

## VFW OBJECTIVES:

- TO ENSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength
- TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.



### POST 2894

#### Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month – 7:00 pm  
Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge,  
110 Kempsville Rd, Chesapeake, VA

#### Post Address:

VFW Post 2894  
PO Box 15842  
Chesapeake, VA 23328

Phone: 757-620-0087

Email: [information@vfw2894.org](mailto:information@vfw2894.org)

Web Site: [www.vfw2894.org](http://www.vfw2894.org)

Visit us on FaceBook

### OFFICERS

Commander.....	Chris Mulholland
Sr. Vice Commander.....	John Guill
Jr. Vice Commander.....	Gary Shaffer
Adjutant.....	Tom Benson
Quartermaster.....	Craig Devonshire
Chaplain.....	Angela Taylor
Surgeon.....	Geoff Briggs
Staff Judge Advocate.....	Matt Hamel
Service Officer.....	Gary Dunbar

### NATIONAL

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

### STATE

[www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)

### VFW VA DISTRICT 2

[www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2](http://www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2)

### City of Chesapeake

[www.visitchesapeake.com/things-to-do/events](http://www.visitchesapeake.com/things-to-do/events)

# SSG JONATHAN KILIAN DOZIER POST 2894



**Chesapeake, Virginia 23322**

**NEWSLETTER – Vol. III, Issue 2, April/May 2014**

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Comrades! We are preparing for a busy spring and will need everyone's help! The biggest event is our Post's hosting of the Third Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, Memorial Day Weekend. We need everyone to contribute some hours of volunteer work at this seminal event at the Dismal Swamp Park in Deep Creek. From manning the registration/check-in booth, handing out water, monitoring the course, preparing food, etc., etc. we need everyone on deck. Please contact the event chairman, Matt Schweers

([matthewschweers@hotmail.com](mailto:matthewschweers@hotmail.com), 675-7277) as soon as possible with your availability and any preferences for how you can help. This promises to be the largest walk to date and we anticipate up to more than 1200 participants from up and down the East Coast. Please reserve the day to come out and help honor all of our World War II veterans that day.

Our next Post meeting (on 9 April at the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) hall behind the watertower at the corner of Battlefield Blvd and Kempsville Road) is very important this year for several reasons. First, we will be electing next year's slate of officers. Vtally, we need someone to consider assuming the position of Post Quartermaster. Comrade Devonshire is working on his baccalaureate and has limited time to

spend on the required QM duties. If you have a good background in business – or even just common sense and organization – we need your help! Secondly, we will be honoring the Chesapeake Police Officers of the Year and our Scout of the Year. Mayor Krasnoff and Colonel

Wright, Chief of Police, will both be there as well as other dignitaries. So please come!

Another event we are participating in is the handing out of Buddy Poppies on Armed Forces Day, 17 May, at the Grassfield WalMart. Buddy poppies is an important part of our VFW heritage and mission.

Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled, needy, and aging veterans and the proceeds go to provide compensation to the veterans who assembled the poppies, financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs, and to partially support the VFW National Home for orphans and widows of our nation's veterans.

Thanks to all of you and your service!

Semper Fidelis,

*Chris Mulholland, Commander*

[majmule@cox.net](mailto:majmule@cox.net)

## VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNER

Brittany Acors, a senior at Grassfield High School, was the winner of this year's Voice of Democracy contest and presented with a certificate and check at the Post's March 2014 meeting - for the second year in a row! She wrote and recorded a winning broadcast script with the theme, "Why I'm Optimistic About our Nation's Future". Brittany has already been accepted at the prestigious College of William and Mary but is waiting on letters from several other top-notch schools. She plans to study biology enroute to becoming an surgical ophthalmologist. Brittany is shaping up to be one of our nation's future movers and shakers, being extremely active in Girl Scouts, the Grassfield band, and numerous other activities in and out of school. She was accompanied to the award presentation by her parents and younger sister. After hearing her presentation and meeting her and her family, all of us at Post 2894 are "optimistic about our nation's future"!!



Commander Mulholland and Brittany Acors

Among those singled out at the Chesapeake Conference Center event was World War II veteran Harry Oakley, 87.

In 1944, Krasnoff said, Oakley left school "at the tender age of 17" to fight for his country.

By the time he was 20, Oakley had helped liberate the Philippines, earned two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and other medals, participated in the occupation of Japan and was on his way back home, Krasnoff said.

"Harry Oakley had been to the edges of hell, seen men die, been wounded twice and was suffering from malaria attacks that could have taken his life ... and he was still too young to vote. It's amazing."

