

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>



NEWSLETTER - Vol. XII, Issue 6, December 2023 - January 2024

VFW POST 2894 COORDINATES HOME REPAIRS FOR AREA GOLD STAR MOTHER



Gold Star Mother Ms. Carrie Caldwell is flanked by Dan Lear, Communications Director Habitat for Humanity South Hampton Roads; Jim Ireland, Service Officer, Chesapeake VFW Post 2894; Bob Gregory, Commander, Chesapeake VFW Post 2894; Frank Hruska CEO, Habitat For Humanity South Hampton Roads; and Hugh Williams, Field Supervisor, Virginia Foundation Solutions

Gold Star mothers are the embodiment of strength, resilience, and sacrifice. They are mothers who have lost a cherished son or daughter in military service. Their pain and loss are immeasurable, and the communities they are a part of often step forward to help carry the weight of their grief. (continued on page 3)

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings - and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Comrades! The Post has been busy again this fall, between very successful Buddy Poppy drive, Veterans Day remembrance ceremonies, pistol raffle, Ruritan Chesapeake Christmas Parade,

and of our service projects – thanks, you guys rock!

We were very successful with our Teacher of the Year and Voice of Democracy at District 2. Please congratulate our High School Teacher of the Year District 2 winner, Kimberly Hammers, Grassfield High School, and our District 2 VOD winner, Timothy Linsky, also Grassfield High School. Both now will be sent to State and hopefully on to National.

Please pass the word: Post 2894 now has a coffee. Comrade Joe Smith approached Neptune’s Fury Coffee Company in Norfolk to see if they would be willing to roast a coffee for the post. They agreed, so for the next two months with every bag sold the Post will receive \$5.00. The roast is called *Veterans Harbor Blend* - it’s a dark roast blend. Please take a look at the website and send it to your friends and neighbors. Here’s the website: <https://www.neptunesfury.com/collections/coffee/products/veterans-harbor-charity-blend>.

Now that the holiday seasons are here, I would like to invite everyone to our Post Christmas Party on 13 Dec 2023, at 1900 (7pm).

We are continuing on our path to an All American Post, but will need everyone’s help. If everyone in the Post reaches out and recruits one new member each we’ll reach our goal, so please help out.

Semper Fidelis!

- Bob Gregory, Commander

PRESIDENT’S CORNER



It’s that time of year when our thoughts turn to giving thanks for all we have - family, friends, food and a roof over our heads. It can also be a difficult time for those that have lost loved ones, have distant family, or have no support system at all. Being isolated leads to depression which can then lead to further isolation and dark thoughts. The focus for the Auxiliary this year has been the suicide rate in the military. It is often thought that suicide is more prevalent during the holidays; however, this is not true. What is true is there are service people alone in duty stations far from family. There are Veterans living alone, homeless Veterans and hospitalized Veterans. All these people are missing the comfort of a support system. To combat just a fraction of the isolation our young people feel, our Auxiliary sends holiday cards to our service members serving on ships to show our appreciation. We celebrated Veteran’s Day at the City Hall and we will be in the Great Bridge Christmas Parade again this year. We invite new members to join us and hopefully relieve any isolation they may be feeling during this season.

A few of us from the Post and Auxiliary were treated to lunch and a very touching ceremony given by the 9’ers club of South Norfolk. The appreciation for our Veterans was so beautifully represented by table decorations, a POW/MIA table, songs, the Pledge of Allegiance and a terrific lunch. Members shared their memories with us of their fathers and uncles who were in the military and enjoyed hearing about our Post members.

As the end of the year approaches, remember to reach out to someone who might be isolated. At the very least you will put a smile on a lonely face.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Anne Thompson
VFW 2894 Auxiliary President

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

**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**

VFW Post 2894 Coordinates Home Repairs for Gold Star Mother (continued from pg 1)

In a heartwarming display of unity and support, area community organizations have joined hands to assist a Gold Star mother in her time of need. Virginia Foundation Solutions, commonly known as VFS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2894, Habitat for Humanity of South Hampton Roads, and Home Depot came together to make a profound difference in the life of a military family who has given so much for our nation.

In early August 2023, Ms. Carrie Caldwell, a local Gold Star Mother, contacted Chesapeake VFW POST 2894 Service Officer Jim Ireland, who a few years earlier had helped her with repairs to her house. She stated that her kitchen floor had soft spots and she needed help to repair it. Jim reached out to a good friend and fellow humanitarian, Frank Hruska, CEO, Habitat for Humanity South Hampton Roads, for help. The two went to Ms. Caldwell's house and crawled underneath to inspect her kitchen foundation. It was quickly apparent that the foundation needed to be repaired or replaced. Frank volunteered to replace the flooring but only after a professional foundation repair company could repair or replace the failing foundation.



Volunteers work on the foundation to Ms. Caldwell's home.

Jim appreciated Frank's offer, but realized it meant nothing was going to happen unless he could find a professional foundation repair company that would take on such a costly project at a cost the VFW Post could afford. He decided to call Carolyn Farris, General Manager of the Virginia Foundation Solutions, a solid, veteran-owned company that he hoped and

prayed would help. After explaining the magnitude of the project and that it was for a Gold Star Mother who had lost her son in the first Gulf War, without hesitation Virginia Foundation Solutions agreed to help and would donate the labor and materials at no cost.

Jim then called Mr. Greg Hyatt, District Outreach Manager for Home Depot, requesting flooring for Ms. Caldwell's kitchen as well as any other supporting items needed for the floor installation. Greg stated he would gladly assist the project and to pick up the items needed from two local Home Depot stores.



Ms. Caldwell inspects with delight her new kitchen.

The team was now in place and on 16 October 2023 the work started with the Virginia Foundation Solutions workers showing up to Ms. Caldwell's house in force, quickly removing the kitchen cabinets, countertops, sink, hot water heater, and appliances. Then the serious work began with the meticulous removal of the old flooring and rotten foundation. This was followed by rebuilding the foundation from the ground up. Virginia Foundation Solutions rebuilt the entire support structure including beams, joists, and new subflooring. All was completed in less than three days.

