

transitioning into the various civilian sectors. His words of



VFW Post 2894 members attended the Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs Annual Veteran Breakfast on 16 September.

encouragement and enthusiasm provided the audience with a renewed focus on current veteran needs and updates to veterans benefits that have been extended to additional areas of the world and military occupations. Many veterans were exposed to hazardous materials or environmental conditions that may have resulted in medical issues for the veteran or their children. All veterans are encouraged to establish a Veterans Administration personal account at the minimum and apply for disability if you feel you may have a current condition resulting from your time in the military.

• **Another Pistol Raffle On Veterans Day.** The VFW Post 2894 is holding another raffle for a Sig Sauer P365X-Nitron pistol with two 12-round magazines. Similar to the 4th of July Raffle, tickets are \$10 each and only 500 will be sold, so get



yours now for your chance at this excellent quality weapon! Our tremendous gratitude goes out to Freedom Shooting Center who again donating this fine weapon for the fundraiser!

• **VFW Post 2894 Members Gather to Remember Post Namesake’s Birthday.**

On the Sunday afternoon, the 1st of October, several members of the Post gathered at The Bier Garden in Portsmouth to remember Jonathan K. Dozier, son of Comrade Carl Dozier and namesake of VFW Post 2894, for the annual Birthday Remembrance that provides an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the life of Jonathan Dozier. Jonathan would have been 46 years old this year, but he was killed in Afghanistan when the enemy ambushed his patrol in January, 2008. Let us always remember those that paid the ultimate price for our freedom as we not only celebrate Jonathan’s life, but all those who fought and died so we can enjoy the liberties we currently sometimes take for granted.



Carl and Jean Dozier (left and center) enjoy a beer with Post Commander Bob Gregory at The Bier Garden in Portsmouth.



Phyllis Krasnoff (left) celebrates Jonathan Dozier Remembrance Birthday with Brad and Becky Waters at The Bier Garden.

- **VFW Post 2894 Chaplain Initiates Post Food Pantry for Area Veterans.** Chaplain Joe McGourn has a personal passion to serve the local veterans in Hampton Roads. To that end, he has embarked on a mission to ensure that those veterans in need are located and taken care of, with his first priority being the local veterans at the Cypress Landing Veterans Home located at 40 Knells Ridge Boulevard in Chesapeake. Padre Joe (as he is locally known) noticed that the stores in the food pantry servicing the veterans there were in dire need of replenishment. He raised the issue at a VFW Post 2894 membership meeting, volunteering to coordinate the food delivery and distribution if other VFW members would bring food and sundry items to the post.



Cypress Landing Veterans Home in Chesapeake.

Ms. April Freeman, the Community Resource Specialist at the facility, said the onsite food pantry is always in need of various supplies and is looking forward to working with Padre Joe and other Post members to ensure everyone at the Home is supported with necessities to maintain an enjoyable standard of living.

If you would like to provide donations to the food pantry, bring your items to the Post HQs for overall collection by Padre

Joe or you can take donations directly to the onsite food pantry at the Cypress Landing location. It is recommended that you coordinate with Ms. Freeman prior to drop off to ensure she is aware of your intentions and can allow you in to the complex (Ms. April Freeman, (757) 705-6037).



Ms. April Freeman displays current levels of various food and supplies at the Cypress Landing Veterans Home food pantry.

CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE



PRAYER FOR VETERANS DAY

God of peace, we pray for those who have served our nation and have laid down their lives to protect and defend our freedom. We pray for those who have fought, whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war, whose nights are haunted by memories too painful for the light of day. We pray for those who serve us now, especially for those in harm's way. Shield them from danger and bring them home. Turn the hearts and minds of our leaders and our enemies to the work of justice and a harvest of peace. Spare the poor, Lord, spare the poor! May the peace you left us, the peace you gave us, be the peace that sustains, the peace that saves us. Christ Jesus, hear us.

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

+ SAFETY CORNER +
OCTOBER IS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MONTH



October is a good time to focus on pedestrian safety. Over 20% of traffic deaths involve pedestrians. Although we should always strive to safely get around, we can always use a few reminders to make sure we walk safely and drive safely.

