

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

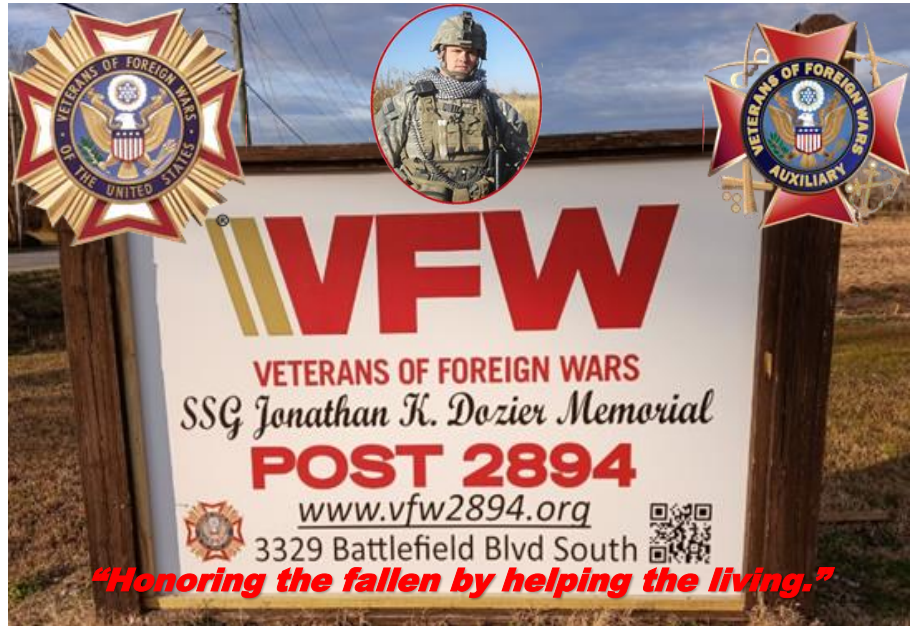
www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2

VFW Post 2894 GoFundMe

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



NEWSLETTER - Vol. XIII, Issue 1, February - March 2024

VFW POST 2894 PROVIDES COMPUTER EQUIPMENT TO GOLD STAR FAMILY



VFW Post 2894 Chaplain Joe McGourn presents Ethan, a Gold Star son, with a laptop computer to assist with his academic endeavors.

This past December Joseph McGourn, VFW Post 2894 Chaplain, was notified of a local Gold Star family in need of assistance for sons of a deceased (continued on page 3)

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings all and Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a great Christmas and safe New Year. The Post was busy again this fall, between a successful Buddy Poppy drive, the city's Veterans Day remembrance ceremony, the Chesapeake Ruritan

Club's Christmas parade and all the service projects, some of which you can read about in this newsletter. Thank you all for what you do to support the Veterans of Chesapeake.

We're continuing our path to become an All-American post, but we need everyone in the Post to reach out and recruit just one new member each. Chesapeake has more than 34,000 veterans and we're just touching the tip of the iceberg with our membership. I'm really happy with our increase in membership over the last couple of months but can do more. Everyone must have a neighbor, friend or co-worker who qualifies for the VFW. Remember we don't only recruit just for our Post but for the entire VFW.

If you know of a Scout, Girl Scout, or Sea Scout, please let us know as soon as possible so we can get information to them regarding the Scout of the Year program. It's not too late to get the packages to us. Packages are due NLT 1 Mar 2024.

Please mark your calendars for 13 Apr 2024. This is the date for the Post's largest money-making event - the 13th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk. Planning is well underway, and we'll need all hands on deck for this event, so if possible, please be available to help.

Work on the Post continues. Our sign is up and we're in the process of enlarging the head, latrine, wash closet or restroom - don't want to offend anyone with the wrong name. The old shower has been removed and a plumber is coming out to cap the water pipes off. We're getting the required lighted exit signs in place so we meet the city's requirements. We should also get word soon about the grant we put in from Home Depot so we can get the old girl back into the shape she deserves.

Our members have been busy! The newsletter section "Other Post News" keeps growing and growing! If you're doing something - anything - as a service to someone else, please let us know so we can include it in our State reports and newsletters.

As always, thanks to all of you for your service to our Post and the United States of America!

Semper Fidelis!

- Bob Gregory, Commander

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy New Year, everyone! What a busy fall we had. We started the holiday season by participating with the Post in the Great Bridge Christmas parade. Auxiliary 2894 shared our time and talent as elves who helped Santa at the Cambridge Apartments holiday party. The party included breakfast and gifts for Veterans (which we provided) and other residents. We also helped the Post decorate for our

own Christmas party which was a huge success! We welcomed three new members to the group and met some new friends who were guests. We moved forward into 2024 by painting our auxiliary room. In the future we will host our first district meeting, help the Post with the spring-event, the Bataan Death March, and host an auxiliary yard sale. This will be our test for more events at the post! If you are interested in joining, please stop by the Post (or contact an auxiliary member directly) and pick up an application form. All we need is your sponsor's confirmation as a Veteran in a Foreign War, and a desire "to help the living to honor the dead." See you at the Post!

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 Post 2894 Provides Computer Equipment to Gold Star Family (continued from pg 1)

veteran father. Along with Bob Gregory, Post Commander for VFW Post 2894, they visited the family and presented the veteran's son, Ethan, with a Dell laptop, notebook and HP printer to assist with his academics. Not to be left out, Ethan's younger brother, Jacob, was provided a high-speed mountain bike to help brighten his Christmas. The two boys were truly grateful for the gifts and want to thank all the Post membership for the benevolent contributions.



VFW Post 2894 Chaplain Joe McGourn (third from left) and Post Commander Bob Gregory (second from right) meet with the Gold Star family who received the Post donations.

• **VFW Post 2894 Presents Top Supporter Award to Local Home Depot.** Post Commander Bob Gregory and Service Officer Jim Ireland had a recent visit to the local Home Depot Store #4619, located on Battlefield Boulevard in Chesapeake, to present the store manager Adrean Fuller and store personnel with a VFW Post 2894 Top Supporter plaque to show the Post's appreciation for all the tremendous support the organization has provided to veteran repair projects over the 2022-2023 period. Especially noted was their support to the Post project that supported U.S. Navy veterans Chris and Victoria Bullard, resulting in the Post being awarded the prestigious VFW Fred C. Hall Memorial Award for the National Project of the 2022-2023 year!



VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory presents the Top Supporter Award plaque to Home Depot personnel.

OTHER POST NEWS

• **VFW Post 2894 Get New Signage.** Our Post recently erected a very prominent announcement on Battlefield Boulevard that clearly announces the location of our new "home". Future plans call for some lighting so it is visible at night as well as during daylight hours. Thanks to Comrades John Peterson, Bob Gregory, Carl Dozier and Jim Ireland for their personal efforts in getting the signage emplaced so it reflects our organization's presence in the community.



VFW Post 2894 Comrades John Peterson, Bob Gregory and Carl Dozier proudly display newly erected Post sign.



VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory and Home Depot Store Manager Adrean Fuller holding the Top Supporter Award plaque.

Our grateful thanks to the people at Home Depot who help ensure all the Post's projects are resounding successes!

- **VFW Post 2894 Hosts Local Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution Flag Retirement Ceremony.** On Saturday, December 15, 2023, VFW Post 2894 assisted the local Great Bridge Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American



An American flag is prepared for retirement.

Revolution (VASSAR) with a formal flag retirement ceremony at the Post Headquarters. Over two dozen American flags of various sizes were honored. Captain Don Ferguson, U.S. Navy, and President of the Great Bridge Chapter of the VASSAR, provided inspirational remarks to all those gathered for the ceremony.



Captain Don Ferguson, U.S. Navy, delivers remarks at the flag retirement ceremony.

- **VFW Post 2894 Continues Upgrades with New Acquisitions.** In December members of the Post got together to enjoy some camaraderie while watching the Army-Navy football game. Several members decided it was time for the Post to have a large screen television, so they embarked on the quest to find something appropriate so we could all watch the game on the big screen. The group returned with a Samsung 65 inch screen “smart” TV, i.e., it is configured to be compatible with the internet and other streaming services if so desired and does not require a cable connection box. After some quick education (we actually pulled out the instructions on this one) those comrades present were able to watch Army beat Navy on the newly acquired television.



VFW Post 2894 recently purchased a Samsung 65 inch screen smart television for future movie/training events.

In January, the Post was the recipient of a generous donation of a Wurlitzer console piano. The piano is in great condition, although it may have to be tuned a bit in the near future. If you have a penchant to “tickle the ivories”, feel free to enjoy the piano with anyone else who may be so inclined. Please treat the piano kindly to ensure it can provide musical entertainment for the Post for many years to come.



VFW Post 2894 Comrade Dan Eaker plays a tune on the newly acquired console piano.

IN MEMORIAM



**Comrade
John C. Heerema, Jr.
1926-2023**

John "Jack" Heerema, Sr. passed away peacefully on December 4, 2023, in Chesapeake, Virginia, at the age of 97. Born on January 8, 1926, in New Jersey, Jack lived a life filled with love, laughter, and dedication to his family and community.

After graduating from Ridgewood High School, Ridgewood, New Jersey, in 1944, John joined the Army, where he showcased his bravery and dedication to his country. He valiantly served in the 11th Airborne Division during World War II and later in the Korean War. Following his military career he began his employment with New Jersey Bell Phone Company, where he worked diligently until his retirement in 1988. His strong work ethic and commitment to excellence earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues.

Outside of his professional life, Jack was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Virginia. They were married on June 10, 1950, and together they built a beautiful life and raised their children in Waldwick, New Jersey. Their love and partnership were an inspiration to all who knew them.

Always seeking new adventures, Jack and Virginia embarked on a memorable journey when they moved to Seven Lakes, North Carolina. They purchased a recreational vehicle and traveled throughout the entire lower forty-eight states, enjoying hundreds of national parks along the way. These experiences created treasured memories that will forever be cherished by their family. Five years ago, Jack and Virginia downsized and relocated to Chesapeake, Virginia, where they continued to enjoy a peaceful and fulfilling life together.

In addition to his wife, Jack was also preceded in death by his daughter, Peggy. He is survived by his loving children; Richard (Betty), Thomas (Nancy), John Jr. (Angella), Steven, and Lyn (David), grandchildren, great grandchildren, and countless cherished extended family members and friends, each of whom holds a special place in his heart.



Throughout his life, Jack had a deep commitment to service. He volunteered regularly with various organizations, including the Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus, Special Olympics, Meals on Wheels, and Habitat for Humanity. His selflessness and dedication touched the lives of many, leaving a lasting impact on his community.

Jack's legacy will continue to live on through his family and the memories they hold dear.

His unwavering love, kind spirit, and zest for life will forever inspire those who were fortunate enough to have known him. May his soul find eternal peace, and may his memory be a blessing to all whose lives he touched.



**Comrade
Robert Louis Stermer, Jr.
1935-2024**

Robert Louis Stermer Jr, 88, of Norfolk, Virginia, passed away on January 2, 2024. He was born on January 27, 1935, in Dover, Delaware and grew up in Ocean View. Bob was a devoted son, loving husband, caring father and proud grandfather. He leaves behind a legacy of dedication and achievement.

Robert was a proud veteran, having served in the United States Marine Corps in 1953. After his military service, Robert pursued a career as an Electrical Engineer for NASA, where he played an integral role in designing spacecraft systems. His contributions to the field were invaluable, and his work will continue to impact the future of space exploration.

Robert's educational journey began at Holy Trinity School, followed by Norfolk Catholic High School. He furthered his academic pursuits at the University of Virginia and Duke University. His dedication to learning and intellectual curiosity were evident throughout his life.

In his personal life, Robert was a man of strong faith and worshipped at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Chesapeake. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Robert will be deeply missed by his loved ones. He is survived by his wife, Sarah Jo Stermer, his son, Robert Stermer III, and daughters Delores Washburn, Lisa Williams and Tracy-Leigh Mahan. He was preceded in death by his wife, Loretta Stermer, and his daughter, Barbara Williams.

all whose lives he touched.



**Comrade
Gennaro Celano
1947-2024**

Gennaro Celano, born on June 10, 1947, in Bagnoli Del Trigno, Italy, peacefully passed away on January 8, 2024, in Chesapeake, Virginia. He was a resident of New Jersey from 1958 until he moved to Chesapeake in 2019.

Gennaro was a proud graduate of the Clifton High School Mustangs and enjoyed attending their high school football games for years. He was a proud Vietnam War veteran, serving in the U.S. Army from 1969-1970 with the rank of Specialist 5th Class. Gennaro started his career at Colfax Cabinets in the '70s. He worked as a machinist at M&W Technologies from the late '80s to the mid-2000s. He then worked as a security officer for Summit Medical until he retired.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Gennaro had a zest for life. He cherished solving word puzzles, following sports, and listening to country music. Gennaro is affectionately known as "Pop Pop" to his three grandchildren, Danny, Emmy, and Jules who he proudly chauffeured around wherever they needed to go, especially school, sporting events, or secret ice cream dates.

Gennaro was an active member of the VFW Post #711 in Bloomfield, New Jersey. He was also a dedicated member of Chesapeake Baptist Church here in Virginia and People's Baptist Church in New Jersey.

Throughout his life, Gennaro displayed leadership qualities, serving as a VFW Commander. He took great pride in his involvement and contributions to the organization, striving to make a difference in the lives of his fellow service members.

Gennaro is preceded in death by his parents, Rivalino and Antonietta Celano. He leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories for his surviving family and friends. His son, John Celano and his daughter-in-law Sandy will forever hold him close in their hearts. Gennaro's three grandchildren, Daniel, Emily, and Juliana Celano, brought him immense joy and happiness. Additionally, he is survived by his in-laws, Bill and Patti Kimbell and Trisha Mauric, as well as numerous friends who were touched by his kindness and generosity.

cold, rainy afternoon. I remember thinking "What the heck? I thought the desert was supposed to be hot and dry!" as I landed in a watery hole jumping off the HMMWV. Luckily, I had packed my tactical sweater to stave off the wind gusts that regularly sweep across the barren desert landscape.



A B-52G Stratofortress bomber takes off for a mission during Operation Desert Storm, February 1991.

Not long after our arrival at the FLB we got orders to move up to new positions that were more practical for supporting the forward units. The air war had kicked in on the 16 January and there were a few Iraqi armor probes that gave everyone an adrenalin rush (Battle of Khafji on 29-30 January) but we were more involved with preparing for the upcoming ground assault that was supposedly going to start at any time. The Iraqis started destroying the Kuwaiti oil fields, resulting in tremendous, roaring fires that filled the air with vertical flames that belched both thick, black smoke and small oil droplets that made breathing somewhat of a challenge. We often felt this was a stroke of genius, as it not only reduced visibility to almost zero at times but also tended to set off the chemical alarms, requiring everyone to suit up in the extremely uncomfortable chemical protective suits.

The border between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait was separated by an enormous sand berm reaching fifty feet high in some areas, speckled with old police stations that were now being used for Observation Posts (Ops) for monitoring and reporting any movements by Iraqi military units. As plans were being developed for the ground assault into Kuwait, it was decided that huge portions of this berm would have to be removed to provide for quick access to the ground force objectives on the other side, as well as allowing pathways to be cleared through the minefield belts. Prior to G-Day (24 February), Marine units provided numerous bulldozers that had been outfitted with armored cabs to punch holes through the berm, allowing the attacking forces to quickly penetrate the berm and breach the minefields on the other side.

Once the passages were created through the sand berm, the assault into Kuwait began at midnight on the 24th of February. Everything moved very quickly as the engineers breached the first and second mine belts, allowing the Allied forces to engage the Iraqi units in the prepared defensive positions. Marines at the artillery FLB gathered around tactical radios to follow the progress of the various attacks, which were going much faster than expected. As daylight approached, we were hearing reports of

FEBRUARY 1991 – DESERT STORM REMEMBERED*

It was early January, 1991, when our unit arrived at Al Jubayl Airport in Saudi Arabia. We'd been the lucky ones, able to stay in the U.S. over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Our sister units had deployed to the desert in mid-August/September timeframes and had been sweltering in rudimentary warehouse spaces, erected to temporarily house the thousands of Marines that were hurriedly flown into the Area of Operations to stem the assault of the Iraqi Army that had invaded Kuwait on the 2d of August 1990. Our battalion had been held in "reserve", as it was responsible for sourcing artillery units attached to Battalion Landing Teams deploying with Marine Expeditionary Units deploying from the West Coast. Marine artillery regiments had not deployed in total since the Vietnam War but that quickly changed as Operation Desert Shield was now in full swing and it was obvious that this was going to be a major event. The entire 11th Marine Artillery Regiment, with its five artillery battalions reinforced by reserve artillery batteries from the 14th Marines, now found itself fully deployed in preparation for Operation Desert Storm.

After a short in-processing at the Division Support Area, we moved out to the forward areas behind the Saudi/Kuwait border, arriving at our regiment's Forward Logistics Base (FLB) on a

hoards of Iraqi soldiers surrendering without firing a shot! This was somewhat unexpected and the division was not prepared to establish holding areas for such large numbers of prisoners, but areas were quickly established to control the enemy soldiers as they gave up in droves.



A Kuwaiti oil derrick burns after being set ablaze by Iraqi forces.

As operations progressed, it became apparent that the forward units were running out of basic supplies – fuel, water, and ammunition mainly. On the third day of operations (26 February), the Regimental S-4 turned to me and Captain Chris Snow, an officer recently added to our team, and directed us to take a resupply convoy out to the forward artillery units and provide any supplies necessary to keep them moving up with their respective infantry battalions. Captain Snow and I quickly assembled the necessary vehicles – a few five-ton trucks carrying artillery ammunition and a couple of “Dragon Wagons” - large military transport vehicles with tanker trailers, one with fuel and the other



1Mk-48 Logistics Vehicle System "Dragon Wagon".

with water. Captain Snow would drive the lead CUCV (Commercial Utility Cargo Vehicle – essentially a tactical pick-up truck) with me riding shotgun.

It was mid-afternoon when we departed the FLB and as luck would have it, the wind shifted, blowing the thick smoke from the Al Wafrah oil field over the area and setting off the chemical detection alarms, forcing all of us to quickly suit up in our chemical protective gear as we headed toward the front lines. This also reduced visibility to the point where the convoy was moving

at a snail's pace, as we did not want to lose any of the vehicles while maintaining a tactical separation of about fifty to seventy-five yards.

We made it without incident through the carved-out sand berm and found the initial minefield breach, a by-the-book reflection of Marine combat engineering efforts – Marine guards/guides to get you in to the lanes, each side clearly identified by colored tape. As we passed through the breach you could clearly see the mines, as the Iraqis had not been very vigilant in their maintenance of the minefields. We exited the first breach onto a hard surface road and continued towards the front, expecting to find a second breach that mirrored the first one. Unfortunately, the road ended and we had not identified a second breach. Turning the convoy around, we doubled back, searching for any sign of a breach point and eventually coming across a road going through the minefield, but it did not look anything like the initial breach we had used. It looked like the fencing had been removed, so the decision was made to take this route to continue with the resupply mission.

As we drove down the sandy path, we noticed how obvious the mines were on our left and right and that is when we both saw mines in the roadway! Chris and I looked at each other, simultaneously screaming “Mines!” and slamming on the brakes. Then we heard the explosion behind us. My immediate reaction was to jump from the CUCV and check out the situation, but Captain Snow yelled “What are you doing? We’re in a minefield!” I stopped where I was outside the truck and looked back at the cargo truck that had been following us. It was basically intact from what I could see – both Marines were still inside and looked relatively unharmed.

“Are y’all OK? Is anyone hurt?” I inquired. As it so happened, the driver was a young female Marine, later to be dubbed “Minefield Mitchell”.

“What happened? Did I get a flat?” she asked.

“No – you hit a mine. Is your A-driver OK?” I was worried because the mine had detonated immediately behind the right front tire, blowing it off the axle, and potentially peppering the passenger side with shrapnel.

“Yes, sir – he’s fine. What do you want us to do?”

“Nothing. Just stay put for now.” I turned my attention back to the CUCV, where Captain Snow sat in the idling vehicle. Carefully walking around the truck, I noticed that we had actually driven over a mine, tipping it up out of place, but not making contact with the detonator. The mines appeared to be all anti-personnel, which explained the minimum damage to the truck behind us.

“Hey Chris,” I yelled to him. “The truck ran over a couple of mines. I’m going to guide you back, but you’ll still have a mine or two going under the truck. You OK with that?”

“Do I have any choice?” he countered sarcastically.

While I helped get the CUCV out of danger, we radioed back to the FLB for assistance. Soon the regimental wrecker showed up and hooked up the 5-ton truck, pulling it free of the minefield and back on the main road. Because we needed the supplies on the truck, it was decided that the wrecker would join our caravan and we would continue forward. Because the wrecker driver had been through the second breach, he was able to provide directions to it – needless to say, it was not marked anything like the first one. A small wooden sign just above the roadway marked the entry point,

with wheel tracks identifying where you should tread to ensure you would not venture into the minefield.



U.S. Marines provide artillery fire support during Operation Desert Storm, February 1991.

Around dusk we met up with our first unit – 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines. We found the Battalion S-4 (Logistics Officer) who informed us that he did not need ammunition or fuel but could use the water and rations.

“By the way,” he inquired. “Can you take any prisoners?”

We thought about it for a while, but because I had limited personnel, mostly drivers who were needed for the vehicles, we decided not to burden the convoy with additional liability.

“Call these guys” and I handed the S-4 the contact information that we got just before leaving the FLB. “They are supposed to be setting up holding areas. They should be able to take care of anyone you pick up.”

As we continued forward, we saw the dozens of Iraqis headed towards our lines, both despondent and relieved that their war was over. For the next two days we were challenged more by the environment than the enemy – a dust storm that reduced visibility to zero, trying to ensure the lead driver did not run in to friendly lines or enemy trenches and finally stopping for the evening due to the up and down nature of the terrain (an apparent bombing strike that had cratered the area, but we could not see it due to visibility limitations).

As we pulled up to what would be our final position, we got the word to halt all offensive activity and hold in place. The war was over! It was difficult to comprehend at first – it seemed like we had just gotten started. I had been on Desert Firing Exercises that had more activity than this. Yet it was true – a ceasefire had been declared and the Iraqis were pulling out of Kuwait. Mission accomplished! The 100-hour war was over!

*Article authored by Dan Eaker and relates his experience as the Assistant Regimental Logistics Officer (S-4A) for the 11th Marine Artillery Regiment during Operation Desert Storm.

MARCH 2002 COMBAT OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN BATTLE OF TAKUR GHAR*

The Battle of Takur Ghar was a short but intense military engagement between U.S. Special Operations Forces and Al-Qaeda insurgents fought in early March 2002. For the U.S. side, the battle proved the deadliest entanglement of Operation Anaconda, an effort early in the War in Afghanistan to rout Al-Qaeda forces from the Shah-i-Kot Valley and Arma Mountains.



U.S. Army soldiers embark on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during Operation Anaconda, March 2002

After the 11 September 2001 terrorists attacks, the U.S. Government responded in October with Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) - combat operations to eliminate the expanding global terrorist threat. Deploying special operations units to Afghanistan and working with the Northern Alliance, a group of rebel factions in northern Afghanistan, the U.S. established a presence in the country to pursue various terrorists groups that included Al-Qaeda, the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan and the Taliban.

After battling the terrorists in the Tora Bora mountains and forcing the withdrawal of Al-Qaeda forces, it became apparent to coalition leadership that U.S. ground forces would be necessary to effectively neutralize the terrorist factions continuing to operate in Afghanistan. Around mid-January 2002, US officials received intelligence reports indicating that enemy forces were gathering in the Shah-i-kot valley in Paktia Province. In late January and February, a plan was developed to attack the Shah-i-kot Valley. The operation involved Afghan military forces (AMF) supported and guided by US special operators.

On 3 March 2002, U.S. ground forces in Afghanistan unleashed Operation Anaconda to trap al Qaeda terrorists and their Taliban supporters known to be lurking in the Shah-i-Kot Valley in southeastern Afghanistan. In the late evening of March 3, two SEAL teams from Naval Special Warfare Development Group (DEVGRU), were to arrive for immediate insertion into the Shah-i-Kot Valley. One team planned to link up with Advanced Force Operations (AFO) team Juliet at the northern end of the valley and establish a hide site/observation post on the eastern

ridge above Task Force Rakkasan's (187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division) blocking position; while the other SEAL team planned to establish an observation point on the peak of Takur Ghar, which commanded a view of the Shah-i-Kot valley. Due to time constraints, a helicopter insertion would be needed for the team to reach the peak before dawn. Due to a delayed B-52 bomber strike in the area, the team was told to turn back and land at the airstrip near Gardez. The second lift off was delayed due to an air assault in proximity of the LZ and with the threat of daylight getting near, the SEALs chose the peak itself as the insertion point.

The two teams were picked up by two MH-47 Chinook helicopters of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, before midnight on March 3. However, one helicopter experienced engine difficulties, and two new MH-47s were dispatched to replace the original helicopters. This delay meant that the SEALs could not be inserted into the landing zone east of the peak until 2:30 AM on March 4, with not enough time to reach the peak before daylight.

An AC-130H Spectre gunship flew a reconnaissance mission over the peak prior to the landing and saw no enemy activity, but it was called away before the two helicopters arrived at the landing zone. At around 0245 hours, as the first helicopter flared to land at the LZ, it was immediately fired upon by machinegun and Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs), with an RPG striking just behind the cockpit and starting a fire in the cabin. As machinegun rounds penetrated the unarmored Chinook, another RPG, seconds after the first, hit the Chinook's right-side radar pod, which blew out all electrical power to the helicopter, particularly its miniguns and navigational systems. The Chinook was hit by a further two RPGs and more heavy automatic weapons fire from at least three distinct firing points. The Chinook set down in a slight depression, shielding the pilots from the heavy weapons' fire.



U.S. Army Technical Sergeant Keary Miller of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, Kentucky Air National Guard, drags a wounded helicopter pilot to safety at Takur Ghar.

The pilot made the call to takeoff in the stricken helicopter and as he brought the Chinook back into the air, a SEAL team member fell out of the open ramp. The crew chief and another team member grabbed hold of his pack, but they lost their grips and the SEAL fell approximately ten feet to the ground. The pilot attempted to return and retrieve him, but the damage to the

helicopter prevented proper control and they were forced to make an emergency landing in the valley about eleven kilometers away. The SEAL team member who fell into the snow covering Takur Ghar activated his infrared strobe to mark his position. The second CH-47 returned to the peak to attempt a rescue, but as the Chinook offloaded the second SEAL team, they came under immediate fire from the heavy machineguns, though they were relatively unscathed and left the area after the team successfully disembarked.



U.S. Army soldiers traverse the rugged terrain around Shah-i-Kot during Operation Anaconda, March 2002.

At first, the insurgents didn't spot the second SEAL team in the early morning darkness. The team split up into two-man pairs for better tactical maneuverability, making good ground until the enemy spotted them. One team ran across a concealed al-Qaeda bunker and killed three fighters before the SEALs were suppressed by other fighters with a light machine gun. The firefight lasted twenty minutes before the team leader decided to order his team to break contact. The SEAL team was forced off the peak due to its losses and requested the assistance of the quick-reaction force mainly made up of Rangers from the 1st Battalion Ranger located at Bagram Air Base.

The Quick Reaction Force (QRF), consisting of nineteen Rangers, a combat air controller and a three-man USAF special tactics team, was carried by two Chinooks into the area. Due to satellite communications difficulties, one helicopter was mistakenly directed to the "hot" LZ on the peak. The AC-130 support, protecting the SEAL team in the darkness, was forced to leave the area at daylight before the QRF helicopters reached the LZ. At approximately 0610 hours, the remaining QRF helicopter reached the landing zone. The aircraft immediately began taking fire from RPG, heavy machinegun and small arms fire, and the right door minigunner was killed and both helicopter pilots were seriously wounded. An RPG then hit the helicopter, destroying the right engine and forcing it to crash land. As the Rangers and special tactics team exited the aircraft, three team members were immediately killed. The surviving crew and QRF members took cover behind a hillock and a fierce firefight began. The QRF leader decided to suppress the enemy firing points and launch a counterattack against the peak, bounding forward in subteams (one team firing while the other moved forward). They advanced about 20m before the weight of enemy fire forced them into cover.



*U.S. Army Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), scan the nearby ridgeline for enemy movement during Operation Anaconda, March 4, 2002.
(U.S. Army photo)*

The second QRF helicopter, which had been diverted to Gardez as the other helicopter was landing on Takur Ghar, returned with the rest of the QRF at 0625 hours. The other half of the QRF with its force of ten Rangers was inserted at an "offset" landing zone, down the mountain some 800 meters (2,600 feet) east and over 610 meters (2,000 feet) below the mountaintop. The Rangers' movement up the hill was a physically demanding two-hour effort under heavy mortar fire and in thin mountain air. They climbed the 45-70 degree slope, most of it covered in three feet of snow, weighted down by their weapons, body armor and equipment. By 1030 a.m. local time, the men covered half of the 50m distance to the enemy positions when they were engaged by light machinegun fire. They were exhausted and the enemy at the top of the hill a mere fifty meters from their position. Meanwhile, the Rangers on the peak called in several Danger Close gun runs from orbiting F-15E and F-16C aircraft to suppress the enemy before again attempting another ground assault. However, the Ranger commander realized that what they had assumed was fallen logs and foliage was actually a fortified bunker. He ordered his Rangers to withdraw as they did not have enough men to start clearing them and other prepared positions. The attached USAF combat controller vectored in airstrikes to keep the al-Qaeda forces at bay until the rest of the Rangers arrived. As the ten men of the second QRF helicopter arrived, the Rangers prepared to assault the enemy positions. As the Air Force combat controller called in a last airstrike on the enemy bunkers and with two machine guns providing suppression fire, fourteen Rangers stormed the hill as quickly as they could in the knee-deep snow – shooting and throwing grenades. Within minutes, the Rangers took the hill, killing several al Qaeda fighters.

The force was able to consolidate its position on the peak. An enemy counterattack midday mortally wounded a pararescueman who died six hours after being hit. The wounded were refused medical evacuation during the daylight hours, due to risk of another downed helicopter. However, Australian Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) soldiers had infiltrated nearby prior to the first helicopter crash as part of a long range reconnaissance mission. They remained undetected in an observation post through the firefight and assisted in coordinating multiple

Coalition air strikes to prevent the al Qaeda fighters from overrunning the downed aircraft.

At 20:15 hours, the QRF and both SEAL teams were exfiltrated from the Takur Ghar peak. US and Afghan sources believe at least 200 Taliban and Al Qaida fighters were killed during the initial assault and subsequent rescue mission.

*Reference: Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Takur_Ghar

WOMEN AT WAR IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN JOINS WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS

Oleta Lawanda Crain was born to V. Paula Crain in Earlsboro, Oklahoma, and grew up in Wewoka. She graduated from Douglass High School and studied at Langston University for



Major Oleta Crain, USAF

three years, but received her bachelor's degree in social science from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. She later earned an undergraduate degree in business administration from the University of Maryland's extension

university in Heidelberg, Germany.

She took courses at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Cambridge University in England, and the University of Vienna School of International Relations in Austria.

In the early 1940s Crain taught gym and history in a segregated school in Hugo, Oklahoma. She decided to move to Colorado to find better-paying work and in 1942 obtained a job at the Denver Ordnance Plant cleaning toilets. She was inspired to enlist after seeing a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps poster calling for women to join military bands to aid the war effort. Upon enlisting, however, she learned that they were not seeking black women. Crain completed basic training and then applied to officer training. She was one of three black women out of 300 women nationwide to enter officer training in 1943.

Crain was promoted to corporal in December 1942 and to company leader of an African-American unit in February 1943. In September, she was discharged from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps so she could enter regular service in the Women's Army Corps as an Air Force Second Lieutenant.

Crain was constantly exposed to racial discrimination in the army. For example, as officers in training, the black women were not allowed to sleep in the same barracks as the white women, but were housed in private rooms. Nor were they permitted to use the showers at the same time as whites. When Crain would take her African-American company to the swimming pool for their weekly exercises, they were usually informed that "the schedule had been changed". If they did get to swim, the pool would be cleaned the following day. Crain often joked about the discrimination, telling a journalist who was coming to interview her, "The building has two elevators. Mine is at the back".

First Lieutenant Crain was the only black woman to be retained in the U.S. military after World War II. The Pentagon asked her to stay following the desegregation of the army in 1947 "because she got along so well with the troops". She was promoted to Captain in May 1948 and was transferred to Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts to work in intelligence. When she was accused of being a communist by her superior officer, Crain underwent months of investigations and emerged with a top-secret security clearance.

She later served as personnel director at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska (1951), test control officer at an American base in Ruislip, England (1952-1955), and manpower officer at Lindsey Air Station in Germany. She retired from active duty in June 1963 with the rank of major.

After her retirement from the Air Force, Crain had a successful career with the U.S. Department of Labor, working in both the Washington, D.C., and Boston, Massachusetts offices until 1984, when she was transferred to Denver, Colorado, where she served as the Regional Administrator of the agency's Women's Bureau for the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. She retired in December 1998.

Oleta Crain passed away in November, 2007, at the age of 94.



Taking the above listed actions can reduce your chances of heart disease or death, as well as provide aid to others who may be experiencing a stroke or a heart attack. Keep healthy and alive!

+ SAFETY CORNER +
FEBRUARY IS HEART HEALTH MONTH



February is Heart Month. Keeping your heart healthy is always important, but it is critical for the continued health of our older generation. There are plenty of things you can do to improve and protect your own health and that of others.

Boost your heart health with these easy

steps:

- Know your blood pressure. Check it periodically.
- Keep your cholesterol under control.
- Don't smoke.
- Eat and drink in moderation; too much of a good thing can hurt you.
- Exercise regularly. Don't always park close to the store.
- Keep your weight under control; a good diet and exercise will help.

Help others to keep their hearts healthy by learning CPR. The first few minutes during a heart attack are critical. Learn how to check for consciousness and breathing. Quick action, even just doing chest compressions, can make the difference.

Learn the signs and symptoms of someone having a stroke. Quick action to alert 911 can save a life.

- Sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm or leg.
- Sudden confusion or trouble speaking.
- Sudden loss of vision in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden severe headache, the worse they have ever had.

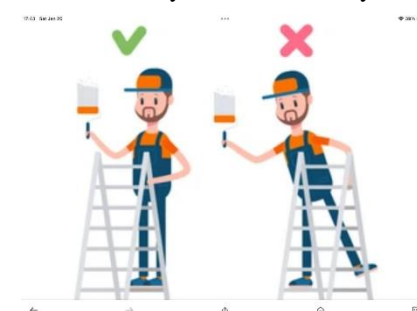
+ SAFETY CORNER +
MARCH IS LADDER SAFETY MONTH



Are you aware that every year over 500,000 people are treated for ladder-related injuries? As the spring approaches, we are met with "honey-do's" and self-thought "projects" to clean up or repair the house, clean up the yard, and work on landscaping. Many of these chores involve using a ladder to make the job easier. Unfortunately, if you aren't careful, the ladder can make the task more dangerous.

Several tips can improve your safety when using a ladder:

- Choose the right ladder for that job. Consider the work surface you will stand on, the height of the ladder needed to reach the work area, and the weight the ladder is designed to support.
- Thoroughly inspect the ladder before beginning work. Check the integrity of the rails, the steps or rungs, the legs, and the locks. Make sure the climbing surfaces are clean.
- Be aware as you work. Check your surroundings for hazards



that you may contact. Climb slowly and deliberately. Preplace tools or use an assistant to keep your hands free while climbing. Do not attempt to reposition a ladder while you are on it.

- Do not step or stand on the top step. Get a taller ladder! Always maintain three points of contact (hands and feet). Do not overreach; climb down and move the ladder.

Practicing these safe habits when using a ladder will enable you to both complete the job you are doing and survive to come to our next Post meeting. See you there!

➤ SPECIAL NOTICE FROM YOUR POST SURGEON ➤



The recent Holidays can be trying for some veterans and their families. Add to that the “winter blahs” we can experience this time of year, and we may have a crisis or know someone who is suffering from a mental crisis.

The Veterans Crisis Line can help! Reach out to trained caring responders, available 24/7. You do not have to be enrolled in VA benefits or VA health care to call.

When you call the Veterans Crisis Line, you can expect:

- A qualified responder who will answer your call, ready to listen and help.
- The responder will ask a few questions, such as whether you or the person your are concerned with may be in immediate danger or at risk for suicide.
- The conversation is free and confidential. You decide how much information to share.
- Help and support does not end with this conversation. The responder can connect you with resources you may need.

Call 988, then press 1.

Or

Chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat

Or

Text 838255

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:** Dan Eaker, Susan Vitale, Becky Waters, Anne Thompson, Sharon Peterson, Carl Dozier

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 Members!

Renewals are due now and must be paid by 31 June.

VFW Post 2894 will purchase your LIFE member hat when you convert to Life. \$50 value!

Join the 150 Life Members in the Post.

See Senior Vice Cmdr Susan Vitale or the Quartermaster, John Peterson

Life Member Options

AGE as of DECEMBER 31 st	One-Time Payment	\$45 + 11 Payments of
18-30 Years Old	\$425.00	\$38.64
31-40 Years Old	\$410.00	\$37.27
41-50 Years Old	\$375.00	\$34.09
51-60 Years Old	\$335.00	\$30.45
61-70 Years Old	\$290.00	\$26.36
71-80 Years Old	\$225.00	\$20.45
81 Years & Over	\$170.00	\$15.45

Installment plan requires member approval from National and must be validated before purchase of hat.

**Life and Annual Dues can be paid on line at our web page
<https://vfw2894.org/join-the-vfw>**

Points of contact for Annual dues and Life Conversion: susan.vitale@verizon.com and jpeterson310@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY MILITARY HISTORY

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

- 25 1836 Samuel Colt patents a practical revolver
- 1945 First B-29 fire bomb raid on Tokyo, burns 10,000 acres
- 26 1775 Battle of Salem, Mass.: British expedition to seize colonists' arms is turned back, "Leslie's Retreat"
- 1848 Marx & Engels publish "The Communist Manifesto"
- 1863 Lincoln signs National Currency Act, establishing greenbacks
- 1940 US Air Defense Command established at Mitchell Field, LI, NY
- 1942 USN aviator Don Mason signals, "Sighted sub, sank same"
- 1944 First woman USN captain, Sue Dauser, Navy Nurse Corps
- 1949 USAF plane begins first nonstop around-the-world flight
- 1993 Islamist terrorists bomb World Trade Center, 7 die
- 2001 Taliban destroy Great Buddhas of Bamiyan, in Afghanistan
- 27 1704 Indian raid on Deerfield, Ma; 40 die, 100 captured
- 1991 Operation Desert Storm: Iraqis ousted from Kuwait
- 28 1893 USS 'Indiana' (BB-1) launched, first American 1st class battleship
- 1991 Desert Storm ground war ends after 100 hours
- 29 1692 Salem witch trials begin
- 1704 Deerfield Massacre: French & Indian raid on Mass. town leaves about 100 dead
- 1864 President Lincoln signs U.S. Grant's commission as first substantive lieutenant general in army since Washington

MARCH MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1781 Continental Congress adopts "Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union."
- 1954 Bikini: US detonates 15 megaton hydrogen bomb
- 1954 Puerto Rican nationalists open fire in Congress, 5 wounded
- 1961 Peace Corps is established
- 2008 USS 'New York' (LPD-21), incorporating steel from World Trade Center, christened at New Orleans
- 2 1776 Americans begin shelling British troops in Boston
- 1807 Congress bans importation of slaves effective Jan 1, 1808
- 1836 Texas declares independence from Mexico
- 1859 Paddle steamer USS 'Saginaw' commissioned, first American warship built on West Coast, at Mare Island
- 1867 US Navy Civil Engineering Corps founded
- 1938 15th Infantry leaves China after 26 years in garrison at Tientsin & Peking.
- 1945 Philippines: Japanese resistance on Corregidor ends.
- 3 1776 US squadron under Commo Esek Hopkins attacks Nassau, Bahamas: First American overseas expedition
- 1813 Office of Surgeon General of US Army is established
- 1815 Second Barbary War: US declares war on Algiers for piratical acts, 3 years after Algerians declared war on US
- 1863 Congress passes "Enrollment Act," initiating federal conscription
- 1871 US Navy Medical Corps established
- 1899 George Dewey is promoted to Admiral of the Navy
- 1915 Congress authorizes a Chief of Naval Operations (CNO)
- 1915 Congress creates Naval Reserve
- 1931 Congress adopts "Star Spangled Banner" as national anthem
- 4 1789 U.S. Constitution goes into effect
- 1814 Battle of Longwood: Americans defeat British, near Wardsville, Ontario.
- 1861 CSA adopts "Stars & Bars" as national flag
- 1877 5-times wounded veteran Rutherford B Hayes inaugurated as president
- 1881 Former Maj Gen James A Garfield inaugurated as president
- 1889 Bvt Brig Gen. Benjamin Harrison inaugurated as 21st president
- 1897 Bvt Maj William McKinley inaugurated as 23rd president
- 1943 Battle of Bismarck Sea ends: Japanese lost 12 ships, thousands of men.
- 5 1770 The Boston Massacre
- 1821 Veteran James Monroe is inaugurated as 5th president
- 1945 US VII Corps captures Cologne (Köln)
- 1960 Elvis honorably discharged from US Army
- 6 1822 USS 'Enterprise' captures 4 pirate ships in Gulf of Mexico
- 1831 Edgar Allen Poe expelled from West Point
- 1836 Santa Anna's Mexicans storm Alamo, after 13 day siege
- 1944 USAF begins daylight bombing of Berlin
- 7 1774 British close port of Boston to all commerce
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell is granted a patent for telephone
- 1942 First black cadets graduate from USAAF flying school at Tuskegee
- 1945 9th Arm Div captures Ludendorff Bridge over Rhine at Remagen and enters Germany
- 8 1945 1st African-American Navy Nurse commissioned: Ens. Phyllis Daley
- 1945 Luzon: Sixth Army offensive against Japanese Shimbu Line.
- 1950 First woman medical officer assigned to US naval vessel: B R Walters
- 1950 USSR announces development of atomic bomb
- 1958 'Wisconsin' (BB-64) decommissioned; for first time in 62 years, USN has no battleships in commission
- 1965 Vietnam: First US combat troops arrive (3,500 Marines)
- 9 1798 Dr George Balfour appointed first surgeon in USN
- 1847 Winfield Scott lands army at Veracruz, Mexico, and begins siege.
- 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads II: USS 'Monitor' fights CSS 'Virginia' to a draw, preserving blockade
- 1945 US B-29s bomb Tokyo, est. 80,000-120,000 die - highest toll in a single air raid, exceeding even atomic bombs
- 10 1942 NY's 27th Inf Div sails for Hawaii - first division to ship out in WW II.
- 11 1779 US Army Corps of Engineers established
- 1942 Bataan: MacArthur leaves for Mindanao on PT-Boat
- 1943 American Volunteer Group ("Flying Tigers") renamed Fourteenth Air Force
- 12 1912 Girl Scouts of America founded
- 1942 Burma: Joseph Stilwell assumes combined U.S./Chinese command.
- 1947 US announces "Truman Doctrine," to fight communism
- 13 1942 Julia Flikke, Nurse Corps, becomes first woman colonel in US Army
- 15 1493 Columbus returns to Spain from his first voyage
- 1781 Battle of Guilford Court House: British barely defeat Colonists and retire from Carolinas to Yorktown, Virginia
- 1916 Pershing begins 10-month pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico
- 1944 Abbey of Monte Cassino destroyed by Allied bombing
- 16 1882 US Senate ratifies treaty establishing International Red Cross
- 1945 Iwo Jima: organized Japanese resistance ends, mopping up continues.
- 1968 My Lai Massacre, perhaps 450 die
- 1985 AP correspondent Terry Anderson taken hostage in Beirut
- 17 1762 First St Patrick's Day parade in New York City

- 1776 British forces evacuate Boston; George Washington orders extra gill of whiskey to every Irish soldier in army
- 1776 George Washington's army occupies Boston
- 1966 US mini-sub locates missing H-bomb in Mediterranean off Palomares, Spain
- 1952 Communist offensive in Korea begins
- 1951 Herman Wouk's novel "Caine Mutiny" is published
- 1989 Maiden flight of Boeing V-22 Osprey VTOL aircraft
- 2003 Operation Iraqi Freedom begins (2003-2011)
- 1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" published
- 1896 Marines land in Nicaragua to protect US citizens
- 1922 First US carrier commissioned: 'Langley' (CV-1)
- 1939 Naval Research Lab proposes development of nuke power
- 1942 Gen MacArthur vows "I shall return"
- 1866 Congress authorizes national soldiers' homes
- 1942 Jimmy Stewart enlists in USAAF
- 1946 Strategic Air Command is formed
- 1951 Julius & Ethel Rosenberg convicted of espionage
- 1622 1st Indian War: Powhatan attacks Jamestown, 347 die
- 1794 Congress prohibits export of slaves from United States.
- 1917 3rd Lt. Elmer F. Stone becomes USCG Aviator No. 1
- 1945 Patton's Third Army crosses Rhine
- 1775 Virginian Patrick Henry famously states "...give me liberty or give me death!"
- 1806 Lewis & Clark reach Pacific Coast
- 1882 USN establishes Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI)
- 1903 Wright Brothers receive patent for their airplane
- 1957 US army sells its last homing pigeons
- 1965 Gemini 3 launched, first US 2-man space flight (Grissom & Young)
- 2003 USMC Task Force Tarawa captures An Nasiriyah after hot fight
- 1898 Battleships 'Kearsarge' (BB 5) & 'Kentucky' (BB 6) launched at Newport News
- 1919 New York's 27th Division returns from Great War, marches up Fifth Avenue
- 1920 1st USCG air station established, Morehead City, NC
- 1944 The Great Escape: 76 Allied officers flee Stalag Luft 3
- 1945 Operation Varsity: Allied airborne crossing of Rhine
- 1945 Gen. George S. Patton pisses in Rhine from pontoon bridge near Oppenheim, Germany
- 1986 US & Libya air-sea clash in Gulf of Sidra
- 1999 Kosovo Campaign begins
- 1655 Battle at Annapolis, MD: between Puritans & Royalists
- 1813 USS 'Essex' takes 'Neryeda', first USN victory in Pacific
- 1905 Most battle flags captured during Civil War returned to South
- 1915 1st USN submarine disaster: USS 'F-4' sinks off Hawaii, 21 die
- 1945 US First Army breaks out of Remagen bridgehead
- 1943 First woman awarded Air Medal: Army Nurse Elsie Ott
- 1945 Okinawa: Kamikaze attack US fleet
- 1951 USAF flag approved
- 1794 Congress approves construction of 6 frigates, including USS 'Constitution'
- 1814 Battle of Horseshoe Bend: Andrew Jackson defeats Creeks
- 1945 Wiesbaden falls to US XX Corps
- 1973 Last US troops leave Vietnam, 9 years after Tonkin Gulf
- 1854 Commo Perry forces Japan to open ports to foreign trade
- 1917 US gains Virgin Islands from Denmark for \$25 million
- 1968 LBJ announces he will not seek re-election
- 1995 Somalia Campaign ends

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>FEBRUARY '24</u>	
1	National Freedom Day
2	Groundhog Day
10	VFW District 2 Meeting – Post 2894
11	Superbowl Game – Post Party
12	Lincoln's Birthday
12	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
13	Post Meeting, Post HQ
14	Valentines Day/Ash Wednesday
19	Presidents Day
22	Washington's Birthday

<u>MARCH '24</u>	
1	Scout of the Year Nominations due
11	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
13	Post Meeting, Post HQ
16	St Patrick Day Parade
17	♣ St. Patrick's Day ♣
20	First Day of Spring
26	Anniversary of Post founding (1996) Post HQ
29	National Vietnam Veterans Day ('73)
31	Easter
31	Patriotic Art Nominations due

13 APRIL – BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK!!!

SUPERBOWL PARTY

Sunday, 11 February



***At VFW Post 2894 – BYOB and favorite snack
Kickoff is 1830 – come check out the large screen TV!***

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.

