

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

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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

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2



VFW SSG DOZIER MEMORIAL POST 2894

Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

Corrected 27 Jan 17

"Veterans Helping Others – Other Vets, Other People"

NEWSLETTER – Vol. VI, Issue 1, February-March 2017

BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK, 22 APRIL

Keep your calendar clear for the sixth annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk on **Saturday, April 22nd** at the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail in Deep Creek just off Route 17. Since Post 2894 is hosting this event, we would like to see all the members come out and help in any way you can. We will also be receiving assistance from crew members of the USS Bataan (LHD-5), the Chesapeake Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, and more as we host this commemorative event. The flyer for this event can be found at the end of this newsletter along with a sponsorship form. **PLEASE SHARE WITH FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, FAMILY – EVERYONE!**

You can find more information on the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Chesapeake-Bataan-Death-March/464188050284397

MSG JOHN MIMS, US ARMY (Ret), 1922-2016

One of our key guests at our annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk, retired Master Sergeant John Mims, passed away on 27 November. He was much loved by those who met him and he and his wife became good friends with Matt and

Grace Schweers and their family. He will be sorely missed.

The Schweers attended the funeral and service for MSG Mims in North Carolina.

The following article by Mary Kate Murphy was printed in the Moore County Pilot on 28 November.

Hardship, Cruelty Didn't Blacken John Mims' Heart

As one of the only remaining survivors of the notorious Bataan Death March and one of Moore County's most notable World War II veterans, John Mims needed little introduction in the Sandhills' military community.

Though the details of his history as a prisoner of war usually preceded him, Mims' three years languishing under barbaric treatment in labor camps did not define the man who marshaled the annual Veterans' Parade in Southern Pines and cheered on innumerable participants in Bataan memorial marches from Virginia to New Mexico.

Mims, who lived near Pinebluff, passed away on Sunday afternoon, two days after turning 94. Gene Maples, who knew Mims through the parade and as a fellow Mason, surmised that the same will to live that sustained Mims through his ordeal in the south Pacific helped him to see one last birthday. Mims was a master Mason at Roman Eagle Lodge 550 in Aberdeen.

"Anything that had to do with the Masonic lodge or with any of the veterans' activities, he was always right there to lend a hand," said Maples. "His presence offered so much inspiration to the rest of us to kind of follow in his footsteps. He left us with so many wonderful, meaningful things to help shape our own lives. I think that the



DEATH MARCH

Lord had some additional use for him, to help us understand the things that are really important in life.”

Along with Swede Boreen of Pinehurst, Mims was among a group of 45 World War II veterans honored by the N.C. General Assembly to mark the 70th anniversary of the war’s end last year.

Mims was one of 75,000 Allied soldiers captured in Japanese attacks on Corregidor Island and the Bataan Peninsula in April 1942.

The brutal forced march that ensued and the prisoners’ suffering at the hands of the Japanese army has become known as the Bataan Death March. Mims was one of the ordeal’s last remaining survivors — experts believe there are fewer than 20 still alive.

At the age of 15, he lied about his age to join the Army after his father died. He served nearly a year on active duty before officers discovered his true age and discharged him.

Rick Herrera, an organizer of the annual Vet Fest and parade, described Mims as a latter-day Isaiah in his zeal to serve.

“John personified that verse of the Bible when he was 15 years old and understood the need that this country had,” said Herrera. “It really is an amazing story that he came into the military at such a young age and pulled the wool over the government’s eyes.”

Apology and Forgiveness

After struggling to make it on his own, Mims re-enlisted in 1941 and the Army sent him to basic training in the Philippines.

A year later, American and Filipino troops surrendered to Japanese forces after the three-month Battle of Bataan. They were forced to walk more than 60 miles north to Camp O’Donnell, a prisoner-of-war camp in Tarlac Province, despite extreme heat and without food or water. Mims was the only member of his company, the 21st Infantry, to survive the march.

In addition to deprivation and random executions, prisoners suffered beatings and other more inventive means of torture. At one point, a Japanese soldier knocked out Mims’ front teeth with a soda bottle. When the Bataan Death March finally ended at Camp O’Donnell, he was beaten and hung from a yard rail. Upon recovering his health, he was assigned to dig mass graves.

During three years as a prisoner of war, Mims suffered broken bones in his neck, back, and arms, and after an escape attempt his captors punished him by breaking his legs with a bulldozer blade.

Later, Mims was sent from the camp with 3,000 other soldiers to work in a coal mine near Japan. Only 500 survived that ordeal.

In September 2012, the Japanese nation formally apologized to Mims, flying him and his wife, Nena Sabal, first-class to Tokyo for a return visit to that mine.

“They paid for everything,” Mims said in an interview with The Pilot at the time. “We were in the finest hotel, the finest of anything they have in Japan. First class. They had a nurse in case anything happened.”

Activities in Japan included meeting with students and other groups, answering questions, and formal bows of apology. When Mims and his wife reached the coal mine, they found a monument alongside its preserved entrance, with plaques in English and Japanese that remember 184 British and 288 American prisoners of war forced to labor there.

“Many died,” the plaques say. “We record the fact here, wishing eternal peace never to repeat such a tragedy as this.”

There, Mims greeted an old acquaintance: Ken Arimitsu, coordinator of the Citizens Fund for Redress in Tokyo. Mims saved Arimitsu from starvation at the end of the war when guards fled at news of the Japanese surrender.

Though he weighed 67 pounds at that point, 100 less than he did when he enlisted in the Army, Mims and other POWs shared food from an air drop with starving Japanese women and children in the area. Arimitsu, then aged 9, was one of them.

With the memories of compatriots who succumbed to the brutality of war weighing, as always, on his mind, Mims laid a wreath before the monument.

“I told him once my kin-people find out about it, that parking place won’t be big enough,” Mims said. “It won’t be big enough to hold the people who’ll come to see it.”

Hardship Overcome

A Coushatta Indian from Alabama, Mims grew up on a reservation in northwest Florida.

“Times I went to church barefooted — hiding my feet — so people in church couldn’t see I had no shoes,” he said. “Sometimes I didn’t feel I had clothes, ‘cause I didn’t have a suit to wear to church. I had no education at all. I got a lot of my education from

reading. In Japan I went to Tokyo University two years with this buddy of mine. I was teaching him English, and he was teaching me Japanese.”

After the war, Mims stayed in the Army, returning to Japan from 1952 to 1954 as sergeant in charge of the Tokyo Quartermaster Depot. He retired in 1963, raising three biological and 22 adopted children with his first wife, Juanita, before her death in 2004. He and Nena Sabal married in 2009.

He later worked in a rug factory and for a curtain company. Mims told John Regan, president of Moore County’s Disabled American Veterans chapter, that his generation “took it upon themselves to be successful” when they left the armed forces. But he also credited his good fortune in civilian life to the opportunities offered him as a retired service member.