As a pedestrian:

- Whenever possible, walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is available, always walk facing oncoming traffic.
- Avoid distractions! Keep your eyes up and your phones down.
- Cross the street at a crosswalk. Look both ways before starting out.
- If no crosswalk is available, cross where you can see all oncoming traffic. Once again, look both ways before starting out.
- Make eye contact with the oncoming driver; nod or wave to ensure they see you and know that you see them.
- Be extra careful at night.

As a driver:

- Avoid distractions! No phones, eating, working the touch screen, or involved conversations with passengers.
- Slow down when approaching intersections or crosswalks; look for possible pedestrians.
- Be especially careful at night or whenever driving in a residential area.



Try to always use safe pedestrian-related practices, whether walking by yourself or others, or driving your vehicle. You can make a difference in decreasing pedestrian-related traffic deaths and injuries.

+ SAFETY CORNER +
NOVEMBER IS FLU IMMUNIZATION MONTH



No one likes to get sick with a cold or the flu. The fall season exposes us to cooler weather and increased activity with others. There are several actions we can take to protect ourselves, our families, and others.

By November, we have fully entered the flu season. The single most effective thing we can do is make sure we get a flu shot. The yearly flu shot is formulated to protect against the most common flu viruses active at that time, and, since it uses vaccine derived from inactivated viruses, you can't get the flu from the vaccine. Get yours before the end of November to be ready for the flu season.

For colds and the flu, there are several steps that will reduce your chances of getting either.

- Foremost is washing your hands often. Use soap and hot water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Since you can be exposed by touching an infected surface (such as a doorknob, a handrail, or a common-use towel), always wash your hands before eating or smoking.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, since contaminated hands can spread the germs right into your system.
- Healthy eating, with plenty of vegetables and fruits, can provide needed antioxidants.
- Moderate exercise can improve your resistance and drop your chances of infection by a third.

Lastly. If you do get sick, stay home! If your job or lifestyle has you leaving the house, avoid others as much as possible. Use disposable tissues for your "runny nose", and if you sneeze, sneeze into your elbow, not your hands. Do not use someone else's glass, cup, utensils, or towel.



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:** Ted Roberts, John Peterson, Ann Jones, Grace Schweers, Becky Waters, Brad Waters, Matt Hostetlar, Diane Hostetlar, Jose Vazquez and Bob Gregory
- **Budget Committee:** Susan Vitale, John Peterson, Bob Gregory, Mark Rios, Brad Waters, Mike Kust, Dan Eaker and Carl Dozier
- **By-Laws Committee:** Bob Gregory, Matt Hostetlar, Frank Sgromolo and Jose Vazquez
- **Community Service Committee:** Jim Ireland, Susan Vitale, John Guill, David Weber, Frank Sgromolo, Kimball Thompson, Ron Mayfield and John Peterson
- **Awards/Scholarship Committee:** Dan Eaker, Mark Rios, Joe Hammers, Chuck Wolff, Carl Dozier, Ron Liston, Otmar Guzman and Kimball Thompson
- **Membership/Recruiting Committee:** Bob Gregory, Susan Vitale, José Vazquez 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, Dan Eaker
- **Health/Safety Committee:** Surgeon David Weber, Frank Sgromolo
- **Activities Committee:** Joe McGourn, Dan Eaker, Susan Vitale

QUARTERMASTER DESK



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

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

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

You can become a VFW Life Member by paying a one-time fee as listed in the following table, or making an initial \$45

payment and then paying the remainder over an 11-month installment plan. You will be issued an annual membership card and can elect, upon receipt of the first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The applicable Life Membership fee is determined from the schedule using the applicant’s age on Dec. 31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement.

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

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

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP – AND CONSIDER A LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

OCTOBER MILITARY HISTORY

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 1880 John Philip Sousa becomes director of Marine Corps Band
 1942 Maiden flight of Bell P-59 Airacomet, first US jet fighter
 1943 Allied forces liberate Naples
 1945 US Army discharges MSGT Joe Louis
 1955 Commissioning of USS 'Forrestal' (CVA-59) 1st supercarrier</p> <p>1957 B-52 bombers begin full-time flying alert in case of USSR attack, which continues until early 1990s</p> <p>2 1799 Washington Navy Yard established
 1835 Battle of Gonzales: Texans rout Mexicans, touching off Texas Revolution</p> <p>3 1895 Publication of Stephen Crane's "Red Badge of Courage"
 1921 Unknown Soldier sails from France aboard USS 'Olympia'
 1990 East and West Germany united as the Republic of Germany</p> <p>4 1821 First USN squadron sails for anti-slavery patrol off Africa</p> <p>5 1943 US aircraft & ships raid Japanese positions on Wake Is, leading to execution of American civilians held prisoner</p> <p>1986 Former US Marine Eugene Hasenfus captured by Nicaraguan Sandinistas after his plane carrying arms for the rebels is shot down, initiating what became known as the "Iran-Contra" controversy.</p> <p>6 1781 Americans & French begin siege of Cornwallis at Yorktown</p> <p>7 1777 Second Battle of Saratoga (Bemis Heights): Americans win
 2001 US & Allies initiate war in Afghanistan after Taliban refuses to surrender Osama bin Laden
 2004 Allies commence Operation Phantom Fury, the Second Battle of Fallujah in Iraq, the bloodiest battle of the conflict for American forces</p> <p>8 1918 Sgt Alvin York captures "whole damned German Army"</p> <p>9 1942 Guadalcanal: Marines encircle Japanese 4th Inf Regt
 1945 Broadway ticker tape parade for Admiral Chester W. Nimitz</p> <p>10 1944 17 US carriers raid Ryukyus</p> <p>11 1861 Battle of Dumfries/Quantico Creek, VA
 1944 Japan announces it will "fight to last man, woman, child, weapon, and piece of equipment."</p> <p>12 2000 Islamist suicide boat attack on USS 'Cole' (DDG-67) at Aden, 17 die, about 40 wounded</p> <p>13 1775 Congress establishes Continental Navy
 1864 John Mosby raids Harpers Ferry</p> <p>14 1942 Guadalcanal: Japanese ships land reinforcements, shell Marines
 1942 New Guinea: Heavy fighting, Templeton's Crossing, Kokod Trail.</p> <p>15 1944 Peleliu secured: Japanese KIA abt 12,000, US over 1,200.</p> <p>16 1859 John Brown's "Raid" on Harper's Ferry
 1863 U.S. Grant named commander of Union forces in West
 1940 WW II draft begins; #158 drawn first
 1962 Missile Crisis: JFK learns of Soviet missiles in Cuba</p> <p>17 1777 British General John Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga
 1781 British General Lord Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown
 1916 Battleship 'Arizona' (BB-39) commissioned at Brooklyn Navy Yard
 1922 1st US carrier take-off: Virgil C. Griffin in VE-7SF off 'Langley' (CV 1)
 1944 Battle of Leyte Gulf, largest naval battle in history, begins</p> | <p>18 1767 Completion of survey of Mason-Dixon Line, defining mutual borders of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware
 1859 US Marines under Robert E. Lee capture John Brown & his party at Harper's ferry
 1945 Nuremberg War Crimes Trial begins in Munich, Germany</p> <p>19 1879 William Tecumseh Sherman says "War is hell"
 1915 USN establishes submarine base at New London, Ct.
 1950 UN forces enter Pyongyang, capital of North Korea
 1987 US warships destroy Iranian oil platforms in Persian Gulf
 2001 Airborne invasion of Afghanistan; Qandahar Airfield seized</p> <p>20 1944 MacArthur returns to Philippines at Leyte, w/200,000 troops
 1944 US First Army secures Aachen, first large German city captured by the Allies
 1978 U.S. Women's Army Corps disestablished and women integrated in to the regular Army forces</p> <p>21 1797 USS 'Constitution' - 'Old Ironsides' - launched at Boston
