

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

2nd 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: cdpost2894@va.vfwwebmail.com

Web Site:

<http://myvfw.org/va/post2894>

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.....	Mike Morris
Surgeon.....	Ray Brogan
Staff Judge Advocate.....	Matt Hamel
Service Officer.....	Gary Dunbar

NATIONAL

www.vfw.org

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2

SSG JONATHAN KILIAN DOZIER POST 2894



Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

NEWSLETTER – Vol. IV, Issue 6, December 2014/January 2015

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Comrades! Our post has been busy these past couple of months.

Let me start with welcoming two new members to the post, Mike Nowakowski and Jose Vazquez. Mike is a VMI grad and former Marine who is now working for Congressman Randy Forbes. Jose was a soldier in Vietnam who moved to Virginia after retiring from New York. Welcome aboard!

Next news was the Buddy Poppy Drive at the Grassfield WalMart over Veterans Day weekend. Thanks to a small but dedicated group of members, we collected over \$1100 in donations! I want to give a "BZ" (nautical talk for "good job") to Carl Dozier, Gary and Sandy Dunbar, Craig Devonshire, Mark Rios, and Mark Junhans. They also met a couple of prospective members and we hope to see them at future meetings.

I want to thank everyone who came out to the Veterans Day Ceremony at City Hall. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate so everyone had to move into the Council Chambers but it was a great overall ceremony nonetheless. Comrade Dozier then went to the Grassfield WalMart and helped them with their Veterans Day Ceremony. Additionally, the post provided veterans pins and Buddy Poppies to the 20 veterans at Cedar Manor Assistive Living Center.

Comrade Matt Schweers and his wife Grace have begun planning the next Bataan Death March Memorial Walk. This, the 4th 'edition', will be held on 18 April 2015. Please set aside this day on your calendars so that you can come out and help with this important event.

The Post nominated Craig Blackman as VFW's Teacher of the Year. He was responsible for the touching Memorial Day Ceremony where Chesapeake's fallen from the Vietnam War were honored and remembered. You can read the write up later in this newsletter.

Lastly, I need to recognize and thank our Post Service Officer, Comrade Gary Dunbar. He has been doing an incredible job of finding veterans and veteran families in need and then coordinating their assistance. From a WWII widow to the wife of a Navy hero, Gary has been a God Send to these families. Please read about one of his stories in this newsletter.

EVERYONE! Come help dedicate the new Dominion Boulevard "Veterans Bridge" on 12 December. Details in the newsletter.

One of our members, Comrade Matt Hamel, was just elected as the Chairman of the Mayor's Commission for Veterans Affairs. If you see him, please congratulate him for this important

responsibility and honor.

I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you are coming to the **10 December Post meeting**, please **bring an appetizer or dessert and your favorite libation** as we will celebrate the holidays with a social after the business meeting.

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

Semper Fidelis,

Chris Mulholland, Commander
majmule@cox.net



“VETERANS BRIDGE”!

Thanks to the efforts of the veterans of Chesapeake, City Council has announced that the new Dominion Boulevard Bridge over the Elizabeth River will be named “Veterans Bridge”. The dedication will take place on Friday, December 12, at 10:30 am, rain or shine, at the intersection of Dominion Blvd and Dominion Lakes Blvd.



DIRECTIONS

- **From I-64:** Take exit 291B toward US-17 S/ Elizabeth City. Merge onto Dominion Boulevard. Continue through the Great Bridge Boulevard intersection. After about a mile, turn left onto Dominion Lakes Blvd.
- **From I-464 South and Route 168 Bypass North:** Take exit 15B towards US-17 S/Elizabeth City. Merge onto Dominion Boulevard. Continue through the Great Bridge Boulevard intersection. After about a mile, turn left onto Dominion Lakes Blvd.
- **From Cedar Road and Moses Grandy Trail:** Take US-17 N (Dominion Boulevard). Continue over the Steel Bridge. The entrance to Dominion Lakes Blvd will be just over a mile past the bridge, on your right.

PROJECT INFORMATION The Dominion Boulevard Improvement Project replaces the two-lane Steel Bridge with a 95' high, fixed-span, four-lane bridge. The project also expands the roadway from two-lanes to four between Grassfield Parkway and Great Bridge Boulevard. The first bridge span over the Elizabeth River is scheduled to open in early 2015.

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Vaughn: 757-382-6983,
Dominion@CityofChesapeake.net
www.CityofChesapeake.net/Dominion

TEACHER OF THE YEAR WINNER

Here what I wrote to the Chair of the District TOTY Award Committee as endorsement letter for our nominee, Craig Blackman of Indian River High School:

No one who was present at the Memorial Day Ceremony in front of Chesapeake City Hall on May 26th of this year will ever forget the tears and the smiles, the crying and the laughing. It was an emotionally filled day for everyone who was in attendance because the forgotten fallen of the war in Vietnam were publically remembered and honored. And it was all due to the efforts of one man, our Post's Teacher of the Year nominee, Mr. Craig Blackman.

An award winning history teacher at Indian River High School, Craig asked each of his AP history students to select one of Chesapeake's sons who had been killed during the

Vietnam war and to write up their biographies. These were young soldiers and Marines who, for the most part, had been forgotten in their home town and had never received the proper recognition and honors for their sacrifice from their country, their state, or their city.

The students researched official records, interviewed family members and friends who were still living locally, and – for those servicemen who had no one left in the area – searched out relatives who had moved or lived out of state. These interviews affected not just the family members, but made significant impacts on the high school students themselves who had little or no knowledge of the effect that Vietnam had on the American psyche.

At the Memorial Day Ceremony, each of the 25 fallen Servicemen was represented by at least one family member, escorted by the students who had written up his history, as they placed memorial bricks at the Veterans' Memorial in front of City Hall.

Mr. Blackman's dedication to US military members has been evident throughout his career. He has written a book and numerous articles about Americans serving in combat from the Revolutionary War, through the War of 1812, the Civil War, World War II, and Vietnam.

His enthusiasm and support for all that this great country stands for is transmitted to his students, the future leaders of our nation. He continuously invites Service members – both old and young – and supporters of the military to his classrooms to give presentations to and interact with his students so that they can learn to appreciate what “serving in uniform” truly means.

A graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, Craig holds a Masters Degree in Education with a focus on American History from Pennsylvania State University. In 2008, Craig was selected as Virginia's Social Studies Teacher of the Year and served as the President of the Virginia Council for Social Studies (VCSS).



Beginning in 1997, Craig was recognized by the students of Indian River HS as their “most entertaining, most creative, and most passionate” teacher for three straight years. He was named to “Who's Who Among America's Teachers” in 1998, 2000, 2001, 2004 and 2005 and was recognized by Hampton Roads Magazine as one of the top 10 teachers of 2013. As a teacher at Indian River, Craig also coached their wrestling team (1987-1992) and sponsors numerous school academic and social activities.

Craig received both the 2009 and 2010 Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teaching Awards. Most recently, Craig was awarded the 2014 Esther Goldman Educator Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education.

His professional association memberships include: Phi Alpha Pheta, National Genealogical Society, Berkshire Family History Association, Essex Society of Family History, Virginia Historical Society, Air Force Association, Virginia Council for the Social Studies, and National Council for the Social Studies. Among other leadership activities and positions, he co-chaired the 2012 VCSS Conference and 2011 NCSS National Conference local support committee.

For the fall semester, Craig has asked his students to write an essay titled, "Pearl Harbor Reflections", asking them to imagine themselves at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 and records their reactions to the attack or explains how and why this Day of Infamy was critical in the formation of our freedoms today. The essay should include a thanks to the heroes who died in the attack and those who lived to tell the story and went on "to fight for our freedoms today."

However, the best testimony comes from those who he has touched, such as the mother of one of his students who stated, "I asked [my daughter] how she remembers some of the information, and she replied, 'It's the way he taught us and told us the stories. He made it interesting and helped us to understand not just what happened, but why it happened.' *As a parent, he has taught me to have faith and confidence in those we entrust with raising our children.*"

And the brother of one of the Vietnam KIAs wrote, "*Because of your dedication as a teacher, your obedience and faith in God, and your humanitarian efforts, you dear sir, brought me that joy and peace I so longed for.*"

On behalf of all the members of Post 2894, I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically nominate Mr. Craig Blackman as VFW's Teacher of the Year. If there is ANY teacher who deserves this recognition for the Year for 2015, it should be him!

Mrs. CARL BRASHEAR

Post 2894's Service Officer, Comrade Gary Dunbar has been relentless in ferreting out veterans and families of veterans in need. One of these cases is Junetta Brashear, the widow of BMCM (MDV) Carl Brashear, the Navy's first African American deep-sea diver. I'll let him explain the rest:

"The widow of Navy Master Chief Carl Brashear reached out to some Navy divers for help building a wheelchair ramp. They were overwhelmed by how much help she needs and contacted my VFW Post. She has been trapped in her 20' x 30' house for years. Cuba Gooding Jr. starred in the movie "Men of Honor" about Carl Brashear's service to our country. What he did walking on the ocean floor could not be fully disclosed for the movie. His actions were as heroic as anyone who earned the Medal of Honor. His actions were not in a war zone and did not qualify, the Navy finally properly honored him in 2009 by naming a ship after him. Mrs. Brashear cannot get her wheelchair in to her rotting moldy bathroom or her bedroom. She uses a "chamber pot" in her dining room where she sleeps. Rotorooter donated their services to unclog her sewer pipes and said the pipes need replacing and her toilet sits on a dangerously rotted floor. Her wall heater is 62 years old and does not work. She heats her house using a gas oven. The foundation has cracked and she has cracked windows and doors that do not function properly. She needs a new roof, siding, all new doors and A/C. Every part of this house needs

major repairs. I have a contractor in Virginia Beach (Allen Loree of Allen Loree Homes) who has volunteered to talk with builders and coordinate efforts to redesign her house. Mr. David Jusino manages Home Depot's Veteran Grant Program for Tidewater Virginia. Home Depot is willing to provide the materials and some labor to repair her home. I asked my contractor to help because this job may exceed the scope of what Home Depot is allowed to do. The Navy Seabee Battalion at the Little Creek Naval Base will also provide volunteers to augment the contractors.