“For anyone who had been through his experience, it would be justifiable for them to be angry or have a chip on their



John Mims with the Schweers and his wife, Nena

shoulder, but he was the most positive guy I ever met,” said Regan. “He was upbeat and he was friendly, he was very approachable.”

In his later years, Mims attended Bataan memorial marches across the United States in honor of his countless brothers in arms who did not survive.

“I owe it to my friends and buddies that didn’t come back,” Mims told one news outlet. “Anything I can do in their honor is a great honor for me to do, because I had to watch a lot of them die, and there was nothing I could do about it.”

Along with other World War II veterans, Mims marshaled the Veterans’ Parade in Southern Pines for three years before his failing health prevented him from participating. His legacy set a lofty standard for all involved.

“He was a tremendous soldier, a tremendous leader, a tremendous patriot,” Hererra said. “Knowing John’s story just motivated people to be better. It motivated everybody who was on the committee to be out there and give 110 percent.”

In Mims’ honor, Hererra is mustering a group to march in the 75th anniversary memorial march next year at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico — an event Mims himself attended for more than 20 years.

‘God Has a Plan’

Though he did not advertise his past as a prisoner of war, Mims was willing to recount his wartime experiences, giving voice to a moment obscured by the arc of World War II. Regan, also a history instructor at Sandhills Community College, watched his class become a 90-minute question-and-answer session when he invited Mims to speak last year.

“He would talk freely about it and share his story and the message of faith that inspired him to keep going on and his desire to live a nice full life like he did,” said Regan.

“He told everyone, ‘God had a plan for me, he has one for you.’”

A funeral service will be held at 9 a.m. on Friday at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Southern Pines, where Mims was a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus.

Contact **Mary Kate Murphy** at (910) 693-2479 or mkmurphy@thepilot.com

COMMANDER’S CORNER

Even though you are receiving this newsletter in the “dead of winter”, spring is just around the corner! And with it, comes our Post’s biggest fund-raising event, the Bataan Death March Memorial Walk (22 April).



It’s not too soon to begin planning for this and all of our other events this spring such as the Norfolk St.



Patrick’s Day Parade (18 Mar), our Post elections (12 Apr), our annual Post Awards Ceremony (10 May), the Memorial Day Poppy Drive (27-28 May), the Memorial Day Ceremony in front of City Hall (29 May), and the installation of new officers (14 Jun).

So get aboard quickly! The train’s ready to roll, and it’s picking up steam!!!

If you are interested in holding office for the next fraternal year, please let one of the current officers know. We’ve got some major plans and would like everyone’s input and assistance.

I want to thank everyone who came and enjoyed the camaraderie at the Christmas Pot Luck after our December meeting.

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

Semper Fidelis and **Erin Go Bragh!**

Chris Mulholland, Commander

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Happy New Year to Everyone!

I want to welcome our new member Christina Zinn.

Christina’s husband James is active duty and they have 3 boys. Christina is a teacher and their family is involved in Scouts. The oldest son is working on his Eagle Scout project.



At the Winter Conference we were asked to save Campbell Soup Labels for the National Home. They are trying to replace/add to the playground equipment at the home. Bring the labels to our meetings and I will get them mailed.

The auxiliary has 39,200 men enrolled. Not bad for the first year. We have 3 enrolled in our auxiliary. The Dept. has 2 men serving as officers and one of them is interested in going up the offices to Dept. President.

We are doing well sending in our reports. Please let me know if you need help filling out a report. I know we all do things that could be reported and don’t think about it. It is never too late to send in a report.

See you at our next meeting, February 8, 2017.

GOD BLESS THE USA!

Sandy Dunbar, President

EMMA DOZIER ATTENDED WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS EVENT

MOREHEAD CITY — The holiday season brings messages of joy, warm wishes and hope.

For one family, the message of hope was received loud and clear recently during a special trip to Washington, D.C.

Amy Dozier, her 9-year-old daughter Emma and her fiancé Matt Ware, of Morehead City, were invited to visit the White House for President Barack and Michelle Obama’s last Christmas decoration unveiling on Nov. 29.

The invitation came straight from Mrs. Obama’s secretary, inviting Ms. Dozier and her family to attend the event that included a small number of military families, as well as members of Gold Star military families – those who have had a loved one die serving their country.

Ms. Dozier's husband, Army Staff Sgt. Jonathan Dozier, was killed Jan. 9, 2008, in Iraq by a makeshift bomb, leaving behind his young wife and 13-month-old daughter.

Ms. Dozier received the unexpected invitation to the White House after sending a message to the first family thanking them for all of their hard work and dedication to military families.

"It (the letter) was to say 'thank you' to the things they stood for," Ms. Dozier said. "To say 'thanks' for their hard work in the White House and to let them know that we are really appreciative of the things they have done for our family and families like mine over the years."

While at the White House, Ms. Dozier and her family had a chance to look at 70,000 different ornaments with themes dedicated to Mrs. Obama's specific holiday vision.

Each room in the White House had a different tree representing subjects like education, health, service, activity and well-being.

"I think that one of the biggest things for me learning about going into the different rooms was her (Mrs. Obama's) vision for America, especially as we move through the holiday season and this transition time in our country when there is such a divide," Ms. Dozier said. "Her vision was the gift of the holidays. That day in particular that gift was so special for military families, especially Gold Star families."

While the adults had a chance to enjoy the ornaments and decorations, the children invited to the event got to spend some quality time with Mrs. Obama, making holiday treats and arts and crafts, but the best part of the trip came when Ms. Dozier and Emma saw the tree dedicated to Gold Star family members and the fallen soldiers.

Next to the tree, there was a podium holding Gold Star ornaments and markers. Emma took an ornament and dedicated it to her dad. Ms. Dozier watched the scene unfold as together, Emma and Mr. Ware, finished the ornament and found the perfect place to hang it on the Christmas tree.

"I melted inside," Ms. Dozier said as she recalled the event. "That's my little world right there. I thought 'that's my past, that's my future, that's my right now, and it's right here in the middle of the White House.' I don't think it gets more symbolic of freedom of love and hope than that. That's all I wanted in all of this. That's what I wanted in this season, that's all I wanted in this life, especially right now in this time."

For Ms. Dozier, watching her daughter and her fiancé dedicate an ornament to her late husband was the epitome of hope during the holiday season, but it was also important for Emma to honor her father's memory.

Though she was only 13-months-old when he passed away, Emma carries a large amount of pride for her father.

"He's either with her somehow in spirit like a God wink almost or just biology, just naturally who she is, but she is very proud of him and very patriotic and wants to do all she can to honor him and learn about him and follow in his footsteps," Ms. Dozier said. "For her to have this experience ... she was over the moon excited. It was pretty stellar for her, and she was super excited to come out and show us her stuff and tell us about the things she did. She was very proud of this experience and she took it very seriously."

Keeping Staff Sgt. Dozier's memory alive is important for both Emma and Ms. Dozier.

They celebrate both his angel anniversary – the day he died – and his birthday, make frequent trips to Arlington National Cemetery to visit what Emma calls, "Daddy's Special Rock," and they are big believers of paying it forward with money or an act of kindness done in Staff Sgt. Dozier's name.

Attending the Christmas celebration at the White House was another special way that Emma and Ms. Dozier were able to remember the family member that they lost, and it served as a sign of hope and happiness.

"Beautiful things can come out of tragedy even when it feels like the world is crumbling," Ms. Dozier said. "This was a huge deal especially right now during Christmas."

From an article in the Carteret County News-Times by Megan Soult, published 24 Dec 2016.



Gold Star moment

Emma Dozier and Matt Ware, of Morehead City, write a letter to soldiers deployed overseas during a Christmas event at the White House. (Contributed photo)

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH – A SALUTE TO BLACK CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS

Joe Becton of Philadelphia, a retired National Park Service ranger, believes it is important to highlight the heroic black lives that mattered in the historical quest for freedom.

"Our goal is to get to the truth about those who fought in the Civil War and World War II and also battled segregation after the wars," Becton said. "These were the folks who helped to define what freedom is."

Becton, 63, is a representative of the Union's Third Infantry Regiment, a re-enactor group of about 20 members depicting the real black regiment of enlisted soldiers formed shortly before the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

As part of the observance of Black History Month in February, Becton and a few others in his group will present the free interpretive educational program "The African-American Soldiers in the Civil War" on Feb. 21 at 2:30 p.m. at the Central Pennsylvania African American Museum, 119 N. 10th St.

Becton, who earned two associate degrees in social work and social science from Reading Area Community College (1975-77), went on to pursue his passion for history by earning a bachelor's degree at the University of West Florida, Pensacola. He also enrolled in summer history courses offered at Yale University, New Haven, Conn.



For 20 years, he served as a National Park Service ranger at a variety of sites, including Valley Forge, Independence Hall and a Revolutionary War encampment in Morristown, N.J.

"We do some 50 programs a year," Becton said, "And we have been very busy, especially in the past few years with the 150th commemoration of the Civil War."

Becton said Berks County and Reading have a rich African-American history, particularly in connection with the Underground Railroad, the route to freedom for enslaved blacks.

Berks County also provided work for freed blacks drawn to area iron plantations and was an area that drew supporters of the 19th century Abolitionist movement.

"Some of our members are descendants of the Third Regiment, but not all are," Becton said. "For instance, I've found it difficult to find a connection to a Civil War ancestor."

Becton's mission is educating the public about the role of blacks in the Civil War, both in the North and the South.

"More than 200,000 Africans served the Union during the Civil War as soldiers, doctors, chaplains and in support roles," he said. "In the South, blacks did everything from serving as cooks, horse managers, fort builders and gravediggers."

He said 37,000 blacks were either wounded, were killed or died of disease during the Civil War.

An article by Bruce Posten in the 4 Feb 2016 issue of the "Reading Eagle" (Reading, Pa.)

www.military1.com/black-history-month/article/1579454014-a-salute-to-black-civil-war-soldiers

"NEW" POST HISTORY!

During our Buddy Poppy drive over Veterans' Day weekend this past November, we met David Parker, a Korean War Vet, who told us that Post 2894 is actually the second VFW Post in Chesapeake! This was brand new information for all of us! The first post was 3829 which was established in 1987 by a number of Vietnam veterans but due to lackluster attendance was eventually merged with Post 4809 in Norfolk in 1993. Three years later, Post 2894 was chartered on 26 March 1996. In 2011 the Post was named "Staff Sergeant Jonathan Kilian Dozier Memorial Post 2894" who fell while serving his country in Sinsil, Diyala Province, Iraq on 9 January 2008. The Post

flag was dedicated on 10 April 2013. On 8 April 2015, the Ladies Auxiliary of Post 2894 was established with 18 charter members. In 2016 the Post was named an **All-American Post**, a **National Outstanding Community Service Post**, and an **All-State Post**, while the post newsletter won the **National Grand Award**.

JOIN US for the 50th OCEAN VIEW ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE, 18 MARCH

COME MARCH WITH US!!! Post 2894 will participate in this year's 50th Ocean View Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Norfolk along with the Tidewater Military Vehicles Association. Bring your families, bring your friends. This is the 49th year for the fun filled Irish parade with marching bands, clowns, floats, cars, and people making an exciting and enjoyable parade. Everyone is Irish both in and along the parade route.



After the parade there is a party with live music, food, and fun hosted by The Columbian Club of Ocean View. 211 W. Government Ave, Norfolk, VA. It is open to the public (21 and up).



We will provide more details (as they finalize) via e-mail.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR SINSIL 8

January 9th marked the eighth anniversary of the deaths of the Sinsil 7, SSG Jon Dozier, SFC Matt Pionk, SGT Zachary McBride, SSG Sean Gaul, SGT Chris Sanders, SPC Todd Davis and Translator Roy. The eighth was their medic, SGT Jordan Riddle, who couldn't live with the memory of that day and took his own life in 2012. Every year, Comrade Car Dozier, honors his son and the other 6 with a candlelight vigil at the Veterans Memorial in front of City Hall. This year, he was joined by several Post and Auxiliary members who



helped remember and honor the memory of these Gold Star heroes.

Afterwards, everyone retired to Big Woody's where they talked and toasted Jon's memory with Honor Beer.

EMMA HONORED BY ANGELS OF AMERICA'S FALLEN

Angels of America's Fallen (AoAF) hosted a gala in Colorado Springs on 14 January and invited Emma Dozier as a special guest. She was honored for a piece of art she had created. Here's how she described it: "My name is Emma Grace Dozier. I am 9 years old. My Dad, SSG Jon Dozier, died while fighting for our country in Iraq when I was only 13 months. Even though I don't have any memories of him, I know lot of stories about his life and feel connected to him in a



Emma and her art being honored at the Angel Gala in Colorado Springs, 14 Jan 2017



way that is difficult to explain. Through multimedia art, I try to share my love for my dad, and my pride for my country. In the piece I created, you can see the colors of our flag in the background the heart that represents love, my home that is always protected, the Purple Heart in honor of our fallen, and the Gold Stars which represent me and my friends and family who shine as the living legacies of our heroes. I shine through gymnastics - an activity gifted to me by Angels of America's Fallen!"

OTHER POST NEWS

POST MEMBERS AT 2017 INAUGURATION

Two members of the Post and Auxiliary and their spouses attended inaugural festivities in Washington

DC for our new President, Donald Trump, on 20 January.

Auxiliary member Brenda Ike and her husband, Robert, were on the

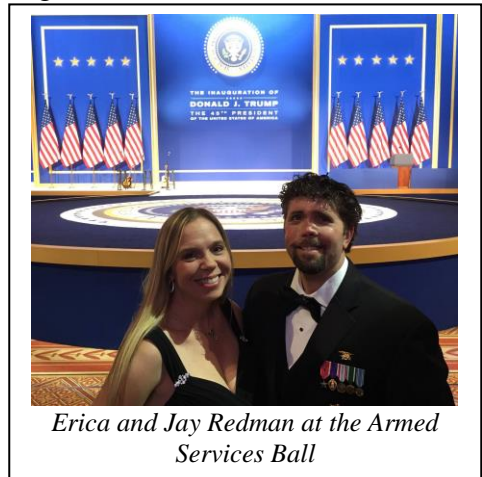


Brenda and Robert Ike (left) along with Virginia State Senator John Cosgrove and his wife, Sue (right) at the All American Ball.

National Mall for the actual inauguration ceremony and then attended the All American Ball that evening. Brenda and Robert, a member of City Council, were early supporters of Trump's presidential bid and were attendees at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland last July.

Meanwhile, Post member Jason Redman and his wife, Erica, were guests at the Armed Services

Inauguration Ball courtesy of the National VFW. They met and talked with a number of incoming appointees including the new Secretary of Defense, General James "Mad Dog"



Erica and Jay Redman at the Armed Services Ball

Mattis, USMC (ret). Jay was also interviewed by Fox News on live national TV while at the ball.

POST COMMANDER REFEREES SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

In late November of 2016, Commander Chris Mulholland traveled to South America and spent two weeks enjoying their summer while the rest of Virginia was in winter! He was there to referee power soccer (powered wheelchair soccer) and giving



Chris conducting a coin toss between two teams from Brazil.

referee clinics.

He first arrived in Buenos Aires, Argentina where he helped organize, conduct and referee the 2017 Copa Libertadores (Liberty Cup), a tournament for South American club teams. The tournament featured teams from Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. He worked with a team of Argentinian referees and two Americans.

Chris then mentored the South American referees as they worked the Copa Sudamerica to determine the championship of South America between the



Chris (holding ball) with Mark Jones from the US (center right) and Lucas Ripoli (left) and Leonard Freitas (rt) from Argentina.

national teams of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.

After the week was over, Chris took the ferry across the River Plate to Montevideo, Uruguay where he spent a week giving

presentations to FIFA futsal referees and certified a group of Uruguayan referees as power soccer officials.

While in Uruguay, he was able to take some time off to tour Punta del Este (where he stood with one foot in the River Plate and the other in the Atlantic Ocean) and Colonia del Sacramento, one of the oldest towns in Uruguay.

Sunburned Chris returned to Chesapeake on December 13th.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR – Due 1 March

Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars recognizes four individuals: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Silver Award recipients and Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the exceptional qualities of that rank. Prizes range up to \$5,000 scholarship for first place.



To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

- Be registered, active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship.

- Be recipient of Eagle Scout Award, Gold Award, Venture Silver Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.

- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting and community.

- Have reached 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

Applicants still in high school who reach their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified. A Scout may enter through only one VFW Post.

The deadline for this coming year is March 1, 2015.

Entry forms can be downloaded from the VFW website at:

www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/Community/Scout%20of%20the%20Year%20Brochure%20and%20Entry%20Form%20Rev%209.30.13%20Editable.pdf

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S REVOLUTIONARY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

by Christopher Klein, 15 March 2013

During the bleak winter of 1779-1780, the Continental Army was hungry, cold and discouraged. General George Washington knew his troops badly needed a morale boost, so he enlisted a holiday rarely observed in America, St. Patrick's Day, to the patriot cause.

The Continental Army that encamped in Morristown, New Jersey, shivered through the brutal winter of 1779-1780. It was



hard for them to believe that conditions could be any harsher than they had been at Valley Forge two years prior, but these were truly the cruelest days of the American Revolution. Twenty-eight separate snowstorms struck the encampment, burying it under as much as 6 feet of snow, between November 1779 and April 1, 1780. Through the coldest winter in recorded history, patriot foot soldiers slept on straw and huddled together for warmth in rudimentary log huts. The weather made it difficult to obtain supplies, and men went days without food. Some even resorted to eating the bark off twigs for nourishment.

Needless to say, frivolity was at a severe premium. George Washington knew he needed to buoy the spirits of his forces, so he did what a good boss would do: he gave them a day off. The general granted his troops just a single holiday that winter in Morristown, and it wasn't Christmas. It was a holiday rarely observed in America—St. Patrick's Day.

The Irish represented the largest immigrant group to arrive in the colonies in the 1700s. The first St. Patrick's Day celebration in Colonial America dated back to 1737 in Boston, but commemorations of the feast day of Ireland's patron saint were limited by the time of the American Revolution. The Irish who had immigrated to Colonial America were mainly Presbyterians from the northern province of Ulster. (Irish Catholics would not begin to arrive in large numbers until the Great Famine of the 1840s.) These "Scotch-Irish," driven from Ireland by British oppression in the first place, were predisposed to support the rebellion against the crown. Estimates are that one-quarter or more of the Continental Army was Irish by birth or ancestry, and regiments from Pennsylvania and Maryland were nearly half-Irish. Generals born in Ireland or who had Irish parents commanded seven of the eleven brigades wintering in Morristown.

Back in Ireland—which, like America, was striving for independence from the yoke of the British Empire—the populace was naturally sympathetic to the patriot cause during the American Revolution. The Irish in Ulster were so open in their support that the lord lieutenant of Ireland complained to London that the Irish Presbyterians were "in their hearts" Americans who were "talking in all companies in such a way that if they are not rebels, it is hard to find a name for them."

So in an effort to give his men a badly needed break, to recognize the heritage of many of his soldiers and to express solidarity with the "brave and generous" people of Ireland, Washington issued general orders on March 16, 1780, proclaiming St. Patrick's Day a holiday for his troops. It was the first day of rest for the Continental Army in more than a year. "The General directs that all fatigue and working parties cease for to-morrow the SEVENTEENTH instant," read the orders, "a day held in particular regard by the people of [Ireland]."

Washington also told his troops that he expected "that the celebration of the day will not be attended with the least rioting or disorder." While not all St. Patrick's Day celebrations are well-behaved affairs, it appears that this one was. Soldiers may not have quaffed green tankards of ale, but the men of the Pennsylvania Division at least enjoyed a hogshead of rum that had been purchased by their commander. In appreciation of his actions, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, a relief organization for Irish immigrants, named Washington an honorary member in 1782.

The date of St. Patrick's Day already held special significance for Washington. Four years prior, on March 17, 1776, the British evacuated Boston, and the general had his first major strategic victory since assuming the command of the Continental Army in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in July 1775. Nearly 9,000 Redcoats and more than 1,000 Loyalists boarded 120 ships in Boston Harbor on that St. Patrick's Day morning, and the enormous flotilla set sail for Halifax, Nova Scotia. Legend has it that Washington selected "Boston" as the password for the first troops to re-enter the town that day, and,

in honor of Ireland's patron saint, "St. Patrick" was the proper response.

March 17 is today a civic holiday in Boston, ostensibly to commemorate "Evacuation Day." But much like Washington's army holed up in Morristown, most Bostonians spend the day celebrating all things Irish—with or without a hogshead of rum.

(From the History Channel website, www.history.com/news/george-washingtons-revolutionary-st-patricks-day)

CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE

The Story of the 91st Brigade

Almost 100 years ago, during World War I, the 91st Infantry Brigade of the U.S. Expeditionary Army was preparing to enter combat in Europe. Because their commander was a devout Christian, he assembled his men and gave each of them a little card on which was printed the 91st Psalm, the same number Psalm as their brigade. They agreed to recite that Psalm daily. After they had begun praying the Psalm, the 91st was engaged in three of the bloodiest battles of World War I - Chateau Thierry, Belleau Wood and the Argonne. Other American units that fought in the same battles had up to 90 percent casualties, but the 91st did not suffer a single combat-related casualty!



The 91st Psalm

1. *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*
2. *I will say of YAHWEH, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.*
3. *He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.*
4. *Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.*
5. *A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.*
6. *Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.*
7. *Because thou hast made YAHWEH, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.*
8. *For He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.*
9. *They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.*
10. *Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.*
11. *Because He hath set His love upon me, therefore will I deliver Him: I will set Him on high, because He hath known my name.*
12. *He shall call upon me, and I will answer Him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver Him, and honour Him.*
13. *With long life will I satisfy Him, and show Him my salvation.*

The 91st Psalm is considered the Warriors Prayer. It fills the heart, mind, and spirit of a warrior with the Love and Protection of his Heavenly Father. We should all read the 91st Psalm every morning when we awaken and before we close our eyes for the night.

+ SAFETY CORNER **+**
FEBRUARY IS NOR'EASTER AWARENESS MONTH

A Nor'easter is a storm along the East Coast of North America, so called because the winds over the coastal area are typically from the northeast. These storms may occur at any time of year but are most frequent and most violent between September and April. Some well known Nor'easters include the notorious Blizzard of 1888, the "Ash Wednesday" storm of March 1962, the New England Blizzard of February 1978, the March 1993 "Superstorm" and the recent Boston snowstorms of January and February 2015. Past Nor'easters have been responsible for billions of dollars in damage, severe economic, transportation and human disruption, and in some cases, disastrous coastal flooding. Damage from the worst storms can exceed a billion dollars.

Nor'easters usually develop in the latitudes between Georgia and New Jersey, within 100 miles east or west of the East Coast. These storms progress generally northeastward and typically attain maximum intensity near New England and the Maritime Provinces of Canada. They nearly always bring precipitation in the form of heavy rain or snow, as well as winds of gale force, rough seas, and, occasionally, coastal flooding to the affected regions. The heavily populated region of the "I-95 Corridor," is especially impacted by Nor'easters.

The East Coast provides an ideal breeding ground for Nor'easters. During winter, the polar jet stream transports cold Arctic air southward across the plains of Canada and the US, then eastward toward the Atlantic Ocean where warm air from the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic tries to move northward. The warm waters of the Gulf Stream help keep the coastal waters relatively mild during the winter, which in turn helps warm the cold winter air over the water. This difference in temperature between the warm air over the water and cold Arctic air over the land is the fuel that feeds Nor'easters.

Weather forecasters at NWS local forecast offices around the country and at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction near Washington DC, monitor conditions conducive for Nor'easters, especially during the fall and winter. When they see conditions are favorable in the upcoming days, forecasters may issue winter storm, blizzard, high wind and coastal flood watches to alert the public that some of the worst effects of Nor'easters might be possible. If conditions are imminent, those watches are changed to warnings.

Follow weather.gov to get the latest forecasts and warnings. If a Nor'easter threatens your home town, take steps to prepare, such as having three days of food, water and other provisions in a [disaster supplies kit](#). A Nor'easter could cut power and leave you in the dark. Also, sit down with your family and create an [emergency communications plan](#) so your loved ones know how to stay in touch if you are separated. Stay off the roads if advised by local authorities and **never drive into flood waters**. These simple actions will help you stay safe during a Nor'easter.

+ SAFETY CORNER **+**
MARCH IS FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH

Flooding

Flooding is a coast-to-coast threat to the United States and its territories in all months of the year. Flooding typically occurs when prolonged rain falls over several days, when intense rain falls over a short period of time, or when an ice or debris jam causes a river or stream to overflow onto the surrounding area. Flooding can also result from the failure of a water control structure, such as a levee or dam. The most common cause of flooding is water due to rain and/or snowmelt that accumulates faster than soils can absorb it or rivers can carry it away. Approximately seventy-five percent of all Presidential disaster declarations are associated with flooding.

Flood Watch and a Flood Warning

What is the difference between a Flood Watch and a Flood Warning issued by the National Weather Service?

- **Flash Flood Warning: Take Action!** A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop. It is even possible to experience a flash flood in areas not immediately receiving rain.
- **Flood Warning: Take Action!** A Flood Warning is issued when the hazardous weather event is imminent or already happening. A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.
- **Flood Watch: Be Prepared:** A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a specific hazardous weather event to occur. A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.
- **Flood Advisory: Be Aware:** An Flood Advisory is issued when a specific weather event that is forecast to occur may become a nuisance. A Flood Advisory is issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning. However, it may cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised, it could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.

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:** Jose Vazquez, Mark Rios, Craig Devonshire, Chris Mulholland
- **Awards Committee:** Gary Dunbar, Mark Rios, Matt Schweers, Jose Vazquez, Mark Junghans, and Chris Mulholland
- **Membership Committee:** Jose Vazquez, John Guill, Mark Rios, Gary Dunbar, and Chris Mulholland
- **Building Committee:** Carl Dozier and Gary Dunbar

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

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

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

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

1-800-313-4200, help@vfnationalhome.org

QUARTERMASTER DESK

Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$35.50.

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

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

Life Memberships can be paid online at www.vfw.org, via mail, or in-person at the meetings.

WWI HISTORY, 100 YEARS AGO TODAY...

- **February 1** – Germans resume unrestricted sub warfare around British Isles with goal of knocking Britain out of war by cutting all imports and starve British into submission.
- **February 3** – US severs diplomatic ties with Germany after U-Boat sinks American grain ship “*Housatonic*”. Seven more American ships sunk in Feb and Mar as Germans sink 500 ships in just sixty days.
- **February 25** – In Mideast, British troops retake Kut al-Amara in Mesopotamia and continue advance to capture Baghdad, followed by Ramadi and Tikrit. British S.S. “*Laconia*” sunk by submarine.
- **February 26** – President Wilson addresses Congress and asks for power to arm merchant ships.
- **February 27** – President Wilson states sinking of “*Laconia*” is the “overt act” which he was waiting for.
- **February 28** – German proposal to Mexico for alliance against US published in American Press.
- **March 8** – Mass protest by Russian civilians in Petrograd (St. Petersburg) erupts into revolution against Czar Nicholas II and war. Within 4 days, Russian soldiers mutiny and join revolution.
- **March 12** – US announces arming of all merchant vessels in war zone.
- **March 14** – Germans on Western Front in France begin strategic withdrawal to new Siegfried Line (called Hindenburg Line by Allies) which shortens and straightens lines. During 3-week withdrawal, Germans conduct scorched earth policy, destroying everything of value.
- **March 15** – 300-year-old Romanov dynasty in Russia ends with abdication of Czar.
- **March 22** – Britain, France, US, and Italy recognize new Russian government in hope they will maintain huge presence on Eastern Front.
- **March 24** – British begin offensive into Palestine.

This coming April marks the 100th anniversary of the entry of the US into the “War to End All Wars”.

<http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/firstworldwar/index-1917.html>

<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/timeline/ww1-events-1917.htm>

FEBRUARY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1800 USS 'Constellation' takes French 'Vengeance' in 5-hour night battle
- 1862 Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of Republic" is published
- 1865 Sherman begins marching through South Carolina
- 1968 Saigon: Nguyen Ngoc Loan summarily executes Viet Cong murderer
- 2 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends Mexican-American War
- 1901 US Army Nurse Corps established
- 1945 Escape attempt at Mauthausen concentration camp
- 1989 Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, ending 9 years of war
- 3 1783 Spain recognizes US independence
- 1943 USS Dorchester sunk – the “Four Chaplains” immortalized
- 4 1779 John Paul Jones takes command of 'Bonhomme Richard'
- 1941 USO (United Service Organization) is formed
- 1944 US 7th Infantry Division completes capture of Kwajalein
- 1945 Yalta Conference begins: FDR, Churchill, & Stalin
- 1959 Keel laid for USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), 1st nuclear aircraft carrier
- 5 1918 Stephen W Thompson becomes first US pilot to down an enemy airplane
- 6 1778 France recognizes US, signs treaty of aid in Paris
- 1832 US ship destroys Sumatran village in retaliation for piracy
- 1899 Spanish-American War officially ends
- 1945 Battle for Manila begins
- 1945 Over 4,000 American POWs freed from Luzon prison camps
- 7 1800 Frigate USS 'Essex' becomes 1st U.S. warship to cross Equator
- 1945 General Douglas MacArthur returns to Manila
- 8 1865 Martin Delany becomes first black major in US Army
- 1910 Boy Scouts of America founded.
- 1918 "The Stars and Stripes" begins publication in France
- 9 1918 U.S. Army Chaplains' School formed at Fort Monroe
- 1943 Japanese complete evacuation of Guadalcanal, as US columns make contact at Cape Esperance, ending epic campaign
- 10 1676 Battle of Lancaster: Massachusetts militia attack & defeat Wampanoag Indians
- 1763 Treaty of Paris ends French & Indian/Seven Years' War
- 1807 Congress establishes US Coast Survey
- 1962 USSR swaps U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for spy Rudolph Abel
- 12 1948 First black Regular Army Nurse is commissioned: 1st Lt Nancy Leftenant; retires 1965 as major, USAF
- 1955 Pres Eisenhower sends US advisors to South Vietnam
- 13 1861 1st Medal of Honor action: Asst Surg Bernard Erwin, Apache Pass, Az (awarded 1894)
- 1945 Allies begin fire-bombing of Dresden, about 50,000 die
- 14 1778 USS Ranger carries recently adopted Stars and Stripes to foreign port for first time on arrival in France
- 1912 US sub 'E-1' (SS-24) commissioned, 1st American diesel boat
- 1945 US troops reach Bataan peninsula outside Manila
- 15 1856 USS 'Supply' loads 21 camels at Smyrna, Turkey, for US

- Army
- 1898 Havana Harbor: Second class battleship USS 'Maine' blows up from undetermined causes, 258 killed
- 1919 American Legion formed in Paris
- 1944 Italy: Allies commence bombing & shelling Monte Cassino
- 16** 1804 Stephen Decatur retakes and burns USS 'Philadelphia', which had been captured by Dey of Tripoli
- 1945 US airborne forces land on Corregidor (fighting lasts until March 3)
- 1959 Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba
- 17** 1621 Plymouth Colony elects Miles Standish "Captain" of militia
- 1864 CSS 'H.L. Hunley' sinks USS 'Housatonic', and herself: 1st submarine victory, albeit Pyrrhic
- 1915 Edward Stone, 1st US combatant to die in WW I, mortally wounded
- 1943 "Joltin' Joe" DiMaggio joins Army
- 1944 US forces land on Eniwetok Atoll, which is secured on Feb 22
- 1945 US Navy "frogmen" clearing beaches at Iwo Jima take heavy losses
- 1947 Voice of America begins broadcasting to USSR
- 18** 1846 US Navy adopts "port" in place of traditional "larboard"
- 1865 Sherman captures Charleston, SC
- 1941 CINCUS Husband Kimmel writes, "I feel that an attack . . . on Pearl Harbor is a possibility."
- 19** 1942 FDR orders internment of Japanese-Americans on West Coast
- 1943 Battle of Kasserine Pass: Rommel's panzers hit US troops
- 1943 US Naval forces under MacArthur designated Seventh Fleet
- 1945 US Marines land on Iwo Jima
- 20** 1942 E. H. "Butch" O'Hare downs 5 Japanese aircraft, helping USS 'Lexington' (CV-2) beat off an air attack
- 1962 John Glenn becomes first American in orbit
- 21** 1903 Cornerstone laid for Army War College (now NDU)
- 22** 1821 Spain sells East Florida to United States
- 1909 Great White Fleet returns to Hampton Roads after world cruise
- 1915 Germany begins "restricted" submarine warfare
- 1935 Airplanes are prohibited from flying over White House
- 1942 FDR orders MacArthur to leave Philippines for Australia
- 1943 'Iowa' (BB-61) commissioned in Brooklyn
- 1944 US Eighth Air Force erroneously bombs Enschede, Arnhem, Nijmegen, Netherlands, kill about 800
- 1974 First woman naval aviator: Lt. j.g., Barbara Ann Allen
- 23** 1778 Baron von Steuben joins Continental Army at Valley Forge
- 1795 USN Supply Corps founded as Office of Purveyor of Supplies
- 1836 Santa Anna lays siege to Alamo, stormed on March 6
- 1903 US leases Guantanamo Bay from Cuba for \$4,000 a year; Castro has refused to cash checks since 1959
- 1942 Japanese submarine 'I-17' shells Elwood, California.
- 1945 Iwo Jima: 28th Marines raise US flag on Mount Suribachi
- 1945 Operation Grenade: Gen Simpson's Ninth Army attacks Ruhr
- 1945 Liberation of captives in Japanese internment camp at Los Baños, Philippines
- 1946 YamashitaTomoyuki, 60, Japanese general, "Tiger of Malaya", hanged by Allies
- 1979 Frank Peterson Jr. becomes first black Marine Corps general
- 24** 1779 George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes from British
- 1917 Britain gives "Zimmermann Note" to US, revealing German efforts to get Mexico to invade southwest
- 1945 Manila liberated, after heavy fighting & serious civilian casualties
- 1968 US and Vietnamese troops complete liberation of Hue City
- 1991 Ground Phase of Operation Desert Storm begins, resulting in liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in 100 hours
- 25** 1836 Samuel Colt patents a practical revolver
- 1945 First B-29 fire bomb raid on Tokyo, burns 10,000 acres
- 26** 1775 Battle of Salem, Mass.: British expedition to seize colonists' arms is turned back, "Leslie's Retreat"
- 1848 Marx & Engels publish "The Communist Manifesto"
- 1863 Lincoln signs National Currency Act, establishing greenbacks
- 1940 US Air Defense Command established at Mitchell Field, LI, NY
- 1942 USN aviator Don Mason signals, "Sighted sub, sank same"
- 1944 First woman USN captain, Sue Dauser, Navy Nurse Corps
- 1949 USAF plane begins first nonstop around-the-world flight
- 1993 Islamist terrorists bomb World Trade Center, 7 die
- 2001 Taliban destroy Great Buddhas of Bamiyan, in Afghanistan
- 27** 1704 Indian raid on Deerfield, Ma; 40 die, 100 captured
- 1991 Operation Desert Storm: ground operations end, Iraqis ousted from Kuwait
- 28** 1893 USS 'Indiana' (BB-1) launched, first American 1st class battleship
- 29** 1692 Salem witch trials begin
- 1704 Deerfield Massacre: French & Indian raid on Mass. town leaves about 100 dead
- 1864 President Lincoln signs U.S. Grant's commission as first substantive lieutenant general in army since Washington

MARCH MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1781 Continental Congress adopts "Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union."
- 1954 Bikini: US detonates 15 megaton hydrogen bomb
- 1954 Puerto Rican nationalists open fire in Congress, 5 wounded
- 1961 Peace Corps is established
- 2008 USS 'New York' (LPD-21), incorporating steel from World Trade Center, christened at New Orleans
- 2 1776 Americans begin shelling British troops in Boston
- 1807 Congress bans importation of slaves effective Jan 1, 1808
- 1836 Texas declares independence from Mexico
- 1859 Paddle steamer USS 'Saginaw' commissioned, first American warship built on West Coast, at Mare Island
- 1867 US Navy Civil Engineering Corps founded
- 1938 15th Infantry leaves China after 26 years in garrison at Tientsin & Peking.
- 1945 Philippines: Japanese resistance on Corregidor ends.
- 3 1776 US squadron under Commo Esek Hopkins attacks Nassau, Bahamas: First American overseas expedition
- 1813 Office of Surgeon General of US Army is established
- 1815 Second Barbary War: US declares war on Algiers for piratical acts, 3 years after Algerians declared war on US
- 1863 Congress passes "Enrollment Act," initiating federal conscription
- 1871 US Navy Medical Corps established
- 1899 George Dewey is promoted to Admiral of the Navy
- 1915 Congress authorizes a Chief of Naval Operations (CNO)
- 1915 Congress creates Naval Reserve
- 1931 Congress adopts "Star Spangled Banner" as national anthem
- 4 1789 U.S. Constitution goes into effect
- 1814 Battle of Longwood: Americans defeat British, near Wardsville, Ontario.
- 1861 CSA adopts "Stars & Bars" as national flag

- 1877 5-times wounded veteran Rutherford B Hayes inaugurated as president
- 1881 Former Maj Gen James A Garfield inaugurated as president
- 1889 Bvt Brig Gen. Benjamin Harrison inaugurated as 21st president
- 1897 Bvt Maj William McKinley inaugurated as 23rd president
- 1943 Battle of Bismarck Sea ends: Japanese lost 12 ships, thousands of men.
- 5 1770 The Boston Massacre
- 1821 Veteran James Monroe is inaugurated as 5th president
- 1945 US VII Corps captures Cologne (Köln)
- 1960 Elvis honorably discharged from US Army
- 6 1822 USS 'Enterprise' captures 4 pirate ships in Gulf of Mexico
- 1831 Edgar Allen Poe expelled from West Point
- 1836 Santa Anna's Mexicans storm Alamo, after 13 day siege
- 1944 USAF begins daylight bombing of Berlin
- 7 1774 British close port of Boston to all commerce
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell is granted a patent for telephone
- 1942 First black cadets graduate from USAAF flying school at Tuskegee
- 1945 9th Arm Div captures Ludendorff Bridge over Rhine at Remagen
- 8 1945 1st African-American Navy Nurse commissioned: Ens. Phyllis Daley
- 1945 Luzon: Sixth Army offensive against Japanese Shimbu Line.
- 1950 First woman medical officer assigned to US naval vessel: B R Walters
- 1950 USSR announces development of atomic bomb
- 1958 'Wisconsin' (BB-64) decommissioned; for first time in 62 years, USN has no battleships in commission
- 1965 Vietnam: First US combat troops arrive (3,500 Marines)
- 9 1798 Dr George Balfour appointed first surgeon in USN
- 1847 Winfield Scott lands army at Veracruz, Mexico, and begins siege.
- 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads II: USS 'Monitor' fights CSS 'Virginia' to a draw, preserving blockade
- 1945 US B-29s bomb Tokyo, est. 80,000-120,000 die - highest toll in a single air raid, exceeding even atomic bombs
- 10 1942 NY's 27th Inf Div sails for Hawaii - first division to ship out in WW II.
- 11 1779 US Army Corps of Engineers established
- 1942 Bataan: MacArthur leaves for Mindanao on PT-Boat
- 1943 American Volunteer Group ("Flying Tigers") renamed Fourteenth Air Force
- 12 1912 Girl Scouts of America founded
- 1942 Burma: Joseph Stilwell assumes combined U.S./Chinese command.
- 1947 US announces "Truman Doctrine," to fight communism
- 13 1942 Julia Flikke, Nurse Corps, becomes first woman colonel in US Army
- 15 1493 Columbus returns to Spain from his first voyage
- 1781 Battle of Guilford Court House: British barely defeat Colonists and retire from Carolinas to Yorktown, Virginia
- 1916 Pershing begins 10-month pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico
- 1944 Abbey of Monte Cassino destroyed by Allied bombing
- 16 1882 US Senate ratifies treaty establishing International Red Cross
- 1945 Iwo Jima: organized Japanese resistance ends, mopping up continues.
- 1968 My Lai Massacre, perhaps 450 die
- 1985 AP correspondent Terry Anderson taken hostage in Beirut
- 17 1762 First St Partick's Day parade in New York City
- 1776 British forces evacuate Boston; George Washington orders extra gill of whiskey to every Irish soldier in army
- 1966 US mini-sub locates missing H-bomb in Mediterranean off Palomares, Spain
- 18 1776 George Washington's army occupies Boston
- 1952 Communist offensive in Korea begins
- 1951 Herman Wouk's novel "Caine Mutiny" is published
- 1989 Maiden flight of Boeing V-22 Osprey VTOL aircraft
- 19 2003 Operation Iraqi Freedom begins (2003-2011)
- 20 1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" published
- 1896 Marines land in Nicaragua to protect US citizens
- 1922 First US carrier commissioned: 'Langley' (CV-1)
- 1939 Naval Research Lab proposes development of nuke power
- 1942 Gen MacArthur vows "I shall return"
- 21 1866 Congress authorizes national soldiers' homes
- 1942 Jimmy Stewart enlists in USAAF
- 1946 Strategic Air Command is formed
- 1951 Julius & Ethel Rosenberg convicted of espionage
- 22 1622 1st Indian War: Powhatan attacks Jamestown, 347 die
- 1794 Congress prohibits export of slaves from United States.
- 1917 3rd Lt. Elmer F. Stone becomes USCG Aviator No. 1
- 1945 Patton's Third Army crosses Rhine
- 23 1775 Virginian Patrick Henry famously states "...give me liberty or give me death!"
- 1806 Lewis & Clark reach Pacific Coast
- 1882 USN establishes Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI)
- 1903 Wright Brothers receive patent for their airplane
- 1957 US army sells its last homing pigeons
- 1965 Gemini 3 launched, first US 2-man space flight (Grissom & Young)
- 2003 USMC Task Force Tarawa captures An Nasiriyah after hot fight
- 24 1898 Battleships 'Keasrage' (BB 5) & 'Kentucky' (BB 6) launched at Newport News
- 1919 New York's 27th Division returns from Great War, marches up Fifth Avenue
- 1920 1st USCG air station established, Morehead City, NC
- 1944 The Great Escape: 76 Allied officers flee Stalag Luft 3
- 1945 Operation Varsity: Allied airborne crossing of Rhine
- 1945 Gen. George S. Patton pisses in Rhine from pontoon bridge near Oppenheim, Germany
- 1986 US & Libya air-sea clash in Gulf of Sidra
- 1999 Kosovo Campaign begins
- 25 1655 Battle at Annapolis, Md: between Puritans & Royalists
- 1813 USS 'Essex' takes 'Neryeda', first USN victory in Pacific
- 1905 Most battle flags captured during Civil War returned to South
- 1915 1st USN submarine disaster: USS 'F-4' sinks off Hawaii, 21 die
- 1945 US First Army breaks out of Remagen bridgehead
- 26 1943 First woman awarded Air Medal: Army Nurse Elsie Ott
- 1945 Okinawa: Kamikaze attack US fleet
- 1951 USAF flag approved
- 27 1794 Congress approves construction of 6 frigates, including USS 'Constitution'
- 1814 Battle of Horseshoe Bend: Andrew Jackson defeats Creeks
- 1945 Wiesbaden falls to US XX Corps
- 29 1973 Last US troops leave Vietnam, 9 years after Tonkin Gulf



Chesapeake
VFW Post 2894

6th Annual Chesapeake

Bataan Death March Memorial Walk

April 22nd 2017 at the Dismal Swamp Trail, Chesapeake



Help commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March of World War II by participating in the Annual Memorial March which honors the 90,000 US and Filipino Servicemen who suffered and endured one of the most harrowing events in history.

- The event is open – and free – to all
- Three events (see back page for details)
 - 16.6 Mile March: last check-in at 06:45, start walk at 07:00 am to NC border & back
 - 5 Mile March: last check-in at 10:15, start at 10:30 am
 - 1 Mile Family Walk: last check-in at 11:15, start at 11:30 am
- 12:00 – Closing ceremony honoring all veterans – especially MSG John Mims who passed away this past year
- **VFW SSG Dozier Memorial Post 2894** will be selling hot dogs and drinks.



Become a Medal Sponsor of the Chesapeake Bataan Death March

Contact us at walk.chesapeake@gmail.com or via Facebook @ Bataan Death March. We also have a PayPal account or you can send checks payable to VFW Post 2894 – Bataan Death March, 1007 Cuervo Court, Chesapeake, VA 23322



Bronze Star Sponsor \$250

Name or Company logo on our tee shirt

Silver Star Sponsor \$500

Name or Company logo on our tee shirt and banners

Medal Of Honor Sponsor \$750

Large name or company logo on our tee shirt and banner and special recognition in media and in the closing ceremony

VFW SSG DOZIER MEMORIAL POST 2894

MISSION

To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

VISION

Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

CORE VALUES

- | | |
|--|---|
| Always put the interests of our members first | Treat donors as partners in our cause |
| Promote patriotism | Honor military service |
| Ensure the care of veterans and their families | Serve our communities |
| Promote a positive image of the VFW | Respect the diversity of veteran opinions |



POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
1	National Freedom Day
2	Groundhog Day
8	Post Meeting, 1900 (7 pm)
12	Lincoln's Birthday
14	Valentine's Day
15	Teacher of the Year Nominations due
20	Presidents' Day
22	Washington's Birthday

<u>MARCH</u>	
1	Scout of the Year Nominations Due / Ash Wednesday
8	Post Meeting, 1900 (7 pm)
12	Daylight savings begins ("spring ahead")
17	St. Patrick's Day
18	St. Patrick's Day Parade, Norfolk (10- 12:30)
18	Sheriff's Craft Beer Event (18-2100)
20	First Day of Spring

**22 APRIL - BATAAN DEATH
MARCH MEMORIAL WALK!!!**

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



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



Place
Stamp
Here

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED