

## 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.



# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

## POST 2894

### Meetings

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



### Post Address:

VFW Post 2894  
PO Box 15842  
Chesapeake, VA 23328

Email: [cdpost2894@va.vfwwebmail.com](mailto:cdpost2894@va.vfwwebmail.com)

### Web Site:

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

Visit us on FaceBook

## OFFICERS

Commander.....	Chris Mulholland
Sr. Vice Commander.....	Matt Schweers
Jr. Vice Commander.....	José Vazquez
Adjutant.....	Tom Benson
Quartermaster.....	Mike Kust
Chaplain.....	Mark Junghans
Surgeon.....	José Vazquez
Staff Judge Advocate.....	Matt Hamel
Service Officer.....	Gary Dunbar

## NATIONAL

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

## STATE

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

## VFW VA DISTRICT 2

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

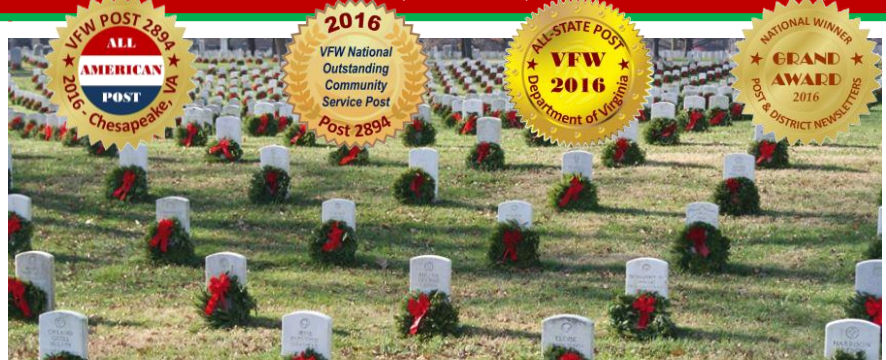


## VFW SSG DOZIER MEMORIAL POST 2894

Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

*"Honoring the fallen by helping the living."*

NEWSLETTER – Vol. V, Issue 6, Dec 2016-Jan 2017



## REMEMBERING CHRISTMAS IN AFGHANISTAN

*This article that was written in 2013 but is reprinted here since there are still 9,000 US troops in Afghanistan today.*

### Christmas I remember best: An Afghanistan Christmas I will cherish forever

by Gary Wallin

My story takes place in Afghanistan during Christmas 2004. I had been in country almost 9 months and our Unit was proving to the 25th Infantry Division that we were far from the normal military National Guard Unit.

We Utahns are a different bunch to begin with and to have our unit composed of more than 75 percent LDS men and women certainly added to that perception.

We were Mormons in a Muslim country and deep down we knew that we wanted to do something other than fly and hunt down the bad guy Taliban. Generally, our people worked shifts 24/7.

There was no vacation and our time off was limited to just the local area inside Bagram Air Base. They would not let us venture outside of the base fence because it was just too dangerous. Even though we were on a secure coalition base, we wore our weapons everywhere we went. We

were armed to the teeth. When we flew anywhere, our helicopters were armed to the max, too, and we were always looking for the bad guys.

Our mission was to support the ground soldiers and hunt out the Taliban, escort coalition helicopters all over the country, and protect our VIPs who were always coming to visit the war effort. That was a pretty demanding mission in and of itself, but being who we were we knew there was more things we could and should be doing as an organization.

On a daily basis we noticed the hundreds and hundreds of local nationals coming to the fence needing medical attention. As we inquired about the situation, we found out that our friends — the Egyptians and the South Koreans — had medical clinics to help these needy people. We made friends with them and they let us begin to hand out humanitarian aid to them.

Back in the States, our wives, friends, and just plain good people collected and sent us boxes and boxes of stuff. This stuff consisted of school supplies, clothes, shoes, blankets, food, books, etc. Everything you could imagine.

The project started small and soon it got bigger and bigger. The generous people of Utah, Hawaii, and other places in the U.S. sent us so much stuff we couldn't pass it out fast enough. We decided to go bigger so we talked to our commanders and through much persuasion we convinced them to let us adopt two orphanages and outlying villages to donate our humanitarian aid.

We were an attack helicopter outfit and had access to other helicopter assets located on the base. As it turned out we used Army helicopters, National Guard helicopters, and Marine helicopters to transport all this stuff to our villages.

We made contact with the orphanages and village elders to let them know of our plans. It took us months to get it all approved, organized, and all safety concerns worked out.

We took our stuff to the two orphanages with the help of some active Army engineer ground units and our own unit grown soldiers. Every time we delivered the stuff we made great friends and helped hundreds of children. But getting to the villages took more effort.

We got to the village of Jedgalek in the early fall of 2004. Jedgalek was about 150 miles southwest of Bagram Air Base near the Pakistan border in an area known to have lots of bad guys. We used Army Chinook helicopters to haul the goods and soldiers and used Apache helicopters and Air Force A-10 aircraft to give us air protection.

Needless to say our first visit was a bit nerve-wracking because we didn't know what to expect and what dangers were there. But the village elders and the mullahs (religious clerics) seemed to like what we did for them and invited us back. We ended up taking missions to them almost 15 more times during the rest of the year.

It was getting close to Christmas 2004. We had been to Jedgalek many times and had made lots of friends, but we wanted to do more. We decided to orchestrate the largest military air assault up to that point in the war and to not fire one shot.

And we planned it for Christmas Eve.

The plan was to show the village what a Christian Christmas was by giving the children Christmas presents, and in return the village elders promised to show us Afghan culture and feed us soldiers an Afghan meal.

What an opportunity.

We made 400 bags of gifts for the children. We also gave blankets, coats, and food to the villagers. We loaded 12,500 pounds of goods in a van and slung it beneath a Chinook helicopter to the village. We also transported over 400 coalition soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines to the village via Chinook helicopter.

It was a Christmas Eve I will never forget.