"We finally found an apartment for Mrs. Brashear... We were lucky the manager's father was a Navy "hard hat" diver like Carl Brashear. The movie "Men of Honor" was mandatory viewing at least once per year. When she was told how difficult it is for Mrs. Brashear to move her manual 39" wide wheelchair on carpeting, she agreed to replace the wall-to-wall carpeting with wood floors. They will need to paint the apartment too."

As well as arranging for the apartment, Comrade Dunbar has lined up help for Mrs. Brashear from all over the area. A



local church and the Naval Chaplain will provide funds for the apartment. The Seabee Association and sailors from the USS Eisenhower have volunteered to do all the 'demolishing' prior to 'rebuilding'. Home Depot will supply all the construction materials. A local HVAC company will donate a heating and cooling unit. Gary has contacted the City of Portsmouth and the local NAACP to provide additional assistance.

This is an incredible story and one that we wanted to share with all the members of Post 2894.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNER

Our Post selected Elizabeth Acors, a Junior at Grassfield High School, as this year's winner of the "Voice of Democracy" award. Her package was one of three submitted to the post and has been forwarded to the District in the next step towards national recognition.

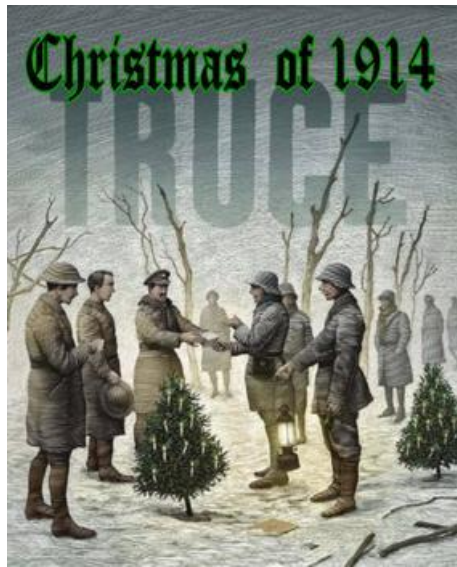
We will be holding an awards ceremony for Elizabeth, Craig, and all the future awards winners (Scout of the Year, Public Servant of the Year) as well as the runner ups, at our April meeting. So please plan on coming to congratulate them in a few months.

The "Christmas Truce" of 1914

The **Christmas truce** (German: *Weihnachtsfrieden*; French: *Trêve de Noël*) was a series of widespread, unofficial ceasefires that took place along the Western Front around Christmas 1914, during World War I. Through the week leading up to Christmas, parties of German and British soldiers began to exchange seasonal greetings and songs between their trenches; on occasion, the tension was reduced to the point that individuals would walk across to talk to their opposite numbers bearing gifts. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, many soldiers from both sides—as well as, to a lesser degree, from French units—independently ventured into "no man's land", where they mingled, exchanging food and souvenirs. As well as joint burial ceremonies, several meetings ended in carol-singing. Troops from both sides were also friendly enough to play games of football with one another, in one of the truce's most enduring images.

It was not ubiquitous; in some regions of the front, fighting continued throughout the day, while in others, little more than an arrangement to recover bodies was made. The following year, a few units again arranged ceasefires with their opponents over Christmas, but the truces were not nearly as widespread as in 1914; this was, in part, due to strongly worded orders from the high commands of both sides prohibiting such fraternization. In 1916, after the unprecedentedly bloody battles of the Somme and Verdun, and the beginning of widespread poison gas use, soldiers on both sides increasingly viewed the other side as less than human, and no more Christmas truces were sought.

The truces were not unique to the Christmas period, and reflected a growing mood of "live and let live", where infantry units in close proximity to each other would stop overtly aggressive behavior, and often engage in small-scale fraternization, engaging in conversation or bartering for cigarettes. In some sectors, there would be occasional ceasefires to allow soldiers to go between the lines and recover wounded or dead comrades, while in others, there would be a tacit agreement not to shoot while men rested, exercised, or worked in full view of the enemy. The Christmas truces were particularly significant due to the number of men involved and the level of their participation – even in very peaceful sectors, dozens of men openly congregating in daylight was remarkable – and are often seen as a symbolic moment of peace and humanity amidst one of the most violent events of human history.



Here are the lyrics from a song called "*Christmas in the Trenches*", by John McCutcheon:

*My name is Francis Tolliver, I come from Liverpool,
Two years ago the war was waiting for me after school.
To Belgium and to Flanders to Germany to here
I fought for King and country I love dear.
'Twas Christmas in the trenches where the frost so bitter hung,
The frozen fields of France were still, no Christmas song was sung,
Our families back in England were toasting us that day,
Their brave and glorious lads so far away.
I was lying with my messmate on the cold and rocky ground
When across the lines of battle came a most peculiar sound.
Says I, "Now listen up, me boys!" each soldier strained to hear
As one young German voice sang out so clear.
"He's singing bloody well, you know!" my partner says to me.
Soon one by one each German voice joined in harmony.
The cannons rested silent, the gas clouds rolled no more,
As Christmas brought us respite from the war.
As soon as they were finished and a reverent pause was spent,
"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" struck up some lads from Kent.
The next they sang was "Stille Nacht," "Tis 'Silent Night'," says I
And in two tongues one song filled up that sky.
"There's someone coming towards us!" the front line sentry cried
All sights were fixed on one lone figure coming from their side.
His truce flag, like a Christmas star, shone on that plain so bright,
As he bravely strode unarmed into the night.
Soon one by one on either side walked into No Man's land,
With neither gun nor bayonet we met there hand to hand.
We shared some secret brandy and we wished each other well
And in a flare-lit soccer game we gave 'em hell.
We traded chocolates, cigarettes, and photographs from home,
These sons and fathers far away from families of their own.
Young Sanders played his squeeze box and they had a violin,
This curious and unlikely band of men.
Soon daylight stole upon us and France was France once more,
With sad farewells we each began to settle back to war,
But the question haunted every heart that lived that wondrous night,
"Whose family have I fixed within my sights?"
'Twas Christmas in the trenches, where the frost so bitter hung,
The frozen fields of France were warmed as songs of peace were sung,
For the walls they'd kept between us to exact the work of war,
Had been crumbled and were gone for evermore.
My name is Francis Tolliver, in Liverpool I dwell.
Each Christmas come since World War I I've learned its lessons well,
That the ones who call the shots won't be among the dead and lame,
And on each end of the rifle we're the same.*

So when we sit down for Christmas this year, don't forget that there are US Servicemen and women deployed overseas somewhere over this holy holiday.

A very special – and touching – commercial was recently produced by an English market chain commemorating this special event. You can watch it at www.k102.com/onair/adam-west-1824/watch-commercial-relives-magical-silent-night-12999989.

NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD

If anyone wants to nominate a local hero for the National VFW award, please contact Commander Mulholland as soon as possible.

Let's recognize our local heroes! Every year the VFW selects emergency services persons, law enforcement officers and firefighters for National VFW Awards. Too often we read articles about heroic deeds performed by an officer of the law, a firefighter, or an EMT and there's no recognition for what they've done. Every day they put their lives on the line for us and our community, so let's work together to make a difference and show them our appreciation.



Available awards include:

- **Emergency Medical Technician National Award** – Anyone who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation's citizens.
- **Law Enforcement National Award** – Anyone who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility, including correctional custody. This award does not apply to individuals employed by private companies or security services.
- **Firefighters National Award** – Anyone who actively fights fires as member of a public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

Nominees must have demonstrated:

- Recognition by colleagues or those they serve.
- Consistent excellence in performance of duties.
- Consistent dedication to official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in professional responsibilities and skills.

Nominations must include:

- Nomination letter containing name, title, address, telephone and identifying award for which considered.
- One page resume of overall background.
- One page resume of background in their field.
- One page listing of accomplishment and awards in field.
- Photograph (preferably portrait)

Nominations are due to the Post by 1 Jan 2014.

+ SAFETY CORNER **+**
**DECEMBER IS SAFE TOYS AND GIFTS
MONTH**

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 251,700 toy-related injuries in 2010 throughout the United States. 72% were to people less than 15 years of age. Additionally, in 2007 alone, toymakers recalled over 19 million toys worldwide because of safety concerns such as lead paint and small magnets.

When it comes to toys and gifts, the excitement and desire to get your children their favorite toys may cause shoppers to forget about safety factors associated with them. Before you make these purchases, it is critical to remember to consider the safety and age range of the toys.

Prevent Blindness America has declared December as Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month. The group encourages everyone to consider if the toys they wish to give suits the age and individual skills and abilities of the individual child who will receive it, **especially for infants and children under age three.**

This holiday season (and beyond), please consider the following guidelines for choosing safe toys for all ages:

- Inspect all toys before purchasing. Avoid those that shoot or include parts that fly off. The toy should have no sharp edges or points and should be sturdy enough to withstand impact without breaking, being crushed, or being pulled apart easily.
- When purchasing toys for children with special needs try to: Choose toys that may appeal to different senses such as sound, movement, and texture; consider interactive toys to allow the child to play with others; and think about the size of the toy and the position a child would need to be in to play with it. Consult the "AblePlay" website at <http://www.ableplay.org> for more information.
- Be diligent about inspecting toys your child has received. Check them for age, skill level, and developmental appropriateness before allowing them to be played with.
- Look for labels that assure you the toys have passed a safety inspection – "ATSM" means the toy has met the American Society for Testing and Materials standards.
- Gifts of sports equipment should always be accompanied by protective gear (give a helmet with the skateboard)
- Keep kids safe from lead in toys by: Educating yourself about lead exposure from toys, symptoms of lead poisoning, and what kinds of toys have been recalled; being aware that old toys may be more likely to contain lead in the paint; having your children wash their hands frequently and calling your doctor if you suspect your child has been exposed to lead. Consult the last two websites listed below for more information.
- Do **NOT** give toys with small parts (including magnets and "button" batteries which can cause serious injury or death if ingested) to young children as they tend to put things in their mouths, increasing the risk of choking. If the piece can fit inside a toilet paper roll, it is not appropriate for kids under age three.
- Do **NOT** give toys with ropes and cords or heating elements
- Do **NOT** give crayons and markers unless they are labeled "nontoxic".

For more information:

- Call Prevent Blindness America at (800)331-2020 or go to their website
- www.preventblindness.org/children/safetoys.html
- www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/category/toy.html
- http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/home/safe_toys.html
- www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/faq/toys.html
- www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/002473.htm.

+ SAFETY CORNER **+**
**JANUARY IS CO2 AWARENESS
MONTH**

**January is the deadliest month for carbon
monoxide poisoning**

Consumer Reports News: January 03, 2008

According to [a new study](#) by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the first month of the year is the worst for carbon monoxide poisoning. At least two people die each day from carbon-monoxide poisoning in January—three times the fatality rate recorded in August and July. Unintentional carbon monoxide exposure accounted for 15,000 emergency room visits annually between 1999 and 2004, with an average of 439 people dying each year.

Fatalities were highest among men and senior citizens: Men because they are engaged in more high-risk behaviors such as working with fuel-burning tools or appliances and seniors because they are likely to mistake the symptoms of CO poisoning (headaches, nausea, dizziness or confusion) for the flu or fatigue.

It should come as no surprise that CO deaths are the highest in winter (December is the second highest month). Cold weather increases the use of gas-powered furnaces as well as the use of risky alternative heating and power sources (portable generators, charcoal briquettes, propane stoves or grills) during power outages. It's also understandable that the highest CO death rates are in colder states: Nebraska, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and North Dakota. By contrast, California has the lowest fatality rate.

With these sobering facts it's a good time to remember the following safety tips to prevent CO poisoning:

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil or coal-burning appliance inspected and serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Install battery-operated CO detectors on every level of your home.
- Don't use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside the home, basement or garage or outside the home near a window.
- Don't burn anything in an unvented stove or fireplace.
- Don't let a vehicle idle inside a garage attached to a house, even if the garage door is left open.
- Don't heat a house with a gas oven.

If a CO detector sounds, leave your home immediately and call 911 from outside. Seek prompt medical attention if you suspect CO poisoning and if you or someone in your household is feeling dizzy, light-headed or nauseated.

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're interested in and let them know you'd like to help:



- Budget Committee: Chair – Carl Dozier. Looking for additional volunteers.
- Awards Committee: Angela Taylor, Gary Dunbar, Mark Rios, and Chris Mulholland
- Membership Committee: John Guill, Mark Rios, Gary Dunbar, and Chris Mulholland
- Building Committee: Carl Dozier and Gary Dunbar

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>.

**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

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 Quartersmaster 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, via mail, or in-person at the meetings.

DECEMBER MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 **1918** American army of occupation enters Germany.
- 1941** First Civil Air Patrol organized in US.
- 1955** Rosa Parks refuses to sit in back of Montgomery, Alabama, bus, defying South's segregationist laws.
- 1969** America's first draft lottery since 1942 is held.
- 1986** Lt Col Oliver North pleads 5th Amendment before Senate panel investigating Iran-Contra arms sale.
- 2 **1823** President James Monroe proclaims Monroe Doctrine, "the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintained, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by European powers."
- 1944** General George S. Patton's troops enter Saar Valley and break through Siegfried line.
- 3 **1915** US expels German attaches on spy charges.
- 1918** Allied Conference ends in London with decision that Germany must pay for WWI.
- 1989** Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev announce official end of Cold War in Malta.
- 4 **1862** Winchester, Va., falls into Union hands.
- 1942** US planes make first raids on Naples, Italy.
- 1991** Last American hostages held in Lebanon are released.
- 5 **1933** 21st Amendment ends 13 year Prohibition in US.
- 1955** Bus boycott begins under leadership of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Montgomery, Alabama.
- 6 **1492** Columbus lands on Santo Domingo in search of gold.
- 1941** President Franklin D. Roosevelt issues a personal appeal to Emperor Hirohito to use his influence to avoid war.
- 7 **1917** US declares war on Austria-Hungary.
- 1941** Japanese planes raid Pearl Harbor in surprise attack.
- 1942** US Navy launches USS *New Jersey*, largest battleship ever built.
- 8 **1943** US carrier-based planes sink two cruisers and down 72 planes in Marshall Islands.
- 1944** US conducts longest, most effective air raid on Iwo Jima.
- 1948** UN approves recognition of South Korea.
- 1967** In battle in Mekong Delta, 365 Viet Cong killed.
- 9 **1775** Battle of Great Bridge, 1st Revolutionary War battle in the South, results in British rule leaving Virginia.
- 1992** US Marines land in Somalia to ensure food and medicine reaches deprived areas of that country.
- 10 **1898** US and Spain sign Treaty of Paris, ceding Spanish possessions, including Philippines, to US.
- 1918** US troops called to guard Berlin as coup is feared.
- 1941** Japanese troops invade Philippine island of Luzon.
- 11 **1941** US declares war on Italy and Germany.
- 12 **1753** George Washington delivers ultimatum to French forces at Fort Le Boeuf, south of Lake Erie, reiterating Britain's claim to entire Ohio River valley.
- 13 **1814** General Andrew Jackson announces martial law as British troops disembark at Lake Borne, 40 miles east of city and Battle of New Orleans begins.
- 1862** Battle of Fredericksburg ends with bloody slaughter of onrushing Union troops at Marye's Heights where Maine's Colonel Chamberlain is wounded.
- 14 **1799** George Washington dies on his Mount Vernon estate.
- 1941** German Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel orders construction of defensive positions along European coastline.
- 15 **1890** As US Army soldiers attempt to arrest Sitting Bull at his cabin in Standing Rock, South Dakota, shooting breaks out and Lt. Bullhead shoots the great Sioux leader.
- 1924** Soviet Union warns US against repeated entry of ships into Soviet territorial waters.
- 1938** Washington sends fourth note to Berlin demanding amnesty for Jews.
- 1944** Battle for Luzon begins.
- 1965** US drops 12 tons of bombs on industrial center near Haiphong Harbor, North Vietnam.
- 16 **1773** Boston Tea Party
- 1944** Germany mounts major offensive in Ardennes Forest in Belgium called "Battle of the Bulge".
- 1950** President Harry Truman declares National Emergency as Chinese communists invade deeper into South Korea.
- 1998** US launches missile attack on Iraq for failing to comply with UN weapons inspectors.
- 17 **1903** Wright brothers make first successful flight in history of a self-propelled, heavier-than-air aircraft.
- 1944** US approves end to internment of Japanese Americans.
- 1981** Red Brigade terrorists kidnap BG James Dozier, highest-ranking US NATO officer in Italy.
- 18 **1865** Slavery abolished in US. 13th Amendment formally adopted into US Constitution, ensuring that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude... shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."
- 1941** Defended by 610 Americans, Guam falls to more than 5,000 Japanese in a 3-hour battle.
- 1972** President Richard M. Nixon declares bombing of North Vietnam will continue until accord is reached.
- 19 **1959** Reputed to be last civil war veteran, Walter Williams, dies at 117 in Houston.
- 20 **1802** US buys Louisiana territory from France.
- 1941** Flying Tigers, American pilots in China, enter combat against Japanese over Kunming.
- 1989** US troops invade Panama to oust General Manuel Noriega and replace him with Guillermo Endara.
- 21 **1620** Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock.
- 1862** US Congress authorizes Medal of Honor for Navy personnel who have displayed gallantry in action.
- 1944** German troops surround 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne in Belgium.
- 1945** General George S. Patton dies at age of 60 after being injured in car accident.

- 22 1944** General Anthony McAuliffe responds to German surrender request with one word answer: "Nuts!"
- 23 1941** US Marines and Navy defenders on Wake Island capitulate to second Japanese invasion.
- 1944** General Eisenhower confirms death sentence of PVT Eddie Slovik, only American shot for desertion since Civil War.
- 1948** Japan's Prime Minister, Hideki Tojo and 6 others are hanged for war crimes.
- 24 1814** Treaty between US and Great Britain signed ending War of 1812. News does not reach US until after Battle of New Orleans.
- 1943** General Eisenhower appointed Allied Supreme Commander, though most believed position would go to American Chief of Staff George C. Marshall.
- 25 1925** US troops in Nicaragua disarm insurgents in support of Diaz regime.
- 26 1776** After crossing Delaware River night before, George Washington leads attack on Hessian mercenaries at Trenton and takes 900 prisoners.
- 1941** General Douglas MacArthur declares Manila open city in face of onrushing Japanese Army.
- 27 1944** General Patton's Third Army, spearheaded by 4th Armored Division, relieves surrounded city of Bastogne.
- 1979** President Hafizullah Amin of Afghanistan murdered in coup backed by Soviet Union, beginning 10-year war.
- 28 1946** France declares martial law in Vietnam as full-scale war appears inevitable.
- 29 1778** British troops, attempting new strategy to defeat colonials in America, capture Savannah.
- 1890** Last major conflict of Indian wars takes place at Wounded Knee Creek after COL James W. Forsyth of 7th Cavalry tries to disarm Chief Big Foot and his followers.
- 1965** Christmas truce is observed in Vietnam, while President Johnson tries to get North Vietnam to bargaining table.
- 30 1972** After 2 weeks of heavy bombing raids on North Vietnam, President Nixon halts air offensive and agrees to resume peace negotiations with Hanoi.
- 2006** Saddam Hussein, former Iraq dictator, executed by hanging for crimes committed against his own people.
- 31 1775** George Washington orders recruiting officers to accept free blacks into army.
- 1942** After five months of battle, Emperor Hirohito allows Japanese commanders at Guadalcanal to retreat.
- 1990 Panama's Gen Manuel Noriega surrenders to US authorities
- 4 1780** Snowstorm hits Washington's army at Morristown, NJ
- 1943 Japanese GHQ orders evacuation of Guadalcanal.
- 1989 Second Gulf of Sidra Incident: two USN F-14s down two Libyan MiG-23s
- 5 1608** Capt. John Smith captured by Indians
- 1781 Richmond burned by British forces under Benedict Arnold
- 6 1776** Alexander Hamilton's "New York Provincial Company of Artillery" organized; now 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, senior unit of US Regular Army
- 1927 US Marines sent to Nicaragua
- 1941 FDR's "Four Freedoms" address; of speech & worship, from want & fear.
- 7 1942** Bataan: 15,000 US & 65,000 Philippine troops go on half-rations, as Japanese close up to their lines
- 1953 Pres Truman announces development of hydrogen bomb
- 8 1815** Battle of New Orleans, 15 days after the Treaty of Ghent
- 1877 Battle of Wolf Mountain, Montana: Crazy Horse is defeated by US Army - last battle of Great Sioux War
- 1973 Secret peace talks between US & North Vietnam resume near Paris
- 9 1861** First Shot of the Civil War: US steamer 'Star of the West' is fired on by Confederate batteries off Charleston
- 1936 Garrand M-1 semi-automatic rifle adopted by the US Army
- 1942 FDR establishes Joint Chiefs of Staff
- 1945 Luzon: Sixth Army lands in Lingayen Gulf.
- 1952 USMC recalls Ted Williams to active duty for Korean War
- 10 1776** Publication of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense"
- 1847 US Navy-Marine Corps landing party occupies Los Angeles
- 1943 Guadalcanal: U.S. forces begin general offensive to eliminate Japanese.
- 1946 Army Signal Corps bounces radar beam off moon.
- 11 1785** Continental Congress convenes in New York
- 1945 Japanese decide to put remaining resources into suicide weapons.
- 1991 Congress authorizes Pres G.H.W. Bush to undertake offensive operations against Iraq
- 12 1946** 82nd Airborne Division marches up Fifth Avenue to tumultuous greeting
- 13 1865** US Army/Navy begins Siege of Ft Fisher, NC; falls Jan 15
- 1968 Beginning of Tet Offensive in Vietnam
- 14 1784** Congress ratifies Treaty of Paris, ending Revolutionary War
- 1867 Alfred Nobel makes first public demonstration of dynamite
- 1943 Casablanca Conference: FDR, Churchill, & Stalin
- 1969 Fire aboard USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), off Vietnam, 28 die, 344 injured
- 15 1865** Union soldiers, sailors, & Marines (among them George Dewey), storm Ft Fisher, NC
- 1943 Dedication of Pentagon
- 1973 Pres Nixon suspends all US offensive action over North Vietnam
- 16 1776** Continental Congress approves enlistment of free blacks
- 1944 Gen Eisenhower takes command of Operation Overlord
- 1957 Three B-52s leave California on first non-stop world flight
- 1970 Col Kadhafi becomes premier of Libya, deposed & executed in 2011
- 17 1781** Battle of Cowpens: Dan Morgan annihilates Banastare Tarleton's Anglo-Tory force
- 1955 USS 'Nautilus' (SSN-571) gets underway on nuclear power
- 1966 B-52 carrying four hydrogen bombs crashes off Spanish coast
- 1991 Operation Desert Storm: Coalition airstrikes against Iraq
- 18 1911** First airplane landing on a ship: Eugene Ely in a Curtiss Flyer

JANUARY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1776** British torch Norfolk, Virginia
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect
- 1892 Ellis Island opens; over 12 million immigrants land in America there
- 1942 Philippine Army covers final withdrawal of South Luzon Force into Bataan
- 1950 First woman doctor commissioned in USN, Mary T. Sproul
- 1950 Indo-China: Viet Minh open major offensive against French
- 1950 Puerto Rican nationalists attempt to kill Pres. Truman
- 1951 Massive Chinese/North Korean assault on UN-lines
- 1959 Triumphant entry of Fidel Castro into Havana as Fulgencio Batista flees
- 1962 US Navy SEAL teams established.
- 2 1776** First American flag displayed
- 1945 USN convoys depart Leyte to invade Luzon, while beating off Kamikaze.
- 1954 Film "The Caine Mutiny" premieres, New York
- 3 1777** Battle of Princeton: Washington defeats British
- 1944 Marine ace "Pappy" Boyington (28 kills) captured by Japanese
- 1990 Panama's Gen Manuel Noriega surrenders to US authorities
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- 18 1911** First airplane landing on a ship: Eugene Ely in a Curtiss Flyer

- on USS 'Pennsylvania' (ACR-4)
- 1915 The U.S. Revenue Marine is renamed the U.S. Coast Guard
- 19** 1920 The Senate rejects American membership in the League of Nations
- 1942 Joe Louis defeats Buddy Baer and receives his draft notice!
- 20** 1778 First American court martial begins, Cambridge, Mass
- 1783 Hostilities cease in Revolutionary War
- 1887 Senate approves lease of Pearl Harbor for a base
- 1914 USN opens school for aviators at Pensacola, Fla.
- 1944 Rapido River: US 36th Div begins two-day attempt to force German defenses
- 1958 Elvis receives "Greetings" from Draft Board
- 1981 Illegally held by Iranian government for 444 days, 52 Americans finally released
- 1991 During Iraqi attack on Israel, US Patriot missiles first used against SCUDs, with mixed success
- 21** 1903 "Dick Act" creates modern National Guard
- 1968 Battle of Khe Sanh begins - ends Apr 8
- 22** 1944 Operating Shingle: Allies land at Anzio
- 1964 "Dr. Strangelove" released; we all learn to stop worrying and love the bomb
- 23** 1968 North Koreans capture USS 'Pueblo' & 83 crew in East Sea/Sea of Japan
- 24** 1847 Col. Sterling Price defeats c. 1,500 Indians & Mexicans to secure New Mexico for US
- 1848 James W. Marshall finds gold at Sutter's Mill near Sacramento, initiating California Gold Rush
- 1908 Gen Robert Baden Powell founds Boy Scouts
- 1935 Kreuger Brewing Company of Virginia introduces beer in cans
- 25** 1787 Capt Dan Shays' Rebels fail to capture arsenal at Springfield, Mass
- 1945 Audie Murphy earns Medal of Honor
- 1969 US-North Vietnamese peace talks begin in Paris
- 26** 1862 Lincoln issues General War Order #1, calling for Union offensive
- 1911 Glenn Curtiss tests first successful sea plane, San Diego
- 1913 John Paul Jones laid to rest in Chapel of US Naval Academy
- 1942 Marines land in Northern Ireland - 1st US troops to reach Europe
- 1948 Executive Order 9981: Truman orders Segregation in Armed Forces ended
- 27** 1915 US Marines begin occupation of Haiti
- 1943 First USAAF raid on Germany, at Wilhelmshafen
- 1973 US and North Vietnam sign Peace Accord
- 1977 Pres Carter pardons most Vietnam War draft evaders (c. 10,000)
- 28** 1915 US Coast Guard created from Life Saving and Revenue Cutter Services
- 1942 Ens. Donald Mason radios, "Sighted sub, sank same."
- 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger explodes shortly after launch, seven die.
- 29** 1904 New York subway opens
- 1944 USS 'Missouri' (BB-63) launched in Brooklyn
- 30** 1781 Articles of Confederation go into effect, establishing perpetual union of "The United States of America"
- 1945 Philippines - Cabanatuan: 126 US & Filipino raiders liberate 500 prisoners from Japanese P/W camp
- 31** 1929 Erich Maria Remarque's "All Quiet on the Western Front" published
- 1944 U.S. troops land on Kwajelein and nearby islands in the Marshalls
- 1945 11th Airborne Div lands - by sea - at south entrance to Manila Bay.
- 1961 Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr., becomes first black American to command warship, 'Falgout' (DE-324)
- 1981 Last enlisted USN aviator retires
- 1990 Panama Campaign ends

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

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,

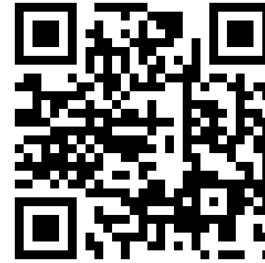
- Chris Mulholland

**YOUR AD COULD
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POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>DECEMBER</u>	
6	Battle of Great Bridge Reenactment
6	Chesapeake Christmas Parade
7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
10	Post Meeting, 1900 (7 pm)
12	Dominion Blvd "Veterans Bridge" Naming Ceremony
21	First Day of Winter
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas
31	New Year's Eve

<u>JANUARY</u>	
1	Award nomination due – Public Servant
14	Post Meeting, 1900 (7 pm)
19	Martin Luther King, Jr., Day



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