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

Email: cdrpost2894@va.vfwwebmail.com

Web Site:

http://myvfw.org/va/post2894
Visit us on FaceBook

OFFICERS

Commander			Chris Mulholla	nd		
Sr. Vice Commander			John Gu	uill		
Jr. Vice Commander						
Adjuta			Tom Bens	on		
Quart		er	Craig Devonsh	ire		
Chapla	ain		. Mark Junghans			
Surge	on		Jose Vazqu	ez		
Staff Judge Advocate Matt Hamel						
Veterans' Advocate Gary Dunbar						
Officer of the Day Tom Black						

NATIONAL

www.vfw.org

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!



VFW SSG DOZIER MEMORIAL POST 2894

Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

"Veterans Helping Others - Other Vets, Other People"

NEWSLETTER - Vol. IV, Issue 6, December 2015-January 2016

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Comrades! This November was a busy one for the post! Between 6 and 14 November, comrades from the post:

- Attended a veterans' prayer breakfast at Regent University;
- Participated in a weekend buddy poppy drive at the Grassfield Walmart (including the reenactment of a monsoon on that Sat.!);
- Distributed buddy poppies and Vietnam commemorative pins to residents at 4 assisted living centers in Chesapeake;
- Presented a \$1,000 check and plaque to Indian River High School in honor of their National Teacher of the Year;



- Participated in a breakfast and exhibition of the Hampton Roads Veteran Entrepreneur's association;
- Accepted a \$1,000 donation to the city from the Tidewater

Garden Club for the purchase of Blue Star Memorial Highway signs;

- Participated in the city's Veterans' Day ceremony; and
- Attended the grand opening of the new veterans' center at DeVry University; and
- Participated in the Tidewater Big Train Operators (TBTO) holiday exhibition.

Our success cannot be possible without the volunteerism and hours which all of you have so graciously given to the post.

Please enjoy this Christmas and New Year's with your families as we celebrate the holidays. 2015 was busy...2016 will be 'busier'!

And, as always, thanks to all of you for your service to our country!

Semper Fidelis,

Chris Mulholland, Commander

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It seems like yesterday that I was writing a few words for the last newsletter. Where has the fall gone? The Auxiliary has been busy trying to fulfill all the Banner Requirements for 2015-2016. We are well on our way. Reports, Reports, Reports! We received a

Membership
Award from
National in
recognition of
achieving 101%
membership by
June 30, 2016.

Several members made a beautiful Memorial Wreath and we



presented the wreath at the Veterans Day Ceremony in Chesapeake along with the Post. The day was beautiful and the whole ceremony was very moving.

We have worked with the Post at the Car Show and the Poppy Event for Veterans Day at Wal-Mart. Some of us went to the Mayors Breakfast for Veterans and at all the events it has been a pleasure representing the Auxiliary. This has been a good year (9 months to be exact). Thanks to everyone for what you do for the Veterans. Let's be sure to remember them during the Holiday Season.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and the Happiest New Year.

Sandy Dunbar, President





POST CHRISTMAS PARTY AND POT LUCK DINNER

The Post will celebrate Christmas with a potluck dinner right after the meeting on 9 December. ALL family and friends of the Post are invited to come share the season with the Post and Auxiliary at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge (behind the American Legion and water tower at intersection of Battlefield and Kempsville). We will start about 7:30 pm.

CAROLINA PANTHERS HONOR FALLEN HEROES...INCLUDING OUR NAMESAKE, SSG JON DOZIER

During the Carolina Panthers game on Sunday, 8 November against the Green Bay Packers, the team gave a tribute to the families of a number of fallen heroes from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF). Each of the players wore a sticker on his helmet with the initials of a fallen Serviceman or woman. After the game, they signed the helmets and gave them to the respective families.

Two of those honored were Amy and Emma Dozier, the wife and daughter of our Post's namesake, who were on hand at the Carolina Panthers/Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte to watch Carolina extend their win-streak to 8 straight games. Jon's initials were worn by defensive tackle #99, Kawann Short, a 3rd year player who attended Purdue University. Short is a "small" man at 6'-3" and 315 pounds! Here's a photo of Emma right after Kawann gave her his helmet.



VETERANS' DAY BUDDY POPPY DRIVE

Over the weekend just before Veterans' Day (7-8 Nov), Comrades and Auxiliary members from Post 2894 handed





out Buddy Poppies and sold hot dogs in honor of all veterans and to raise money in support of charitable causes. The drive was cut short on Saturday when the skies opened and a veritable flood drove all customers inside. Despite the shortened hours, we still managed to raised close to \$1600! Thanks to everyone who came out!





DEDICATION OF LCPL CODY CHILDERS' MEMORIAL - GRASSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

On October 3rd, a Battle Cross honoring Lance Corporal Cody Childers, US Marine Corps, was dedicated in front of Grassfield High School, from which he had graduated in 2009. The cross was due almost to the single-handed efforts of Erik Johnson, a brother Marine of Cody's, who raised the money and worked with the school principal, school board, and local businesses to have the battle cross erected in memory of Cody's life.

On hand for the ceremony were Cody's parents and sister, Cody's battalion commander, Colonel Kyle Ellison,



and two other comrades from Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment.

It was a very moving ceremony, including an invocation by Commander Charles Rowley, who was the Navy Chaplain at Dover Air Force Base and the was one

who comforted the Childers family when Cody's body was brought back to the States.

As Erik said in his remarks, "I wish Cody were here today for his family. But my brother died a warrior's death, with his boots on, sacrificing everything for the men next to him. He died a Marine, something he had wanted to be since he was little kid. There is no higher honor. And

there is nothing we will ever be able to do to repay him. His sacrifice will never be forgotten and his story will never go untold."



Congressman Randy Forbes wrote a tribute to Cody on 7 Nov. 2013: "Sometimes the most important news story of the week is not covered on national television or found on the front page of a newspaper. Sometimes the most important news story is one of relationship, milestone, and sacrifice: The mother who puts her child on the Kindergarten school bus for the first time. The parents that wave goodbye to their son as he stands at the door of his new dorm room. The woman who learns her best friend is battling breast cancer. The family whose son is receiving a posthumous award for paying the ultimate sacrifice for his nation at the age of 19. These are the real news stories that make up America. Let us not forget to take time to thank those who serve; let us not forget to remember those who lost their lives in service; let us not overlook the most important news story of those in our communities. And may the stories of sacrifice around us not go unnoticed. Thank you, Lance Corporal Cody Childers, for giving your all."

When you drive by Grassfield HS, take a moment to stop and remember one of our city's finest by honoring his memorial at the main entrance.

REMEMBERING THE "SINSIL 8"

Six soldiers and an interpreter were killed on 9 Jan 2008. 3-1/2 years later, a seventh soldier, Jordan Riddle, who had been critically wounded in the blast, died as a result of his sorrow and a broken heart. Now they are all collectively known as the "Sinsil 8."

From the New York Times of 14 Jan 2008: "An Iraqi House Was Rigged to Kill American Soldiers", by STEPHEN FARRELL:

SINSIL, <u>Iraq</u> — The courtyard was a scene of devastation, strewn with medieval mud brick and modern cinder block, shattered alike by the explosion that killed six American soldiers and their Iraqi interpreter.

From the alleyway outside a day later, there was little sign that this was the house where the bomb exploded Wednesday, during an offensive to clear Sunni insurgents from the northern Diyala River valley, 60 miles north of Baghdad.

The same building complex had been cleared of explosives two weeks earlier, commanders say. But the ill-

fated unit was apparently lured back to it by a villager who did not tell them that insurgents had sneaked back in later and rigged the house to explode.

A soldier who was there, Sgt. Joseph Weeren. described in a telephone interview on Sunday how, after he was pulled from the wreckage, he and his comrades pulled four badly wounded survivors, "screaming in pain," from the rubble using only their bare hands and vehicle jacks.

"It was scary, because how do you move 1,000 pounds of concrete?" said Sergeant Weeren, 27, a sniper team leader from Winchester, Mass. "At that time that's all I was thinking."

"It was difficult because your buddy is screaming out

in pain about his legs and to get him out, but we all pitched in and focused, and we jacked up that concrete," he said from an American military base in Diyala where he was recovering from a severe concussion that he suffered in the initial explosion.

He said he believed that the explosion had been set off by a trigger wire hidden beneath a rug, which one of the soldiers stepped on.

"We saved who we could, and who we couldn't save they didn't feel a thing because concrete either fell on them or the bomb killed them," he said.

Sergeant Weeren was praised by commanders for his presence of mind because after the explosion, ignoring his concussion and blurred vision, he headed straight back into the village, alone, to arrest the shopkeeper who had directed them to the compound.

"I never felt like that in my life before," he said, explaining why he went after the shopkeeper. "I can't really describe it," adding: "I didn't have any body armor on. I didn't have a helmet. I was just so angry I went back after this guy, and I grabbed him."

The American military identified the six dead soldiers as Specialist Todd E. Davis, 22, of Raymore, Mo.; Staff Sgt. Jonathan K. Dozier, 30, of Rutherford, Tenn.; Staff Sgt. Sean M. Gaul, 29, of Reno, Nev.; Sgt. Zachary W.

McBride, 20, of Bend, Ore.; First Sgt. Matthew I. Pionk, 30, of Superior, Wis., and Sgt. Christopher A. Sanders, 22, of Roswell, N.M.