Like so many others, the mayor said, Oakley "did not come home to march in a parade, but to build a life and a future ... we still have the chance to welcome Harry Oakley and those he represents home again."

Oakley and his wife, Beatrice, received a standing ovation.

Also seated in the audience were Chesapeake Police Sgt. Jeff Lowe and Detective Michael Toothman.

The two were chaperoning a Hickory High School band trip in Maryland, Krasnoff said, when they saw a man collapse. They rushed to his side and began administering CPR until an emergency crew arrived. The man survived.

"I call that service of the first order, and I am grateful that two of Chesapeake's finest ... are with us today so we can thank them."

Krasnoff also singled out Trudy Rauch, a volunteer coordinator for the Chesapeake Area Shelter Team, a faith-based group that shelters and feeds the homeless during the winter.

The program, Krasnoff said, "is a prime example of what a community can do to meet a very compelling need. ... She and the churches and volunteers she represents are heroes in their own right."

And he recognized alumni of the Cornland School, a one-room school house for African American children that was built in 1902 and closed in 1952.

"Some of the lessons they learned were cruel and harsh," Krasnoff said, noting the taunting they often suffered during those segregated times. "It is a monument to an era some would rather forget, but we must remember."

"The names of many who attended Cornland have no doubt been lost to time, but with us today is Eula Riddick Brooks, who stands in their place."

## ONE OF OUR OWN HONORED AT MAYOR'S STATE OF CHESAPEAKE SPEECH

### Mayor cites local heroes in city speech

By Jeff Sheler, *The Virginian-Pilot*, © March 24, 2014

There weren't any dramatic announcements in Mayor Alan Krasnoff's annual State of the City speech last week, but there certainly was no shortage of applause lines.

That's because the mayor sprinkled his remarks with shout-outs to ordinary citizens and others he said were deserving of accolades.

Krasnoff announced the City Council will vote this week to contribute \$10,000 to help the school obtain designation as a state and national historic site. Efforts are under way to restore the dilapidated building on Benefit Road.)

## PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2014-'15

The Election Committee met and has proposed the following slate of officers for the 2014-'15 fraternal year. If you would like to throw your hat in the ring for one of the positions, please don't hesitate to do so.

- Commander – Chris Mulholland
- Senior Vice Commander – John Guill
- Junior Vice Commander – Gary Shaffer
- Quartermaster – Craig Devonshire/Matt Shweers
- Adjutant – Tom Benson
- Surgeon – Ray Brogan
- Chaplain – Angie Taylor
- Judge Advocate – Matt Hamel
- Service Officer – Gary Dunbar
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee – Jim Kepier
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee – Carl Dozier
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee – Geoff Briggs

## A GREAT, "FEEL GOOD" STORY

### 'Flat Stanley' home after decade in soldier's wallet

by Maria Polletta, *The Arizona Republic* 3:03 a.m. EDT  
March 23, 2014



(Photo: Michael Chow, *The Arizona Republic*)

PHOENIX -- "People don't write letters anymore," according to third-grade teacher Luella Wood.

But 10 years ago, in the painstaking scrawl of an 8-year-old, Alan Orduna did.

The Huntsville, Ark., boy, along with other students in Wood's class, penned a note to accompany a paper cut-out modeled after the title character in the popular children's book "Flat Stanley." After being smashed by a bulletin board in his sleep, the book's protagonist

makes the most of his new 2-D state by mailing himself to friends.

Wood asked her students to send their Stanley cut-outs to relatives or friends, who would then take them on a journey and detail the characters' exploits in a letter back.

Alan didn't have a friend in mind — or at least not one who would take Stanley on an adventure worthy of a third-grader's imagination. So, Wood sent Alan's packet off to an Army unit stationed in Baghdad and asked Alan to wait.

Alan did wait, patiently, through the rest of the school year.

He waited through the rest of elementary school.

He waited so long that he forgot he was waiting.

Then, shortly before Veterans Day last year, the 17-year-old high-school senior was called into the library with the rest of his class.

"There were a lot of people surrounding the library, and I was like, 'What's going on?' " he said. "They called me over and said, 'Some soldier sent mail for you.' "

Stanley was home.

### The journey begins

Brian Owens was young when the military bug bit him.

"My grandfather served in World War II. My father was a chaplain with the state Guard," said the New Mexico native, now a Phoenix resident. "As a kid, I had grown up in camouflage and wore dog tags and had buzz cuts."

Owens didn't consider a career until college, though.

"I was struggling with my grades. I loved education and I loved learning, but I just couldn't make heads or tails of what I wanted to do with myself," he said. "I needed some direction."