 2011 President Obama announces withdrawal of remaining troops from Iraq, thus concluding American involvement there.</p> <p>22 1836 Sam Houston inaugurated as 1st elected President of Republic of Texas (1836-1838)
 1954 West Germany joins NATO
 1962 Missile Crisis: JFK imposes naval blockade on Cuba</p> <p>23 1775 Congress bars blacks from army, but is generally ignored
 1942 Guadalcanal: Battle of Edson's Ridge - Japanese assault broken
 1983 Beirut: Suicide truck bomb kills 243 US personnel</p> <p>24 1942 FDR directs all available ammo, aircraft, & equipment be provided to forces engaged on Guadalcanal or bound for North Africa, even if it means stripping units elsewhere</p> <p>25 1943 Battle of Cape St. George: five US destroyers sink 3 of 6 Japanese destroyers
 1958 US Marines leave Lebanon (there since July)
 1983 US and West Indian forces occupy Grenada</p> <p>26 1861 Last ride of Pony Express
 1944 Leyte Gulf ends: losses, Japan 34 major warships, US 6</p> <p>27 1775 Congress formally establishes US Navy
 1810 U.S. annexes West Florida from Spain
 1942 Battle of Santa Cruz Island: USS 'Hornet' (CV-8) sunk
 1954 Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. becomes first black general in USAF</p> <p>28 1942 "Tokyo Express" lands troops on Guadalcanal.
 1962 Khrushchev orders missiles out of Cuba, ending Missile Crisis</p> <p>29 1929 "Black Friday": Crash of '29
 1944 Near Aachen, 1st Inf Div Rabbi Sidney Lefkowitz & cantor PFC Max Fuchs conduct first Jewish service for American troops on German soil, broadcast worldwide, with accompanying artillery fire</p> <p>30 1954 Defense Department announces elimination of all segregated units</p> <p>31 1803 US Frigate 'Philadelphia' grounds off Tripoli & taken by Barbary pirates
 1941 'U-552' sinks USS 'Reuben James' (DD-245), 115 die; first US ship lost in WW II
 1952 First thermonuclear bomb detonated, Marshall Islands
 1968 President Johnson halts all bombing of North Vietnam</p> |
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NOVEMBER MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1765 Stamp Act goes into effect in British colonies
- 1835 Texans begin siege of San Antonio (it falls Dec 4)
- 1943 Bougainville: 3rd Marine Div lands at Cape Torokina, Empress Augusta Bay
- 1951 First atomic explosion with troops present, NM
- 1952 First hydrogen device exploded, Eniwetok Atoll
- 1967 North Vietnamese 1st Division attacks allied outposts at Dak To in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam.
- 2** 1783 Washington's "Farewell Address to Army," at Rocky Hill, near Princeton
- 1917 First US troops KIA in France
- 1944 US & Filipino troops clear Japanese from central valley on Leyte.
- 3** 1783 Continental Army mustered out of service, Rocky Hill, NJ
- 1979 Teheran: Iranians storm US embassy to take 63 hostages
- 4** 1862 Richard J. Gatling receives patent for clever device
- 1950 US troops retreat from Pyongyang, North Korea
- 5** 1917 Maj. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr, leads first American patrol into "No Man's Land"
- 6** 1945 First jet carrier landing: Ryan FR "Fireball" on USS 'Wake Island' (CVE-65)
- 7** 1865 CSS 'Shenandoah' surrenders to British authorities at Liverpool, seven months after Appomattox
- 1973 The War Powers Act becomes law
- 2004 The Second Battle of Fallujah commences in Anbar Province, Iraq
- 8** 1942 Operation Torch: US/British forces land northwestern Africa
- 1950 Lt. Russell J. Brown's F-86 scores North Korean MiG-15 in history's first jet-on-jet combat
- 9** 1921 The Unknown Soldier arrives at Washington aboard USS 'Olympia'
- 1984 "Three Servicemen" Statue added to Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- 1989 The Berlin Wall comes down
- 2001 Battle of Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan
- 10** 1775 Congress establishes Marine Corps
- 1782 Chillicothe, Ohio, George Rodgers Clark defeats Indians and Tories; final battle of Revolutionary War.
- 1945 US liberates Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald
- 1954 USMC ["Iwo Jima"] Memorial dedicated in Arlington
- 11** 1839 Virginia Military Institute opens
- 1864 Sherman's March: Burning of Rome, Georgia
- 1909 USN begins construction of base at Pearl Harbor
- 1918 World War I armistice
- 1921 Escorted by 30 holders of Medal of Honor, "Unknown Soldier" laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery
- 12** 1942 Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, Day 1: Japanese aircraft raid Henderson field, both fleets converge on Iron Bottom Sound
- 13** 1775 Americans under Maj Gen Richard Montgomery capture Montreal
- 1776 John Paul Jones captures British transport 'Mellish'
- 1982 Vietnam War Memorial dedicated
- 14** 1910 First airplane takeoff from ship: Eugene Ely in Curtiss Flyer, off USS 'Birmingham' (CL-2)
- 1965 Battle of Ia Drang commences in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam.
- 15** 1864 Sherman burns what Confederates haven't of Atlanta
- 16** 1982 Maiden voyage of Space Shuttle 'Columbia'
- 17** 1869 Suez Canal opens
- 1913 Panama Canal opens
- 1917 First US ASW Victory: Destroyers 'Fanning' (DD-37) & 'Nicholson' (DD-52) sink 'U-58', in Irish Sea
- 18** 1961 JFK sends 18,000 military advisors to South Vietnam
- 1965 Battle of Ia Drang ends with 234 American deaths and 250 wounded.
- 19** 1492 Columbus lands in Puerto Rico
- 1863 Abraham Lincoln gives Gettysburg speech
- 1944 New Guinea: U.S. troops land
- 1950 Eisenhower becomes supreme commander of NATO
- 1999 USCG Capt Earl R. Fox, Public Health Service, retires; last WW II veteran on active service
- 20** 1866 First national convention of Grand Army of Republic [GAR]
- 1945 General of Army George C. Marshall steps down, after 2272 days as Chief-of-Staff
- 21** 1943 Operation Galvanic: Marines in heavy fighting on Tarawa, National Guardsmen advance on Makin, while Marines land on Abemama, 75 mi SE of Tarawa.
- 22** 1943 FDR, Churchill, & Chiang meet to discuss defeat of Japan
- 23** 1942 USCG Women Reserve (SPAR's) established
- 1943 Operation Galvanic: US forces secure Tarawa & Makin
- 1944 Gen Patch's Seventh Army captures Strasbourg
- 1967 North Vietnamese forces are forced to withdraw from Dak To, ending the costliest engagement between allied and Communist forces.
- 1983 Grenada Campaign Ends
- 24** 1941 CNO warns fleet "surprise aggressive movement" by Japan imminent
- 1944 First B-29 raid from Saipan; 111 bombers hit Tokyo.
- 25** 1783 Evacuation Day: British leave New York City, their last base in US, and that evening Governor George Clinton of New York honors George Washington with banquet at Frances' Tavern, where thirteen toasts were offered, beginning with "The United States of America"
- 1961 USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), first nuclear-powered carrier, is commissioned
- 26** 1862 Lincoln meets ". . . little lady who started this big war," Harriet Beecher Stowe
- 27** 1789 President George Washington proclaims last Thursday in November a day of prayer and thanksgiving
- 1943 Teheran Conference: Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin talk strategy
- 28** 1795 US pays \$800,000 & frigate for "protection" from Algerian & Tunisian pirates
- 29** 1760 Rogers' Rangers capture Detroit from French
- 1951 1st underground atomic explosion, Frenchman's Flat, NV
- 30** 1782 Preliminary Treaty of Paris: American and British sign preliminary articles to end Revolutionary War
- 1943 Teheran Conference: FDR, Churchill, & Stalin agree to launch Operation Overlord in May of 1944

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>OCTOBER</u>	
1	Jonathan K Dozier Remembrance Birthday Gathering, The Bier Garden, Portsmouth
4	Great American Food Fest
9	Columbus Day
9	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
11	Post Meeting, Post HQ
13	U.S. Navy Birthday
14	Chesapeake Wine Festival
31	Halloween

<u>NOVEMBER</u>	
5	Daylight Saving Time Ends
6	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
7	Election Day
8	Post Meeting, Post HQ
10	Marine Corp Birthday
10	Veterans Day Celebration, Cypress Landing Veterans Home
11	Veterans Day
18	VFW District 2 Meeting, Post 3160, Norfolk
23	Thanksgiving

A big shout out to our friends at Mission Barbeque for their continued support of our area veterans. Be sure to take advantage of their free sandwich offer for all Veterans on Veterans Day!



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!!!**