All were assigned to the Third Squadron, Second Stryker

Cavalry Regiment, based in Vilseck, Germany, which is attached for the Diyala operation to the Second Infantry Division.

House bombs are a common threat in Diyala, where American troops have found five since the start of last week's operation against Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia, the homegrown Sunni insurgent group that American officials say is foreignled.

Capt. David Gohlich, the company commander, said the house had been used as an insurgent base for the last five or six months after it was commandeered from a wealthy Shiite family, which was forced out.

Speaking at the scene the day after the blast, Captain Gohlich said that the compound was cleared of bomb-making equipment by a different coalition

force about two weeks before his platoon went in, but that the insurgents seem to have returned two or three days later and planted more explosives.

Sergeant Weeren said on Sunday that he and his colleagues did not know the background of the house before they went in. Asked if they could have done anything differently, he said: "I think about that. I don't know."

"It was an open compound," he continued. "We are the most experienced platoon. We made the call to go in. I can't go back on anything we have done."

Although he was farther south when the bomb exploded, Captain Gohlich, 29, from New Jersey, went straight to the scene.

"As a commander it's pretty much the worst thing that could happen," he said. "But there are a lot of other guys that are counting on you at that moment to do the right thing and keep them safe, so you do your best to stay disconnected, take care of everyone else and catch those who are responsible."

His squadron commander, Lt. Col. Rod Coffey, said he believed that the shopkeeper, who is now in custody, was involved. "I think he was complicit because what the locals were saying was that" the insurgents "used to stop by his store," he said.



He praised his men for their "enormous character," saying their performance had been "stellar." "That platoon and company did everything right," he said. "They were extraordinarily brave."

POST 2894 DESIGNATED A VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER

Post 2894 was designated as a member of the 50th Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program, and received a flag, pins, and a certificate.



The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for veterans' organizations and others to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families.

Commemorative Partners are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and

conducting events and activities that recognize Vietnam Veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Commemorative Partners must commit to conducting two events each year for a three-year period. Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the Congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet the Congressionally-mandated objective to thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

Special lapel pins are presented to veterans who served during the Vietnam War period as a lasting memento of our nation's gratitude. Living U.S. veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955 to



May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

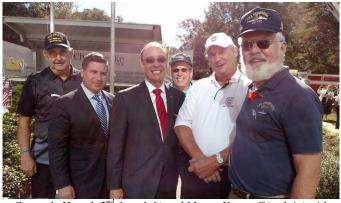
During the week of Veterans' Day, Post 2894 presented Vietnam War Veteran pins to veterans at Cedar Manor Assisted Living Center, Georgian Manor Assisted Living Center, Lighthouse Pointe Retirement Community, and Chesapeake Place Assisted Living and Memory Care Community. We also provided the pins which were given by the Mayor to all the Vietnam veterans present at the City's Veterans' Day ceremony in front of City Hall.

VETERANS' DAY CELEBRATIONS

The City of Chesapeake and the Mayor's Commission on Veterans' Affairs (MCVA) once again hosted a wonderful ceremony on a beautiful day in front of City Hall to honor the 27,000 residents who are veterans. Former Post Commander Carl Dozier organized and coordinated the ceremony. Comrade and Post Adjutant Matt Hamel led the ceremony in his role as the Chair of the MCVA. Elizabeth Acors, Post 2894's 2015 Voice of



Post 2894 Auxiliary members Jean Dozier, Becky Junghans, Donna Kust, Bea Oakley, and Sandy Dunbar (I to r) with their wreath Democracy winner, led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Post Auxiliary constructed a beautiful new wreath which they presented at the ceremony. Comrade Jose Vazquez went throughout the crowd and distributed buddy poppies to the point that EVERYONE at the ceremony was sporting a poppy! Comrade Eddie Vincek, a 'living legend' from the battle of Iwo Jima, was once again the center of attention for all active and former Marines.



Comrade Hamel (2nd from left) and Mayor Krasnoff (red tie) with veterans from Vietnam

Highlights from the ceremony included the dedication of 10 commemorative brass plates in the Veterans' Memorial and the swearing in of 6 US Army recruits. In honor of the 50th anniversary of the start of the Vietnam conflict, the ceremony was dedicated to those veterans

who had served in Southeast Asia and each Vietnam veteran was personally presented with a special commemorative pin from the Post by the Mayor.

More photos are available at the Post's Facebook page.

TIDEWATER GARDEN CLUB DONATES \$1000 TOWARDS BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY SIGNS

At the 10 November Chesapeake City Council meeting, the Tidewater Garden Club formally presented the city with a \$1,000 check towards the purchase of Blue Star Memorial Highway signs. Mayor Krasnoff publically thanked the Garden Club for their efforts in raising the money and their gracious donation to the city. The Garden Club President thanked the city and Post 2894 in getting the initiative approved by the City Council.



