

VFW OBJECTIVES:

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



POST 2894

Meetings

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

Post Address:

VFW Post 2894
PO Box 15842

Chesapeake, VA 23328



Email: cdrpost2894@vfwva.org

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

Visit us on FaceBook

POST OFFICERS

Commander..... Chris Mulholland
Sr. Vice Commander..... José Vazquez
Jr. Vice Commander..... Mark Rios
Adjutant..... Matt Hostetlar
Quartermaster..... Mike Kust
Chaplain..... Andrew McMenamin
Surgeon..... David Davis
Staff Judge Advocate..... Matt Hamel
Service Officer..... Gary Dunbar

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President..... Sandy Dunbar
Sr. Vice President..... Christina Zinn
Jr. Vice President..... Bea Oakley
Secretary..... Barbara Mulholland
Treasurer..... Donna Kust
Chaplain..... Diane Hostetlar
Conductress..... Grace Schweers
Guard..... Becky Junghans
Patriotic Instructor..... Shirley Casady

NATIONAL

www.vfw.org

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2



100 Years Ago: Battle of Belleau Wood

The Battle of Belleau Wood took place between June 1-26. Fought predominantly by US Marines, victory was achieved after twenty-six days of combat. The main German attack was repulsed on June 4 and US forces began offensive operations on June 6. The battle halted the German Aisne offensive and launched a counterattack in the area.

Fighting in the forest was particularly fierce, with the Marines attacking the wood six times before it was finally secured.

German Spring Offensives

In early 1918, the German government, freed from fighting a two-front war by the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, chose to launch a massive offensive on the Western Front. This decision was largely motivated by a desire to end the war before the full strength of the United States could be brought into the conflict. Beginning on March 21, the Germans attacked the British Third and Fifth Armies with the goal of splitting the British and French and driving the former into the sea.

After driving the British back after making some initial gains, the advance stalled and was ultimately halted at Villers-Bretonneux. As a result of the crisis caused by the German attack, Marshal Ferdinand Foch was appointed Supreme Commander of the Allied Armies and tasked with coordinating all operations in France.

An assault to the north around Lys, dubbed Operation Georgette, met a similar fate in April. To aid these offensives a third attack, Operation Blücher–Yorck, was planned for late May in Aisne between Soissons and Rheims.

Aisne Offensive

Beginning on May 27, German storm troopers broke through the French lines in



Aisne.

Striking in an area that lacked substantial defenses and reserves, the Germans forced the French Sixth Army into a full retreat. During the first three days of the offensive, the Germans captured 50,000 Allied soldiers and 800 guns. Moving quickly, the Germans advanced to the Marne River and were intent on pressing on to Paris. At the Marne, they were blocked by American troops at Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood. The Germans attempted to take Chateau-Thierry but were stopped by US Army forces centered around the 3rd Division on June 2.

2nd Division Arrives

On June 1, the Major General Omar Bundy's 2nd Division took up positions south of Belleau Wood near Lucy-le-

Bocage with its line extending south opposite Vaux. A composite division, the 2nd consisted of Brigadier General Edward M. Lewis' 3rd Infantry Brigade (9th & 23rd Infantry Regiments) and Brigadier General James Harbord's 4th Marine Brigade (5th & 6th Marine Regiments). In addition to their infantry regiments each brigade possessed a machine gun battalion. While Harbord's Marines assumed a position near Belleau Wood, Lewis' men held a line to the south below the Paris-Metz Road.

As the Marines dug in, a French officer suggested that they withdraw. To this Captain Lloyd Williams of the 5th Marines famously replied, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here." Two days later elements of the German 347th Division from Army Group Crown Prince occupied the forest. With their attack at Chateau-Thierry stalling, the Germans launched a major assault on June 4. Supported by machine guns and artillery, the Marines were able to hold, effectively ending the German offensive in Aisne.

Marines Move Forward

The following day, the commander of the French XXI Corps ordered Harbord's 4th Marine Brigade to retake Belleau Wood. On the morning of June 6, the Marines advanced, capturing Hill 142 to the west of the wood with support from the French 167th Division. Twelve hours later, they frontally assaulted the forest itself. To do so, the Marines had to cross a wheat field under heavy German machine gun fire.

With his men pinned down, Gunnery Sergeant Dan Daly called "Come on ya sons-of-bitches, ya want to live forever?" and got them on the move again. When night fell, only a small section of forest had been captured.

In addition to Hill 142 and the assault on the woods, the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines (2/6) attacked into Bouresches to the east. After taking most of the village, the Marines were forced to dig in against German counterattacks. All reinforcements trying to reach Bouresches had to cross a large open area and were subjected to heavy German fire. When night fell, the Marines had suffered 1,087 casualties making it the bloodiest day in the Corps' history to date.

Clearing the Forest

On June 11, following a heavy artillery bombardment, the Marines pressed hard into Belleau Wood, capturing the southern two-thirds. Two days later, the Germans assaulted

Bouresches after a massive gas attack and almost retook the village. With the Marines stretched thin, the 23rd Infantry extended its line and took over the defense of Bouresches. On the 16th, citing exhaustion, Harbord requested that some of the Marines be relieved. His request was granted and three battalions of the 7th Infantry (3rd Division) moved into the forest. After five days of fruitless fighting, the Marines



retook their position in the line.

On June 23, the Marines launched a major attack into the forest, but were unable to gain ground. Suffering staggering losses, they required over two hundred ambulances to carry the wounded.

Two days later, Belleau Wood was subjected to a fourteen-hour bombardment by French artillery. Attacking in the wake of the artillery, US forces were finally able to completely clear the forest. On June 26, after defeating some early morning German counterattacks, Major Maurice Shearer was finally able to send the signal, "Woods now entirely - US Marine Corps."

Aftermath

In the fighting around Belleau Wood, American forces suffered 1,811 killed and 7,966 wounded and missing. German casualties are unknown though 1,600 were captured. The Battle of Belleau Wood and the Battle of Chateau-Thierry showed the United States' allies that it was fully committed fighting the war and was willing to do whatever was required to achieve victory. The commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, General John J. Pershing, commented after the battle that "The deadliest weapon in the world is a United States Marine and his rifle." In recognition of their tenacious fighting and victory, the French awarded citations to those units that participated in the battle and renamed Belleau Wood "Bois de la Brigade Marine."

Belleau Wood also showed the Marine Corps flare for publicity. While the fighting was still going on, the Marines routinely circumvented the American Expeditionary Forces' publicity offices to have their story told, while those of Army units engaged were ignored. Following the Battle of Belleau Wood, Marines began being referred to as "Devil Dogs." While many believed that this term was coined by the Germans, its actual origins are unclear.

It is known that the Germans highly respected the Marines fighting ability and classified them as elite "storm troopers."

- Article by Kennedy Hickman on 11 Oct 2017
[www.thoughtco.com/battle-of-belleau-wood-2361393]

"I have only two men out of my company and 20 out of some other company. We need support, but it is almost suicide to try to get it here as we are swept by machine gun fire and a constant barrage is on us. I have no one on my left and only a few on my right. I will hold." – 1stLt. Clifton B. Cates, USMC (later 19th Commandant), 19 July 1918

*"For the honor of the fallen, for the glory of the dead,
the living line of courage kept the faith and moved ahead."*

– Edgar Guest

Many American dead are buried in the nearby Aisne-Marne American Cemetery [including Truman Brown from South Norfolk, see end of newsletter]. After the battle, the French renamed the wood "Bois de la Brigade de Marine" ("Wood of the Marine Brigade") in honor of the Marines' tenacity. The French government also awarded the 4th Brigade the *Croix de guerre*. An official German report classified the Marines as "vigorous, self-confident, and remarkable marksmen ..."

General Pershing, commander of the AEF, said, "The Battle of Belleau Wood was for the U.S. the biggest battle since Appomattox and the most considerable engagement American troops had ever had with a foreign enemy." Ten years after the

battle, Lieutenant Colonel Ernst Otto, from the Historical Section of the German Army, wrote of the Marine Corps; "Their fiery advance and great tenacity were well recognized by their opponents."

Marines serving in the Fifth and Sixth Marine regiments are authorized to wear the French *Fourragère* on the left shoulder to recognize the legacy and valor of their regimental predecessors. In June 1923, the Marine Band performed a new march called "Belleau Wood" for the first time during the annual Belleau Wood Anniversary celebration. Composed by then Second Leader Taylor Branson, who would later lead the Marine Band from 1927 to 1940, it was dedicated to Army Major General James. G. Harbord, who commanded the Marines during the battle.

In July 1923, Belleau Wood was dedicated as an American battle monument. MG Harbord was made an honorary Marine and attended the event. In his address, he summed up the future of the site: "Now and then, a veteran, for the brief span that we still survive, will come here to live again the brave days of that distant June. Here will be raised the altars of patriotism; here will be renewed the vows of sacrifice and consecration to country. Hither will come our countrymen in hours of depression, and even of failure, and take new courage from this shrine of great deeds."

100 Years Ago: The Rock of the Marne

Why the 3rd Infantry Division is called 'Rock of the Marne'

The 3rd Infantry Division, then known simply as the 3rd Division, was activated in November 1917 for service in World War I. They were fighting the Germans by April 1918. The green troops of the 3rd Division were thrown into the line in the midst of a strong German attack along the Marne River.

The Marne had been the site of a significant battle that had turned back the German onslaught into France in 1914. It would be remembered once again in 1918.

After the Germans' Spring Offensives had ground to a halt, they still sought a breakthrough of the Allied lines. Hoping to draw forces away from Flanders, where the Germans hoped to eventually drive through to Paris, they launched a large scale offensive to the south in the vicinity of Reims.

In the early morning darkness of July 15, 1918 the Germans began crossing the Marne River in assault boats.

Under a massive artillery barrage, the German Seventh Army smashed into the French Sixth Army. Under the brutal bombardment and onslaught of German stormtroopers, the French fell back in disarray. All along the line the Germans were quickly gaining ground – except for one spot on their right flank.



This was the position held by the 3rd Division. Particularly stubborn resistance came from the 38th Infantry Regiment under the command of Col. Ulysses McAlexander. It was dug in along the riverbank with a secondary line holding a raised railroad embankment. As the Germans crossed the river they were met with murderous fire from the Americans.

"Firing in three directions, blasted by artillery fire, taking all flesh and blood could stand, the regiments held on doggedly and threw the enemy back across the Marne."

As they landed, the Germans quickly found themselves engaged in brutal hand-to-hand combat.



Unfortunately for the Americans, there were simply too many Germans and slowly but surely the advanced platoons on the

riverbank were wiped out. The Germans were then met at the railroad embankment, where according to Capt. Jesse Woolridge, they gave a thousand times more than they took, but even those positions became untenable. Reinforcements were quickly rushed in and smashed the beleaguered German troops.

This effort finally broke up the attack.

In Woolridge's account, he states "it's God's truth that one Company of American soldiers beat and routed a full regiment of picked shock troops of the German Army."

While the rest of the 3rd Division was pushed back, the 38th Infantry was giving the Germans hell. Refusing to relinquish his position despite his exposed flanks, Col. McAlexander pulled his two battalions on the flanks back to form a horseshoe shape. The shape of his defense and the stubbornness with which he held it earned McAlexander and the rest of the regiment an enduring nickname – the Rock of the Marne.

The nickname eventually came to encompass the entire division for their stellar defense of their sector during the massive German attack. The Division would later adopt the special designation The Marne Division as well for their part in the battle.

At the Second Battle of the Marne, the 3rd Division also received its official motto. As French troops retreated, 3rd Division soldiers rushed to the scene to hold the line. The division commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph Dickman, gave his famous orders, in French so their allies would understand, "*Nous resterons la!*" – We shall remain here!

- Article by James Elphick and published on *The Mighty Networks* on 9 Nov 2017 [www.wearthemighty.com/history/this-is-why-the-3rd-infantry-division-is-called-rock-of-the-marne]

"All divisions achieved brilliant successes, with the exception of the one division on our right wing. This encountered American units! Here only did the Seventh Army, in the course of the first day of the offensive, confront serious difficulties. It met with the unexpectedly stubborn and active resistance of fresh American troops. While the rest of the divisions of the

Seventh Army succeeded in gaining ground and gaining tremendous booty, it proved impossible for us to move the right apex of our line, to the south of the Marne, into a position advantageous for the development of the ensuing fight. The check we thus received was one result of the stupendous fighting between our 10th Division of infantry and American troops... – Erich von Ludendorff, Quartermaster General

“A single regiment of the Third Division wrote one of the most brilliant pages in the annals of military history in preventing the crossing at certain points of its front, while on either flank the Germans, who had gained a footing, pressed forward. Our men were fighting in three directions, met the German attacks with counterattacks at critical points, and succeeded in throwing two German divisions into complete confusion, capturing 600 prisoners.” – Gen. John Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces.

7th ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK

Post 2894 held our biggest event of the year, the Bataan Death March Memorial Walk, on 21 April. This annual event honors and remembers the thousands of American and Filipino service members who died and suffered during the atrocity known as the Bataan Death March.

This was our seventh annual BDM Memorial Walk and we teamed up with Fil-Am Racing again this year. They are the race production arm of Filipino-American Triathlon Club. Fil-Am Racing organizes fun events targeting the Filipino-American community, inclusive of all fitness levels, while also welcoming anyone who wishes to participate. They organized a 16.6 mile run in conjunction with the memorial walk and signed up over 100 runners. Meanwhile, we also had over 500 walkers come out to participate in one of the three events (1, 5 or 16.6 miles).

Three local JROTC units participated in the walk and their enthusiasm was infectious! The Dismal Swamp Park was, well, ‘swamped’! And everyone had a great time.

This year’s guest of honor

was Dan Crowley, age 96, from Simpson, Connecticut. Dan was stationed in the Philippines as a young man in early 1940 as an aviation mechanic. When war broke out and all the planes had been destroyed, he became an infantryman and fought in the defense of Bataan until they were surrendered to the Japanese. As they were being organized for the death march, Dan and several others dove into Manila Bay and swam away. They were picked up by local Filipinos and brought to the island of Corregidor where they continued to oppose the Japanese for another month before being surrendered a second time. Interestingly enough, Dan was “enlisted” into the Marine Corps while on Corregidor. He survived a POW camp in the Philippines before being put aboard one of the death ships that took the prisoners to Japan to work in slave mines.

We brought Dan down to Chesapeake two days before the march and we kept him busy! He spent a morning with the JROTC detachment at Indian River High School, talking with them about his experiences. That afternoon, he addressed the students at the Marine Corps Non-

Commissioned Academy on Little Creek amphibious base. He spent all day Friday aboard the USS Bataan, touring the ship, speaking to the crew and then shaking the hand of literally every one of the 900 crewmembers!

Also present at the run was Mrs. Mims, widow of Master Sergeant John

Mims who passed away in November 2016, and Eddie Vincek, our veteran of the landing on Iwo Jima.

Our guest speaker was Captain Bradley Busch, commanding officer of the USS Bataan (LHD-5). Captain Bradley is an Annapolis graduate and a certified nuclear engineer and he has been assigned to six different ships during his career.

We had a number of donors who made this event a great success. They included Veterans United Home Loans, National VFW, GW Brothers Nationwide Insurance, the Wardroom of the USS Bataan, the USS Bataan CPO Association, Freemasons Atlantic Lodge #2 in Norfolk, Wolcott Rivers Gates Law Firm, West Service Center, and Stevenson Tractor. The following companies provided in-kind support: Home Depot and Pepsi Cola of Norfolk.

The Post owes a debt of gratitude to a number of groups who came out to help including the Chesapeake Sheriff’s



Eddie Vincek talks to the USS Bataan Color Guard



Dan Crowley (blue shirt) poses with Marines and David Stanley in front of the M4 Scout Car

Department, the Chesapeake Fire and Police Departments, Marine Corps Security Force Regiment Training Company, Patriot Guard and VFW Riders, and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

This year we had a special guest, David Stanley from North Carolina, who brought his own, restored M4 Scout Car. It served as the backdrop for a myriad of photos. He also wore a period US Army uniform.

A large measure of thanks goes to the BDM Committee who have been planning this event for the past 5 months: Grace Schweers, Becky and Brad Waters, Carl Dozier, and José Vazquez. However, the largest thanks and appreciation goes to the head of this committee, Ann Jones, who took over on short notice but whose vision, planning, and coordination were truly the GREATEST reasons for this year's success!

And finally, thanks to all who helped out in whatever way they could to make this the largest and most successful event to date!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Everyone. I want to Thank Everyone for another successful year for the Auxiliary. We turned in 83 + reports.



That is a great way to show what we do for the veterans. Starting in June we will begin a new year and I know we will beat that record. At the meeting in May we held the Installation for the Auxiliary. The following officers were installed for 2018-2019: President – Sandy Dunbar, Sr. Vice – Christina Zinn, Jr. Vice – Bea Oakley, Treasurer – Donna Kust, Secretary – Barbara Mulholland, Chaplain – Dianne

Hostetlar, Conductress – Anne Thompson, Guard – Jean Dozier, Patriotic Instructor – Kevin Mulholland, Trustee 1 yr. – Dianne Hostetlar, 2 Yr. Christina Zinn, 3 yr. Anne Thompson.

The Department Convention will be June 14-17 at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel. Since it is closer this year I hope we will have a good turn out.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the Auxiliary, please let us know. Summer is a busy time for all of us. Remember to vote on June 12th. Have Fun and Be Safe!

Remember our Veterans, Remember the things you do for Reports.

Thanks, *Sandy Dunbar, President*

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Needless to say, the biggest post news was Mickey's birthday on May 3rd and our celebration of his tremendous milestone at our Annual Awards Ceremony. Even so, April and May were busy months for us with the 7th Bataan Death March Memorial Walk, the JROTC awards ceremony, Buddy Poppy drive, and Memorial Day ceremony.

Our Post was again named an ALL STATE POST and a NATIONAL OUTSTANDING SERVICE POST! That's the third year in a row for both honors! And we're in great shape for another ALL AMERICAN POST nomination! Thanks to all of you for making this happen!

I think our success also derives from our first priority being about 'Service to Others'. We're not your father's VFW. With 34,000 veterans in Chesapeake (5th largest in Virginia), we have room to grow!!!

As an FYI, at our awards ceremony we gave out \$1,830 in cash prizes and \$444.30 in award plaques, medals, etc.

Our new officers will be installed at our 13 June meeting – come on out and help kick-start another great year! Ask a veteran friend to join you at the meeting as a potential new member.

We have just a few more weeks to sell raffle tickets for a .44 caliber Big Henry Repeating Rifle. The drawing will take place on Father's Day – appropriately enough – June 17th at the VFW Department Convention. The proceeds go to help the Post with our charitable activities.



We will be marching in South Norfolk's 4th of July parade along with the Military Vehicle Preservation Society of Tidewater. **Check our Facebook page for more details on this and a lot more!**

Semper Fidelis, *Chris Mulholland, Commander*

2018-'19 POST OFFICERS

The following officers were elected for the 2018-19 year. We appreciate everyone's participation in the vote since these are the comrades who will keep the post "on an even keel" and be responsible for all the upcoming activities and finances. The installation ceremony will take place at the 13 June Post meeting.

ELECTED OFFICERS	
Commander	Chris Mulholland
Senior Vice Cdr	Jose Vazquez
Junior Vice Cdr	Mark Rios
Quartermaster	Mike Kust
Chaplain	Andrew McMenamin
1st Year Trustee	Jim Keiper
2nd Year Trustee	Mickey Casady
3rd Year Trustee	Brad Waters
APPOINTED OFFICERS	
Judge Advocate	Matt Hamel
Surgeon	David Davis
Adjutant	Matt Hostetlar
Service Officer	Gary Dunbar
Guard	Ron Mayfield
Outside Guard	Joshua Abshire

2017 POST AWARDS NIGHT – ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!

The Post hosted our Annual Awards Ceremony on 9 May. In attendance were a number of special guests including State

Senator John Cosgrove, Delegate Cliff Hayes, Councilman Robert Ike, Councilman-elect (and Post member) Matt Hamel, City Manager James Baker, Asst. City Manager Robert Geis, Police Chief Kelvin Wright, Fire Chief Edmund Elliott, Major Kevin Kight of the Sheriff's Office, VFW District 2 Commander Joel Reyes, VFW Department Surgeon Eric Mallet, Mike Chism (commander of Post 2582), and Kathy Goodall (former commander of Post 4809).

The first award of the evening was the Patriot's Pen winner. Each year more than 130,000 students in grades 6 through 8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest. The contest encourages young people to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern society, by drafting a 300 to 400-word essay, expressing their views on different themes,

opportunity to express themselves in regards to democratic ideas and principles. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme was: "American History: Our Hope for the Future." The winner of this year's Voice of Democracy contest for Post 2894 was Hailey Smith, a senior at Grassfield High School. In her essay she said, "History impacts everything in existence. It is up to us, as a people, to keep that history alive by studying and growing from it. How one uses history depends on him or her, and can determine if that individual uses our history to improve or worsen circumstances. As long as Americans continue to study our history, America will continuously grow and prosper. Thus, the future of our country depends on our knowledge of the past." With dedication like



Mickey Casady (sitting center) poses with all the Post awardees. From left: Ashley and Chris McGrath, Debra Gresham, Brandon Newins, Jamie Fanelli, Cheryl King, Hailey Smith, Kiersten Dominek, Seth Greiling, Trea King, Heather Bishop, and Brandon Blaylock. Not pictured is Jay Redman.

this year's being, "America's Gift to My Generation." The winner of Post 2894's Patriots' Pen for 2016-17 was Kiersten Dominek, an 8th grader at Great Bridge Middle School. In her essay, Kiersten wrote, "We have an outstanding military. They serve our beloved country and protect us against any other countries that try to harm us. They risk their own lives for our amazing country. Another wonderful element in my generation are the police officers and firefighters who protect our community. They also put their lives on the line to make our lives better...In America we have freedom...Way before our generation, hundreds of people died for our freedom. That makes it even more valuable to us. We should savor our freedom every day of our lives." Kiersten was also selected as the runner-up for the District contest.

The Voice of Democracy Award is VFW's premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 40,000 high school students compete for more than 2.2 million dollars in scholarships and incentives. These scholarships range up to a national first place prize of \$30,000. The VFW established the program in 1947 to provide high school students the

this, Hailey was enthusiastically awarded our Post's Voice of Democracy award. She was also the runner-up at the District level.

Some of the VFW's earliest ties to the community involve youth groups and perhaps none are stronger or more lasting than the relationship between the VFW and America's scouting organizations. In fact, VFW's partnership with the Scouts of America dates back to 1915 when VFW Post 2100 helped to establish Boy Scout Troop 1 in Everett, Washington. Through the VFW's Scout of the Year program, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sea Scouts, and Venture Crew Scouts who display standout citizenship, patriotism and love of country have the opportunity to be rewarded with college scholarships of up to 5,000 dollars.

The winner of the Post's Scout of the Year award was Seth Greiling, a member of Boy Scout Troop 259 and a senior at Grassfield High School. Seth was elected as his class president for all four years at Grassfield and was voted "Mr. Grassfield" last year and "Most School Spirit" this year. He's held all sorts of leadership positions in the Boy Scouts from Bugler to Senior Patrol Leader. He's also been an active participant in the Order

of the Arrow, a special fraternity within the Scouting program, and organized the state wide conclave. For his Eagle Scout project, Seth constructed a picnic area at the Green Meadow Point Community Pool, building tables, painting curbs, clearing out brush, planting new flowers, and laying mulch. Seth is busy at school, and not just because he has been on the honor roll every semester but he's also active in the marching band, on the principal's advisory committee, won regional 1st place in advertising design for Future Business Leaders of America, won 1st place in state with the Technology Student Association, etc. etc. In his "off time", he reads to elementary school kids weekly, is active in Young Life, feeds the homeless, volunteers with the city Christmas parade, and works at the new Chick-fil-A where he's been given ever increasing responsibilities. He's been described as a "go-getter" who works "without being prompted". Another person describes him as having "unmatched charisma, work ethic, and desire." Another wrote that "he genuinely cares for and encourages others even while excelling in many fields."

Mrs. Debra Gresham of Western Branch High School was our Teacher of the Year. This program recognizes teachers who promote a sense of national pride in their students. Every year, 7500 VFW posts around the country nominate teachers for awards at the elementary, middle and high school levels. In previous years, our post winners have finished first in the nation and third runner-up – a truly incredible achievement! *There is no more important task than the development of an informed, effective, and responsible citizenry*; and that's what our Post nominee for High School Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Gresham, did this year with her students – and does every year – teaching them what it means to be a free American citizen with all the rights and responsibilities that that entails. As Alexis de Toqueville pointed out, each new generation is a new people that must acquire the knowledge, learn the skills, and develop the dispositions or traits of private and public character that undergird a constitutional democracy. Of great interest to us in the Post, Mrs. Gresham teaches her students to honor and respect veterans. Each year she organizes a letter writing campaign where she has the students in her school write numerous thank-you notes and letters to the Service veterans who teach or work at Western Branch HS. She looks forward to it each year and loves the feedback she gets from both her students and the teachers who receive their annual stack of thank you notes. She follows the progress of her students even after when they enter the "real world." One of them, Zach Rutherford, was recently drafted by the MLB Tampa Bay Rays but took the time to write an extremely touching endorsement letter. She is deeply committed to the success and well-being of her students. One of Mrs. Gresham's past students described

her as, "absolutely one of the best teachers... she's hilarious and although her classes can be difficult, just being in her presence makes it worthwhile. She's awesome!" Another wrote that, "Mrs. Gresham is the best teacher. She is like a second mother to me, and taught me so much. I enjoyed having her because she makes you work for your good grades." One of the veterans at the school wrote, "As an old soldier, I always just did my job; no thanks were ever needed... it was my gift to the great country I call my home. To have so many students write such heartfelt notes brings treat to my eyes and pride to my heart. I always bring these precious gifts home to share with

my husband who is also an Army veteran. We read them with moist eyes. These notes are some of our most treasured possessions." For her passion in teaching, her interest in our future generations, and her kindness to our veterans, Debra Gresham was awarded the Post 2894 Teacher of the Year award!

Our Deputy Sheriff of the Year was Senior Deputy Jamie Fanelli of the Chesapeake Sheriff's Department. Deputy Fanelli has been with the department for 13 years keeps all of the deputies in the department active in the community. She oversees 2,000 youth who participate in the mentoring/leadership

program and the annual youth football camp. She is passionate about community involvement and coordinates all of the department's community activities, such as feeding the hungry, bingo with seniors, and other events which bring together Chesapeake's youth and seniors. She recently received a bachelor of science in Correctional Program Support Services. Congratulations for being our Post's Deputy of the Year.

Technician/Firefighter Cheryl King was our Emergency Medical Technician of the Year. She started her career in emergency medical services in 1996 as an EMT with the East Fishkill Fire Department in New York. When she first moved to Chesapeake in 1998, she worked as a dispatcher, winning Dispatcher of the Year in her second year. She was certified as a paramedic in 2002 and worked for the Currituck Fire Department for 12 years before joining the Chesapeake Department in 2014. She has received the department's Paramedic Achievement Award. Her award citation states that she is, "a valuable resource at Recruit Academies, helping train the next generation of our EMS providers... Whether it be her skill or professional and courteous demeanor, Cheryl makes not only her patients, but the other providers she works with feel secure. She is someone you can trust to make the right decision in any situation." Her officer, says, "She gets it. She understands our mission statement is to help citizens and make our community a better and safer place. She doesn't do any of this for recognition, but because it's the right thing to do and she cares." For her passionate concern for the safety and well-



Delegate Cliff Hayes (left) presents a House Resolution honoring Mickey Casady (sitting) with Councilman Robert Ike, Shirley Casady, and Commander Mulholland looking on.

being of the citizens of Chesapeake, ALS/Firefighter King was our Post EMT of the Year!

Our next award went to the Firefighter of the Year, Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Newins. FF/PM Newins has been a member of the Chesapeake Fire Department since 2011 and he has multiple commendations including a life-saved. He is described as one who, "well-rounded provider" and someone who "always has the answer." In addition to maintaining his paramedic certification, Brandon is a certified rescue technician. He uses his expertise on both of these fronts to better the department through his involvement in EMS-related committees and technical rescue ventures. He was selected to serve on Virginia's FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team. Last September, he traveled to Puerto Rico as part of that team and spent 10 days in the San Juan area conducting multiple missions in support of the hurricane relief effort. He's been described as "always friendly and willing to lend a hand." For his intense passion for the fire service and the department, Firefighter Newins was recognized as our Post Firefighter of the Year.

Our Post Police Officer of the Year was awarded to Senior Police Officer Norwood "Trea" King and his four-legged partner, Rosco. Rosco is a Belgian Malinois. K9 Officer King has been with the Chesapeake Police Department since 1999 and is a senior canine handler who has an exemplary work ethic. He and K9 Rosco routinely assist on numerous calls for service throughout each shift, with an average of over 100 assist calls even when other officers haven't requested them. Many of these are traffic stops where Officers King and Rosco act as extra eyes due to recent random attacks on police officers. In 2007, Officer King and a previous partner, Axel, received Awards for Valor from the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. In 2008 – and 2017 – he was the department's Officer of the Year. Officer King consistently teams up with officers and encourages proactive policing which has led to identifying and removing criminal elements within the city. Between January and September of last year, Officer King and Rosco played an important role in the seizure of nine firearms. In addition to the firearms, they assisted in 197 arrests, 70 pounds of marijuana, 850 grams of heroin, and over \$99,000 cash. Officer King is an experienced handler who willingly shares his knowledge and provides a positive training experience for both the dog and handler. Of note to our post, Officer King is a veteran – he served as a Security Forces member in the US Air Force. *While veterans put their lives on the line in foreign lands, officers like Trea King put their lives on the line back here at home.* For that, and for everything else that he has done during the entirety of his career, we honored him as our Police Officer of the Year.

The next award was a very special one. We nominated last year's Post Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Officer Heather Bishop, for a National VFW award – and she won!

Her citation reads: "In recognition of her dedication and selfless service to the Chesapeake Police Department. During Heather Bishop's outstanding career, she has maintained a record of highly professional and exemplary service to the community and the nation. Her extraordinary commitment clearly illustrates the proud core values and traditions of the law enforcement profession, further highlighted by the degree of admiration and respect of both her peers and the local public she serves. Officer Bishop is truly an exceptional example of all who serve the community and this honor reflects the proud ideals and high standards of the VFW." Signed, Keith Harmann, Commander-in-Chief.

We also presented awards to Veterans United Home Loans Tap-It Local, and Comrade Jay Redman. This past January, we received an email from Veterans United, asking us what help we needed with at this year's Bataan Death March Memorial

Walk. We had invited Dan Crowley, one of the few living survivors of the original walk, to come down from Connecticut as our special guest of honor and we needed to pay for his 5 nights in a hotel, food and gas. That's why Veterans United's offer was so timely. We put together a wish list and sent it back to them. Not long afterwards, the commander was invited to the Veterans United office to receive their donation. It was \$2,200 and covered all the costs associated with Mr. Crowley's trip! What is really touching, is that all the money was directly donated by the employees themselves, not the corporation. For their generosity, consideration of veterans, and thoughtfulness, we presented them with a plaque commemorating this year's BDM. Representing Vets United was Brandon Blaylock.

Ashley and Chris McGrath are the owners of Tap-It Local, a great pub located in the Grassfield shopping mall – and a second one in downtown Norfolk.

Several years ago, the Post created a scholarship which goes to a high schooler in Chesapeake who is planning to attend one of the senior service colleges, like VMI, Virginia Tech, Norwich, or Citadel, and has limited funding and scholarships. In order for this scholarship to work, we have to raise money and that's where Ashley and Chris come in. They have been extremely gracious in hosting two fundraising events at their restaurants which raised almost \$850! We presented them with a plaque as a symbol of our appreciation.

Jay is one of our "VIP" members. He is the founder of Combat Wounded Coalition here in Chesapeake and the author of "The Trident: The Forging and Reforging of a Navy SEAL Leader." Last year, he and his wife, Erica, were able to attend the Armed Services Inaugural Ball in Washington DC courtesy of the National VFW where they got to meet our new Secretary of Defense, General Mattis. Jay was interviewed live on national TV by Fox News. He recently attended a private viewing of "12 Strong" with President Trump in the White House. Commander Mulholland presented Jay with his own



Commander Mulholland presents Officer King and K9 Rosco with their award while Chief Wright looks on.

VFW name tag so that he can "advertise" the post in future national broadcasts!

The next award for the night was the awarding of a National VFW streamer for achieving a membership increase of 116.12%. Bradley Waters was given the honor of hanging the streamer on the Post's Colors.

Our last award was a very special one since it involved the most senior member of our post. William "Mickey" Casady was born on May 3rd, 1918, during the height of America's involvement in World War I. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1937 and was aboard the USS Ranger, hunting German submarines in the Caribbean when Pearl Harbor was bombed. By the end of the war, he had served in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Pacific aboard 6 different ships. He is the oldest living plank-holder of the USS Iowa and was off Bikini Island when the Atom bomb was being tested. Mickey

has received a number of congratulatory letters from the Secretary of the Navy, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Governor, etc. etc. We were honored to present him with a certificate of recognition from the National VFW: "As part of America's Greatest Generation, Mr. Casady's service in the US Navy during World War II and the Korean War...makes him part of a generation who did not seek greatness, but whose greatness was thrust upon...His selfless service and great sacrifice helped ensure the freedoms and



Commander Mulholland presents Comrade Jay Redman with a personalized nametag while his service dog, Kharma, keeps an eye out

way of life we enjoy to this day, and have justly earned him the utmost respect and gratitude of the VFW. We are honored to join with him, his family and friends in celebration of this extraordinary occasion." Signed, Keith E. Harman, VFW Commander-In-Chief.

Mickey was also presented with a City Council Proclamation by Councilman Ike, a House Resolution by Delegate Hayes, and a State Senate Proclamation by Senator Cosgrove. VFW member Kathy Goodall gave Mickey a beautiful quilt which she had made with a US Navy flag that had flown over Little Creek Amphibious Base.

After this, all the awardees of the ceremony came forward to have their photo taken with Mickey.

After the ceremony, everyone gathered for a reception of hors d'oeuvres and beverages while getting a chance to congratulate the awardees in person. The Culinary Institute of Virginia made a special birthday cake for Mickey which was both beautiful to look at and great to eat!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR HONOREES!

4th OF JULY PARADE, SOUTH NORFOLK

After last year's fun marching in the annual Independence Day Parade of South Norfolk, we have decided to do it again! This will be the 37th Independence Day Parade and will take place on 4 July with lineup at 0800 at the South Norfolk Baptist Church at 101 Chesapeake Avenue. The parade actually starts at 1000 and it's only a one mile. The parade finishes at Lakeside Park which, if you've never been there, includes a war memorial to all of the Gold Star Heroes of South Norfolk, Norfolk County and Chesapeake since WWI.



The parade will be followed with entertainment, food, games, paddleboat rides, children's crafts and family fun! The event is presented by the South Norfolk Civic League and Chesapeake Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

Anyhow, come on out. It's a relaxing event. And let's have some fun!!!

Other Post News

• Auxiliary member – and Specialist 4 in the US Army Reserves – **Chris Mulholland** graduated from the SSG Todd R. Cornell NCO Academy at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin on March 30th. He was an honor graduate and selected as the winner of the Distinguished Leadership Award. He also won an award for attaining the highest PFT score in the class. Last year, Chris was an honor grad at both basic training and his MOS school (as a 35F, Intel Analyst). The NCO academy, which falls under the command of the 83rd U.S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Center at Fort Knox, Ky., provides professional development and leadership training to the next generation of Active Guard and Reserve Army leaders. By successfully completing the course, Chris is now eligible for promotion to Sergeant, possibly as early as this summer, meaning that he could make E5 in just 18 months of service. Congrats and good luck, Chris!

• Congratulations to **Comrade Becky Waters** for finishing in first place in creating an imaginative and low-cost hors d'oeuvres! Becky is a student at the Culinary Institute of Virginia (CIV) and participated in a "Best of the Bites" culinary competition sponsored by Atlantic Shores and judged



by dozens of residents of the retirement community. Becky and her student partner, Floyd Thomas, came up with a, "clever and delicious reimagining of everyone's favorite summer sandwich, the classic bacon, lettuce, and tomato. Served on a wooden skewer "stem, 'the BLT Blossoms were planted' in a bed of fresh greens. A treat for the mouth and eyes!" One of the "rewards" for winning the contest was the "opportunity" to make 700 more blossoms for CIV's graduation ceremony.



• **Buddy Poppy Drive on Armed Forces Day weekend was a great success!** We collected over \$1,500 in two days despite competition from the Chesapeake Jubilee! Thanks to all those who came out in support of this effort. Here's a photo of the Auxiliary members who were out collecting donations on Sunday, May 21st.

CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE

Congressional Prayer for the Fourth of July

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Psalms 33:12)
Eternal God, stir Thou our minds and stimulate our hearts with a high sense of patriotism as we approach the Fourth of July. May all that this day symbolizes renew our faith in



freedom, our devotion to democracy, and redouble our efforts to keep a government of the people, by the people, and for the people truly alive in our world.

Grant that we may highly resolve on this great day to dedicate ourselves anew to the task of ushering in an era when good will shall live in the hearts

of a free people, justice shall be the light to guide their feet, and peace shall be the goal of humankind: to the glory of Thy holy name and the good of our Nation and of all mankind. Amen.

(Congressional Prayer offered by Chaplain, Reverend Edward G. Latch on Wednesday, July 3, 1974.)

SURGEON'S OFFICE JUNE IS POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) AWARENESS MONTH



The National Center for PTSD promotes awareness and effective treatments throughout the year. In 2014, the Senate designated the full month of June for National PTSD Awareness.

After a traumatic event, most people have painful memories. For many people, the effects of the event fade over time. But for

others, the memories, thoughts and feelings don't go away – even months or years after the event is over. Mental health experts are not sure why some people develop PTSD and others do not. If stress reactions do not improve over time and they disrupt everyday life, it is important to seek help to determine if PTSD is present

The purpose of PTSD Awareness Month is to encourage everyone to raise public awareness of PTSD and effective treatments. We can all help those affected by PTSD.

What can cause PTSD?

Any experience that threatens your life or someone else's can cause PTSD. These types of events are sometimes called **trauma**. Types of traumatic events that can cause PTSD include:

- Combat and other military experiences
- Sexual or physical assault
- Learning about the violent or accidental death or injury of a loved one
- Child sexual or physical abuse
- Serious accidents, like a car wreck
- Natural disasters, like a fire, tornado, hurricane, flood, or earthquake
- Terrorist attacks

During this kind of event, you may not have any control over what's happening, and you may feel very afraid. Anyone who has gone through something like this can develop PTSD.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Going through a traumatic event is not rare. At least half of Americans have had a traumatic event in their lives. Of people who have had trauma, about 1 in 10 men and 2 in 10 women will develop PTSD.

There are some things that make it more likely you'll develop PTSD — for example, having very intense or long-lasting trauma, getting hurt, or having a strong reaction to the event (like shaking, throwing up, or feeling distant from your surroundings).

It's also more common to develop PTSD after certain types of trauma, like combat and sexual assault. But there's no way to know for sure who will develop PTSD.

"I was awarded a Silver Star for bravery. You're not going to tell me I'm a coward. If somebody like me has PTSD, then anybody can have it."

— MAJ Joshua Brandon US Army (2002–present)

How do I know if I have PTSD?

The only way to know for sure is to talk to a mental health care provider. He will ask you about your trauma, your symptoms, and any other problems you have.

PTSD Screen

Sometimes things happen to people that are unusually or especially frightening, horrible, or traumatic. For example, a serious accident or fire, a physical or sexual assault or abuse, an earthquake or flood, a war, seeing someone be killed or seriously injured, or having a loved one die through homicide or suicide.

Have you ever experienced this kind of event?

If yes, please answer the questions below. **In the past month, have you:**

- Had nightmares about the event(s) or thought about the event(s) when you didn't want to?

- Tried hard not to think about the event(s) or went out of your way to avoid situations that reminded you of the event(s)?
- Been constantly on guard, watchful, or easily startled?
- Felt numb or detached from people, activities, or your surroundings?
- Felt guilty or unable to stop blaming yourself or others for the event(s) or any problems the event(s) may have caused?

If you answered “yes” to 3 or more of these questions, talk to a mental health care provider to learn more about PTSD and PTSD treatment. Answering “yes” to 3 or more questions does not mean you have PTSD. Only a mental health care provider can tell you for sure.

What if the screening tool says I don’t have PTSD?

You may still want to talk to a mental health care provider. If thoughts and feelings from the trauma are bothering you, treatment can help — whether or not you have PTSD.

Is it ever too late to get treatment for PTSD?

It’s never too late. Treatment can help even if your trauma happened years ago. And treatment for PTSD has gotten much better over the years. If you tried treatment before and you’re still having symptoms, it’s a good idea to try again.

What if I don’t feel ready for treatment?

It’s normal to feel like you’re not ready for treatment, or to come up with reasons why now isn’t the right time — like you can’t afford it or you’re too busy. But not wanting to talk or think about the trauma can actually be a symptom of PTSD.

You may never feel truly ready to get help for PTSD — but if you’re having symptoms, it’s better to get treatment now than to wait. The sooner you get treatment, the sooner you can start to feel better.

Where can I go to get help?

If you’re a Veteran, check with the VA about whether you can get treatment there. Visit

www.va.gov/directory/guide/PTSD.asp to find a VA PTSD program near you. If you’re looking for care outside the VA, ask your doctor for a referral to a mental health care provider who specializes in PTSD treatment, or visit <https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov> to search for providers in your area. When choosing a mental health care provider, here are some important things to consider:

- **Find a provider who uses PTSD treatments proven to work**
- **Find out what your insurance will cover**
- **Find someone who is a good fit for you**

“My treatment has been a blessing to me and my family. It’s hard to put into words just how you feel after you know that you can control your anger, and you can control your emotions.”

— Bradley Seitz, US Marine Corps (2002–2005)



Getting severely sunburned is a risk factor for skin cancer. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Sunburns often occur when we’re not paying attention. And we don’t notice them until the sun goes down and we’re staring at a giant lobster in the bathroom mirror. Though sunburns are remarkably common during the summer, they can also be dangerous, as they’re a high risk factor for skin cancer.

July is UV Safety Month, and it’s time to be aware of the sun’s good — and bad — qualities. Remembering to wear sunscreen is only part of the equation that will help lower your risk of developing a form of skin cancer, such as melanoma.

According to the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), “[t]he need to protect your skin from the sun has become very clear over the years, supported by several studies linking overexposure to the sun with skin cancer.” But it’s not only the sun that can be harmful — indoor tanning “sunlamps” are responsible for “many other complications besides skin cancer — such as eye problems, a weakened immune system, age spots, wrinkles, and leathery skin.”

When out and about on a steaming hot day, be sure to avoid getting severely sunburnt. Sunburns can significantly increase your chance of skin cancer — particularly among children or people with pale or sensitive skin. In order to prevent sunburn, wear sunscreen, proper clothes, hats, and sunglasses, and always aim for the shade during the sun’s peak hours between 10am and 4pm. The sun’s damaging effects can also be compounded by reflective surfaces like sand, water, snow, and even windows — so be careful to avoid these things. The Food and Drug Administration also suggests using broad-spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) value of 15 or more.

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer, but it’s also the most successfully treated if it’s found early. Over time, doctors have developed a list called the ABCDE’s in order to help people identify any abnormal signs of melanoma. Be aware that a mole or part of your skin may change color or shape, and this might be a sign of cancer. To help you determine whether a mole is a warning sign, keep the ABCDE’s in mind:

A- Asymmetry: One side looks different than the other. B- Border changes: An irregular and uneven border. C- Color changes: Having a variety of different colors. D- Diameter: It’s bigger than a pencil eraser. E- Evolving: Any change in size, shape, color, or elevation.

It’s hard to say what has made skin cancer prevalence increase in recent years. People aren’t necessarily getting more sun; in fact, vitamin D deficiencies have increased significantly as well, meaning people actually aren’t getting enough sunlight. But you don’t have to live with one or the other. Spending 10 to 15 minutes a day in the sun is enough to balance your Vitamin D levels, and not enough to get you severely sunburnt. Keep in mind that a moderate amount of time spent in the sun can be good for you, but don’t let your sun exposure get out of hand, and keep the sunscreen in hand.

+ SAFETY CORNER **+**
JULY IS UV SAFETY MONTH

July Is UV Safety Month: The Best Ways To Protect Yourself From Skin Cancer
By [Lecia Bushak](#)

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, Mike Kust, Chris Mulholland, Carl Dozier.
- **Awards Committee:** Gary Dunbar, Mark Rios, Jose Vazquez, Matt Schweers, and Chris Mulholland
- **Membership Committee:** Jose Vazquez, John Guill, Mark Rios, Gary Dunbar, and Chris Mulholland
- **Building Committee:** Carl Dozier and Gary Dunbar

QUARTERMASTER DESK

Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$30.00

Annual dues can be paid via mail (see our new address on front of newsletter) or to the Quartermaster at one of our meetings. If you pay on-line to National, the cost is \$40.50.

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 remaining installments over the next 11 months. 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 by 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 is issued upon completion of payments.

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

- **June 3, 1918** – American forces at Chateau Thierry help end German advance on River Marne.
- **June 6, 1918** – Battle of Belleau Wood involving US 2nd Infantry Division and Marine Corps' 4th Brigade begins. During 3-week fight against Germans, Americans experience first significant battlefield casualties with 5,000 killed.
- **June 9, 1918** – Germans launch hastily arranged Gneisenau Offensive, with 18th Army attacking SW toward Paris. However, Germans stopped as French and American troops successfully counter-attack and new offensive withers after just 4 days.
- **June 15, 1918** – Austrian troops begin offensive along Piave River in Italy, at urging of Germans. Although suffering from lack of food, horses and supplies, they cross river and establish 12-mile front, but cannot hold against now-revitalized Italian Army and withdraw after suffering 150,000 casualties. After this, Austrian soldiers in Italy begin deserting.
- **June 25, 1918** – Last German troops forced out of Belleau Wood by Americans.
- **June 30, 1918** – First contingent of US troops arrive in Italy.

- **Mid 1918** – Soldiers from all sides begin to succumb to deadly strain of influenza. Troop losses from flu epidemic soon exceed combat casualties, especially weakening hard-pressed German Army. Worldwide epidemic lasts for year, killing estimated 20 million, then vanishes as strangely as it appeared.

- **July 15-17, 1918** – Last German offensive, Marne-Reims, begins with 2-pronged attack around Reims, France, by 52 divisions. Allies have been anticipating battle and lie in wait. German attack east of Reims crushed that day by French. To west of Reims – along Marne River – advance is blocked by US 3rd Infantry Division, followed by successful French and American counter-attack. 3rd Division earns their moniker, "Rock of the Marne" which they retain to this day.

- **July 16, 1918** – Russian Bolsheviks murder former Czar Nicholas and entire family. By now, all-out civil war in Russia features indiscriminate killings of civilians and captured fighters. Amid chaos, disease and starvation envelop Russia. Fighting between Bolsheviks and opponents will last three years, ending with Bolshevik victory amid death toll estimated at 15 million.

- **July 17, 1918** – RMS *Carpathia* sunk by German U-Boat in Atlantic. This ship rescued survivors from Titanic in 1912 and rescued hundreds of stranded Americans in Naples at outbreak of war in 1914.

- **July 18, 1918** – Combined French and American attack along Marne marks first in series of coordinated Allied counter-offensives on Western Front. Three French armies accompanied by five American divisions cross Marne. In face of assault, German 7th and 9th Armies begin withdrawal.

- **July 19, 1918** – US cruiser *San Diego* sunk by mine off Fire Island (Atlantic coast).

- **July 21, 1918** – Château-Thierry retaken by Allied forces.

- **July 26, 1918** – French Expeditionary Force troops join British North Russia Expeditionary Force at Murmansk.

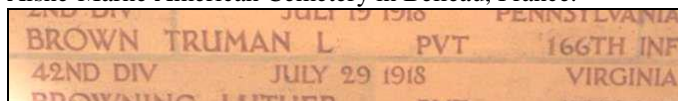
- **July 21, 1918** – British forces capture Archangelsk in northern Russia.

<http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/firstworldwar/index-1918.html>

<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/timeline/ww1-events-1918.htm>

LOCAL WWI GOLD STARS

Truman Lazarus Brown was born on July 21st, 1892 in Bertie, North Carolina, the middle of three boys. By 1917, he was working as a carpenter with the Norfolk & Southern Railroad when he signed up with the US Army as a Private. He was assigned to the 166th Infantry Regiment, of the vaunted 42nd "Rainbow" Division. Truman was killed during the Aisne-Marne Offensive in France on July 29, 1918 and is buried in the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery in Belleau, France.



The 4th Infantry Regiment, made up of units from central Ohio, was picked to join the 42nd Division and was soon renamed the 166th Infantry. The 42nd was made up of National Guard units from 26 states and earned the nickname "Rainbow Division" based on a comment attributed to Douglas MacArthur, who said that such an organization would "stretch over the whole country like a rainbow."

The 42nd arrived in Belgium and France in November 1917, one of the first divisions of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) to do so. Upon arrival, they began intensive training with the British and French armies in learning the basics of

trench warfare which had, for the past three years, dominated strategy on the Western Front, with neither side advancing much further than they had in 1914. The following year, the division took part in four major operations: the Champagne-Marne, the Aisne-Marne, the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. In total, it saw 264 days of combat.



Soldiers of the 167th Infantry Regiment man positions near St. Benoit, on the Meuse River, during the St. Mihiel offensive, September 1918.

FROM THE EDITOR

If you are interested in submitting articles, photos, updates on events, for inclusion in the newsletter, please send them to me at:

505 Piping Rock Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322

757-482-4981 or majmule@verizon.net

If you know of a business or anyone who would like to help sponsor Post 2894, please let them know that their help will be recognized in the newsletter.

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

Semper fidelis, - Chris Mulholland

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!!!

96th ANNUAL CONVENTION
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
RENAISSANCE PORTSMOUTH-NORFOLK WATERFRONT HOTEL
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA
JUNE 14 - 17, 2018

Eugene Chavis
Convention Chairman

Kathy Goodall
Convention Vice Chairman

Tentative Subject to Change

Thursday, June 14, 2018	NOON COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING 4:00 PM REGISTRATION, VFW 2:30 PM JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICES 6:00 PM JOINT PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	PORTSMOUTH VI-VIII PORTSMOUTH IV-V PORTSMOUTH IV-V
Friday, June 15, 2018	5:00 PM REGISTRATION, VFW 11:00 AM JOINT OPENING SESSION 2:00 PM COMMANDERS CLUB LUNCHEON 5:00 PM BUSINESS SESSION (NOMINATION OF STATE OFFICERS) 9:00 PM VFW RIDERS DANCE (OPEN TO ALL)	PORTSMOUTH IV-V PORTSMOUTH VI-VIII HOLLEY BALLROOM
Saturday, June 16, 2018	8:30 AM PAST STATE COMMANDERS/PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST 1:00 PM REGISTRATION, VFW 9:00 AM BUSINESS SESSION 1:00 PM BUSINESS SESSION (ELECTION & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS) 3:00 PM VFW RIDERS MEETING 6:00 PM RECEPTION/ DANCE - DJ	HOLLEY BALLROOM I-III PORTSMOUTH VI-VIII PORTSMOUTH VI-VIII AMPHITHEATER HOLLEY BALLROOM
Sunday, June 17, 2018	9:00 AM JOINT DEVOTIONAL SERVICE 9:30 AM NEW DISTRICT COMMANDERS SCHOOL 12:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CLOSE OF CONVENTION	MADISON AMPHITHEATER AMPHITHEATER

Registration \$3.00 (All VFW members are required to register)
 FRIDAY VFW RIDERS DANCE: (Open to all members) \$10.00 per person

SATURDAY RECEPTION/DANCE WILL BE FREE TO ALL ATTENDING THE STATE CONVENTION

Bottles will be permitted in the ballroom during Fridays dance. The hotel will furnish ice and mix.

HOSPITALITY ROOMS
TBA



HARBOR PARK
11 August, 7:05 pm*
vs Columbus Clippers
Followed by fireworks!



VFW Post 2894
"Night Out" with
Norfolk Tides

Tickets \$20 (normally \$30) – includes Patio seating & BBQ – adult beverages are extra.**
Contact cdrpost2894@vfwva.org for reservations by 30 July.

** Meet on Party Patio at 1800 for a short Post meeting*
*** Post paying difference*

BECOME A LIFE MEMBER TODAY!

No More Worrying About Dues!

As a Life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, receiving dues notices is a thing of the past! Your membership is permanent, allowing you to enjoy the benefits of belonging to the nation's largest organization of combat veterans without needing to worry about renewals.



Keep Supporting Your Post!

Every year, VFW Posts receive an annual payout for every Life member on their roster, so you can take pride in knowing that your Life membership still goes directly towards supporting your VFW Post and our mission to help our fellow veterans in local communities.



Leave Your Legacy!

Life members of the VFW are eligible to take part in our Legacy Life program, an endowment that not only provides perks and benefits to you as a member, but sets up an annuity that pays out to your Post even after you're gone - truly leaving a lasting legacy to the VFW!



Learn more online at
<https://www.vfw.org/OMS/QuickRenew.aspx>
or by calling 1-833-VFW-VETS.

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>JUNE</u>	
6	D-Day Anniversary (1944)
12	Statewide Primary Elections
13	Post Meeting, 1900 – Officer Installation
14	Army “Birthday” (1775) – Flag Day
14-15	Virginia Women Veterans Summit, Alexandria
14-17	VFW Dep’t of VA Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth
17	Father’s Day / Rifle Raffle drawing
21	First Day of Summer
25	Start of Korean War (1950) / Khobar Towers bombing (1996)
30	End of VFW Fraternal Year

<u>JULY</u>	
1	Start of VFW Fraternal Year
2	US Army Air Corps established (1926)
3	Fireworks show, City Park
4	Independence Day / South Norfolk Parade
11	Post Meeting/Quarterly Audit, 1900
21-25	VFW Nat’l Convention, Kansas City, MO
27	Anniversary of Korean Armistice (1953)
28	Anniversary of start of WWI (1914)
28	Start of Nat’l Veterans Wheelchair Games, Orlando FL (till 5 Aug)
31	Quarterly Audit due to Department



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



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

Place
 Stamp
 Here

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