I was "voluntold" to be Santa Claus. I wore my military uniform with weapon and flack vest, but I also wore a ratty old

gray fuzzy beard and my Santa hat. I sat at the end of a line of soldiers and wished every child that came by a "Merry Christmas."

Many couldn't speak English, but they sure tried. And when they said "Merry Christmas" back to me, our soldiers just cheered and cheered. I shook their hands and gave them their bag of presents. I shook over 400 of the grubbiest, dirtiest, roughest, stickiest, little hands and loved every minute of it. The smiles, giggles, and grins of the children made me melt.

The village men danced traditional Afghan dances for us. (There were no women around and women do not mingle and dance with men ever.) They also fixed us huge vats of chicken and vegetables Afghan style (most of the food was donated by us). It was pretty good stuff none the less. But the fact that we were at war and we were celebrating Christmas in a Muslim country was so special for me.



I was with my soldier brothers and sisters doing good for some very poor people and they loved it. We made friends for life, not only among ourselves as soldiers, but also with these wonderful people we came to serve. We ended the day with smiles, handshakes, and hugs. We brought all our soldiers, helicopters, and other equipment back to Bagram Air Base safe and sound. We were exhausted and exhilarated all at the same time.

There was no time to rest though because the very next day, Christmas

Day, I was assigned to escort and provided armed helicopter security to Chinook helicopters loaded from tip to tail with yellow bags of mail destined for our soldiers.

Wow, what a mission.

I watched our soldiers at five firebases jump up and down for joy knowing that they were getting Christmas mail delivered to them. These guys are on the front lines doing the dirty work of the war and many times they don't see mail for weeks on end. What an honor to serve our fellow soldiers by ensuring the safety of the Chinook helicopters getting that important Christmas mail to them.

I ended up flying almost 12 hours that Christmas Day, stopping only for fuel and to deliver Christmas to our soldiers. What an honor.

What a way to spend Christmas delivering humanitarian aid to poor people in a war torn village and then to turn around and deliver mail to our soldiers the very next day.

It was a Christmas season, half a world away from my family, I will never ever forget.

*Article originally printed in the Deseret News of 20 December 2013*

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings – and Merry Christmas – Comrades! The Post has been busy again this fall, between a YOU-gly successful Buddy Poppy drive, to Veterans Bridge opening ceremony, the city's

Veterans Day remembrance ceremony, and all of our service projects, thanks!

We had two entries for the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen scholarship contest. Kayleigh Hamel (daughter of our Judge Advocate, Matt Hamel), a freshman at Grassfield High School, is our Post winner for the VOD. Josephine McKlveen, an eight grader at Great Bridge Middle, is our Post winner for the PP. I wish both of them good luck as their packages go up for District and State judging.

If you know of a great teacher in Chesapeake, please tell them about the Teacher of the Year program. Or if you know an Eagle Scout, Gold Star, etc., tell them about the Scout of the Year program. Both are described later in this newsletter. It's not too soon to start putting the nomination packages together now!

And now that the holiday seasons are here, I would everyone to come to our Post Christmas Party on 14 December, at 7 pm. Please invite your families to come and bring a dish to share. We will have soft drinks and juice so if you want something "stronger", BYOB. Please RSVP to me by 11 Dec so we know

how many plates, cups, etc., we'll need to bring.

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

For everyone's information, we are closing in on a possible Post

home. Several of the officers were given a tour of a building owned by the city which may become available soon. I don't want to say too much more yet, but it's looking good. More to come.

The National Garden Club is expecting to install the signs at each end of Dominion Boulevard (at Route 64 and Carolina border) declaring it a "Blue Star Highway." They are hoping to hold the ceremony before the end of the year. I will let you know if/when it is finalized.

Finally, January 9<sup>th</sup> is the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sinsil 8 - when our Post namesake, SSG Dozier, and 7 others perished in Iraq. Jon's father, Carl, is planning a remembrance gathering on that date - I will let you know what the final plans are.

I hope that each of you and your families has had a safe and happy year. And I wish to each of you a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!

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

*Chris Mulholland, Commander*

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings to Everyone! November was a great month for Remembering and Thanking Veterans. November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> was the Poppy Event at Wal-Mart on Battlefield. The weather was beautiful, customers were generous and we handed out several applications. Thanks to all who helped. Friday was the Veterans Day Ceremony at Chesapeake City Hall and the

Ceremony was beautiful and well attended. Mickey Cassidy placed his plaque on a memorial brick. I was able to talk to 2 more prospects at the Ceremony. After the Ceremony some of us went to Grassfield to see the Field of Valor. They really did a nice job. It was very special seeing all the flags waving in the breeze.

We had our District 2 meeting on Saturday, November 12.

The Auxiliary is doing well reporting the different activities that we have completed. This is very important not only to qualify for the yearly banner, but it helps the Department report to National what we do to help the Veterans and then National uses this information. So we will continue to Report, Report, Report! If you have any questions, please let me know.

Our December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting/Christmas Party will be fun, there will be good food and lots of fellowship. Hope to see everyone there.

I want to take this opportunity to Wish Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year!

*Sandy Dunbar, President*



### POST BUDDY POPPY DRIVE 5-6 NOVEMBER

We held our annual Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Drive over the weekend of 5-6 November in front of the Walmart at Battlefield Boulevard Shopping Center, and literally **smashed** our previous record for donations by collecting \$2637.38!!! Our previous record was just over \$1400. After deducting our



*Auxiliary members (lt-rt) Sandy Dunbar, Becky Junghans, Barbara Mulholland and Bea Oakley handing out buddy poppies*

costs we still cleared \$2087.68!! We will be conducting our next Buddy Poppy Drive over 20-21 May in honor of Memorial Day at the same Walmart.

We also met a number of veterans and active duty service members who expressed an interest in joining the Post. And, most interestingly, we met



David Parker, a Korean War veteran who was a member of Chesapeake's original VFW post, #3829!!!! The post was merged with 4809 in Norfolk years ago before 2894 was established in 1996. We have begun research into the history and background of this previously unknown VFW post! Stand by for more information!