After the completion of the foundation repairs, the Habitat for Humanity workers arrived and replaced all the cabinetry, countertops and appliances. They repaired the leaking sink and numerous other leaks throughout the kitchen plumbing and laid the new kitchen floor. The entire project was completed in six days. Lastly, the kitchen floor was installed.

The collaborative efforts of these organizations demonstrate the power of community and the incredible impact that can be made when people come together for a common cause. This story is a beautiful example of the importance of communities

throughout this nation. The Chesapeake community paused their daily routines and focused their attention on a project to show their respect for a fallen service member of their community who gave his life for the freedoms they/we all enjoy, each, and every day and offer help to this family in need. It is what makes America a great place to live and raise our families. Communities make a difference.

VFW POST 2894 PARTICIPATES IN VETERANS DAY EVENTS

Veterans Day is always a busy time for VFW posts, and Post 2894 was no exception.

The tribute began early in the week at Grassfield High School's Field of Valor commemoration on Thursday, 9 Novem-



Veterans Day Field of Valor at Grassfield High School.

ber, with over 2500 miniature flags showing brilliantly in the front area of the school's administration building. The numerous flags reflected those area veterans whose personal sacrifice ensured we continue to enjoy the freedoms in our country today.



VFW Post 2894 members attend Field of Valor Veterans Day ceremony at Grassfield High School. Left to right: Joe McGourn, Carl Dozier, Post Commander Bob Gregory, Jose Vazquez, Dan Eaker and Joe Hammers.

- On Friday, 10 November, Father Joe McGourn coordinated a Veterans Appreciation cookout at Cypress Landing Veterans Facility. The event brought together many Post members and local veterans, to include the Veterans Motorcycle Club, as well as members of other organizations that have provided tremendous support to our Post.

- Veterans Day found several of our Post members out and about, starting with the Veterans Recognition Gathering at Autumn Care Senior Living Facility in Chesapeake. After receiving a request from Ms. Natasha Brinkley, the Activities Director for the facility, Susan Vitale, Senior Vice Commander for Post 2894, coordinated a team of comrades from VFW Post 2894 that found time to share some coffee and donuts with the veterans and tell some tales, conversations that were quite enlightening and enjoyable. One particular resident, Mr. Otis Massey, shared his experiences with the group and left them with these memorable words of wisdom: "Why can't people just love one another." Unfortunately, Mr. Massey passed on shortly after the visit, but all those who met him will remember those final words.



VFW Post 2894 Comrade Jim Ireland talks with a veteran at the Autumn Care Senior Center for Veterans Day.

Kudos to all the Post members who supported this event – it is something we will definitely continue in the future and potentially expand to other area senior/assisted living facilities.

- Later in the morning, Joe McGourn, VFW Post 2894 chaplain, coordinated a food drive with Pale Horse Coffee, a local veteran owned establishment, that collected several boxes of foodstuffs to be used for the Post's Veterans Food Pantry. Thanks to the chaplain for taking care of our local veterans and their families in need.



VFW Post 2894 Chaplain Joe McGourn packs food donations received for the Post Food Pantry during a Veterans Day food drive.

- The City of Chesapeake Veterans Day Commemoration, sponsored by the Mayor's Commission for Veterans Affairs (MCVA), was conducted in front of Chesapeake City Hall on Saturday, 11 November. Sergeant Major Michael McMurdy, Command Sergeant Major for the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training at Fort Eustis, was the guest speaker and reminded all present that the freedoms Americans enjoy daily came at great personal sacrifice for our country's veterans, many of whom gave their lives in the defense of those guaranteed liberties.



Sergeant Major Michael McMurdy, Command Sergeant Major for the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training, addresses the audience at the City of Chesapeake Veterans Day Commemoration.



Mayor Rick West participates in the pinning ceremony of Vietnam veterans at the City of Chesapeake Veterans Day Commemoration.

The ceremony was a well-attended event with many VFW Post 2894 members present. Mayor Rick West took the opportunity to pin eight resident Vietnam veterans and provide a long overdue thank you for their selfless sacrifice over fifty years ago.



VFW Post 2894 members attend the City of Chesapeake Veterans Day Commemoration. Front row, left to right: John Peterson, Becky Waters, Mike Kust, Bob Gregory, Carl Dozier, Al Peterson. Back row: Matt Hostetler, Brad Waters, Jim Ireland, David Weber, Ken Belkofer, Jim Keiper, Susan Vitale, and MCVA Commissioner Lincoln Smith.

OTHER POST NEWS

• **Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Fundraiser Successful Once Again.** VFW Post 2894 held its semi-annual Buddy Poppy Fundraiser on the weekend of 4-5 November. Several Post members came out on the beautiful weekend to hand out poppies and solicit donations from the local area residents at the Battlefield and Grassfield Walmarts. Not only did the volunteers



VFW Post 2894 member David Weber hands out Buddy Poppies at a local Walmart.

raise almost \$5000, but we were able to recruit several new members for the Post. Thanks to everyone who assisted with this effort to ensure it was another tremendous success!

• **VFW Post 2894 Hosts VFW Department of Virginia Officers.** On 17 November VFW Post 2894 was fortunate to host several VFW Department of Virginia officers for a tour of our new home on South Battlefield Boulevard. The impromptu visit by the state representatives provided an opportunity to show the progress made with the facility and discuss the upcoming District meeting to be hosted by Post 2894 in February. Visiting State officers were Doug Hoffman, State Junior Vice Commander; State Surgeon Charles Bush; State Recruiter Tom Hines, as well as Mark Winn, District 2 Commander. The State officers were at the Post for several hours and talked with members about various issues of interest. Post members participating in the visit were Bob Gregory, Post Commander; Mike Kust, Post Junior Vice Commander; John Peterson, Post Quartermaster; David Weber, Post Surgeon; Jim Ireland, Post Service Officer; as well as Post members Kimball Thompson, Jose Vazquez, Brad Waters, Joe Hammers, Carl Dozier, Frank Sgromolo, Gary Dunbar and Jim Keiper. The Post appreciates the State and District 2 officers taking the time out of their schedules to come out and meet with the Post members, ensuring that two-way dialogue between the various levels of our VFW organization.



VFW Post 2894 hosted officers from the VFW Department of Virginia at the Post Headquarters in November.

• **Pistol Raffle Winner On Veterans Day.** Congratulations to Comrade Gary Dunbar for winning the Sig Sauer P365X-Nitron pistol raffle this year. Our



VFW Post 2894 member Gary Dunbar with wife Sandy, winner of the Veterans Day Pistol Raffle.

tremendous gratitude to Freedom Shooting Center for their donation of this fine weapon!

• **Post Celebrates 248th Marine Corps Birthday.** Marines of



VFW Post 2894 broke out their dress blues and hosted the annual USMC Birthday celebration for the members and guests of the Post on 8 November. Bob Gregory, Commander of the Post and retired Marine Master Sergeant, provided the formality of ceremonial adjutant, with other Post Marines assisting with the traditional ceremony

procedures, culminating with the cutting of the cake. This year the first piece went to the oldest Marine present – Lieutenant Colonel David Weber, U.S. Marine

Corps, retired. Lieutenant Colonel Weber was born in March of 1945 and enlisted in the Marine Corps in February 1968, seeing action in Vietnam and serving in all three infantry divisions until his retirement in July 1993.

Per tradition, the oldest Marine then gives his piece of cake to the youngest Marine present, symbolizing the passing of torch to the future generations of Marines. The youngest Marine for this year's ceremony was Chris Butler. Chris was born on 9 December 1987, and enlisted in the Corps in 2005 as an 0313 - Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) crewman. All the Post Marines want to thank those who participated in the celebration. We look forward to future ceremonies with all our VFW Post 2894 comrades!

• **VFW Post 2894 Comrades Assist with Gardening at Cypress Landing Veterans Home.** In mid-October members from VFW Post 2894 gathered at Cypress Landing to assist with some garden maintenance prior to the onset of the winter weather. Assisting Leon Wade, a local resident at the home, VFW Post



VFW Post 2894 members assist Leon Wade, left, with winter preparation for the Cypress Landing garden. On Leon's left are Post 2894 members Jim Ireland, David Weber, Ron Mayfield, and Carl Dozier.

2894 volunteers cleared out weeds and trimmed up the plants beds to protect the plants during the upcoming winter months, ensuring



The garden at Cypress Landing dressed for Veterans Day.

their survival throughout the season. And as a final salute for Veterans Day, they dressed up the garden in red, white and blue to commemorate the sacrifices made by all our veterans.

• **VFW Post 2894 and Auxiliary Members Honor Veterans at Annual 9ers Club Ceremony.** In mid-November several members of the Post and Auxiliary attended a luncheon honoring area veterans for their service to the country. All who participated enjoyed talking with the club members and listening to their extremely interesting individual experiences over years past. We are looking forward to continuing this relationship with the 9ers Club in the future.



VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary President Anne Thompson speaks to the members of the Chesapeake 9ers Club to commemorate Veterans Day.



VFW Post 2894 member John Peterson listens to remarks made at the 9ers Club Talk with a Veteran event.

• **VFW Post 2894 Commander Participates in Veteran Pinning Ceremony at Memory Care Center.** In mid-November Bob Gregory, Post Commander for VFW Post 2894, attended a veterans ceremony hosted by Chesapeake Memory Care Center. Fourteen resident veterans were recognized and for the service they provided to our nation in the respective conflicts each had participated in and each received an American flag pin to proudly reflect his/her service. The staff was extremely grateful for the acknowledgement of the sacrifice made by these veterans in the defense of America.



Veterans at the Chesapeake Memory Care Center received an American Flag Pin to commemorate their service to the country.

• **VFW Post 2894 Coordinates Repairs for Vietnam Veteran's Widow.** In June of 2022, VFW District 2 Service Officer and Chesapeake Post 2894 member, Gary Dunbar approached Jim Ireland, the VFW Post 2894 Service Officer, and said he had discovered a Vietnam widow in his neighborhood whose house looked like it was in dire need of repair, especially the roof. Jim and Gary went to this lady's house, Ms. Addie Rawls, knocked on her door and informed her of their VFW association and asked if she was having issues with her home. They quickly discovered that her roof and windows were in terrible condition, but she did not have the money to repair them. Her home needed much more work, but the only thing that worried her were the roof and windows. Due to her income and military widow status, the Service Officers felt she might qualify for a grant from Habitat for Humanity of South Hampton Roads (SHR). This organization is a very veteran friendly local enterprise that recently developed a program to repair homes, not just build them. They are always ready to help a veteran in need if they can.

Having success with similar past projects, Jim approached the organization to see if they would be willing to help Ms. Rawls repair her roof. Unfortunately, the year's list (2022) was full and they could not provide assistance at that time. However, a Habitat for Humanity SHR representative said they would put her at the end of their 2022 list and if they could not get to her in 2022, which they could not, she would be a candidate for next year when additional funds became available.

As fate and patience would have it, the following year in late October 2023 Habitat for Humanity SHR was able to replace her

roof at no cost (over \$10,000). Additionally, they were trying to replace her windows but due to the roof being in such bad shape and costing more than anticipated, they did not have enough remaining funds to complete the window replacement. However, Habitat for Humanity SHR is currently looking for other sources of funding that she could use to do her windows. They said that if she could not find the funding, she will be eligible in two years for another grant from them and they will come back and do her windows. What a godsend for this widow!

This is only one story of the great work Habitat for Humanity SHR does in working with our VFW Post to assist veteran families. The looks and smiles on these veteran widows and widowers' faces, knowing they can live out their remaining years on this earth in a safe, warm home, is priceless!

• **VFW Post 2894 Coordinates Window Replacement for Virginia Beach Veteran.** In mid-October 2023, Jim Ireland, the VFW Post 2894 Servicer Officer, received a call from the Quartermaster of VFW POST 392 in Virginia Beach, Virginia, requesting help for a veteran family in the city that was a time sensitive situation. Their key personnel were not available to help in a timely manner.

Jim agreed to assist the Lee family and called them to get the details. Ms. Lee informed Jim that her husband had a heart attack recently and was not able to work due to many other medical issues. Because every window in their house was rotted and the wind constantly blew through them, her main concern was for the health of her husband, so she was hoping that the windows could be repaired or replaced. With winter approaching and with her husband in a weakened condition, she was concerned he could contract pneumonia and potentially die. Their income was not enough to allow for the replacement of the fifteen windows in the house and they were struggling just to make enough money to pay their bills.

Jim contacted "Window World," an award-winning veteran friendly and supportive business whom he had worked with in the past and who has helped other veterans in need. Jim met with a Window World representative at the Lee's house where the damage to the windows was assessed. The representative informed the Lees that Window World would indeed help by replacing all fifteen windows at no cost to the veteran (an estimated \$16,000 plus project).

Understanding the medical urgency of the matter, Window World went to work immediately and within three weeks had completed the construction of the windows. They had beaten the winter wind and cold with an exceptional quality job. It may not have been a miracle to some, but one would be hard pressed to convince Mrs. Lee because her prayers were answered!

Thanks to Window World's generosity and sense of urgency, Mr. and Mrs. Lee can feel safe and protected from the elements during the upcoming winter season and in so doing provide a healthy environment for the healing of Mr. Lee.

This is again just one more story of the great people and organizations in this country that understand the meaning of giving back, especially when it involves a medical necessity and especially when it is for a veteran! Giving back usually comes back to you in a much more rewarding way than it was given!

CHESAPEAKE CHRISTMAS PARADE 2023

On a chilly, soggy evening, several VFW Post 2894 members gathered to celebrate the season and participate in the annual City of Chesapeake Christmas Parade. Gathering to assemble the float, with some in festive holiday attire, the crew braved the elements and joined in the revelry as the parade made its way down the thoroughfare to the reviewing stand at City Hall.



VFW Post 2894 Comrade Jim Ireland gives the thumbs up as he rides the Christmas float, while Anne Thompson enjoys the ride.



VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory and wife Rosie ride the Post sleigh in the annual Chesapeake Christmas Parade.



VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary member Grace Schweers rides the Post float in the annual Christmas Parade.

Afterwards everyone adjourned to the Post HQs for pizza, drinks and continued camaraderie. Thanks to all those who stepped up and helped with getting the float prepared for this event as well as those who participated in the parade, representing out Post and the veteran community in general.



Post 2894 Comrades Jose Vazquez and Brad Waters (center and right) disassemble the Christmas sleigh as Jim Ireland enjoys a slice of pizza.

POST MEMBER MEETS MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER

VFW Post 2894 Comrade Kimball Thompson, a member of the local Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, was a member of the color guard detail for a recent Gold Star Family event. Kimball had the honor of meeting Captain Gary Michael Rose, U.S. Army (retired), a Medal of Honor awardee who was attending the event. A sergeant at the time, Rose received the MOH for his courageous actions in Vietnam during a four-day encounter with the enemy in September 1970 while serving as a Special Forces medic. Sgt Rose was recognized for



VFW Post 2894 Comrade Kimball Thompson (second from left) with MOH recipient Sgt. Gary Rose (center).

saving numerous lives during a four-day ordeal while himself being wounded several times. The citation reads thus: “For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

“Sergeant Gary M. Rose distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a Special Forces Medic with a company-sized exploitation force, Special Operations Augmentation, Command and Control Central, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam. Between 11 and 14 September 1970, Sergeant Rose’s company was continuously engaged by a well-armed and numerically superior hostile force deep in enemy-controlled territory. Enemy B-40 rockets and mortar rounds rained down while the adversary sprayed the area with small arms and machine gun fire, wounding many and forcing everyone to seek cover. Sergeant Rose, braving the hail of bullets, sprinted fifty meters to a wounded soldier’s side. He then used his own body to protect the casualty from further injury while treating his wounds. After stabilizing the casualty, Sergeant Rose carried him through the bullet-ridden combat zone to protective cover. As the enemy accelerated the attack, Sergeant Rose continuously exposed himself to intense fire as he fearlessly moved from casualty to casualty, administering life-saving aid. A B-40 rocket impacted just meters from Sergeant Rose, knocking him from his feet and injuring his head, hand, and foot. Ignoring his wounds, Sergeant Rose struggled to his feet and continued to render aid to the other injured soldiers. During an attempted medevac, Sergeant Rose again exposed himself to enemy fire as he attempted to hoist wounded personnel up to the hovering helicopter, which was unable to land due to unsuitable terrain. The medevac mission was aborted due to intense enemy fire, and the helicopter crashed a few miles away due to the enemy fire sustained during the attempted extraction. Over the next two days, Sergeant Rose continued to expose himself to enemy fire in order to treat the wounded, estimated to be half of the company’s personnel. On September 14, during the company’s eventual helicopter extraction, the enemy launched a full-scale offensive. Sergeant Rose, after loading wounded personnel on the first set of extraction helicopters, returned to the outer perimeter under enemy fire, carrying friendly casualties and moving wounded

personnel to more secure positions until they could be evacuated. He then returned to the perimeter to help repel the enemy until the final extraction helicopter arrived. As the final helicopter was loaded, the enemy began to overrun the company’s position, and the helicopter’s Marine door gunner was shot in the neck. Sergeant Rose instantly administered critical medical treatment onboard the helicopter, saving the Marine’s life. The helicopter carrying Sergeant Rose crashed several hundred meters from the evacuation point, further injuring Sergeant Rose and the personnel on board. Despite his numerous wounds from the past three days, Sergeant Rose continued to pull and carry unconscious and wounded personnel out of the burning wreckage and continued to administer aid to the wounded until another extraction helicopter arrived. Sergeant Rose’s extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty were critical to saving numerous lives over that four day time period. His actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 1st Special Forces, and the United States Army.”