At 20, he enlisted in the Army.

He was 24, with two small sons of his own, when Stanley emerged from a box at mail call in the spring of 2004.

Owens was immediately on board, folding Stanley up and tucking him safely into his wallet.

"I'd always been a fan of cool little projects like that, and I imagined my own kids taking part in something similar," he said. "I could just picture them kind of starry-eyed after getting a letter back, thinking 'Oh, wow! A soldier overseas carried this, and he went here and there and did this and that.'"

"I thought, 'I can be that guy for this kid.'"

### Getting lost

Stanley built an impressive military resume.

He helped carry out dozens of combat patrols through Baghdad. He held steady through firefights and mortar attacks.



He saw car bombs, the banks of the Tigris River and the palace of Uday Hussein, the eldest son of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

He was there on the day of Iraq's first democratic elections.

He was there when Owens, standing guard on a tower, dodged a sniper's bullet by about 6 inches, and when his patrol hit an improvised explosive device. He saw the fate of some colleagues who weren't so lucky.

He was there, still, when the disturbing scenes and constant stress began to wear Owens down, leaving the soldier angry and confused.

"I experienced many things that changed who I was, how I thought and who my loved ones remembered me being," Owens wrote in a narrative travel log that eventually accompanied Stanley on his trip back to Arkansas.

"I lost track of a lot of things, including the silent passenger ... folded up in my back pocket."

### **Holding on**

Upon returning to Silver City, N.M., after his deployment, Owens found himself ill-equipped to deal with a key civilian responsibility: being a dad.

His marriage didn't survive his time in the Middle East, and he'd gotten custody of the boys.

"In the Army, if you didn't know how to do something, you referenced the field manual, or 'FM,'" Owens wrote. "(There) isn't an FM to reference on how to be a single dad, so I was lost."

He and the boys lived in a tiny apartment that was chilly in the winter and "hot and full of critters" in the summer, subsisting on macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper and scrambled eggs. Owens said he was impatient and asked too much of his kids.

"I was trying to support us, and the logistics of trying to make everything click was extremely hard," he said.

Owens found a job at an open-pit copper mine, "an 8-year-old boy's dream come true." He got a chance to operate some of the largest equipment in the world and assist with blasts in the mine.

The constant activity eventually wore out Owens' wallet. As he sifted through its contents, he came upon a colored piece of tightly folded paper.

"After I found Stanley again and realized, 'Oh my gosh, I still have this thing,' it kind of took on a different, deeper meaning," Owens said. "It was almost like I had a mission I hadn't completed yet."

Stanley's return address was long gone, but Owens couldn't bring himself to throw him away.

"You read about all these fantastic coincidences, and I thought ... 'Maybe, one of these days, that'll happen to me,'" he said. "It was never a question: I was going to keep it until I died, or until I could find a way to get it back to who it belonged to."

### **Losing control**

With Stanley in his pocket, Owens soon met the woman who would become his sons' stepmother.

She brought with her a needed reality check.

Owens' love for his boys had kept him going in Iraq, but between the long days at work and late nights with his band, he'd lost sight of how much the three needed each other.

About the same time, officials at Owens' job approached him, complimenting his performance at a morning safety meeting and his "keen eye for hazard awareness." Laughing, he corrected them, calling it "a keen preference for being alive."

They asked him to begin assisting with field audits and safety training, critical in an industry with huge equipment, acid lakes and explosions.

The work "felt right and satisfied a passion I had felt for a long time," Owens wrote. In 2008, he officially became a health and safety specialist.

His improved financial standing — plus the income of his new fiancée, an environmental consultant at the mine — allowed Owens to move the family to a larger house.

But three months later, the economy tanked, taking the price of copper with it.

The mine closed, and so did Owens' window out.

### **Hitting bottom**

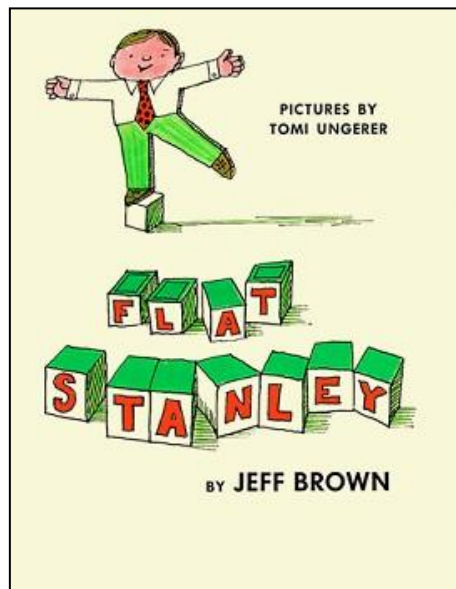
The family relocated to the Phoenix area, where Owens and his fiancée thought they'd have a better shot at finding work. Nothing turned up.

"I looked at the situation, the economy, the bills; no matter which way I looked at it, it seemed dire," Owens wrote. He prepared to rejoin the military — his last resort — and swiftly married so the kids would formally have a stepmom when he left the country.

He was turned down.

He enrolled full time in college, attempting to live off GI Bill benefits and credit cards. One month, he sold a guitar for one-third of what it was worth to try to make rent. A donation from a church committee covered electricity.

The local Veterans Affairs hospital officially diagnosed the post-traumatic stress disorder that had lurked under the surface since Owens' return. But instead of finding relief in



knowing what he was up against, he felt typecast.

"I felt like it was a stigma that society had placed on me, something I'd been running from, something I did not want," he said. "When it caught up with me, I was really downtrodden."

So was his wife. They separated shortly thereafter, and Owens and his boys moved back in with his parents in New Mexico.

He grew depressed, bitter and forgetful. He began drinking.

One night, angrily speeding along a dark road, Owens totaled his Land Rover. Though his injuries were minor, he wished he'd died in the accident.

"One more brush with death, one more unexplained survival," he wrote. "The vehicle was trashed, but me and Stanley yet again walked away."

#### **Loose ends**

In early 2010, Owens and Stanley headed to Albuquerque for Owens' annual VA appointment.

Discouraged, he recounted his downward spiral for the woman managing his case.

Her reaction floored him.

"Let me get this straight," she said. "You suffer from hypervigilance, an overdeveloped sense of hazard recognition and situational awareness, and have an obsessive passion for making sure people are safe ... and you've figured out how to make a living out of it?"

When Owens offered a tentative "yes," the woman couldn't contain her laughter.

"As you get worse over the years, you'll probably get raises and bonuses!" she told him.

"Look, I'm not making light of your circumstances, but you're onto something here," she said. "Most folks that have your symptoms self-implode and aren't successful with it at all. It gets in the way of their work functions. You, you've turned it into your work function."

The conversation helped loosen the grip of Owens' persistent pessimism. And after that, the scattered puzzle that his life had become began to piece itself back together.

The mine reopened, and Owens was called back to work.

He found a university online, known for its occupational safety and health program, and it accepted almost all of his previous class credits.

A few weeks later, he and his wife reunited.

They returned to Phoenix in 2011, and Owens became the highest-ranking safety official at an industrial-construction company in Apache Junction. In 2013, the couple had a daughter.

But Owens still had one piece of unfinished business to take care of.

**Mission complete**

Owens was searching for another piece of paper when the one with the key to Stanley's past appeared.

"I came across a box with a bunch of papers in it," he wrote. "As I glanced through the contents, I found a letter. ... It was a typed note from one 'Mrs. L. Wood.'"

Owens Googled the school and found Wood's email, firing off a "shot in the dark" message.

Wood first thought the letter was a scam, though its "well-worded and polite" nature made her reconsider.

She wrote back.

While Owens worked to finish the narrative letter chronicling Stanley's journey, Wood worked to coordinate the details of his return.

"My principal went with me, because he knew Alan," she said. "All his friends were there, taping it on their cellphones."

The package wasn't just for Alan, however. It also contained a thank-you letter for Wood, along with a flag Owens had carried during his service.

The surprise left Wood in tears.

"I think teachers and soldiers kind of have a lot in common," she said. "You go to work. You get criticized. But you just keep plugging away, because you're trying to make a difference."

Alan, blindsided by the surprise delivery, waited until he got home to study the full, "amazing" narrative. As he was applying to colleges and preparing for a major in computer engineering, the last few lines resonated particularly well.

"I know by now you are approaching the age when you will embark on your own journey," Owens wrote. "Might I make a suggestion?"

"Pick up your adventures with Stanley where ours ended. Put him in your wallet," he wrote. "You will undoubtedly face hard times. You will experience lows and uncertainty. But, whenever you feel despair or emptiness setting in, remember a saying I learned in the Army — 'If you ever get to the point where it's hopeless and nothing more can be done, you've overlooked something.'"

"And, if you need a second opinion, there silently, you will have a passenger, hanging out, folded up in your back pocket, that can vouch for me."

**+** SAFETY CORNER **+**  
**APRIL IS NATIONAL DISTRACTED  
DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH**

### **Recognize April 2014 as Distracted Driving Awareness Month**

Thousands die needlessly each year because people continue to use their cell phones while driving, handheld or hands-free. Join the National

Safety Council this April in urging those you care about to:

- Stop using cell phones while driving
- Recognize that hands-free devices offer no safety benefit
- Understand the dangers of the cognitive distraction to the brain
- Tell others about the dangers of cell phone distracted driving

### WORKPLACE DANGER

#1 Cause of Workplace Death: Car Crashes



Motor vehicle crashes



Assaults



Incidents involving objects or equipment



Falls

## DRIVING DOWN DISTRACTION

### Reducing the Risk of the #1 Cause of Workplace Deaths

Cell phone distracted driving policies help employers keep employees safe and also protect their bottom lines.

### HIGHWAY HAZARD



Drivers using handheld or hands-free cell phones are **4x** as likely to crash.

The National Safety Council estimates 25% of crashes involve cell phones.



21% Phone Conversations  
4% Text Messaging

You can read a lot more at the National Safety Council website

[www.nsc.org/safety\\_road/Distracted\\_Driving/Pages/DAM.aspx?utm\\_medium=print&utm\\_source=vanurl&utm\\_campaign=ddmonth](http://www.nsc.org/safety_road/Distracted_Driving/Pages/DAM.aspx?utm_medium=print&utm_source=vanurl&utm_campaign=ddmonth)

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month was introduced as a resolution in 2010 by former Rep. Betsy Markey (D-CO) and passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in a 410-2 vote on March 23, 2010. The resolution mentions 9-year-old Erica Forney, who was struck and killed by a distracted driver in Fort Collins, CO, in November 2008. Erica's mother, Shelley Forney, is a founding board member of [Focus Driven - Advocates for Cell-free Driving](#).

### SAFETY CORNER

## MAY IS NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH

### Water Safety Tips

#### Water Safety Tips from the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF)

- Teach children water safety and swimming skills as early as possible.
- Always brief babysitters on water safety, emphasizing the need for constant supervision.

- Appoint a "designated watcher" to monitor children during social gatherings at or near pools.
- Equip doors and windows that exit to a pool area with alarms.
- Install a poolside phone, preferably a cordless model, with emergency numbers programmed into speed-dial.
- Post CPR instructions and learn the procedures.
- Keep rescue equipment poolside. Don't wait for the paramedics to arrive because you will lose valuable life-saving seconds. Four to six minutes without oxygen can cause permanent brain damage or death.
- Keep a first aid kit at poolside.
- Install four-sided isolation fencing, at least five feet high, equipped with self-closing and self-latching gates, that completely surrounds the pool and prevents direct access from the house and yard.
- Maintain constant visual contact with children in a pool or pool area. If a child is missing, check the pool first; seconds count in preventing death or disability.
- Don't use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision. Never allow a young child in a pool without an adult.
- Don't leave objects such as toys that might attract a child in the pool and pool area.
- Never prop the gate to a pool area open.
- Don't rely on swimming lessons, life preservers, or other equipment to make a child "water safe."
- Never assume someone else is watching a child in a pool area.
- Don't leave chairs or other items of furniture where a child could use them to climb into a fenced pool area.
- Don't think you'll hear a child who's in trouble in the water; child drowning is a silent death, with no splashing to alert anyone that the child is in trouble

### Water Safety Tips from the Pool Safety "Simple Steps Save Lives" Program

#### 1. Stay close, be alert and watch children in and around the pool

- Never leave a child unattended in a pool or spa and always watch your child when he or she is in or near water
- Teach children basic water safety tips
- Keep children away from pool drains, pipes and other openings to avoid entrapments
- Have a telephone close by when you or your family is using a pool or spa

- If a child is missing, look for him or her in the pool or spa first
- Share safety instructions with family, friends and neighbors

**2. Learn and practice water safety skills**

- Learn how to swim and teach your child how to swim
- Learn to perform CPR on children and adults, and update those skills regularly
- Understand the basics of life-saving so that you can assist in a pool emergency

**3. Have appropriate equipment for your pool or spa**

- Install a four-foot or taller fence around the pool and spa and use self-closing and self-latching gates; ask your neighbors to do the same at their pools.
- Install and use a lockable safety cover on your spa.
- If your house serves as a fourth side of a fence around a pool, install door alarms and always use them. For additional protection, install window guards on windows facing pools or spas.
- Install pool and gate alarms to alert you when children go near the water
- Ensure any pool and spa you use has compliant drain covers, and ask your pool service provider if you do not know
- Maintain pool and spa covers in good working order
- Consider using a surface wave or underwater alarm

You can find more tips for pool & spa owners at [poolsafely.gov](http://poolsafely.gov).

**FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES IN NEED, THE NATIONAL HOME HELPLINE IS JUST A TOLL-FREE CALL AWAY**

The National Home Helpline is the gateway to help for military and veterans' families, providing connections with supportive services and resources in communities all across the nation as well as referrals to our on-campus programs.

And our war heroes can take comfort in knowing that their call will be answered by a caring professional who understands the unique challenges faced by today's military and veterans' families.

The toll-free Helpline is answered Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

**1-800-313-4200**, [help@vfnationalhome.org](mailto:help@vfnationalhome.org)

**QUARTERMASTER DESK**



**Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$35.50.**

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

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP**

You can become a VFW Life Member by paying a one-time fee as listed in the table below, or making an initial \$35 payment and then paying the remainder over an 11-month installment plan. You will be issued an annual membership card and can elect, upon receipt of the first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The applicable Life Membership fee is determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on Dec. 31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement.

Age	One-Time Payment	Installment Payment
18-30	\$ 425	\$ 38.64
31-40	\$ 410	\$ 37.27
41-50	\$ 375	\$ 34.09
51-60	\$ 335	\$ 30.45
61-70	\$ 290	\$ 26.36
71-80	\$ 225	\$ 20.45
81 & over	\$ 170	\$ 15.45

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

Life Memberships can be paid online at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), via mail, or in-person at the meetings.

**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 committees just recently established. Contact one of the members of the committees you're interested in and let them know you'd like to help:

- **Budget Committee:** Gary Shaffer, Craig Devonshire, Carl Dozier, Mike Morris
- **Awards Committee:** Chris Mulholland, Travis Maslowski
- **Membership Committee:** Gary Shaffer, Chris Mulholland
- **Building Committee:** Gary Shaffer, Carl Dozier, Mike Morris – this is researching the acquisition of a proper meeting hall and/or property for the Post to conduct its business. If anyone has any ideas about this issue, please contact the Post Commander ASAP!

**MEMBERSHIP**



Please remember to always look for new members to recruit for Post 2894. The three prerequisites for VFW membership include: (1) US Citizenship, (2) Honorable service in the US Armed Services, and (3) Service entitling the award of a recognized campaign medal or as set forth in the VFW Congressional Charter and By-Laws.

Prospective members can sign up on-line at <https://www.vfw.org/oms/NewMember.aspx>.

## APRIL MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1863 The US adopts conscription for the Civil War  
1893 USN establishes the rate of Chief Petty Officer  
1945 Okinawa: 60,000 U.S. soldiers and Marines land, on Easter Sunday  
1945 US First & Ninth Armies meet to form the Ruhr pocket  
1954 US Air Force Academy established  
1954 The US Army forms its first helicopter battalion, Fort Bragg, NC  
1991 Warsaw Pact officially dissolves
- 2 1827 Construction of the first U.S. Naval Hospital begins, Portsmouth, Va  
1865 Battles of Petersburg/Ft Gregg/Sutherland's Station, Va: Robert E. Lee is forced to evacuate Richmond  
1917 Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany  
1982 Argentina invades the Falkland Is, initiating a 72-day losing war with Britain
- 3 1865 Union forces occupy Richmond & Petersburg, to the tune of "Dixie"  
1948 Harry Truman signs the Marshall Plan
- 4 1776 First USN victory at sea: USS 'Columbus' captures HM Tender 'Hawke'  
1862 Yorktown: First serious fighting of the Peninsular Campaign  
1865 Lincoln sits in Jeff Davis' chair, in the Confederate White House  
1942 Bataan: Fil-American forces fall back after Japanese break through  
1943 4th Marine Div is activated at San Diego  
1949 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) formed
- 5 1951 Julius & Ethel Rosenberg, atomic spies, sentenced to death  
1986 Berlin: two US servicemen & a Turkish woman die in a terrorist bombing  
1991 US begins relief air drops to Kurds in north Iraq
- 6 Army Day and National Tartan Day  
1862 Battle of Shiloh, Day 1: Confederate success  
1866 Union veterans form the Grand Army of the Republic  
1917 US declares war on Germany, enters World War I  
1945 Okinawa: Massive kamikaze attack on the US fleet sinks 6 ships
- 7 1862 Battle of Shiloh, Day 2: Grant defeats the Confederates  
1942 USN agrees to accept black Americans for general service  
1943 Japanese a/c inflict heavy losses on Allied shipping around Guadalcanal  
1945 First Navy Nurses land on Iwo Jima: Lt, jg, Ann Purvis & Ens Jane Kendeigh  
1949 Rogers & Hammerstein's "South Pacific" opens at the Majestic on Broadway for 1928 performances  
1980 President Jimmy Carter breaks relations with Iran over the hostage crisis
- 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: Six Marine recruits drown during an unauthorized night exercise
- 9 1865 Appomattox: Robert E Lee & Army of Northern Virginia surrender.  
1898 Lt Andrew S. Rowan leaves for Cuba with "a message for Garcia."  
1942 Bataan: 75,000 US & 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 regt awarded Croix de Guerre  
1945 Allies liberate the 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 the DSM  
1951 Harry S Truman fires Gen Douglas McArthur
- 12 1861 Confederates shell Fort Sumter, initiating the 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 a month earlier  
1942 Bataan: Japanese massacre c. 400 Filipino officers  
1966 First B-52 raids on North Vietnam  
1993 Bosnia: USS 'Theodore Roosevelt' (CVN-71) & NATO a/c 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 the USN since 1865, and the only purpose-built hospital ship in the history of the fleet  
1912 RMS 'Titanic' strikes an ice berg, c. 11:40 pm  
1945 Tokyo fire bomb raids: B-29s damage Imperial Palace
- 15 1861 Ft Sumter surrenders  
1861 Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers  
1865 The 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 a prototype B-52  
1986 US a/c raid terrorist bases in Libya, following Berlin disco bombing  
2013 Russian Muslim terrorists set off bomb at finish line of Boston Marathon killing 3 and wounding 264.
- 16 1916 The French Army forms the 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  
1947 Congress grants Navy Nurses full commissioned status
- 17 1846 Battle of Cerro Gordo: Winfield Scott defeats the Mexican Army  
1861 Virginia is 8th state to secede from the Union



- 1864 Grant suspends POW exchanges over Confederate refusal to treat black troops as soldiers
- 1861 Bay of Pigs: 1,400 Cuban exiles land to overthrow Castro
- 18** 1644 Thousands of Pamunky 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 a "midnight ride"
- 1934 US Army stops issuing sabers to the cavalry
- 1942 Doolittle Raid: 16 B-25Bs off CV Hornet strike Tokyo and other targets
- 1942 World War II edition of "Stars & Stripes" begins publication in England
- 19** 1775 The Battles of Lexington & Concord -- "The Shot Heard 'Round the World"
- 1783 Congress orders hostilities with Britain at an end, eight 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 the US makes 1st free fall parachute jump
- 1941 US Marines begin construction of an airfield on Wake Island
- 1989 USS 'Iowa' (BB-61) gun turret explosion, 47 die
- 20** 1789 George Washington sworn in as first President, Federal Hall, NY
- 1861 Union forces burn and 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
- 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 the Po River
- 24** 1863 War Dept 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, 8 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 the Scouts are awarded the 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 the Elbe River
- 1960 USS Triton completes first submerged circumnavigation of the globe
- 26** 1607 English colonists land at Cape Henry, Va
- 1805 William Eaton and Lt Presley O'Bannon attack Derna, Libya and the phrase, "to the shores of Tripoli" enters national lexicon.
- 27** 1773 British Parliament passes Tea Act, leading to the Boston Tea Party
- 1778 John Paul Jones begins a two-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 Fifth Army liberates Genoa
- 28** 1945 US Fifth Army reaches Italian-Swiss border
- 1956 French leave Vietnam
- 1965 US Marines land in Dominican Republic, stay until October 1966
- 1967 Mohammad Ali refuses induction into the 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 1<sup>st</sup> Co., Signal Corps, 71st Reg, NYNG, formed to conduct aeronautical operations, redesignated 106th Rescue Wing, oldest Air Guard unit.
- 1945 American & Soviet forces link up at Torgau in Germany

## 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
- 2** 1863 Stonewall Jackson wounded by his own men at Chancellorsville, dies May 10th
- 1945 Berlin formally surrenders to Red Army
- 1945 German forces in Italy surrender
- 3** 1846 Mexican army invades Texas
- 1861 Lincoln orders expansion of Army by 23,000 and Navy by 18,000
- 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
- 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 the French at Puebla
- 1862 Peninsular Campaign: Battle of Williamsburg, VA
- 1864 Battle of Wilderness: Germanna Ford/Wilderness Tavern
- 1908 The Great White Fleet reaches San Francisco
- 1942 Philippines: Japanese troops land on Corregidor
- 1945 Oregon: Japanese balloon bomb kills a pregnant woman and five children
- 1965 First large US ground units arrive in South Vietnam
- 6** 1937 Hindenburg disaster, Lakehurst, NJ, 36 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** 1942 Battle of Coral Sea begins
- 1954 Dien Bien Phu: Vietminh overrun the French after a 55-day siege
- 1989 Panama: Manuel Noriega seizes power after losing an election
- 8** 1886 Confederate veteran John S. Pemberton invents Coca Cola
- 1911 Birth of Naval Aviation: USN orders its first airplane, a

- Curtiss A-1
- 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea, Day 2: USS 'Lexington' (CV-2) sunk
- 1945 V-E Day; Germany signs unconditional surrender
- 1952 US conducts the 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 the North Pole
- 10** 1676 Bacon's Rebellion begins in Virginia
- 1775 Benedict Arnold, Ethan Allan, & Green Mountain Boys capture Ticonderoga
- 1862 Confederates torch & evacuate the Norfolk and Pensacola Navy Yards
- 1960 USS 'Triton' (SSN-586) completes first submerged circumnavigation
- 1968 Vietnam War: Paris peace talks begin, as does the Battle of Hamburger Hill
- 11** 1862 CSS 'Virginia/Merrimac' is scuttled in the James River
- 1938 First USCG award of the DFC, LT C. B. Olsen, for a rescue at sea
- 12** 1607 Foundation of Jamestown, Virginia
- 1789 NYC Revolutionary War veterans form the Society of St Tammany
- 1943 Trident Conference: Roosevelt and Churchill plan strategy
- 1975 US merchant ship 'Mayaguez' seized by Cambodian forces
- 13** 1908 The Navy Nurse Corps is established
- 1943 USN Bureau of Navigation becomes the Bureau of Naval Personnel
- 14** 1653 Massachusetts Council declares that one 8<sup>th</sup> of each militia company be available to march on 1 day's warning.
- 1801 Tripoli declares war on the US, initiating the First Tripoli War (1801-1805)
- 1804 Lewis & Clark Expedition sets out from St Louis
- 1836 Mexican President Santa Anna, a prisoner of the Texans, signs the Treaty of Velasco, conceding Texan independence.
- 1845 USS 'Constitution' lands Marines at Danang, Indochina
- 1856 USS 'Supply' delivers 50 Turkish camels to the US Army at Indianola, Texas
- 1942 The US Army forms the 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 his 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-300
- 17** 1987 USS 'Stark' (FFG-31) hit by Iraqi missiles, 37 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 the Selective Service Act
- 19** 1951 UN begins counter offensive in Korea
- 1958 NORAD is formed
- 1967 US bombs Hanoi
- 20** 1912 Battlecruiser SMS 'Moltke' reaches Hampton Roads, only visit to US by German capital ship
- 1930 Pres. 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 is first American drafted during WW I
- 1944 West Loch, Pearl Harbor: ammo-laden LST blows up, 6 LSTs lost, 200 killed
- 1968 USS 'Scorpion' (SSN-589) sinks off Azores, 99 die
- 22** National Maritime Day
- 1959 Benjamin O Davis Jr. (USMA '36) becomes first black Army general
- 1985 US sailor Michael L Walker arrested for spying for USSR
- 23** 1775 Virginian Patrick Henry says "Give me Liberty or give me death!"
- 1862 Valley Campaign: Stonewall Jackson takes Front Royal, Virginia
- 24** 1764 James Otis coins the 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 the US will put a man on the moon by 1970
- 26** 1945 US fire bomb raid on Tokyo
- 27** 1607 Battle of Jamestown: English settlers repulse attack by 200 Indians
- 28** 1830 Congress authorizes Indian removal from the Eastern states
- 1980 First 55 women graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy
- 29** 1945 Okinawa: 1st Marine Division Captures Shuri Castle
- 30** 1868 The first "Decoration Day", designated by GAR Commander-in-Chief Maj Gen John Logan
- 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

## 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:

505 Piping Rock Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322  
757-482-4981 or [majmule@cox.net](mailto:majmule@cox.net)

**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 primary means for disseminating the newsletter will be via e-mail.

Semper fidelis,

- Chris Mulholland, Sr. Vice Cdr

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COULD BE  
HERE!!!**

## **POST 2894 CALENDAR**

<b><u>APRIL</u></b>	
2	International Tartan Day
15	"Tax Day"
9	Post Meeting, 1900 (7 pm) Police Officers of the Year, Scout of the Year, Post Elections
13	Palm Sunday
18	Good Friday
20	Easter

<b><u>MAY</u></b>	
11	Mother's Day
14	Post Meeting, 1900 (7 pm) Installation of Officers
16-18	Chesapeake Jubilee
17	Armed Forces Day Buddy Poppies at Grassfield WalMart
24	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk
26	Memorial Day

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