**Thanks to all who helped out during this poppy drive!!!**

### CHESAPEAKE'S VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The City of Chesapeake held memorial ceremony for Veterans Day at 11 am on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in front of City Hall.

The ceremony was coordinated by the Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs, which includes six members of the Post, and one emeritus member, Comrade Carl Dozier.

Both the Post and the Auxiliary



*A couple of young Tiger Cubs examining the Battle Cross*



*Lt Col Ted Roberts, USAF, leading the oath of enlistment (photo courtesy of Captured Moments Photography LLC)*

presented wreaths at the ceremony. The Post also purchased a memorial plaque on behalf of our oldest member, Comrade Mickey Casady (age 98) who placed it at the Veterans Memorial in front of City Hall.

Comrade Ted Roberts, LtCol, US Air Force, conducted an enlistment ceremony for 10 "poolees" from Chesapeake, 4 of whom were joining the Army, and 6 the Navy.

Comrade Angela Taylor gave both the invocation and benediction at the ceremony. Comrade José Vazquez and Gary

Dunbar handed out hundreds of buddy poppies and presented commemorative pins to those Vietnam veterans who were present.

Several of our comrades also took the time to explain to groups of Cub and Boy Scouts about the symbolism and meaning behind the Veterans Memorial Battle Cross and the VFW's Buddy Poppies.

*[Lots more pictures are posted on our Post's Facebook page - check them out!]*



*Post and Auxiliary wreaths at the Veterans Memorial (photo courtesy of Captured Moments Photography LLC)*

### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA - 10 DECEMBER -

Wreaths Across America will take place on **Saturday, 10 December**, at 9:30 am at **Albert J. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery**, 5310 Milners Road in Suffolk.

A boyhood visit to Arlington National Cemetery left a big impression on Morrill Worcester—one he never forgot. Decades later, in 1992, his company's surplus of 5,000 wreaths and his desire to have them placed at Arlington kicked off an annual tribute that went on quietly for over ten years until 2005 when a photo of the headstones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the project received national attention.

Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help with Arlington, to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries, or to simply share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes.



With national interest in the project having grown so greatly, in 2007 a dedicated group of volunteers formed Wreaths Across America as a non-profit 501(c)3 to continue and expand the mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

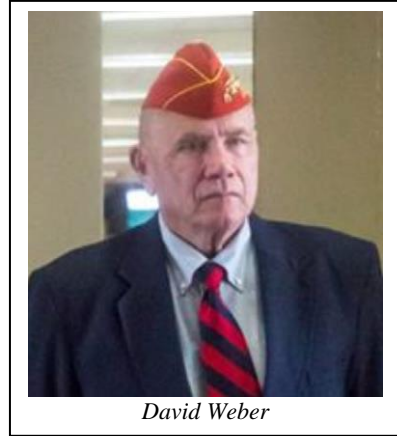
This year's ceremony starts at 0930 but you'll have to get there early - parking will be remote from the cemetery and you'll be shuttled in.

### STILL "RUNNING TO THE SOUNDS OF THE GUNS"

While Hurricane Matthew approached our area over the weekend of 8-9 October, and everyone was preparing their families, homes, and property for the storm, one of our members

packed his gear and left in order to be prepared to help others. David Weber traveled to northern Virginia as a member of disaster medical assistance team (DMAT) to await further deployment to any area declared a disaster as a result of the hurricane. Dave is a volunteer member of Virginia-1 (VA-1) DMAT, which operates as part of the NDMS (National Disaster Medical System) under the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Interestingly, after serving in the Marine Corps from 1968 to 1993 and retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, Dave went back to school to become a registered nurse. He currently works at the Chesapeake General Hospital when he's not "deployed"! He is also a member of Marine Corps League Detachment 853 in Chesapeake.



David Weber

A DMAT comprises professional medical personnel supported by a cadre of logistical and administrative staff designed to provide emergency medical care during a disaster or other event. In mass casualty incidents, their responsibilities include triaging patients, providing austere medical care, and preparing patients for evacuation. In other situations, DMATs may provide primary health care or augment overloaded health care staffs. DMATs are typically 35 person mobile medical units deployed to augment local health care personnel and facilities in times of disaster. DMATs are capable of standing up self-supporting temporary emergency medical care centers, providing supplemental medical staff for denuded hospitals following disasters and providing airhead support for the movement of casualties from a disaster area to available health care resources in unaffected areas of the nation.

So, although no longer serving the people of our nation in a uniform of the military services, Dave continues serving by volunteering to go into harm's way when disasters strike. Thanks for your service, Dave!

**FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE**

**This Holiday Season**

Father, we recall the melody of Isaiah's words: "For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." Lord, we pray that you will lead us in joy and guide our paths in peace during this holiday season. May you become more a part of our lives as we sing in praise of you. We sing because we rejoice that you are Emmanuel, God among us. Bless this

celebration of peace and cause our hearts to reflect melodies of your love. Amen.

**VINCEK'S CELEBRATE THEIR 70<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!!!**

Eddie and Mary Vincek celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October and were feted by the Grassfield Ruritan Club and honored by the Chesapeake City Council with a certificate of recognition.

Eddie, from upstate New York, joined the Marine Corps in 1942 and met Mary in Tidewater when he was stationed here at the Norfolk Naval Air Station. Later, he was sent to the Pacific and landed on Iwo Jima on D-Day in the third wave. After the war, rather than returning home to his family's dairy farm he came to Chesapeake to claim the love of his life.

After their marriage, Eddie and Mary bought a farm in the Grassfield area and have lived there ever since. They are a standard fixture at all veteran events in Chesapeake and he loves to talk and pose with the young Marines serving today.

Mayor Alan Krasnoff wrote to them, "Eddie and Mary, you have taken this journey with mutual affection and respect, building a life together with three children, Mary, Ed, and Anne, and a host of extended family and friends. Together you have braved new challenges, overcome adversity, discovered unimaginable joys and transcended the true meaning of genuine love and devotion. Your commitment to the principles and values of marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized. The members of the Chesapeake City Council extend heartfelt congratulations and honors to Eddie and Mary Vincek in recognition of this significant milestone. May your love continue to be a bright beacon for the world!"

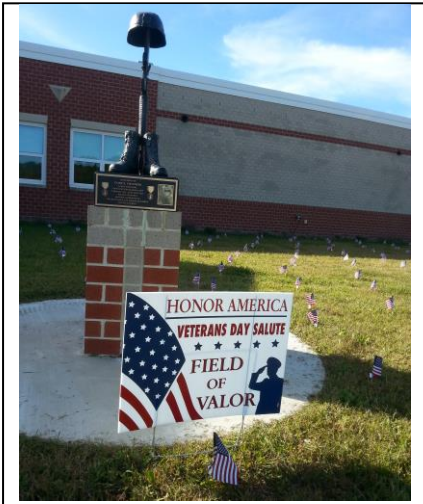


**FIELD OF VALOR, GRASSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**

Our 2016 National VFW Third Runner-Up Teacher of the Year, Kimberly Hammers of Grassfield High School, organized a "Field of Valor" in front of the school during the week of Veterans' Day. Her goal was to display 500 flags - each representing a living or deceased veteran - around the LCpl Cody Childers Memorial in front of the school to recognize family, friends, and others who have dedicated their lives to protecting this nation and all of the freedoms afforded to each citizen. Each flag was sponsored and all the proceeds from this project dedicated to our Post.

As Kimberly wrote, "Hampton Roads is an enormously patriotic community and home to innumerable armed forces service members. Saluting those members in recognition of

Day. As you will remember, it was largely due to the efforts of the Post that the City named this landmark – the largest public-



LCpl Childers memorial and Field of Valor

Veterans Day is priceless in terms of the importance of honoring those who serve and have served to protect America over the years. This project was aimed at generating a visual and heart-felt salute to military service members through a display of American flags."

Kimberly underestimated her response – she ended up having 654 flags sponsored! This resulted in a donation to the Post of \$1,369! All of the funds will be used to support other veterans in need and their families! Thank you so much, Kimberly!



Commander Mulholland with Congressman Forbes

private work project in Virginia history – as "Veterans Bridge." The section of Route 17 from Route 64 to the Carolina border has been designated a Blue Star Highway – again, due to Post 2894 – and a dedication ceremony for the emplacement of the designation signs will take place later this year.

**OUR 2015 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR WINS ANOTHER PRESTIGIOUS AWARD!**



Our 2015 National VFW Teacher of the Year, Craig Blackman of Indian River High School, was recently selected by the American Historical Association as the winner of the 2016 Beveridge Family Teaching Prize! This annual prize is awarded for excellence and innovation in K-12 teaching, including career contributions and specific initiatives.

Congratulations Craig!

**WALL OF VALOR, CEDAR MANOR ASSISTIVE LIVING CENTER**

Twelve veterans live at Cedar Manor, an assistive living center run by Chesapeake General Hospital. To honor them, the Post offered to design, build and install a "Wall of Valor" and to have it ready for an unveiling on Veterans Day.



Cedar Manor's new "Wall of Valor"

Commander Chris Mulholland built it with oak railings and installed it the night before – on his own Marine Corps birthday!

At a luncheon on 11 November, the veterans were singled out and their military careers read out to the other residents. They then each received a veteran's pin donated by the Post.

After the luncheon, all the residents gathered in the passageway before the display where the Center's Director, Deborah Brand, unveiled the display.



Some families were un able to find a photo of their loved one in uniform so a medal was used instead

**VETERANS BRIDGE DEDICATION CEREMONY, 11 NOVEMBER**

Veterans Bridge (Dominion Boulevard over the intercoastal highway) was officially opened on – appropriately enough – Veterans Day. City Manager Jim Baker was the master of ceremonies with speakers including Congressman Randy Forbes, State Senator John Cosgrove, State Delegate Barry Knight, Vice Mayor Rick West, state Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne and City Public Works Assistant Director Earl Sorey.

All the speakers were presented with Post 2894 Buddy Poppies which they wore on their lapels in honor of Veterans

Each veteran had had a photo taken in front of

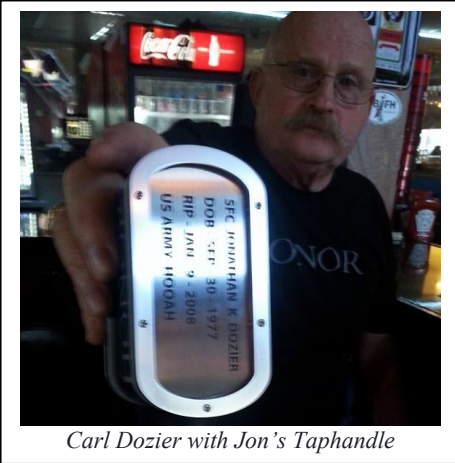
an American flag, and these pictures were then partnered with a photo of the veteran when she or he was still in uniform.

The Wall of Valor has been a topic of discussion and admiration ever since.

And all the veterans made a point to thank the Post for thinking of them.

### OTHER POST NEWS

- **Honor Beer:** On 21 October, one of the owners of the Honor Beer Brewery came to Chesapeake's Big Woody's to introduce the beer and honor **SSG Jon Dozier** as one of the "Faces of Honor" series. LCpl Cody Childers is also one of the names in the series. The owner also presented **Carl Dozier** with a tap



Carl Dozier with Jon's Taphandle

handle shaped as a large dogtag with Jon's name on it. Everyone from the Post who showed up received an Honor Beer six-pack and beer glass.

- **Jim Keiper** was recently recognized by the Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) for his devotion and call of duty. He and Kathleen McCarthy of CVA called 5,000 veterans



Jim Keiper, right, with Kathleen McCarthy

during the month of October to remind them of their civic duty during the upcoming elections. CVA's mission is to advocate for policies that will preserve the freedom and prosperity that Americans so proudly fought and sacrificed to defend. The goal of CVA is to translate the experience, concerns and hopes unique to veterans and their families into a common vision of freedom. **Jay Redman** has been a frequent speaker at CVA rallies.

- **Jay Redman** has been a busy guest speaker all over the country! On 20 October he gave a presentation at Sentara Norfolk Hospital titled "The 5 Principals of an Elite

Organization Today." The next day, he traveled to Indianapolis to help launch the local YMCA's new Veteran Center. Jay wrote, "The Y would act as a hub for local veterans by launching new programs and services for them. Some of the services include financial literacy, military-style fitness training, adaptive sports, job placement and art therapy." While in Indy, Jay will also pick up his new service dog ("Battle Buddy"), a German Shepherd named "Kharma" after the location in Iraq where Jay was wounded. Jay says, "As with many of our warriors wounded on the battlefield, I carry some of the invisible wounds of war with me. Moments of sleeplessness, anxiety and discomfort when I can't watch what's behind me. ...I am super excited to have Kharma for upcoming events, travel, and everyday life; to have a Battle Buddy to help in those moments where I feel a little overwhelmed but most importantly to watch my back. Above all, I'm looking forward to having some Good Kharma!" Then, over Veterans Day weekend he was in Fort Pierce, Florida, where he was the guest speaker at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual UDT/SEAL Muster at the National Navy UDT SEAL Museum.

- **Mark Junghans** recently completed training with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Program Management Office (PMO). Mark is our Post Safety Officer and manages the Facebook page, "VFW Ready," which provides lots of valuable information on family, home, and personal safety. Check it out!

• **Megan Schweers**, daughter of **Matt and Grace Schweers** was recently selected as the Sailor of the Year for Naval Hospital Beaufort, South Carolina. She is now in the running for the Navy's Sailor of the Year award. Congratulations and good luck!

- **David Girardin** participated in a Veterans Day service at Chesapeake Regional Medical Center and then gave presentations about the Virginia Defense Force. He was assisted by his son, PFC David Girardin, Jr.



Dave (Sr) Girardin (left) with son, David Jr.

- **José Vazquez** made local news! He spoke up on behalf of those citizens of Chesapeake who need help overcoming the "digital divide". He was featured in an article in the Virginia Pilot on 13 November, advocating for better broadband access

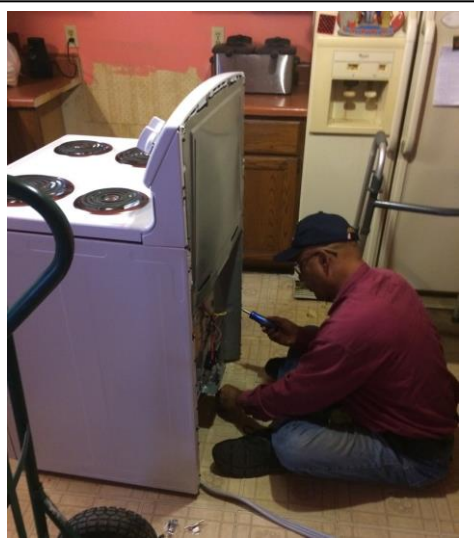
for rural residents by circulating a petition and speaking in front of City Council. Comrade Vazquez stated, "Internet has become a big part of everyday life. I feel like we all deserve to have what everyone else has."

• Major Tom Bourne (USAR, Iraq Vet and VFW member) established a unit called the Armed Services Career Club in the Louisa County High School. As this is not a recognized JROTC program they receive no support from the military and have been scrounging for uniforms and equipment. After putting out a request for older, woodland-camouflage uniforms, Comrade Craig Devonshire donated two large totes of his old uniforms, including brand-new combat boots. The uniforms arrived in Louisa the day before Veterans Day – just in time to outfit 3 students so that they could participate with their classmates in a Veterans Day Ceremony and a parade the following day.

**NEW STOVE FOR DISABLED VIETNAM VETERAN**

Thanks to Comrades Gary Dunbar and José Vazquez, the Turner family will be able to host Thanksgiving at their home this year!

During the Buddy Poppy Drive for Veterans Day, Service Officer Dunbar met a disabled Vietnam veteran and his wife. While talking to Gary, the wife broke down saying she was unable to invite anyone over for Thanksgiving since the only thing working on her stove was one burner.



Comrade Vazquez installing the new stove

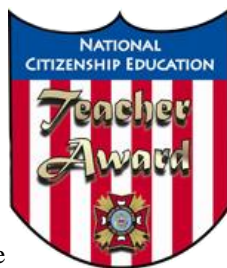
Gary immediately drove to the nearest Home Depot and persuaded the manager to donate a brand new, \$300 stove. A few days later, Deputy Service Officer José, picked up the stove and installed it in the Turner's kitchen.

Thank you Gary, José, and Home Depot for making a veteran and his wife very happy for the holiday season!

**SMART/MAHER NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DUE 15 JANUARY**

In the last two years, Post 2894 was fortunate enough to have a National Teacher of the Year (Craig Blackman, Indian River HS, 2015) and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner-Up (Kimberly Hammers, Grassfield HS, 2016).

There are 3 awards for teachers: grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. If you know of someone who promotes a sense of pride



in students through the teaching of civic responsibilities, flag etiquette, and patriotism, please consider nominating them for this prestigious National VFW Award!

Nominations must include the nomination form, a 350 word justification, a one page resume, up to 5 pages of supporting documentation (CV, references, news articles, etc.), and a head-and-shoulder photo.

The top prize winner receives \$1,000 plus another \$1,000 to the school, plaques for both teacher and school, and an all-paid expense trip to the VFW National Convention (which will be in New Orleans in 2017).

Entry forms can be downloaded at: <http://myvfw.org/va/post2894/files/2015/07/TeacheroftheYearAwardBrochure-VFW-Post-2894.pdf>

**SCOUT OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DUE 1 MARCH**



Now's the time to start thinking about Scout of the Year! 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.

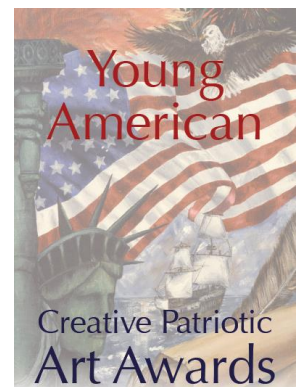
Nomination packages are due to the Post by 1 March 2017. To be eligible, nominees must:

- Be a registered Scout;
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting, and community; and
- Be at least 15 and enrolled in high school.

Entry forms can be downloaded from our website at: <http://myvfw.org/va/post2894/files/2015/07/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm-2894.pdf>

**PATRIOTIC ARTIST NOMINATIONS DUE 31 MARCH**

The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Awards are presented by the VFW Auxiliary and judged on their originality of concept, presentation, and patriotism expressed; the content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas; the design technique; total impact of work; and uniqueness. Students must in high school, no older than 18, and a US citizen or national.



Entry forms can be downloaded from our website at:

<http://myvfw.org/va/post2894/files/2015/07/Patriotic-Art-VFW-2894-Aux.pdf>



## ✚ DECEMBER SAFETY CORNER ✚

### Home Heating Safety

#### Stay Warm with Home Heating Safety

According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February. So now is the time to make sure your home heating device is safe, before the weather turns bitter cold. Follow these USFA heating tips to maintain a fire safe home this winter.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three (3) feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

For more information on how to keep specific heating devices safe, such as a furnace, space heater, kerosene heater, fireplace or wood stove, visit the USFA's Heating Fire Safety page:

[www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/heating.html](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/heating.html)

## ✚ JANUARY SAFETY CORNER ✚

### Hypothermia

#### Warning Signs of Hypothermia

While hypothermia generally occurs at very cold temperatures, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says that it can happen even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water.

As winter approaches, it's important to know the warning signs of hypothermia and what to do if you notice those signs.

#### Warnings Signs of Hypothermia in Adults:

- Body temperature below 95 degrees
- Uncontrollable shivering
- Exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands
- Memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech
- Drowsiness

#### Warnings Signs of Hypothermia in Infants:

- Bright red, cold skin
- Very low energy

If someone is suffering from hypothermia, get medical attention immediately and begin warming the person until help arrives.

If you must go outside, prevent hypothermia by:

- Wearing several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves.
- Cover all of your body. Wear a hat and a scarf, covering your mouth to protect your face and to help prevent loss of body heat.

For more information on how to prepare for the winter, visit the America's PrepareAthon! [Winter Storm section](#).

## WWI HISTORY, 100 YEARS AGO TODAY...

As 1917 opens, President Woodrow Wilson is sworn in to a second term while the US is drawn into the "War to End All Wars"...

**Dec 6, 1916** – Bucharest, capital of Romania, falls to Austro-Germans. This effectively ends Romanian resistance to Austro-German invasion and places country's entire agricultural and industrial resources, including Ploesti oil fields, in German hands.

**Dec 7, 1916** – Lloyd George becomes Britain's new Prime Minister. His new War Cabinet immediately begins to organize country for "total war."

**Dec 15, 1916** – Last offensive in Battle of Verdun begins as French push Germans out of Louvemont and Bezonvaux on east bank of Meuse River. Combined with other ground losses, German withdrawal ends immediate threat to Verdun and both sides focus efforts on battles elsewhere along Western Front. Overall, French and Germans suffered nearly a million casualties combined during ten month battle in which Germans failed to capture city of Verdun.

**Dec 18, 1916** - President Woodrow Wilson caps off year-long effort to organize a peace conference in Europe by asking combatants to outline their peace terms.

**Dec 21, 1916** – El Arish (Sinai) occupied by British forces.

**Dec 26, 1916** – German, Austro-Hungarian and Turkish governments send reply to President Wilson's Note suggesting immediate meeting of delegates.

**Dec 31, 1916** – Raspútin murdered in Petrograd.

**Jan 19, 1917** – British intercept telegram from Alfred Zimmermann to German embassies in Washington DC and Mexico City. Message outlines plans for alliance between Germany and Mexico against US. According to scheme, Germany would provide tactical support while Mexico would expand into American Southwest, retrieving territories once part of Mexico. Telegram passed by British to Americans and made public, causing outcry from interventionists in US, such as former president Teddy Roosevelt, who favor American military involvement in war.

[www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/firstworldwar/index-1917.html](http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/firstworldwar/index-1917.html)

[www.greatwar.co.uk/timeline/ww1-events-1917.htm](http://www.greatwar.co.uk/timeline/ww1-events-1917.htm)

## 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:

- **Budget Committee:** José Vazquez, Mark Rios, Mike Kust, Mark Junghans, Chris Mulholland, and Carl Dozier.
- **Awards Committee:** Gary Dunbar, Mark Rios, José Vazquez, Matt Schweers, Mark Junghans, and Chris Mulholland
- **Membership Committee:** José Vazquez, John Guill, Mark Rios, Mark Junghans, Gary Dunbar, and Chris Mulholland
- **Building Committee:** Carl Dozier and Gary Dunbar
- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Mark Junghans
- **Health Committee:** Surgeon Jose Vazquez

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP – AND CONSIDER A LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Every year, we have members who forget to renew their annual memberships. They then become ineligible to hold office in the Post and have to scramble to renew their status.

If you are approaching the end of your annual membership, please renew ASAP! And consider upgrading to a Life Membership. As a Life Member you will:

- Avoid annual dues and renewals.
- Maintain your membership in any Post you choose, worldwide!
- Never pay an increase in dues — Guaranteed!
- Receive a 10% discount on exclusive VFW Store merchandise for the first year.

You can become a VFW Life Member by making a one-time payment as describe in the Quartermaster's Desk below. You can also pay for your Life Membership through an installment plan, with an initial \$45 payment, with the Life Membership amount billed over an 11-month period as shown in the table below.

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

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

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

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

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

**QUARTERMASTER DESK**

**Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$30 IF you go through the OM – if you go through National you'll pay \$40.50!**

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

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP**

You can become a VFW Life Member by paying a one-time fee as listed in the table below, or making an initial \$45 payment and then paying the remainder over an 11-month installment plan. You will be issued an annual membership card and can elect, upon receipt of the first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The applicable Life Membership fee is determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on Dec. 31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement.



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

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

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

**DECEMBER MILITARY HISTORY**

1 1909 President Taft severs official relations with Nicaragua's government and declares support for revolutionaries.

- 1918 American army of occupation enters Germany.
- 1955 Rosa Parks refuses to sit in back of Montgomery, AL, bus, defying South's segregationist laws.
- 1969 America's first draft lottery since 1942.
- 2 1823 President Monroe proclaims Monroe Doctrine, 'American continents, by free and independent condition... 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 New Ford Model A introduced to American public.
- 1942 Allies repel strong Axis attack in Tunisia, North Africa.
- 1944 General Patton's troops enter Saar Valley and break through Siegfried line.
- 3 1918 Allied Conference ends in London deciding that Germany must pay for war.
- 1989 Presidents Bush and Gorbachev announce official end to Cold War at meeting in Malta.
- 4 1862 Winchester, VA, falls into Union hands, resulting in capture of 145 Southern soldiers.
- 1942 US planes make first raids on Naples, Italy.
- 1991 Last American hostages held in Lebanon released.
- 5 1933 21st Amendment ends Prohibition in US, begun 13 years earlier.
- 1955 Bus boycott begins under Rev. ML King, Jr., in Montgomery.
- 1978 Soviet Union signs 20-year friendship pact with Afghanistan.
- 6 1492 Columbus lands on Santo Domingo in search of gold.
- 1934 American Ambassador Davis says Japan is grave security threat in Pacific.
- 1941 President FDR issues personal appeal to Emperor Hirohito to use influence to avoid war.
- 7 1917 US declares war on Austria-Hungary.
- 1941 Japanese planes raid Pearl Harbor in surprise attack.
- 1942 USN launches USS *New Jersey*, largest battleship ever built.
- 8 1943 US carrier-based planes sink 2 cruisers and down 72 planes in Marshall Islands.
- 1944 US conducts longest, most effective air raid on Iwo Jima.
- 9 1941 FDR tells Americans to plan for a long war.
- 1992 US Marines land in Somalia to ensure food and medicine reach deprived areas.
- 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.
- 1949 150,000 French troops mass at border in Vietnam to prevent Chinese invasion.
- 11 1941 US declares war on Italy and Germany.
- 1945 Boeing B-29 Superfortress shatters records by crossing US in 5 hours and 27 min.
- 12 1753 George Washington, adjutant of Virginia, delivers ultimatum to French forces at Fort Le Boeuf, reiterating Britain's claim to Ohio River valley.
- 1863 Orders given in Richmond, Virginia, that no more supplies from Union be received by Federal prisoners.
- 1967 US ends airlift of 6,500 men to Vietnam.
- 13 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg ends with bloody slaughter of Union troops at Marye's Heights.
- 14 1799 George Washington dies on Mount Vernon estate.
- 1960 US Boeing B-52 bomber sets 10,000-mile non-stop record without refueling.
- 15 1890 US soldiers attempt to arrest Sitting Bull in Standing Rock, SD; 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.
- 1965** US drops 12 tons of bombs on industrial center near Haiphong Harbor, North Vietnam.
- 16 1773** Young Americans, disguised as Indians, throw chests of tea in Boston Harbor.
- 1944** Germany opens Battle of Bulge in Ardennes Forest in Belgium.
- 1950** President Truman declares National Emergency as Chinese communists invade deeper into S.Korea.
- 1998** US launches missile attack on Iraq for failing to comply with UN weapons inspectors.
- 17 1903** Wright brothers' 1<sup>st</sup> successful flight near Kitty Hawk, NC.
- 1943** US forces invade Japanese-held New Britain Island in New Guinea.
- 1944** US approves end to internment of Japanese Americans.
- 18 1865** Slavery abolished in US. 13th Amendment formally adopted into Constitution.
- 1941** Defended by 610, American-held island of Guam falls to more than 5,000 Japanese invaders in 3-hour battle.
- 1972** President Nixon declares bombing of North Vietnam will continue until accord reached.
- 19 1959** Last civil war veteran, Walter Williams, dies at 117 in Houston.
- 20 1941** Flying Tigers, American pilots in China, enter combat against Japanese over Kunming.
- 1989** US troops invade Panama to oust General Noriega.
- 21 1620** Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock.
- 1862** Congress authorizes Medal of Honor for Navy personnel.
- 1944** German troops surround 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne in Belgium.
- 1945** General Patton dies at age 60 after injured in car accident.
- 22 1775** Esek Hopkins takes command of Continental Navy — total of 7 ships.
- 1944** During Battle of Bulge, General McAuliffe responds to German surrender request with: "Nuts!"
- 23 1941** US defenders on Wake Island capitulate to 2<sup>nd</sup> Japanese assault.
- 1944** Gen. Eisenhower confirms death sentence of PVT Slovik, only American shot for desertion since Civil War.
- 1948** Japan's Prime Minister Tojo and 6 others hanged for war crimes.
- 1974** B-1 bomber makes first successful test flight.
- 24 1814** Treaty between US and Britain, ending War of 1812, signed. News does not reach US until 2 weeks later (after Battle of New Orleans).
- 1943** General Eisenhower appointed Allied Supreme Commander.
- 26 1776** After crossing Delaware River night before, Washington leads attack on Hessian mercenaries at Trenton, takes 900 men prisoner.
- 27 1941** Japanese bombers attack Manila, despite claim as open city.
- 1944** General Patton's Third Army relieves Bastogne in Belgium.
- 1979** President Amin of Afghanistan murdered in coup backed by Soviet Union, beginning 10 year war.
- 28 1946** French declare martial law in Vietnam as war appears inevitable.
- 29 1778** British, attempting new strategy to defeat colonials, capture Savannah.
- 1890** Last major conflict of Indian wars as 7th Cavalry tries to disarm Chief Big Foot and followers at Wounded Knee SD.
- 1965** Christmas truce observed in Vietnam, while President

Johnson tries to get North Vietnamese to bargaining table.

- 30 1803** US takes possession of Louisiana area from France.
- 1972** President Nixon halts air offensive and agrees to resume peace negotiations with Hanoi representative.
- 2006** Saddam Hussein hanged for crimes committed against own people during rule.
- 31 1775** George Washington orders recruiting officers to accept free blacks into army.
- 1942** After 5 months of battle, Emperor Hirohito allows Japanese commanders at Guadalcanal to retreat.

## JANUARY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1776 British torch Norfolk, Virginia
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect
- 1950 First woman doctor commissioned in USN, Mary T. Sproul
- 1950 Indo-China: Viet Minh open a major offensive against the French
- 1951 Massive Chinese/North Korean assault on UN-lines
- 1962 US Navy SEAL teams established.
- 2** 1776 First American flag displayed
- 1945 USN convoys depart Leyte to invade Luzon, while beating off Kamikaze.
- 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
- 4** 1989 Second Gulf of Sidra Incident: two USN F-14s down two Libyan MiG-23s
- 5** 1608 Capt. John Smith is captured by Indians
- 1781 Richmond burned by British forces under Benedict Arnold
- 6** 1776 "NY Provincial Company of Artillery" organized; now 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 half-rations, as Japanese close in
- 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 US Army - last battle of Great Sioux War
- 1973 Secret peace talks between US & North Vietnam resume near Paris
- 9** 1861 First Shot of Civil War: US steamer 'Star of the West' is fired on by Confederate batteries off Charleston
- 1936 Garand M-1 semi-automatic rifle adopted by US Army
- 1942 FDR establishes Joint Chiefs of Staff
- 1945 Luzon: 6<sup>th</sup> Army lands in Lingayen Gulf.
- 1952 USMC recalls Ted Williams to active duty for Korean War
- 10** 1847 US Navy-Marine Corps landing party occupies Los Angeles
- 1943 Guadalcanal: US 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** 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 take Ft Fisher, NC
- 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
- 17 1781 Battle of Cowpens: Dan Morgan annihilates 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 lands on ship: Eugene Ely in Curtiss Flyer on USS 'Pennsylvania' (ACR-4)
- 19 1920 Senate rejects American membership in League of Nations
- 20 1778 1<sup>st</sup> American court martial opens, Cambridge, MA
- 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
- 1981 Illegally held by Iranian government for 444 days, 52 Americans are finally released
- 21 1903 "Dick Act" creates modern National Guard
- 1968 Battle of Khe Sanh begins -- ends Apr 8
- 22 1944 Operation Shingle: Allies land at Anzio
- 23 1968 North Koreans capture USS 'Pueblo' & 83 crew in East Sea/Sea of Japan
- 24 1847 Col. Price defeats 1,500 Indians & Mexicans to secure New Mexico for US
- 25 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 cease-fire
- 1977 Pres Carter pardons most Vietnam War draft evaders
- 28 1915 US Coast Guard created from Life Saving and Revenue Cutter Services
- 1942 Ens. Donald Mason radios, "Sighted sub, sank same."
- 29 1944 USS 'Missouri' (BB-63) launched in Brooklyn
- 30 1781 Articles of Confederation, establishing perpetual union of "United States of America"
- 1945 Philippines - Cabanatuan: 126 US & Filipino raiders liberate 500 prisoners from a Japanese P/W camp
- 31 1944 U.S. troops land on Kwajalein 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

### 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](mailto: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

## YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!!!

## POST 2894 CALENDAR

<b><u>DECEMBER '16</u></b>	
3	Chesapeake Christmas Parade
3-4	Battle of Great Bridge Reenactment
7	Nat'l Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
10	Wreaths Across America, Suffolk, 0930
14	Post Meeting/ Christmas Party, 1900
21	Winter Begins
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas
31	New Year's Eve

<b><u>JANUARY '17</u></b>	
1	New Year's Day
9	Sinsil 8 Anniversary (2008)
11	Post Meeting, 1900 (Quarterly Audit)
13-15	VFW Dept of VA Winter Council, Williamsburg
16	Martin Luther King Day
20	Inauguration Day

## Tidewater Big Train Operators Annual Free Holiday Train Show



Avalon Church of Christ, 844 Woodstock Road

Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Fri, Dec 2, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sat, Dec 3, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sun, Dec 4, 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mon thru Fri, Dec 5 thru Dec 9, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sat, Dec 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (**Last Show Date**)

Special Senior and Mobility Impaired Showing, Wed, Dec 7, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

*Santa will be there!*

G Scale Train Raffle; Tickets on Sale at the table.

For more information call: 757-490-2155, or visit us on line at:

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



FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

God Bless Our Troops

**JOIN US!**

**VFW post 2894**

**CHRISTMAS party**

Wednesday, 14 December, at 1900 (7 pm)

Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 9  
110 Kempsville Road, Chesapeake

**Bring a dish to share and BYOB**

**Families are invited!**

**RSVP by 11 Dec: [cdrpost2894@va.vfwwebmail.com](mailto:cdrpost2894@va.vfwwebmail.com)**

YOUR AD COULD  
BE HERE!!!

OR HERE!!!



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

Place  
Stamp  
Here



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