VFW POST 2894 RECEIVES DONATION FROM COFFEE SALES

Neptune’s Fury Coffee Company, a local Norfolk business, is running a roast for the next two months that benefits VFW Post 2894! It is called Veterans Harbor Blend and the Post receives a \$5 donation from every bag sold. It is a dark roast blend and makes a pretty good cup of coffee. Link to the website below

<https://www.neptunesfury.com/collections/coffee/products/veterans-harbor-charity-blend>



They have plenty of awesome coffee to order as well and a beautiful location in the Norfolk Waterside District.

Thanks to Neptune’s Fury Coffee Company for providing this fundraising opportunity for our Post!

OPERATION LINEBACKER II – BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM IN DECEMBER 1972

During what would become the closing days of the Vietnam War, American troops were in the middle of the biggest bombing mission in military history during the Christmas season of 1972. The air campaign, called Operation Linebacker II, is largely considered to be the action that ended U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.



A B-52 Stratofortress bomber takes off from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam in support of Operation Linebacker II in December 1972. (USAF photo)

President Richard Nixon ordered the bombings to begin on Dec. 18 after North Vietnamese delegates walked out on peace talks. Nicknamed the "11 Days of Christmas," the operation consisted of 11 successive days of raids by B-52 Stratofortress bombers flown in from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

The only day that both sides got a reprieve was Christmas, when troops were given a 36-hour break to celebrate. During that time, Nixon ordered the North Vietnamese to return to the bargaining table. The North Vietnamese refused, so the bombings continued until Dec. 29, when they agreed to resume peace talks.

In eleven days, Linebacker II dropped 15,000 tons of bombs via 729 U.S. Air Force sorties involving about 12,000 airmen. Defense Department records show the raids destroyed or damaged 1,600 structures, 500 rail targets, ten airfields and eighty percent of North Vietnam's electric-generating capacity. Fifteen U.S. B-52s were also destroyed in the process, killing 35 men and leading to the capture of nearly 40 American prisoners of war.

The resumed peace talks that came from the campaign led to the Paris Peace Accords in January 1973. The U.S. ended its involvement in the war soon after, but the last American troops wouldn't leave the country for another two years.



There are several steps you can take to reduce your chance of a debilitating injury from a fall, or even a minor one:

- Wear proper footwear during snowy or icy conditions; lightweight boots with good ankle support are recommended.
- Take your time and walk slowly. Wisely look ahead for dangerous areas and choose your path carefully.
- When possible, use assistance while walking, such as handrails, a cane, or walking sticks.
- Take small steps; maintain a solid center of gravity with your feet slightly spread. Walk like a penguin, with a slight waddle.
- If you fall, do not catch yourself with your arms ... this only increases your chances of injury. Fall onto your buttocks or back. Once you recover, wait for assistance to get up if you can. If none is available, work yourself to an upright position slowly and carefully.

A good tip to decrease your chance of falling is to stay inside if you do NOT need to go out during snowy or icy conditions. Stay safe. We want to see you at our next meeting.

+ SAFETY CORNER +
DECEMBER IS SNOW AND ICE SAFETY MONTH



As cold weather sets in, and snow or ice follows, we must prepare to move about safely. The CDC reports that approximately one million adults are injured due to slips and falls every year. In fact, the colder the environment, the higher the injury rate, especially among older adults (like some of us).

+ SAFETY CORNER +
JANUARY IS WINTER WEATHER SAFETY PREPAREDNESS MONTH



Yes, winter is really here! January brings not only bad winter weather, but also a chance to start a New Year. Let us start by making our environment safer!

Closely monitor any burning fires and/or candles. This is especially important when

children are present - for some reason, they are attracted to fire!

Check your CO2 and smoke detectors this month, as well as monthly during the year.

IS YOUR VEHICLE WINTER READY?



Remove any snow and ice from walkways and steps around your home. Encourage the same wherever you work.

Keep an emergency kit at home in case you lose power. At a minimum, it should contain flashlights, extra batteries, a first aid kit, extra medicines, and extra water. Add anything you might need or want to sustain yourselves and loved ones for 2-3 days.

During this time of year, the most common hazards and the greatest number of injuries are from motor vehicle accidents.

- Stay alert!
- Slow down in snowy or icy road conditions.
- Stay in control; avoid distractions.
- Drive defensively - there are idiots out there.

CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE



Christmas Prayer for Our Troops

Almighty and Everlasting God, as we celebrate the birth of Your Son in this world and experience the peace He has to offer us today, we remember our troops at home and abroad who dedicate their lives to protecting our people on this planet. We are sorry that war is still a part of our lives and that we call upon our young people to risk their lives for us, putting themselves in harm's way for our freedom. We pray that You will enable us one day to put an end to war and truly experience peace on Earth, so that our Christmas celebrations will be full of joy. We pray for our troops stationed both here and abroad. We ask that You bless, protect and preserve them wherever they are located. Help us to let them know how much we truly appreciate their service and give us opportunities to care for, encourage, and embrace them. We pray for their families this Christmas who suffer from separation and distance at this time of year. Surround them with good friends and strong families. Be near to the wives, daughters and mothers, husbands, sons, and fathers who miss their loved ones. We also remember those who have been wounded in action, who are recovering at home or in Veterans' hospitals. We pray for their healing, recovery, and tender care. We especially remember those who are permanently injured whether emotionally, mentally, physically, or neurologically. May they be deeply cared for and honorably respected. We pray for our military leaders and Commander in Chief who need to make tough and unenviable decisions. We pray that You will grant them guidance and discernment to act upon the fresh challenges to peace that occur around the world. Finally, we pray for those service families who have an empty chair at their Christmas tables that will never be filled. In the midst of their

loss, surround them with caring friends and loving people. Let the real sacrifices that they have made, and still sadly experience, be humbly honored and deeply respected by all of us. May we cherish the freedom that our troops have accomplished through the giving of their lives. Amen

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,

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

regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement.

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

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP - AND
CONSIDER A LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

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

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

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

You can become a VFW Life Member by making a one-time payment as previously described in the Quartermaster's Desk. 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 to the left.

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

DECEMBER MILITARY HISTORY

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 1909 President Taft severs official relations with Nicaragua's government and declares support for revolutionaries.</p> <p>1918 American army of occupation enters Germany.</p> <p>1955 Rosa Parks refuses to sit in back of Montgomery, AL, bus, defying South's segregationist laws.</p> <p>1969 America's first draft lottery since 1942.</p> <p>2 1823 President Monroe proclaims Monroe Doctrine, 'American continents, by free and independent condition... are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by European powers.'</p> <p>1921 First successful helium dirigible, C-7, makes test flight in Portsmouth, Va.</p> <p>1927: New Ford Model A introduced to American public.</p> <p>1942 Allies repel strong Axis attack in Tunisia, North Africa.</p> <p>1944 General Patton's troops enter Saar Valley and break through Siegfried line.</p> <p>3 1918 Allied Conference ends in London deciding that Germany must pay for war.</p> <p>1989 Presidents Bush and Gorbachev announce official end to Cold War at meeting in Malta.</p> <p>4 1862 Winchester, VA, falls into Union hands, resulting in capture of 145 Southern soldiers.</p> <p>1915 Frank Friday Fletcher is first US admiral to receive Congressional Medal of Honor.</p> <p>1942 US planes make first raids on Naples, Italy.</p> <p>1991 Last American hostages held in Lebanon released.</p> <p>5 1933 21st Amendment ends Prohibition in US, begun 13 years earlier.</p> <p>1955 Bus boycott begins under Rev. ML King, Jr., in Montgomery.</p> <p>1978 Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George H.W. Bush, declare the Cold War over.</p> <p>1989 Soviet Union signs 20-year friendship pact with Afghanistan.</p> <p>6 1492 Columbus lands on Santo Domingo in search of gold.</p> <p>1934</p> | <p>1941 American Ambassador Davis says Japan is grave security threat in Pacific.</p> <p>2001 President FDR issues personal appeal to Emperor Hirohito to use influence to avoid war.</p> <p>Battle of Tora Bora begins in a cave complex in Eastern Afghanistan's White Mountains.</p> <p>7 1917 US declares war on Austria-Hungary.</p> <p>1941 Japanese planes raid Pearl Harbor in surprise attack.</p> <p>1942 USN launches USS <i>New Jersey</i>, largest battleship ever built.</p> <p>2001 Kandahar, the last major stronghold of the Taliban, falls.</p> <p>8 1943 US carrier-based planes sink two cruisers and down 72 planes in Marshall Islands.</p> <p>1944 US conducts longest, most effective air raid on Iwo Jima.</p> <p>9 1941 FDR tells Americans to plan for a long war.</p> <p>1992 US Marines land in Somalia to ensure food and medicine reach deprived areas.</p> <p>10 1898 US and Spain sign Treaty of Paris, ceding Spanish possessions, including Philippines, to US.</p> <p>1918 US troops called to guard Berlin as coup is feared.</p> <p>1941 Japanese troops invade Philippine Island of Luzon.</p> <p>1949 150,000 French troops mass at border in Vietnam to prevent Chinese invasion.</p> <p>11 1941 US declares war on Italy and Germany.</p> <p>1945 Boeing B-29 Superfortress shatters records by crossing US in five hours and 27 minutes.</p> <p>12 1753 George Washington, adjutant of Virginia, delivers ultimatum to French forces at Fort Le Boeuf, reiterating Britain's claim to Ohio River Valley.</p> <p>1863 Orders given at Richmond, Virginia, that no more supplies from Union be received by Federal prisoners.</p> <p>1967 US ends airlift of 6,500 men to Vietnam.</p> <p>13 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg ends with bloody slaughter of Union troops at Marye's Heights.</p> <p>2003 Saddam Hussein is captured by US soldiers in ad-Dawr, Iraq.</p> <p>14 1799 George Washington dies on Mount Vernon estate.</p> <p>1960 US Boeing B-52 bomber sets 10,000-mile non-stop record without refueling.</p> |
|---|---|

- 15 1890** US soldiers attempt to arrest Sitting Bull in Standing Rock, SD; shooting breaks out and Lt. Bullhead shoots great Sioux leader.
- 1924** Soviet Union warns US against repeated entry of ships into Soviet territorial waters.
- 1938** Washington sends fourth note to Berlin demanding amnesty for Jews.
- 1965** US drops twelve tons of bombs on industrial center near Haiphong Harbor, North Vietnam.
- 16 1773** Young Americans, disguised as Indians, throw chests of tea in to Boston Harbor.
- 1944** Germany opens Battle of the Bulge in Ardennes Forest in Belgium.
- 1950** President Truman declares National Emergency as Chinese Communists invade deeper in to South Korea.
- 1998** US launches missile attack on Iraq for failing to comply with UN weapons inspectors.
- 17 1903** Wright brothers' first successful flight near Kitty Hawk, NC.
- 1943** US forces invade Japanese-held New Britain Island in New Guinea.
- 1944** US approves end to internment of Japanese Americans.
- 18 1865** Slavery abolished in US, 13th Amendment formally adopted into Constitution.
- 1941** Defended by 610, American-held island of Guam falls to more than 5,000 Japanese invaders in 3-hour battle.
- 1972** President Nixon declares bombing of North Vietnam will continue until accord reached.
- 19 1959** Last civil war veteran, Walter Williams, dies at 117 in Houston.
- 20 1941** Flying Tigers, American pilots in China, enter combat against Japanese over Kunming.
- 1989** US troops invade Panama to oust General Noriega.
- 21 1620** Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock.
- 1862** Congress authorizes Medal of Honor for Navy personnel.
- 1944** German troops surround 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne in Belgium.
- 1945** General Patton dies at age 60 after injury in car accident.
- 22 1775** Esek Hopkins takes command of Continental Navy – total of seven ships.
- 1944** During Battle of the Bulge, General McAuliffe responds to German surrender request with: "Nuts!"
- 23 1941** US defenders on Wake Island capitulate to 2nd Japanese assault.
- 1944** Gen. Eisenhower confirms death sentence of PVT Slovik, only American shot for desertion since Civil War.
- 1948** Japan's Prime Minister Tojo and six others hanged for war crimes.
- 1974** B-1 bomber makes first successful test flight.
- 24 1814** Treaty between US and Britain, ending War of 1812, signed. News does not reach US until two weeks later (after Battle of New Orleans).
- 1943** General Eisenhower appointed Allied Supreme Commander.
- 26 1776** After crossing the Delaware River the night before, Washington leads attack on Hessian mercenaries at Trenton, takes 9000 men prisoner.
- 27 1941** Japanese bombers attack Manila, despite claim as open city.
- 1944** General Patton's Third Army relieves Bastogne in Belgium.
- 1979** President Amin of Afghanistan murdered in coup backed by Soviet Union, beginning 10 year war.
- 28 1946** French declare martial law in Vietnam as war appears inevitable.
- 2014** The War in Afghanistan officially ends.
- 29 1778** British, attempting new strategy to defeat colonials, capture Savannah.
- 1890** Last major conflict of Indian Wars as 7th Calvary tries to disarm Chief Big Foot and followers at Wounded Knee, SD.
- 1965** Christmas truce observed in Vietnam, while President Johnson tries to get North Vietnamese to bargaining table.
- 30 1803** US takes possession of Louisiana area from France.
- 1972** President Nixon halts air offensive and agrees to resume peace negotiations with Hanoi representative.
- 2006** Saddam Hussein hanged for crimes committed against own people during rule.
- 31 1775** George Washington orders recruiting officers to accept free blacks into army.
- 1942** After five months of battle, Emperor Hirohito allows Japanese commanders at Guadalcanal to retreat.

JANUARY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1776** British torch Norfolk, Virginia.
- 1863** Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect.
- 1950** First woman doctor commissioned in USN, Mary T. Sproul.
- 1950** Indo-China: Viet Minh open a major offensive against the French.
- 1951** Massive Chinese/North Korean assault on UN lines.
- 1962** US Navy SEAL teams established.
- 2 1776** First American flag displayed.
- 1945** USN convoys depart Leyte to invade Luzon, while beating off Kamikaze attacks.
- 3 1777** Battle of Princeton: Washington defeats British.
- 1944** Marine ace "Pappy" Boyington (28 kills) captured by Japanese.
- 1990** Panama's Gen Manuel Noriega surrenders to US authorities.
- 4 1989** Second Gulf of Sidra Incident: two USN F-14s down two Libyan MiG-23s.
- 5 1608** Captain John Smith is captured by Indians.
- 1781** Richmond burned by British forces under Benedict Arnold.
- 6 1776** "NY Provincial Company of Artillery" organized; now 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, senior unit of Regular Army.
- 1927** US Marines sent to Nicaragua.
- 1941** FDR's "Four Freedoms" address; of speech and worship, from want and fear.
- 7 1942** Bataan: 15,000 US and 65,000 Filipino troops go on half-rations, as Japanese forces close in.
- 1953** Pres Truman announces development of hydrogen bomb.
- 8 1815** Battle of New Orleans, fifteen days after Treaty of Ghent.
- 1877** Battle of Wolf Mountain, Montana: Crazy Horse defeated by US Army – last battle of Great Sioux War.
- 9 1861** First Shot of Civil War; US steamer 'Star of the West' is fired on by Confederate batteries off Charleston.
- 1936** Garand M-1 semi-automatic rifle adopted by US Army.
- 1942** FDR establishes Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- 1945** Luzon: 6th Army lands in Lingayen Gulf.
- 1952** USMC recalls Ted Williams to active duty for Korean War.
- 10 1847** US Navy-Marine Corps landing party occupies Los Angeles.
- 1943** Guadalcanal: US forces begin general offensive to eliminate Japanese.
- 1946** Army signal Corps bounces radar beam off the moon.
- 11 1785** Continental Congress convenes in New York.
- 1945** Japanese decide to put remaining resources into suicide weapons.
- 1991** Congress authorizes Pres G.H.W. Bush to undertake offensive operations against Iraq.
- 12 1946** 82nd Airborne Division marches up Fifth Avenue to tumultuous greeting.
- 14 1784** Congress ratifies Treaty of Paris, ending Revolutionary War.

- 1867** Alfred Nobel makes first public demonstration of dynamite.
- 1943** Casablanca Conference: FDR, Churchill, and Stalin.
- 1969** Fire aboard USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65), off Vietnam, claims 28 lives and injures 344.
- 15 1865** Union soldiers, sailors, and Marines take Fort Fisher, NC.
- 1973** Pres Nixon suspends all US offensive action over North Vietnam.
- 16 1776** Continental Congress approves enlistment of free blacks.
- 1944** Gen Eisenhower takes command of Operation Overlord.
- 1957** Three B-52s leave California on first non-stop world flight.
- 1970** Col Muammar Gaddafi becomes Premier of Libya.
- 17 1781** Battle of Cowpens: Dan Morgan annihilates Tarleton's Anglo-Tory Force.
- 1955** USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571) gets underway on nuclear power.
- 1966** B-52 carrying four hydrogen bombs crashes off Spanish coast.
- 1991** Operation Desert Storm: Coalition airstrikes against Iraq.
- 18 1911** First airplane lands on ship: Eugene Ely in Curtiss Flyer on USS *Pennsylvania* (ACR-4).
- 19 1920** Senate rejects American membership in League of Nations.
- 20 1778** First American court martial opens, Cambridge, MA
- 1783** Hostilities cease in Revolutionary War.
- 1887** Senate approves lease of Pearl Harbor for a base.
- 1914** USN opens school for aviators at Pensacola, FL
- 1944** Rapido River: US 36th Division begins two-day attempt to force German defenses.
- 1981** Illegally held by Iranian government of 444 days, 52 Americans are finally released.
- 2019** US Space Force established.
- 21 1903** "Dick Act" creates modern National Guard.
- 1968** Battle of Khe Sanh begins - ends April 8.
- 22 1944** Operation Shingle: Allies land at Anzio.
- 23 1968** North Koreans capture USS *Pueblo* and 83 crew in East Sea/Sea of Japan.
- 24 1847** Col. Price defeats 1,500 Indians and Mexicans to secure New Mexico for US.
- 25 1945** Audie Murphy earns Medal of Honor.
- 1969** US-North Vietnamese peace talks begin in Paris.
- 26 1862** Lincoln issues General War Order #1, calling for Union offensive.
- 1911** Glenn Curtiss tests first successful sea plane, San Diego
- 1913** John Paul Jones laid to rest in Chal of US Navl Academy.
- 1942** Marines land in Northern Ireland - first US troops to reach Europe.
- 1948** Executive Order 9981: Truman orders segregation in Armed Forces ended.
- 27 1915** US Marines begin occupation of Haiti.
- 1943** First USAAF raid on Germany, at Wilhelmshafen.
- 1973** US and North Vietnam sign cease-fire agreement.
- 1977** Pres Carter pardons most Vietnam War draft evaders.
- 28 1915** US Coast Guard created from Life Saving and Revenue Cutter Services.
- 1942** Ens. Donald Mason radios, "Sighted sub, sank same."
- 29 1944** USS *Missouri* (BB-63) launched in Brooklyn.
- 30 1781** Articles of Confederation, establishing perpetual union of "United States of America".
- 1945** Philippines - Cabanatuan: 126 US and Filipino raiders liberate 500 prisoners from a Japanese P/W camp.
- 31 1944** US troops land on Kwajalein and nearby islands in the Marshalls.
- 1945** 11th Airborne Div lands - by sea - at south entrance to Manila Bay.
- 1961** Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr., becomes first black American to command warship, USS *Falgout* (DE-324).
- 1968** Beginning of Tet Offensive in South Vietnam
- 1981** Last enlisted USN aviator retires.

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>DECEMBER '23</u>	
2	Chesapeake Christmas Parade
7	Beginning of Hanukkah
9	Army/Navy Game - Post Pot Luck
11	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
13	Post Meeting/Christmas Party, Post HQ
15	End of Hanukkah
21	Winter Begins
25	Christmas Day

<u>JANUARY '24</u>	
1	New Year's Day
8	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
9	Sinsil 8 Anniversary (2008)
10	Post Meeting, Post HQ
15	Martin Luther King Day
18-21	VFW Department of Virginia Winter Conference, Fort McGruder, Williamsburg



JOIN US!

VFW Post 2894

Christmas Party

Wednesday, 13 December, at 1900 (7 pm)

VFW Post 2894 Headquarters

3329 Battlefield Blvd South Chesapeake

Bring a dish to share and BYOB

Families are invited!

RSVP by 11 Dec: cdrpost2894@vfwva.org

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program



WHAT IS THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM?

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

AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

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

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

WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

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

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

Official Entry Form

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

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

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Home Phone

Email

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Scout Troop Number

SCOUT/VENTURE CERTIFICATION

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

Scout/Venture Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

UNIT LEADER'S CERTIFICATION

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

Unit Leader's Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

PARENT'S CONSENT

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

Father, Mother or Guardian Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)



SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

PHONE: _____

SPONSORING VFW POST

POST NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE: _____

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

DISTRICT #: _____

DISTRICT CDR.: _____

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

DEPARTMENT: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED?

The following documentation should be submitted:

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

WHO MAKES UP THE VFW SCOUTING TEAM?

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

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



Revised 06/2021



Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship

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

Contest Rules

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

Contest Eligibility

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

National Scholarships

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

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

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

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

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

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



Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship

Contest Entry Form

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

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

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

Email: _____ Phone: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Title of Artwork: _____ Date Completed: _____

Source: _____ Media used: _____

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

Student Signature: * _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature:* _____ Date: _____

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

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

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

National Headquarters only accepts Department level winners.

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

Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.: _____ Department of: _____

VFW Auxiliary Judging deadline date March 31.

Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

VFW Auxiliary Department Judging deadline date April 15.

Department Scholarships Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

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



3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship

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

Contest Rules

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

Contest Eligibility

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

National Scholarships

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

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

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

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

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

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



3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship

Contest Entry Form

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

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
School Name: _____ Grade: _____
Title of Artwork: _____ Date Completed: _____
Source: _____ Media used: _____

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

Student Signature*: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature*: _____ Date: _____

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

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

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

National Headquarters only accepts Department level winners.

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

Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.: _____ Department of: _____

VFW Auxiliary Judging deadline date March 31.

Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

VFW Auxiliary Department Judging deadline date April 15.

Department Scholarships Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

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



VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contest

An Art contest for students in grades K-8

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

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

Email: _____ Phone: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

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

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

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

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

Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.: _____ Department of: _____

Please check the appropriate grade division.

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

VFW Auxiliary Judging deadline date March 31

Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

Department Judging deadline date April 15th

Department Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

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

A big shout out to our friends at Mission Barbeque for their continued support of our area veterans.