Commander Mulholland with Mayor Alan Krasnoff and officers of the Tidewater Garden Club in City Chambers

2015-16 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOTS PEN AWARDS

The Post received three nomination packages each for the Patriot's Pen and the Voice of Democracy contests. All six entries were inspiring reminders that our rising generation still believes in America and the values that she symbolizes to people all around the world.

The Voice of Democracy program is open for all high schoolers and requires them to write and record a 3-5 minute essay. This year's them was "My Vision for America." The national Voice of Democracy winners win a free trip to the VFW National Convention and

up to \$30,000!

The 2015 Patriot's Pen contest is open for middle schoolers and consisted of a 500 word written essay on "What Freedom Means to Me." The national winners of the Patriot's Pen get a free trip and up to \$5,000 for first prize.

This year's Post winners were Caitlin Head, a 12th grade homeschooler, for the Voice of Democracy; and Kayleigh Hamel, an 8th grader at St. Gregory the Great School, for Patriot's Pen. Both entries were fabulous and should be very competitive at each step of the contest.

Both of their essays have been sent to District 2 for judging and, if selected, could go on to the Department of Virginia and National levels.

The runner ups for the Voice of Democracy were Veronica Teller, a sophomore at Hickory High School, and Delmarcus Talley, a senior at Salem HS. Both were sent congratulatory letters, certificates for framing, and checks for \$75 each.

The runner ups for the Patriot's Pen were Alina Roberts, a 7th grader at Hickory MS, and Josephine McKlveen, a 7th grader at Great Bridge MS. They too were sent letters, certificates, and checks for \$65.

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WWI HISTORY, 100 YEARS AGO TODAY.

December 5, 1915 - Hoping to overcome earlier defeat at Kut al-Amara in Mesopotamia, Turkish troops lay siege to town, surrounding British garrison there, cutting them off completely. **December 19, 1915** - Allies begin orderly evacuation of Gallipoli Peninsula. This comes after months of stalemate in which Turkish troops contained all breakthrough attempts while inflicting 250,000 casualties. British Navy successfully evacuates 83,000 survivors by sea as Turks watch without firing a shot, glad to see them leave.

January 1916 - President Woodrow Wilson begins effort to organize peace conference in Europe.

January 29, 1916 - Last German airship raid on Paris. [http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/firstworldwar/index-1916.html]

[http://www.greatwar.co.uk/timeline/ww1-events-1916.htm]

SMART/MAHER NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION <u>TEACHER</u> OF THE YEAR AWARD – DUE 15 FEB

Post 2894 was extremely lucky to have a teacher like Craig Blackman of Indian River High School in our local school system. Through his work of educating students about veterans, he was selected as the 2015 VFW National High School teacher of the Year. It would be amazing if we could repeat this feat! Nomination packages are due to the Post by 15 Feb, 2016.

Nominees should promote a sense of national pride in students through the teaching of civic responsibility, flag etiquette, and patriotism.

There are 3 awards for teachers in grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

Nominations include: VFW form, 350 word justification, one page resumé, up to 5 pages of documentation of teaching experience (references, news articles), & head-and-shoulder photo

Top prize is \$1,000 plus \$1,000 to the school, plaques for teacher & school, and all-expense trip to the VFW National Conference.

Entry forms can be downloaded from at: <u>www.vfw.org/Community/Teacher-of-the-Year</u>

SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD DUE 1 MARCH

Any high schooler who has earned the Boy Scout Eagle Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Crew Silver Award, or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award is eligible for the Scout of the Year Award.



Nomination packages due to the Post by 1 March, 2016. To be eligible, nominees must:

• Be registered with Scout organization.



- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting and community.
- Have reached 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school.





FROM THE POST RECRUITING OFFICER

Greetings Comrades: I may be the designated official Post Recruiting Officer (2894PRO) but we ALL have the MOS of 2894PR (Post Recruiter). If you meet someone – male, female or couple – say hello and ask if they are a Vet. If the answer is yes, ask if they would like to join and help us uphold our motto, "To Honor the Dead by helping the Living." We all gave some, and some gave all, to protect our way of life. If they say they are members, ask which Post. If they belong to one out of State or are members at large, ask if they would like to join us! Please DO NOT ask them to leave an instate post to join us!

Our new Post tri-fold has a membership application included (see back of newsletter). You can also get a membership app for your I Phone, pad, android or tablet here: https://www.vfw.org/MRA/

If you would like to print copies of our tri-fold just send me an email (<u>jose@latinopridestore.com</u>) and I'll send you the PDF. Jose Vazquez, Post Recruiting Officer, 2894PRO

FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE

A Soldier's Christmas Prayer (Author Unknown)

Dedicated to All Service Members both currently serving and who have served—and their many families—who are sacrificing and those families that have sacrificed this and other Christmas Seasons. America is proud & blessed to have such faithful servants as yourselves and to live in a country where we can openly celebrate the birth of our Savior. Thank you!

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone. I had come down the chimney with presents to give And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals & badges, awards of all kind A sober thought came through my mind. For this house was different, so dark & dreary, I knew I had found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly. I heard stories about them I had to see more So I walked down the hall & pushed open the door. And there he lay sleeping silent alone, Curled up on the floor in his one bedroom home. His face so gentle, his room in such disorder, Not how I pictured a United States soldier. Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed? His head was clean shaven, his weathered face tan, I soon understood this was more than a man. For I realized the families that I saw that night Owed their lives to these men who were willing to fight. Soon 'round the world, the children would play, And grownups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day. They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, Because of soldiers like this one lying here. I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone On a cold Christmas Eve in a l& far from home. Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees & started to cry. The soldier awakened & I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice; I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my God, my country, my Corps.' With that he rolled over & drifted off into sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep. I watched him for hours, so silent & still, I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill. So I took off my jacket, the one made of red, And I covered this Soldier from his toes to his head. And I put on his T-shirt of gray & black, With an eagle & an Army patch embroidered on back. And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride, And for a shining moment, I was United States Army deep inside. I didn't want to leave him on that cold dark night, This guardian of honor so willing to fight. Then the soldier rolled over, whispered with a voice so clean & pure, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure." One look at my watch, & I knew he was right, Merry Christmas my friend, & to all a good night!

+ DECEMBER SAFETY CORNER + BE VFW READY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

As winter weather moves in, many people use fireplaces, space heaters, and other fuel-fired equipment to warm their homes. While alternative heating sources can make your home cozy, using them increases your risk of a home fire.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), heating is the second leading cause of home fires following cooking.



Taking simple steps can prevent a fire from happening in your home. The National Fire Protection Association and USFA offer these heating safety tips, including:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from a fireplace, wood stove, or space heater;
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room;
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters; and
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

For more ways to have a fire-safe home when the mercury dips, check out the USFA resource guide (www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/heating-fire-s-afety_vertical.pdf) to share with family and friends.

JANUARY SAFETY CORNER + WINTER WEATHER WATCHES

Winter weather Watches, Warnings and Advisories: What do they all mean?

The National Weather Service uses specific winter weather terms to ensure that people know what to expect in the coming days and hours. A *Winter Storm Watch* means that severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, may affect your area, but its occurrence, location and timing are still uncertain. A

winter storm watch is issued to provide 12 to 36 hours notice of the possibility of severe winter weather. A winter storm watch is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to set



plans in motion can do so. A watch is upgraded to a Winter Storm Warning when 4 or more inches of snow or sleet is expected in the next 12 hours, or 6 or more inches in 24 hours, or 1/4 inch or more of ice accretion is expected. Winter Weather Advisories inform you that winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, advisory situations should not become life-threatening. A Blizzard Warning means that snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow (near zero visibility), deep drifts, and life-threatening windchill. Be sure to listen carefully to the radio, television, and NOAA Weather Radio for the latest winter storm watches, warnings, and advisories. For additional information, visit the Winter Weather Awareness weh www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter.

Source: FEMA, National Weather Service, and Center for Disease Control

POST COMMITTEES - YOU CAN HELP!

If you are looking to get involved and help the Post improve its work for and with veterans, think about joining one of the recently established committees. Contact one of the members of the committees you're interested in and let them know you'd like to help:

 <u>Awards Committee</u>: Matt Schweers, Jose Vazquez, Mark Junghans, Gary Dunbar, Mark Rios, and Chris Mulholland

- <u>Budget Committee:</u> Craig Devonshire, Jose Vazquez, Mark Rios, Chris Mulholland. Looking for additional volunteers.
- <u>Membership Committee:</u> Jose Vazquez, John Guill, Mark Rios, Gary Dunbar, and Chris Mulholland
- Building Committee: Carl Dozier and Gary Dunbar
- <u>Visiting Committee:</u> Chaplain Mark Junghans
- Health Committee: Surgeon Jose Vazquez
- Safety Committee: Comrade Mark Junghans

MODEL TRAIN HOLIDAY SHOW

The Tidewater Big Train Operator's (TBTO) Club presents the largest display of G-scale trains in the area at an annual holiday train show, from 4-12 December, at the Avalon Church of Christ. This year's show includes a Salute to our Vietnam Veterans. Children of all ages will love the many "Thomas the Train" Layouts, our Lego Town Layout, and the Drive-In Theater featuring the Polar Express. Whether you love Old Steam Trains, Diesels, Logging Trains, Cargo or Passenger Trains, there is something for everyone with over 20 running trains. This Show is free and open to the public.

TIDEWATER BIG TRAIN OPERATORS







PRESENTS THE LARGEST DISPLAY OF G-SCALE TRAINS IN THE AREA AT OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW INCLUDING A

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO OUR VIETNAM VETERANS



Avalon Church of Christ 844 Woodstock Rd. Virginia Beach, VA 23462

When:

 Friday
 December 4 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

 Saturday
 December 5 – 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

 Sunday
 December 6 – 1:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

 Mon – Friday
 December 7-11 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

 Saturday
 December 12 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Special Senior and Mobility Impaired Afternoon Showing, Wednesday, December 9, from 2 to 4.

Santa will be there for the children!!!

Annual G-scale Train Raffle Tickets will be on Sale at the table inside.

Call 490-2155 or go to www.tbto.org for directions or information.

FREE FREE

FREE

FREE

The show closes promptly at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 12

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@vfwnationalhome.org

QUARTERMASTER DESK

Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$30 – IF you go through the QM. Otherwise it's \$40.50 through the National website!

Annual dues can be paid via mail (see our new address on front of newsletter) or to the Ouartermaster 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 United States.
 - 1942 National gasoline rationing goes into effect 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** LtCol Oliver North pleads the 5th before Senate panel investigating Iran-Contra arms sale.
- 2 1823 President James Monroe proclaims the Monroe Doctrine, "that 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."
 - **1921** First successful helium dirigible, C-7, makes test flight in Portsmouth, Va.
 - 1927 Ford Model A introduced to American public.
 - 1942 Allies repel strong Axis attack in Tunisia, North Africa.
 - **1944** General George S. Patton's troops enter Saar Valley and break through Siegfried line.
 - 1946 US and Great Britain merge their German occupation zones.
- 3 1915 US expels German attaches on spy charges.
 - 1918 Allied Conference ends in London deciding that Germany

- must pay for WWI.
- **1977** State Department proposes admission of 10,000 more Vietnamese refugees to US.
- **1989** Presidents Bush and Gorbachev announce official end to Cold War at meeting in Malta.
- **4 1942** U.S. planes make the first raids on Naples, Italy.
 - 1991 last American hostages held in Lebanon released.
- **5 1933** 21st Amendment ends Prohibition in US, which had begun 13 years earlier.
- 6 1492 Christopher Columbus lands on island of Santo Domingo in search of gold.
 - **1941** President FDR issues personal appeal to Emperor Hirohito to use his influence to avoid war.
 - **1917** US declares war on Austria-Hungary with only one dissenting vote in Congress.
 - **1941** Japanese planes raid Pearl Harbor in a surprise attack.
 - **1942** U.S. Navy launches USS *New Jersey*, largest battleship ever built.
 - **1972** Crew of *Apollo 17*, the last manned mission to the moon, lifts off at Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- 8 1943 U.S. carrier-based planes sink two cruisers and down 72 planes in Marshall Islands.
 - 1944 US conducts longest, most effective air raid on Pacific island of Iwo Jima.
 - 1948 United Nations approves recognition of South Korea.
 - 1967 In biggest battle yet in Mekong Delta, 365 Viet Cong killed.
- 9 1775 Battle of Great Bridge victory led to departure of Govr. Dunmore and British power from Colony of Virginia
 - 1941 FDR tells Americans to plan for a long war.
 - 1950 President Truman bans U.S. exports to Communist China.
 - **1950** Harry Gold gets 30 years imprisonment for passing atomic bomb secrets to Soviet Union during World War II.
 - **1992** U.S. 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** U.S. troops called to guard Berlin as coup is feared.
 - **1941** Japanese troops invade Philippine island of Luzon.
 - **1943** FDR signs bill postponing draft of pre-Pearl Harbor fathers.
 - **1949** 150,000 French troops mass at border in Vietnam to prevent a Chinese invasion.
 - **1950** Dr. Ralph J. Bunche becomes the first African-American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- 11 1941 US declares war on Italy and Germany.
 - **1972** Challenger, lunar lander for Apollo 17, touches down on moon's surface, last time that men visit the moon.
- **12 1753** George Washington, adjutant of Virginia, delivers ultimatum to French forces at Fort Le Boeuf, south of Lake Erie, reiterating Britain's claim to entire Ohio River valley.
 - **1863** Orders given in Richmond, Virginia, that no more supplies from Union should be received by Federal prisoners.
 - 1967 US ends airlift of 6,500 men in Vietnam.
- 13 1814 General Andrew Jackson announces martial law in New Orleans, Louisiana, as British troops disembark at Lake Borne, 40 miles east of city. The Battle of New Orleans
 - **1862** Battle of Fredericksburg ends with bloody slaughter of onrushing Union troops at Marye's Heights. Maine's Colonel Chamberlain is wounded at Marye's Heights.
- 14 1799 George Washington dies on his Mount Vernon estate.
- **15 1890** U.S. Army soldiers attempt to arrest Sitting Bull at cabin in Standing Rock, South Dakota, shooting breaks out and Lt. Bullhead shoots great Sioux leader.
 - **1924** Soviet Union warns US against repeated entry of ships into Soviet territorial waters.
 - 1938 Washington sends fourth note to Berlin demanding

amnesty for Jews.

- 1944 Battle for Luzon begins.
- **1965** US drops 12 tons of bombs on industrial center near Haiphong Harbor, North Vietnam.
- 16 1773 To protest tax on tea, group of young Americans, disguised as Indians, throw chests of tea from British ships in Boston Harbor.
 - **1944** Germany mounts major offensive in Ardennes Forest in Belgium. As center of the Allied line falls back, it creates bulge, leading to name–Battle of the Bulge.
 - **1950** President Harry Truman declares state of National Emergency as Chinese communists invade deeper into South Korea.

JANUARY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1776 British torch Norfolk, Virginia
 - 1950 First woman doctor commissioned in USN, Mary T. Sproul
 - 1950 Indo-China: Viet Minh opens major offensive against French
 - 1950 Puerto Rican nationalists attempt to kill Pres. Truman
 - 1951 Massive Chinese/North Korean assault on UN-lines
 - 1959 Triumphal entry of Fidel Castro into Havana as Batista flees
 - 1962 US Navy SEAL teams established.
- 2 1776 First American flag displayed
- 3 1777 Battle of Princeton: Washington defeats the British
 - **1944** Marine ace "Pappy" Boyington (28 kills) captured by Japanese
 - 1990 Panama's Gen Manuel Noriega surrenders to US authorities
 - 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" is organized; now the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, senior unit of 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 halfrations, as Japanese close up to their lines
 - **1953** Pres Truman announces development of hydrogen bomb
- 8 1815 Battle of New Orleans, 15 days after Treaty of Ghent
 - **1877** Battle of Wolf Mountain, Montana: Crazy Horse defeated by U.S. Army last battle of the Great Sioux War
 - **1973** Secret peace talks between US & North Vietnam resume near Paris
- 1861 First Shot of 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 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.Bush to undertake offensive operations against Irag
- **12 1946** 82nd Airborne Division marches up Fifth Avenue to tumultuous greeting
- 13 1865 US Army/Navy begin 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 1943 Dedication of Pentagon
 - 1973 Pres Nixon suspends all US offensive action over N. 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 Kadhaffi becomes premier of Libya, deposed & executed 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
 - 1991 Operation Desert Storm: Coalition airstrikes against Iraq
- **18 1911** First airplane lands on ship: Eugene Ely in Curtiss Flyer on USS 'Pennsylvania' (ACR-4)
 - 1915 U.S. Revenue Marine is renamed U.S. Coast Guard
- 19 1920 Senate rejects American membership in League of Nations

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 5 Dec 2015 Chesapeake <u>Christmas Parade</u>
- 5 Dec 2015 <u>Battle of Great Bridge</u> Reenactment
- 9 Dec 2015/2000 Post/Auxiliary Christmas Party
- 13 February 2016 <u>District 2 meeting</u>, Post 4411 Franklin (social 1100, lunch 1200, meeting 1300)
- 23 April 2016 5th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk, Dismal Swamp Park
- TBD May 2016 VFW/American Legion softball tournament
- 6 May 2016 <u>Military Spouse Day Poppy Drive</u>, Grassfield WalMart (?)
- 14 May 2016 <u>District 2 Convention</u>, Post 4809 Norfolk (lunch 1200, meeting 1300)
- 23-27 July, 2016 National Convention Charlotte, NC

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 cdrpost2894@va.vfwwebmail.com

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



MISSION

TO ASSIST WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

TO SPEED REHABILITATION.
TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM

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TO ENSURE NATIONAL SECURITY

VFW Objectives

The purpose of the VFW shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational, to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the USA, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to preserve and defend the US from all her enemies, whomsoever."

POST 2894: "Veterans helpi others...other vets, other peop

History of Post 2894

The Post was chartered on 26 March 1996. In 2011 and named "Staff Sergeant Jonathan Kilian Dozier Memorial Post 2894" in honor of a native-son who fell in Sinsil, Iraq on 9 January 2008. On 8 April 2015, the Post Auxiliary was established.

POST MEETINGS

2nd Wednesday of every month - 7:00 pm
Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge,
110 Kempsville Rd, Chesapeake, VA

NAME		VF	W MEMBERSHIP APP	LICATION DATE OF BIRTH	
ADDRESS	MIDDLE	LAST	HOME OF RECORD	PHONEGENDER: (M) (F)	AMEX
BRANCH OF SER' DATES OF SERVIO QUALIFYING FOI WORLD WAR I OCCUPATION: KOREAN SERVI VIETNAM SERVI VIETNAM SERVI HOSTILE FIRE/	CE:	DESERT SHIEL BOSNIA/KOS GLOBAL WAR AFGHANISTA IRAQ (2003-2	OVO R ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY IN (2001-present)	D MEMBERSHIP TYPE (choose one) ANNUAL MEMBER Payment Authorization You may pay by check or credit card. For payments by check, you will receive a yearly statement by mail. For credit card payments, please complete the following: I suthorize the VFW to automatically charge my account \$30.00 on a yearly basis to pay my Annual membership dues. I authorize the VFW to charge my account a one-time payment of \$30.00. LIFEMEMBER	NATIONALCOPY CARD DVSA DDISCOVER D
LOCATION	on Post No.	DATES DATES DIFORMER MEN to Pos		□ I authorize the VFW to charge my account a one-time payment of \$	DIMASTER



During the past year, Post 2894:

Grew from 63 to 74 members who:

- Coordinated more than \$137,000 repairs Volunteered 3479 hours of community service & drove 8898 miles
- Donated \$11,737 to various projects & to homes of veterans and widows
- VFW's National Home for Widows and Orphans
- Marine Corps' Toys for Tots
- Wreaths Across America
- Snowball Express
- A Soldier's Child Foundation
- United Servicemen's Organization (USO)
- Fisher House
- USS Iowa Association
- Wounded Wear
- LZ Grace (rehab home for Special Ops)
- Run for the Fallen
- Helped establish a Veterans' Benefits Office in Chesapeake
- Created a VFW Auxiliary
- as a "Blue Star Memorial Highway" Successfully led effort to designate Rt. 17
- Sponsored an athlete at the National Veteran Wheelchair Games

- Recognized and provided cash awards to:
- Voice of Democracy contestants (high schoolers)
- Patriot's Pen contestants (middle
- Scout of the Year (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Venture Crew, Sea Scouts)
- Chesapeake Schools' Junior ROTC
- Teacher of the Year (this year's nominee won VFW's National High School TOTY!)
- Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
- Firefighter of the Year
- Emergency Services Officer of the Year
- Planned and conducted the annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk



- Successfully petitioned City Council to name new Route 17 bridge as "Veterans
- Served on the Mayor's Commission for Successfully lobbied the State Legislature Chesapeake for a Veterans Benefits Office in
- Coordinated city observances such as: Veterans' Affairs
- Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony
- Veterans' Day Ceremony
- Drove veterans to appointments at Mayor's Breakfast with Veterans Hampton VA Hospital
- Helped numerous students with research and interviews of veterans

- Mentored patients in the traumatic brain injury ward of Hampton VA Hospital
- Developed a "VFW Ready" facebook page & warnings for safety notices & local weather watches
- Was declared "National Weather Service's Weather Ready National Ambassador"
- Served with and led other fraternal organizations such as the American American Veterans, and Fleet Reserve Legion, Marine Corps League, Disabled

- 0 · Veterans who want to give back to our community
- Veterans who want to serve others Veterans who want to help the next while having fun
- generation of Americans veteran warriors Veterans who want to honor senior

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veterans' organization with IRS Identification Number VFW Post 2894 is a 501(c)(19) non-profit, charitable 54-0449022

POST 2894 CALENDAR

Nov 2015 ~ December 2015 ~ Jan 2016 ▶						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Battle of Great Bridge Reenactment Chesapeake Christmas Parade Somalia Campaign began
6 Hanukkah begins	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (1941)	8 War Declared on Japan (1941)	9 1900 - VFW Post meeting Christmas Party	10	11	(1992) 12
13	14	15 Iraq War ended (2011	16	17 1900 – Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs meeting	18	19
20 Panama Campaign began (1989)	21	22 Start of Winter	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Kosovo Campaign ended (2013)		

~ January 2016 ~ Feb 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Kempsville Road attlefield Blvd & Ke		1 New Year's Day Public Servant National Award due to Department	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Sinsil 8 Remembrance Day (2008)
10	11	12	13 1900 – VFW Post meeting Quarterly Audit Due end of month	14 1900 – Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs meeting	15	16
17 Persian Gulf War began (1991)	18 Martin Luther King Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Vietnam Peace Accord signed (1973)	28	29	30
31 Panama Campaign ended (1990)	3				,	

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!!!







VFW SSG Dozier Post 2894 PO Box 15842 Chesapeake, VA 23328



Place Stamp Here

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED