

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>



VFW POST 2894 HOSTS VFW VIRGINIA DISTRICT 2 QUARTERLY MEETING IN FEBRUARY

VFW Post 2894 as proud to be able to host the quarterly VFW Virginia District 2 meeting on Saturday, 10 February. This was a first for the Post and was a true test of the physical capacity for both participants and vehicle parking space. The cooperative weather allowed for some irregular parking spaces on the lawn, with over sixty vehicles of all shapes and sizes being accommodated for the event. Luckily no issues with vehicle clearance or getting stuck were encountered. The total attendance was over one hundred people! Neptune Brewing Company was on hand to provide (continued on page 3)



Representatives from the various VFW Posts throughout the District 2 attended the quarterly meeting hosted by VFW Post 2894.

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings Comrades! Hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and ready for spring!

The planning for our 13th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk, our biggest Post fund raiser of the year, is in full swing

and as far as sponsors go, doing very well. As of this date we are just north of \$12k in donations - this may be a record breaker! Thanks to the BDM Committee, headed by Ted Roberts and John Peterson, for their dedication and hard work to making this a truly historic event. Please invite your family, friends, and colleagues to the event.

Happy Birthday to the US! Tuesday, March 26, 2024, marks our 28th Birthday/Anniversary! We celebrated this event by having a cake cutting ceremony at the Post, our first birthday in our new home. Thanks to Becky Waters for baking a beautiful cake for the celebration.

On the home front: Work continues. We got the lighted Emergency Exit signs installed and the concrete work on the ADA restroom is completed. The only things left to do are install the barn style door, sink and toilet. Once this is completed, we will invite the City Code Inspector out for his final inspection and then we can get our Operational Permit (Occupancy Permit) and be within code. Hopefully we will have this completed by the second week of April. More to follow.

I would like to thank the fifteen Comrades who showed up at the Post on 23 Mar 24 to paint o. meeting room. This bunch was able to prep and paint the walls all in about four hours and it looks great! Again, thanks to all.

We continue our way to achieving our 9th All-American Post again this year. So far, we have done quite well with growing our membership - thanks to each one of you for pushing membership, but we cannot stop now. Keep up the great work and bring in more new members. If you know someone who is already a member and he or she hasn't paid their annual membership, please talk to them and see if you can get them to "re-up" and let them know, that if they sign up for a Life Membership, we'll purchase their new cover.

Remember our Post elections will be held at our next meeting on 8 April 2024.

Thanks again to all of you for your service to our country!

Semper Fidelis! - Bob Gregory, Commander

**YOUR AD COULD BE
HERE!!!**

**BUSINESS CARD - \$25/ISSUE; \$100/YEAR
QUARTER PAGE - \$35/ISSUE; \$150/YEAR
HALF PAGE - \$45/ISSUE; \$200/YEAR**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy Spring! Days are getting longer so getting back to meetings becomes so much more fun. We've had a busy first quarter that started with hosting our first District Meeting. We hope we made a good enough impression that everyone will want to come back next year. We gained three new members to our Auxiliary: Laura, Lourdes, and Josie. Welcome!

Sandy Dunbar and Sharon Peterson went to represent Auxiliary 2894 in Richmond at the Meet and Greet Luncheon for our National President, Carla Martinez.

Dianne Hostetlar, Donna Kust, and Sandy Dunbar accompanied Auxiliary 392 to the new Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center to deliver donations. Hundreds of items were collected across Hampton Roads to make the new residents feel at home.

Coming up, we will help the Post with the Bataan Death March and the Poppy Drive. These two big fundraisers help us financially support our local Veterans.

Remember to ask friends and family to join us in our endeavor of supporting Veterans of Foreign Wars. Many people don't realize they qualify for the Auxiliary just by having a family servicemember who served in a foreign war. Ask the question, start the conversation. Happy Passover and Easter,

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

VFW Post 2894 Hosts Virginia District 2 Meeting (continued from Page 1) ...delicious morning coffee that was supplemented by various pastries, bagels and fruit provided by the Post. Thanks to everyone who assisted with the overall setup, parking and culinary delights that contributed to the tremendous success of this venture – a first for our new Post home!



Members from various Virginia District 2 VFW Posts participate in the quarterly meeting discussions.



VFW Post 2894 Comrades Jim Keiper and David Weber ensure parking availability for all in attendance at the District 2 meeting.

OTHER POST NEWS

• **VFW Post 2894 Prepares for 13th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk.**

Keep your calendar clear for the thirteenth annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk on Saturday, April 13th at the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail in Deep Creek just off Route 17. Since Post 2894 is hosting this event, we would like to see all the members participate in some form, whether by walking the route or assisting with the operations. We will also be receiving assistance from the Marines of Northwest Security Group, the Chesapeake Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, and more as we host this commemorative event. Donations for this year's event are expected to exceed previous years' totals due to the aggressive solicitation of the BDM Committee.



We will close with a memorial ceremony dedicated to the survivors and families of Bataan/ Corregidor as well as all the veterans of World War II and the Korean War. The event is free and open to all. The flyer for this event can be found at the end of this newsletter along with additional details from the press release. PLEASE SHARE WITH FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, FAMILY – EVERYONE! We are also looking for sponsors. If everyone in the post asks atone business for their support, we can really make this a successful event.

• **Buddy Poppy Fund Drive Set for Weekend of 18-19 May.**

The VFW Post 2894 Spring 2024 Bea Oakley Memorial Buddy Poppy Fundraiser is scheduled for the weekend prior to Memorial Day, 18-19 May. Sign up for this event is currently underway, so please make plans to participate if your personal plans will allow for it. Supporting this worthwhile effort by working a two-, four-hour or even full day shift (about eight hours) gives you an opportunity to meet various personalities in our community and teach them a little history about the origins of the Buddy Poppy and its association with World War I history. Plan is to man the primary entrances of the Walmart Centers at Battlefield-Sam's Circle and Grassfield both days from 0900 until 1600. Contact Mike Kust for further details and to get your name in a time slot of your choice.



• **Post Superbowl Party a Great Success.** Superbowl Sunday found a dozen or so VFW Post 2894 comrades ready for the showdown between the San Francisco 49ers and Kansas City Chiefs. Members of the Post and Auxiliary gathered at the Headquarters to cheer on their team, enjoy some snacks/drinks and just have some fun with Post veterans and their guests. Al Peterson conjured up some delicious Navy bean soup that was complemented with chicken wings, chips, dips, fruits and veggies, a culinary delight for all enjoying the game.



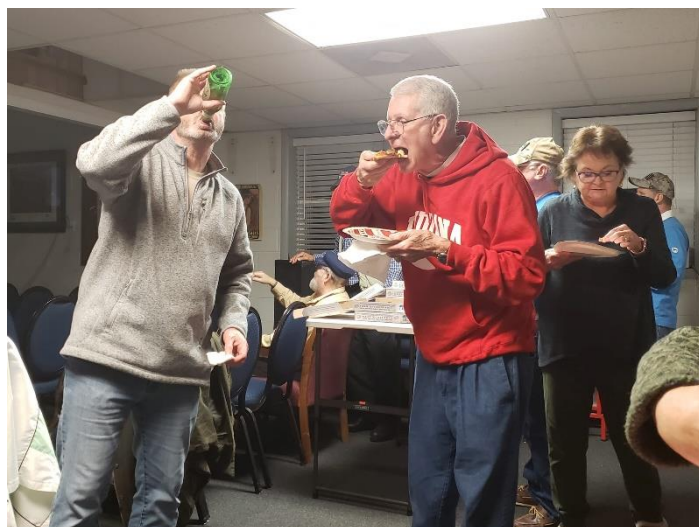
VFW Post 2894 hosted a Superbowl LVIII Party on the 65" TV.



Becky Waters and Jeanie Dozier chat during the Post Superbowl LVIII Party.



Comrade Al Peterson stirs up a pot of Navy bean soup to serve during the VFW Post 2894 Superbowl LVIII Party.



VFW Post 2894 Comrades Brad Waters and Jim Ireland enjoy beer and pizza at the Superbowl LVIII Party.

• **Post Celebrates 28th Anniversary of Its Founding.** On Tuesday, 26 March, members of the Post gathered to commemorate the founding of the Post 28 years ago. All enjoyed sharing a slice of cake, as well as other treats/drinks that were brought out for the occasion. Our sincere gratitude to Comrade

Becky Waters for again creating a delicious dessert for all to enjoy!



Post charter member Joe McGourn (left) slices the first piece of the birthday cake, assisted by Comrade Carl Dozier, father of the Post's namesake.

• **Post Gets Refrigerator and Other Supplies from VFW Post 998 in Portsmouth.** VFW Post 2894 was the proud recipient of various appliances and supplies from VFW Post 998 in Suffolk as the VFW Department of Virginia redistributes the assets accumulated over the many years they were actively operating in downtown Portsmouth. Our Post will not need to spend funds on a new refrigerator, kitchen utensils/pot/pans, trash cans, fire extinguishers and several other aspects of building operations as many of these were acquired at no charge to our Post. Thanks to everyone who assisted with the procurement and initial cleaning of all the stuff we brought back to the Post!

• **Post Headquarters Conference Room Receives a Makeover.** On Saturday, 23 March, a hardy group of Post comrades gathered to provide a badly needed remake of the Post HQs main conference room. A dozen or so individuals took up the brushes and rollers and completely refreshed the look of the space, brightening the room with a complete coat of “eggshell white” from top to bottom. New switch/outlet covers provided a crowning look. Next step will be replacing the carpet, which is

expected to happen sometime in the summer through the Home Depot grant that is currently in the works.



VFW Post 2894 painting crew pose for a quick picture. Left to right: Kimball Thompson, Ron Mayfield, John Peterson, Jim Ireland, John Guill, Joe Coladarci (kneeling), Bob Gregory, Butch Nunley (kneeling) and Dan Eaker.

Thanks to all the volunteers that showed up on a rainy Saturday to help complete the upgrade for this area of the Post HQs!

• **Post 2894 Auxiliary Activities.** The Auxiliary has been active over the past couple of months, increasing the membership and participating in various events throughout the area.



VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary members Dianne Hostetlar, Sandy Dunbar and Donna Kust (in red) assist with delivery of items to a local veterans care center.

In early March, three “Ladies in Red” – Dianne Hostetlar, Sandy Dunbar and Donna Kust, worked with members from VFW Post 392 to deliver food and other items to the Jones and Cabacoy Veterans Care Center in Virginia Beach. This center as just recently opened and these items are definitely appreciated by all the veterans residing at the center.

On Monday, March 18, Sharon Peterson and Sandy Dunbar traveled to Richmond for the VFW Auxiliary National President visit. They were treated to lunch at VFW Post 6364 and afterward went to the Virginia War Memorial. A Tribute To

Fallen Female War Heroes from Virginia was given at the memorial where twelve women were honored.



Post 2894 Auxiliary members Sandy Dunbar (left) and Sharon Peterson (right) with National VFW Auxiliary President Carla Martinez.

• **The Butler Did It!** With the acceptance of the Fire Station 7 as the Post Headquarters incurred a security responsibility for both the building and property used by the Post and Auxiliary. Early in 2024 it was noticed that the fuel oil was being used at an abnormal rate and upon further inspection it was discovered that the lock on the filler cap had been cut, implying a “midnight requisition” by some unsavory characters. Additionally, upon closer inspection it was noticed that the propane tank that supplies the kitchen stove had been pilfered, further fueling staff paranoia that the Post was being targeted as easy pickings.

Due to the security concerns, the Post staff authorized the installation of both internal and external security cameras to monitor activity around the building. Lo and behold, we were alerted to someone behind the Post near the fuel tank on a Friday afternoon (18 March) and several Post members rushed to the scene as well as placing a call to the Chesapeake Police Department.

First on the scene was the Post Commander, who just happened to be in the immediate vicinity going to a scheduled meeting at the Northwest Communications Site. He was followed by the Post Quartermaster, who pulled in front of the suspect vehicle before it could make a quick get-away.

As it turns out, the vehicle belonged to the City of Chesapeake Maintenance Division and the technician was performing monthly fuel oil checks to report those that needed refueling. He readily admitted to cutting the lock previously and was preparing to sever the current one before we stopped him and explained that the fire

station was no longer a city responsibility. Talk about the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing!



VFW Post 2894 Fuel oil and Propane Locations -scene of the "crime"?

And now for the missing propane tank. Upon further inspection, it was noticed that whoever removed the tank left duct tape on the connecting tube, reflecting a “professional” job. After the fuel oil reveal, the Quartermaster did some checking with the supplier of the propane and it turns out that due to non-payment of services, the company had repossessed the propane tank at the end of February.

So, the good news and bad news: Good news – no one has been stealing anything from the Post to our knowledge and the installed security systems work great, although it may drive some of the Post members bonkers due to all the alerts they receive. Bad news – we are currently negotiating the replacement of the propane tank so our kitchen stove can be used. Stay tuned for further developments!

VFW Post 2894 Hosts Vietnam War Veterans Day for Our Veterans.

On Friday, 29 March, the Post had an informal



VFW Post 2894 members greet Vietnam War Veterans at the Vietnam War Veterans Day gathering.

gathering to commemorate those who served during the Vietnam War. There was a great turnout with at least a half dozen Vietnam Veterans being honored by other Post members who came out to recognize their service to the nation during a very tumultuous time. Mission Barbeque catered

the event, so everyone enjoyed barbeque sandwiches with beans and coleslaw. We even recruited a couple of new members, so overall a highly successful evening! Thanks to all those who came out to thank these war veterans for their endless devotion to the nation.



VFW Post 2894 member Jim Keiper talks with Vietnam War Veteran Nolan Michalski during the Post's Vietnam War Veteran Day gathering.



VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory thanks Vietnam War Veteran Nolan Michalski with a Vietnam Veteran pin during the Post's Vietnam War Veterans Day tribute.

- **Kicked by a "Mule."** VFW Post 2894 comrades paid a visit to former Post Commander Chris "Mules" Mulholland, who is



VFW Post 2894 comrades Jose Vazquez, Dan Eaker and John Peterson visit with past Commander Chris "Mules" Mulholland (under blanket) at his home,

currently in his fourth year battling Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease. The Red Sox fan could not help but poke fun at his archival Yankee fan, Jose Vazquez, as the other visitors enjoyed the playful banter between the two. Chris is doing well and enjoys catching up with his VFW comrades, so make time to visit him if you can. Please let his wife Barbara know you plan to come over so she can plan accordingly – Chris has a lot on his schedule and she wants to ensure they set aside time for the visits.

Chris and his family were able to get out of the house for the Tidewater Rumble Power Soccer Tournament 2024 on 23-24 March in Norfolk, Virginia. Kevin Mulholland played on two



VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary member Kevin Mulholland (far left) poses with his teammates on the Tidewater Piranhas Power soccer Team.

teams, his home team Piranhas and then guesting for a visiting team from Canada. Unfortunately, the Mules Cup passed from last year's victors, the Piranhas, to this year's champions from Georgia, the Atlanta Sting. The Piranhas will be prepared to retrieve the trophy next year during the Tidewater Rumble 2025!



Past VFW Post 2894 Commander Chris Mulholland (center) poses with the members of the Atlanta Sting Power Soccer Team, the Tidewater Rumble Power Soccer Tournament 2024 champions.

• **VFW Post 2894 Honors Comrade with Life Membership.**

On Saturday, March 2, 2024, Bob Gregory, the VFW Post 2894 Commander, along with several other Post members, presented Comrade Ron Mayfield with a VFW lifetime membership for his steadfast devotion and support to our organization. Ron is one of the Post's disabled veterans who was injured in a hunting accident almost 25 years ago. He was not expected to live, but miraculously pulled through and underwent months of therapy to regain much of his mental acuity and physical strength. His participation in Post events has been noteworthy in the past and members felt he was deserving of this lifetime membership as a reward for his unwavering support to the Post and area veterans.



Comrade Ron Mayfield is presented with an electronic copy of his VFW Lifetime Membership by VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory

IN MEMORIUM



8th Shirley Rayfield Casady 1935-2024

Shirley Rayfield Casady, surrounded by her loving family, passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus on Monday, February 19, 2024, at the age of 89 after an extended illness. She was a faithful Christian, loved by all who were blessed to know her. Shirley was

born August 31, 1935, in Harnett County of Dunn, North Carolina. She was the daughter of Montgomery and Pauline Rayfield. Shirley married Glenn Jobs and was blessed with two children, Glenda and George. She was naturally talented in design and became an Interior Decorator opening Jobs Upholstery and Interiors on June 13, 1987, in Moyock, NC. She had many occupations and roles including office manager, school bus driver, manager, and designer of her company Jobs Upholstery and Interior. Shirley sang in the choir, taught Sunday School, and worked diligently in and with her church family. As a member of Faith Temple Church she served as clerk, worked in the Woman's Ministry and was a member of the music team. With her love of music Shirley joined a quartet with her good friend, Nell Turner.

Shirley is predeceased by her mother, Pauline; father, Montgomery; husband's Glenn and William (Mickey); her son, George; siblings, Earl, Jesse Lee, Margaret, Kathleen, Dorothy and Steve Worth, Jr. She lovingly nurtured two children and was later blessed with two grandchildren. She is survived by her daughter, Glenda White (Bobby); grandchildren, Robert White, and Sarah White; nephew, Steve Worth (Natalie), and their son, Travis (Amy); and extended family and dear friends.

Shirley had a passion and talent for art, floral design, jewelry making, music and gardening which was inspiring. Shirley also enjoyed doing puzzles and playing games. Never knowing a stranger, she would eagerly tell everyone of her love for Jesus and His love for them.

She will be laid to rest privately at Moyock Memorial Cemetery.

APRIL 1942 – THE FALL OF CORREGIDOR AND BATAAN

After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, the Japanese Imperial Army began invading numerous areas in the southwest Pacific, many of which were manned by American forces and their allies. A major campaign ensued for control of the Philippine Islands, with the Japanese sending thousands of troops to attack the Allied forces stationed there. During the battle, American and Filipino soldiers of General Douglas MacArthur's United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFEF) held out for four months against the Imperial Japanese Army, while every other island and nation in the Pacific and Southeast Asia fell. By

March 1942, Japan controlled everything within the Western Pacific besides the Philippines.

MacArthur planned to hold his ground on the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island in the Philippines until the Navy could bring reinforcements and supplies from the United States. Once the reinforcements arrived, he would attack north from Bataan, defeat the Japanese Army, and push onward to the Japanese islands and victory. But with the Navy decimated by attacks on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, there were no ships capable of delivering reinforcements to Bataan.

The Japanese navy blockaded Bataan and nearby Corregidor,



Prisoners slept inside the large barracks on a brick deck covered with a straw mat and a thin pad. | Photo credit U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center

preventing any food, ammunition, or medicine from reaching U.S. troops. For months, the troops on Bataan lived on half-rations in the tropical jungle. Nevertheless, they fought back Japanese attacks and defeated the Japanese army at battles along the Bataan defense line and the rugged coastline of the peninsula. But without supplies, they could not hold out for long.

By April 1942, many troops had lost as much as 30 percent of their body weight. As medical supplies ran out, malaria, dysentery and other tropical diseases ravaged Allied ranks, confining 10,000 men to the two open-air jungle hospitals for wounds and illnesses. Less than half of the remaining forces could be considered “combat effective” — defined as a man who could walk 100 yards without staggering and still have enough strength left to fire his weapon.

The Bataan Death March

On April 3, the Japanese army launched its final assault on Bataan. Although the starving Allied soldiers fought as best they could, they were no match for the fresh Japanese troops brought in for the attack. As Homma’s army rolled back the front line on Bataan, King, the American field commander of more than 70,000 U.S. and Philippine troops made a fateful decision. King surrendered on April 9, rather than see any more of his starving, diseased men slaughtered by Japanese forces. Some refused to become prisoners, fleeing into the jungle. Of the ones who got away, many would join the guerrilla movement.

Once the surrender went into effect, the Japanese rounded up the Allied troops, gathering them into groups of 100 on the only paved road. The Japanese assigned four guards to each group and

began marching the prisoners — lined up four abreast — north toward Camp O’Donnell in Tarlac province, 65 miles away.

As the emaciated men proceeded up the highway in the blistering heat, the Japanese guards summarily shot or bayoneted anyone who fell, attempted to escape, or stopped to quench his thirst at a roadside spigot or puddle. The men were given little water or food during the march, which took about five days for each group to complete.

The guards also chased off or killed any Filipino civilian who tried to give water or bits of food to the passing lines of prisoners. At various points along the route of the march, they singled out individuals or groups of prisoners, tied them to trees or fences, and shot them as examples to the others. The Japanese killed between 7,000 and 10,000 men during the Death March — they kept no records, so the exact numbers remain unknown.

Life at Camp O’Donnell

When the prisoners got to Camp O’Donnell, the conditions were even worse. The facility was a former Philippine army camp - it was designed to accommodate about 10,000 men, but the Japanese crammed 60,000 Bataan Death March survivors into the camp.

There was little running water, sparse food, no medical care, and nothing but narrow trenches along the sides of the camp for sanitation. The heat was intolerable. Flies rose out of the latrines and covered the prisoner’s food. Malaria, dysentery, beriberi, and a host of other diseases swept through the crowds of prisoners who died at a rate of 400 men per day. Conditions were so dire that by July 1942, the Japanese replaced the camp’s commander, moved the American prisoners to a camp in Cabanatuan, and paroled the Filipino prisoners.

From September through December 1942, the Japanese gradually paroled the Filipino soldiers to their families and the mayors of their hometowns, who were held personally responsible for each man’s conduct. To be paroled, a soldier had to be well enough to walk and had to sign an oath that he would not participate in guerrilla activity. Anyone who was too sick to walk was held in camp until he either recovered or died. By the time Camp O’Donnell closed in January 1943, 26,000 of the 50,000 Filipino POWs had died.

The Americans fared no better. Conditions in Cabanatuan were marginally better than those in Camp O’Donnell, and doctors were able to somewhat stem the disease and death rate. However, as U.S. forces pulled closer to the Philippines in 1944, the Japanese decided to evacuate the American prisoners to Japan and Manchuria to work as slave laborers in Japanese factories and coal mines.

Thousands of men were crammed into the dark holds of cargo ships, so tightly that they could not sit or lay down. Food and water were scarce and the heat in the closed holds of the ships was unbearable, suffocating many. In some cases, the guards would not even let the dead bodies be removed from the holds. The Japanese ships were unmarked, and a few of them were attacked by American planes and submarines.

Surviving the trip to Japan was no guarantee of an easier existence, though. More prisoners died of malnutrition and exposure after the journey. And by the time the Army liberated the Bataan prisoners of war, two-thirds of the American prisoners had died in Japanese custody.

—Ashley N. McCall-Washington is a former public affairs specialist for the Army. This story originally appeared in the Fall 2015 issue of *On Patrol*, the magazine of the USO.

MAY 2011 RAID ON OSAMA BIN LADEN COMPOUND

On May 2, 2011, Osama bin Laden, the founder and first leader of the Islamist militant group al-Qaeda, was shot and killed at his compound in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad by United States Navy SEALs of SEAL Team Six. The operation, code-named **Operation Neptune Spear**, was conducted in a CIA-led mission, with the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) coordinating the Special Mission Units involved in the raid. In addition to SEAL Team Six, participating units under JSOC included the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), also known as the "Night Stalkers," and the CIA's Special Activities Division, which heavily recruits from former JSOC Special Mission Units. The success of the operation ended a nearly decade-long manhunt for bin Laden, who was accused of masterminding the September 11 attacks on the United States.

The raid, approved by U.S. President Barack Obama and involving two dozen Navy SEALs in two Black Hawk helicopters, was launched from about 120 miles away in Afghanistan, where U.S. forces were stationed. The SEALs flew into Pakistan from a staging base in the city of Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan after originating at Bagram Air Base in northeastern Afghanistan. The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR), a U.S. Army Special Operations Command unit known as the "Night Stalkers," provided the two modified Black Hawk helicopters that were used for the raid itself, as well as the much larger Chinook heavy-lift helicopters that were employed as backups. The raid was scheduled for a time with little moonlight so the helicopters could enter Pakistan "low to the ground and undetected." The helicopters used hilly terrain and nap-of-the-earth techniques to reach the compound without appearing on radar and alerting the Pakistani military. The flight from Jalalabad to Abbottabad took about 90 minutes.

Abbottabad Compound, 2005



Osama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

According to the mission plan, the first helicopter would hover over the compound's yard while its full team of SEALs fast-roped to the ground. At the same time, the second helicopter would fly to the northeast corner of the compound and deploy the interpreter, the dog and handler, and four SEALs to secure the perimeter. The team in the courtyard was to enter the house from the ground floor. As they hovered above the target the first helicopter experienced a hazardous airflow condition known as a vortex ring state. This was aggravated by higher-than-expected air temperature and the high compound walls, which stopped the rotor downwash from diffusing. The helicopter's tail grazed one of the compound's walls, damaging its tail rotor, and the helicopter rolled onto its side. None of the SEALs, crew, or pilots were seriously injured in the soft crash landing, which resulted in the helicopter resting against the wall, pitched at a 45-degree angle. The other helicopter landed outside the compound, and the SEALs scaled the walls to get inside. The SEALs advanced into the house, breaching walls and doors with explosives.

The SEALs encountered the residents in the compound's guest house, in its main building on the first floor where two adult males lived, and on the second and third floors where bin Laden lived with his family. The second and third floors were the last section of the compound to be cleared.

The SEALs encountered bin Laden on the third floor of the main building. Bin Laden peered through his bedroom door at the Americans advancing up the stairs, and the lead SEAL fired at him. Reports differ, though agree eventually he was hit by shots to the body and head. The initial shots either missed, hit him in the chest, the side, or in the head. A few of bin Laden's female relatives were near him. One of bin Laden's wives, Amal Ahmed Abdul Fatah, motioned as if she were about to charge; the lead SEAL shot her in the leg, then grabbed both women and shoved them aside. A SEAL entered through the door and confronted bin Laden inside the bedroom. Bin Laden was standing behind a woman with his hands on her shoulders, pushing her forward. The SEAL immediately shot bin Laden twice in the forehead, then once more as bin Laden crumpled to the floor.

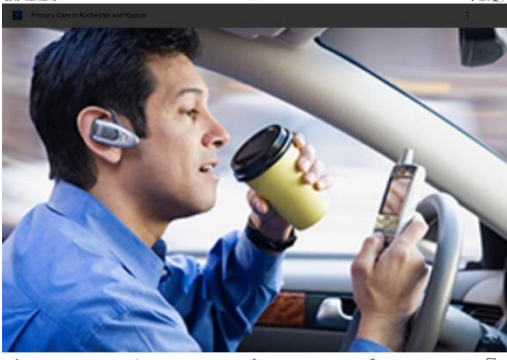
Since the helicopter that had made the emergency landing was damaged and unable to fly the team out, it was destroyed to safeguard its classified equipment, including an apparent stealth capability. Since the SEAL team was reduced to one operational helicopter, one of the two Chinooks held in reserve was dispatched to carry part of the team and bin Laden's body out of Pakistan.

After the raid, U.S. forces returned to Afghanistan with bin Laden's body for identification and then flew over 850 miles to the Arabian Sea, where he was buried in accordance with Islamic tradition. Bin Laden was buried at sea because no country would accept his remains. Muslim religious rites were performed aboard *Carl Vinson* in the North Arabian Sea within 24 hours of bin Laden's death. Preparations began at 10:10 a.m. local time and at-sea burial was completed at 11 a.m.

The raid took forty minutes, and bin Laden was killed shortly before 1:00 a.m. PKT (20:00 UTC, May 1). Three other men, including one of bin Laden's sons, and a woman in the compound were also killed.

*Reference: Wikipedia
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing_of_Osama_bin_Laden#:~:text=On%20May%202%2C%202011%2C%20Osama,\(also%20known%20as%20D%20EVGRU\).](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing_of_Osama_bin_Laden#:~:text=On%20May%202%2C%202011%2C%20Osama,(also%20known%20as%20D%20EVGRU).)

+ SAFETY CORNER +
APRIL IS DISTRACTED DRIVING MONTH



Distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic. With the increasing use of cell phones and the placement of the “view screen” in modern vehicles, distractions have become a common cause of accident-related vehicle injuries and deaths in the U.S. “U Drive, U Text, U Pay” ... law enforcement can only do so much. We have broached this subject before. We each need to take action to decrease the deadly dangers of distracted driving.

Drive responsibly.

- Need to answer or send a call or a text message? Pull over and safely park it!
- Need to adjust the GPS? Pull over and safely park it!
- Designate a passenger as a “designated texter” to respond to or send calls or messages.
- Do not scroll through the apps on your phone or car’s system while driving.
- Remind passengers that while driving, that is all you should do. Avoid intense or detailed conversations.
- Do not eat or drink while driving.
- As a responsible driver, if another is driving and calling or texting, tell them to stop and focus on the road ... now!

Please drive responsibly. When distracted, you are losing the seconds that you may need to suddenly react to avoid a dangerous crash.

family members how to swim. Drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional deaths worldwide.



- Even if you know how to swim, never swim alone. Sudden cramps, an injury, fatigue, cold ... all could lead to disaster. Teach your family the ‘buddy system.’

- Watch out for the kids. Never leave them unattended. They will take risks and will stay in way too long. Remember the “blue lips” syndrome?

- Do not drink alcohol when swimming. Intoxication or even lowered inhibitions can lead to bad results.

- When swimming outdoors or when on the water, watch the weather. Head for shelter at the first sign of bad weather.

- Whether swimming or boating, wear sunscreen.

Swimming and other water sports are some of life’s greatest pleasures and popular pastimes. Be water aware and enjoy the coming summer.

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, Matt 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

+ SAFETY CORNER +
MAY IS WATER SAFETY MONTH



Aah! Spring is in the air. Winter is but a memory. Warmer weather draws us to the outdoors, and, especially in our coastal area, life in and on the water. But ... are we prepared with water safety?

To be safe around the water, we must be “water aware.”

- Learn to swim. Some of us grew up where swimming was not a common pastime. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. Teach your

- **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 Renovation Committee:** Kimball Thompson, Jim Ireland, Susan Vitale, Gary Dunbar, Anne Thompson, 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, David Weber

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

Installation 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.



Our sincere gratitude to Habitat for Humanity of South Hampton Roads for their generous donations and support to the numerous VFW Post 2894 home improvement projects that have resulted in improved living conditions for several area veterans and their families.

APRIL MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1863 US adopts conscription for Civil War
1893 USN establishes rate of Chief Petty Officer
1945 Okinawa: 60K U.S. soldiers & Marines land on Easter Sunday
1945 US First & Ninth Armies meet to form Ruhr pocket
1954 US Air Force Academy established
1954 US Army forms first helicopter battalion, Fort Bragg, NC
1991 Warsaw Pact officially dissolves
- 2** 1827 Construction of 1st U.S. Naval Hospital begins, Portsmouth, Va
1865 Battles of Petersburg/Ft Gregg/Sutherland's Station, Va: Robert E. Lee forced to evacuate Richmond
1917 Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany
1982 Argentina invades Falkland Is, initiating 72-day losing war with Britain
- 3** 1865 Union forces occupy Richmond & Petersburg, to tune of "Dixie"
1948 Harry Truman signs Marshall Plan
- 4** 1776 First USN victory at sea: USS 'Columbus' captures HM Tender 'Hawke'
1862 Yorktown: First serious fighting of Peninsular Campaign
1865 Lincoln sits in Jeff Davis' chair, in Confederate White House
1942 Bataan: Fil-American forces fall back after Japanese break through
1943 4th Marine Div activated at San Diego
1949 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) formed
- 5** 1951 Julius & Ethel Rosenberg, atomic spies, sentenced to death
1986 Berlin: 2 US servicemen & Turkish woman die in terrorist bombing
1991 Iraq: US begins relief air drops to Kurds in north
- 6** Army Day and National Tartan Day
1862 Battle of Shiloh, Day 1: Confederate success
1866 Union vets form Grand Army of Republic
1917 US declares war on Germany, entering WWI
1945 Okinawa: Massive kamikaze attack on US fleet sinks six ships
1991 Operation Provide Comfort initiated to defend Kurdish refugees fleeing their homes in Northern Iraq after the Gulf War ended.
- 7** 1862 Battle of Shiloh, Day 2: Grant defeats Confederates
1942 USN agrees to accept black Americans for general service
1943 Japanese inflict heavy losses on Allied shipping around Guadalcanal
1945 First Navy Nurses land on Iwo Jima: Lt, jg, Ann Purvis & Ens Jane Kendeigh
1980 President Jimmy Carter breaks relations with Iran over hostage crisis
2017 U.S. conducts missile strike on Shayrat Airbase, Syria, in response to chemical attack on the town of Khan Shaykhun
- 8** Feast of St Walther Gautier of Pontoise, Patron Saint of POWs
1865 Lee's retreat cut off near Appomattox Court House
1956 Parris Is, SC: 6 Marine recruits drown during unauthorized night exercise
2015 VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary founded
- 9** 1865 Appomattox: Robert E Lee & Army of Northern Virginia surrender
1898 Lt Andrew Rowan leaves for Cuba with "a message for Garcia"
1942 Bataan: 75,000 U.S. & Filipino troops surrender to Japanese
- 10** 1918 Near Toul, in eastern France, 104th Infantry begins 4 day determined defense against German assault, to become 1st American regiment awarded Croix de Guerre
1945 Allies liberate Buchenwald concentration camp
1963 USS 'Thresher' (SSN-593) sinks east of Cape Cod, 124 die
- 11** 1863 Battle of Suffolk, VA
1898 Pres McKinley asks for Declaration of War against Spain
1899 Treaty of Paris: Spain cedes Puerto Rico, Philippines, Guam to US
1900 USN accepts first submarine, USS 'Holland', originally designed for Fenians
1942 American merchant mariners are authorized to receive DSM
1951 Harry Truman fires Gen Douglas McArthur
1991 Persian Gulf War Armistice Signed
- 12** 1861 Confederates shell Fort Sumter, initiating Civil War
1911 First US naval aviator: Lt Theodore Ellyson
1916 Battle of Hacienda Santa Cruz de la Villegas: Maj. Charles Young, senior black officer in US Army, leads squadron of 10th Cav ("Buffalo Soldiers") to rescue white 13th Cav, besieged by Mexicans
1924 Off Balboa, Panama, 19-year-old hooker Madeline Blair found aboard USS 'Arizona' (BB-39), plying her trade since ship left New York one month earlier
1942 Bataan: Japanese massacre four hundred Filipino officers
1966 First B-52 raids on North Vietnam
1981 First US space shuttle launch (Columbia)
1993 Bosnia: USS 'Theodore Roosevelt' (CVN-71) & NATO initiate no-fly zone
- 14** 1818 US Army Medical Corps formed
1865 Abraham Lincoln mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre, on Good Friday
1898 USS 'Solace' commissioned, first hospital ship in USN since 1865, and only purpose-built hospital ship in history of fleet
1912 RMS 'Titanic' strikes iceberg, 11:40 pm
1945 Tokyo firebomb raids: B-29s damage Imperial Palace
1986 U.S. warplanes bomb Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in retaliation for Berlin discotheque bombing
2018 U.S. and allies launch missile strikes on targets in Damascus, Syria, in response to Douma chemical attack
- 15** 1861 Ft Sumter surrenders
1861 Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers
1865 Stars and Stripes are again hoisted over Ft Sumter
1947 Former Army 2nd Lt Jackie Robinson begins playing for Brooklyn Dodgers, integrating modern Major League baseball
1952 First test flight of prototype B-52
1986 US bombs terrorist bases in Libya, following Berlin disco bombing
- 16** 1916 French Army forms Escadrille Americaine
1945 US troops enter Nuremberg
1945 USS 'Laffey' (DD-724) survives six kamikaze hits, off Okinawa
1946 US launches captured V-2 rocket, White Sands, NM
Congress grants Navy Nurses full commissioned status
- 17** 1846 Battle of Cerro Gordo: Winfield Scott defeats Mexican Army
1861 Virginia is eighth state to secede from Union
1864 Grant suspends POW exchanges over Confederate refusal to treat black troops as soldiers
1961 Bay of Pigs: 1,400 Cuban exiles land to overthrow Castro

- 18** 1644 Thousands of Pamunkey and allied Indians raid Virginia Colony, killing 500 settlers, initiating 32-months' long Second Tidewater War, in which colonists triumph
- 1775 Paul Revere, Samuel Prescott, & William Dawes make "midnight ride"
- 1934 US Army stops issuing sabers to cavalry
- 1942 Doolittle Raid: 16 B-25Bs off CV Hornet strike Tokyo
- 1942 WWII edition of "Stars & Stripes" begins publication in England
- 19** 1775 Battles of Lexington & Concord -- "The Shot Heard 'Round the World"
- 1783 Congress orders hostilities with Britain at end, 8 years after "The Shot Heard 'Round the World."
- 1909 Canonization of Joan of Arc, Patron of Soldiers, & Women in Military Service
- 1919 Leslie Irvin of US makes first free fall parachute jump
- 1941 US Marines begin construction of airfield on Wake Island
- 1989 USS 'Iowa' (BB-61) gun turret explosion, 47 die
- 20** 1789 George Washington sworn in as 1st President, Federal Hall, NY
- 1861 Union forces burn & abandon Gosport (Norfolk, Va) Navy Yard.
- 21** 1836 Battle of San Jacinto: Texas secures independence from Mexico
- 1898 US declares war on Spain
- 1914 US Marines and sailors occupy Vera Cruz, Mexico
- 1918 Baron von Richtofen, known as the "Red Baron" is shot down and killed during the Battle of the Somme
- 1995 1st Lt Sarah Deal becomes first U.S. Marine Corps pilot
- 22** 1944 New Guinea: U.S. Army troops land near Hollandia
- 23** Feast of St. George, Patron of Soldiers
- 1861 Robert E Lee named major general and commander of Virginia state forces
- 1945 Allies in Italy reach Po River
- 24** 1863 War Department issues GO No 100, The Law of Land Warfare, first US ROE.
- 1943 US 7th Inf Div. trained for desert warfare, sails from San Francisco to Alaska
- 1944 1st Boeing B-29 arrives in China over Himalayas -- "the Hump"
- 1980 "Desert One": US operation to save 52 hostages in Iran fails, eight die
- 25** 1862 Farragut occupies New Orleans, La
- 1875 Combat on Pecos: Lt. John Bullis and Black Seminole Indian Scouts SGT John Ward, Trumpeter Isaac Payne, & PVT Pompey Factor rout 25-30 Lipan Indian raiders, for which Scouts are awarded Medal of Honor
- 1914 First USN air combat mission: Lt. Patrick Bellinger conducts a reconnaissance over Veracruz, receiving some damage from machine gun fire.
- 1945 Last Boeing B-17 attack against Nazi Germany
- 1945 US & Soviet forces meet at Torgau on Elbe River
- 1960 USS Triton completes first submerged circumnavigation of globe
- 26** 1607 English colonists land at Cape Henry, VA
- 1805 William Eaton and Lt Presley O'Bannon attack Derna, Libya, and phrase, "to the shores of Tripoli" enters national lexicon.
- 27** 1773 British Parliament passes Tea Act, leading to Boston Tea Party
- 1778 John Paul Jones begins 2-day raid on Whitehaven, U.K.
- 1813 Toronto captured by Americans under Gen Zebulon Pike
- 1861 Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson assumes command at Harper's Ferry
- 1945 US 5th Army liberates Genoa
- 28** 1945 US 5th Army reaches Italian-Swiss border
- 1956 French leave Vietnam
- 1965 US Marines land in Dominican Republic, stay until Oct '66
- 1967 Mohammad Ali refuses induction into army
- 1971 Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr., promoted to Rear Admiral; first black admiral in US Navy
- 29** 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville begins
- 1945 US liberates Nazi concentration camp in Dachau
- 1970 US & South Vietnamese troops invade Cambodia
- 1975 Last US personnel pull out of Vietnam
- 30** 1492 Ferdinand & Isabella agree to bankroll Columbus
- 1798 US establishes Department of the Navy
- 1900 US annexes Hawaii
- 1908 1st Co., Signal Corps, 71st Reg, NYNG, formed to conduct aeronautical operations; now 106th Rescue Wing, oldest Air Guard unit.
- 1945 American & Soviet forces link up at Torgau in Germany
- 1975 Vietnam War Ends
- 1980 Terrorists seize Iranian Embassy in London

MAY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1862 David Farragut captures New Orleans
- 1898 Battle of Manila Bay: Adm Dewey orders, "You may fire when ready."
- 1931 Empire State Building opens
- 1960 Francis Gary Powers' U-2 spy plane shot down over Sverdlovsk
- 1982 British bomb Argentinean positions at Port Stanley; Falkland Islands War begins
- 2** 1863 Stonewall Jackson wounded by own men at Chancellorsville, dies May 10th
- 1945 Berlin formally surrenders to Red Army
- 1945 German forces in Italy surrender
- 2011 U.S. Special Operations Forces kill Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan
- 3** 1846 Mexican army invades Texas
- 1861 Lincoln orders expansion of Army by 23K & Navy by 18K
- 1943 US 1st Armored Div captures Mateur, Tunisia
- 1946 Military Tribunal in Tokyo begins war crimes trials
- 4** 1946 US Marines recapture Alcatraz from rioting prisoners
- 1942 Battle of Coral Sea begins
- 1970 Ohio National Guard kills four students at Kent State
- 5** 1814 British attack Ft Ontario, Oswego, NY
- 1862 Cinco de Mayo: Mexican forces defeat French at Puebla
- 1862 Peninsular Campaign: Battle of Williamsburg, VA
- 1864 Battle of Wilderness: Germanna Ford/Wilderness Tavern
- 1908 Great White Fleet reaches San Francisco
- 1942 Philippines: Japanese troops land on Corregidor
- 1945 Oregon: Japanese balloon bomb kills pregnant woman and five children
- 1965 First large US ground units arrive in South Vietnam
- 6** 1937 Hindenburg disaster, Lakehurst, NJ, thirty-six die
- 1941 Bob Hope stages his first USO show, March Field, California
- 1945 Axis Sally makes her last broadcast
- 1962 USS 'Ethan Allen' (SSBN-608) fires first nuclear warhead from submerged sub

- 7** 1915 British passenger ship Lusitania torpedoed by German submarine
- 1942 Battle of Coral Sea begins
- 1954 Dien Bien Phu: Vietnam overrun French after 55-day siege
- 1989 Panama: Manuel Noriega seizes power after losing election
- 8** 1886 Confederate veteran John S. Pemberton invents Coca Cola
- 1911 Birth of Naval Aviation: USN orders first airplane, Curtiss A-1
- 1942 Battle of Coral Sea, Day 2: USS 'Lexington' (CV-2) sunk
- 1945 V-E Day; Germany signs unconditional surrender
- 1952 US conducts first H-Bomb test, Eniwetok Atoll
- 9** 1831 Alexis de Tocqueville arrives at Newport, RI, for ten-month tour
- 1926 Lt Cdr Richard Byrd & CMM Floyd Bennett fly over North Pole
- 10** 1676 Bacon's Rebellion begins in Virginia
- 1775 Benedict Arnold, Ethan Allan, & Green Mountain Boys capture Ticonderoga
- 1862 Confederates torch & evacuate Norfolk/Pensacola Navy Yards
- 1940 Battle of France begins (WWII)
- 1960 USS 'Triton' (SSN-586) completes first submerged circumnavigation
- 1968 Vietnam War: Paris peace talks begin; Battle of Hamburger Hill
- 11** 1862 CSS 'Virginia/Merrimac' scuttled in James River
- 1938 First USCG award of DFC, LT C. B. Olsen, for rescue at sea
- 1978 Margaret Brewer becomes U.S. Marine Corps' first female general officer
- 12** 1607 Foundation of Jamestown, Virginia
- 1789 NYC Revolutionary War veterans form Society of St Tammany
- 1943 Trident Conference: Roosevelt and Churchill plan strategy
- 1975 US merchant ship 'Mayaguez' seized by Cambodian force
- 13** 1908 Navy Nurse Corps is established
- 1943 USN Bureau of Navigation becomes Bureau of Naval Personnel
- 14** 1653 Massachusetts Council declares that 1/8th of each militia company be available to march on 1 day's warning.
- 1801 Tripoli declares war on US, initiating First Tripoli War
- 1804 Lewis & Clark Expedition sets out from St Louis
- 1836 Mexican President Santa Anna, prisoner of Texans, signs Treaty of Velasco, conceding Texan independence.
- 1845 USS 'Constitution' lands Marines at Danang, Indochina
- 1856 USS 'Supply' delivers 50 Turkish camels to US Army at Indanola, Texas
- 1942 US Army forms Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC)
- 1945 US offensive on Okinawa, Sugar Loaf Hill captured
- 1975 US raids free Cambodian-held ship 'Mayaguez' with heavy losses
- 15** 1862 Ben Butler issues famous "Woman Order," and proves every woman in New Orleans is a lady
- 1939 Dupont introduces nylon; within year Japanese sales of silk to US fall 30 percent
- 1940 First successful test flight of American helicopter, Vought-Sikorsky US-3
- 17** 1987 USS 'Stark' (FFG-31) hit by Iraqi missiles, thirty-seven sailors die
- 18** 1775 1st USS 'Enterprise' enters service, prize taken by Benedict Arnold on Lake Champlain
- 1861 Battle of Sewall's Point, VA
- 1917 Congress passes Selective Service Act
- 1984 Jerome G Cooper becomes first African-American general officer in U.S. Marine Corps
- 19** 1951 UN begins counter offensive in Korea
- 1958 NORAD formed
- 1967 US bombs Hanoi
- 20** Armed Forces Day
- 1912 Battlecruiser SMS 'Moltke' reaches Hampton Roads, on only visit to US by German capital ship
- 1930 President Hoover reviews US Fleet off Virginia Capes
- 21** 1861 Richmond, Va, designated Capital of Confederacy
- 1881 Clara Barton founds American Red Cross
- 1917 Leo Pinckney first American drafted during WW I
- 1944 West Loch, Pearl Harbor: ammo-laden LST blows up, 6 LSTs lost, 200 killed, "2nd Pearl Harbor"
- 1968 USS 'Scorpion' (SSN-589) sinks off Azores, ninety-nine die
- 22** National Maritime Day
- 1959 Benjamin O Davis Jr. (USMA '36) becomes first African-American Army general
- 1985 US sailor Michael L Walker arrested for spying for USSR
- 23** 1862 Valley Campaign: Stonewall Jackson takes Front Royal, Virginia
- 1862 Valley Campaign: Stonewall Jackson takes Front Royal, Virginia
- 24** 1764 James Otis coins phrase "No taxation without representation!"
- 1861 Benjamin Butler declares fugitive slaves Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory, & James Townsend "contraband of war"
- 25** 1787 Constitutional Convention opens in Philadelphia
- 1961 JFK pledges US will put man on moon by 1970
- 27** 1607 Battle of Jamestown: English settlers repulse attack by two hundred Indians
- 28** 1830 Congress authorizes Indian removal from Eastern states
- 1980 First fifty-five women graduate from U.S. Naval Academy
- 29** 1945 Okinawa: 1st Marine Division Captures Shuri Castle
- 30** 1868 First "Decoration Day" [now "Memorial Day"], designated by GAR CINC Maj Gen John Logan
- 1943 Aleutian Islands off coast of Alaska retaken by U.S. 7th Infantry Division
- 1958 Unknown soldiers of WWII & Korean War entombed in Arlington National Cemetery
- 1962 USS 'Arizona' Memorial dedicated in Pearl Harbor
- 31** 1900 Boxer Rebellion: Multi-national relief forces reach Peking

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>APRIL '24</u>	
8	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
10	Post Meeting, Post HQ
13	13th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk
15	Income Tax Day
17	Membership Phone Calling Party

<u>MAY '24</u>	
5	Cinco de Mayo
6	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
7	Air Force JROTC Awards Ceremony
8	Post Meeting, Post HQ
8	VE Day (1945)
11	VFW District 2 Meeting, Post 4809
12	Mother's Day
13	Annual Awards Ceremony
16-19	Chesapeake Jubilee
18	Armed Forces Day
18-19	Buddy Poppy Fundraiser
27	Memorial Day



Our sincere appreciation to Virginia Foundation Solutions for their generous support of several VFW Post 2894 projects that have improved the living conditions for numerous area veterans and their families.

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

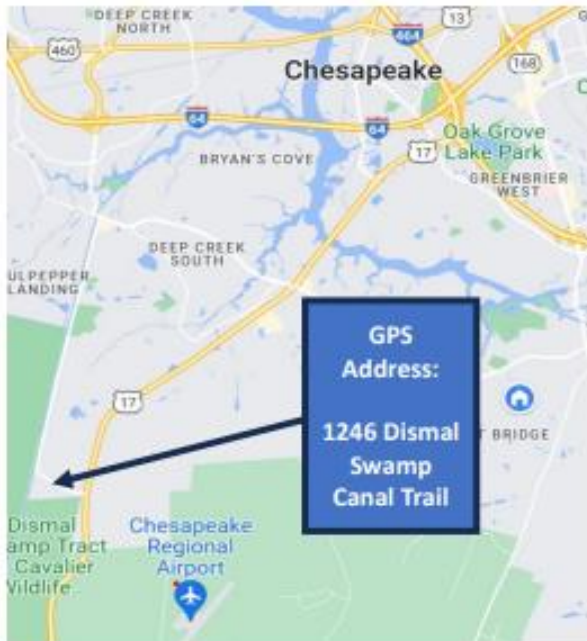
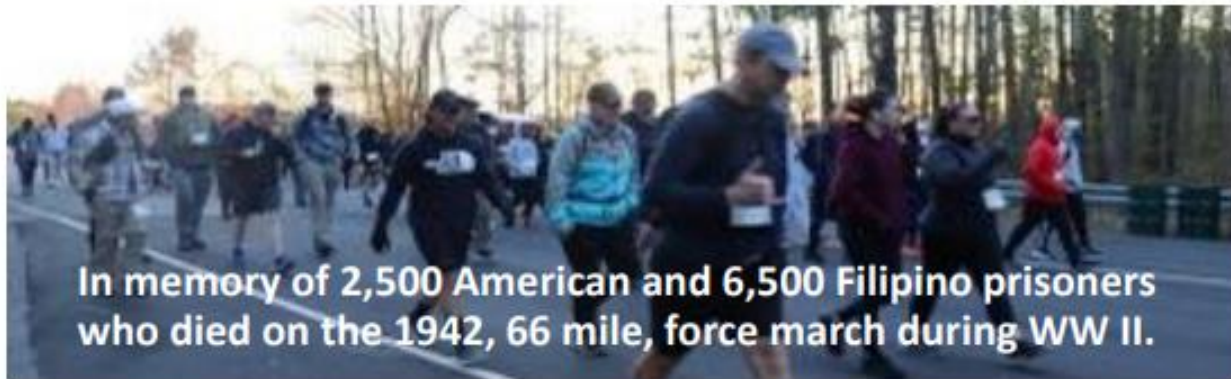




VFW Post 2894 - Chesapeake, VA



**13th Annual
Bataan Death March
Memorial Walk
April 13, 2024
Dismal Swamp Canal Trail**



April 13 ON-SITE EVENTS

**Registration Starts: 6:00 AM
16.6 Mile Walk: 7:00 AM
5 Mile Walk: 10:00 AM
1 Mile Walk: 11:00 AM
Closing Ceremony: 12:00 PM
Historical and Veteran
Remembrance Displays
Food Sales
Silent Auction and Raffles**

**Registration and Sponsors: www.vfw2894.org
\$5 Walk Only / \$16 With Shirt - Age 16 and Under /
\$30 With Shirt - Age 17 and Older / Group Discounts
Pre-Registration Ends: April 10, 2024
Walk.Chesapeake@gmail.com**

