

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.



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 Weber
Staff Judge Advocate..... Matt Hamel
Service Officer..... Jim Ireland

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

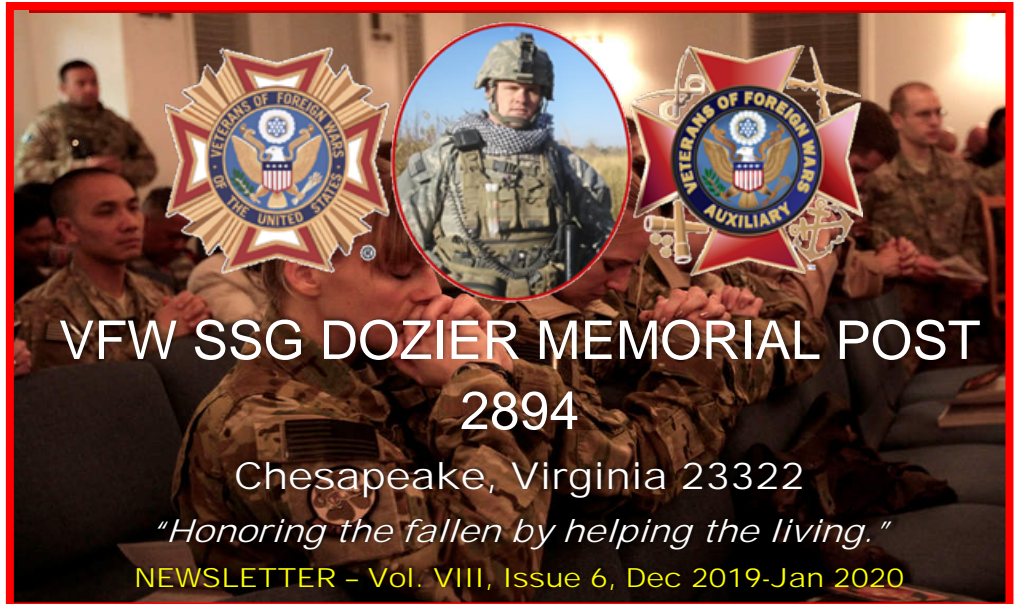
President..... Sandy Dunbar
Sr. Vice President..... Christina Zinn
Jr. Vice President..... Bea Oakley
Secretary..... Barbara Mulholland
Treasurer..... Donna Kust
Chaplain..... Diane Hostetlar
Conductress..... Anne Thompson
Guard..... Jean Dozier
Patriotic Instructor..... Kevin Mulholland

NATIONAL

www.vfw.org

STATE

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NEWSLETTER - Vol. VIII, Issue 6, Dec 2019-Jan 2020

**“I’LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS,
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME”**

From the book “*Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas*” by Ace Collins [2001; Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI]:

Millions of those who once embraced this song – who reverently listened to each word and note and hung on every sentimental thought woven into the lyrics – are now gone. Age has taken a mighty toll on the men and women who first clung to “*I’ll Be Home for Christmas*,” as not just a song, but also as a prayer. For young and old during the darkest days of World War II, for sons and daughters, fathers and mothers, grandmothers and grandfathers, aunts and uncles, “*I’ll Be Home for Christmas*” represented their hopes, dreams, and prayers better than any other song, movie, or story. Many who hear this carol today may think it overly maudlin, but when it was released, it quickly became the most powerful son on the hit parade.

The song may very well be one of the simplest Christmas carols ever written. There is an introduction, a single verse and a chorus, just twelve lines that innocently depict a person’s longing for home. Yet the way these dozen lines moved a nation during the uncertain times of war, as well as the way they continue to

move people today, makes this secular carol one of the most spiritual songs of any era.

It was 1942, and lyricist Kim Gannon knew the emotional toll of fighting a war on two fronts. In Brooklyn, the writer’s home, not only had thousands of families given up their sons to the armed forces, but many had already lost their children in battle. Christmas, traditionally a time of great joy in Gannon’s New York borough,



felt strangely different that year. The streets were decorated, trees were sold on corner lots, and Santas still rang their bells
(continued on page 4)

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings – and Merry Christmas! The Post has been busy again this fall, between a very successful Buddy Poppy drive, Hike Across America fundraiser dinner, assisting needy veterans and their families, the city's POW/MIA and Veterans Day remembrance ceremonies, and all of our service projects – thanks!

We have a big “coming out” coming up – the December 7th Christmas Parade in downtown Great Bridge! The theme is “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” with a military focus. We will be leading the parade and hosting the Grand Marshall, Shane Johnson! We’ll have another military section later in the parade which we’re sharing with other groups like the American Legion, Marine Corps League, etc. PLEASE COME OUT AND PARTICIPATE! We’d like as large a showing of veterans IN the parade as possible!

We sponsored a fundraising dinner for the Gary Sinise Foundation on behalf of TShane Johnson and his Hike Across America. I am very grateful to those who helped with this activity: Ann Jones, Brad Waters, Rich Johnson, Grace Schweers, and Rosy Gregory. But most especially, I would like to thank Becky Waters whose selfless dedication, hard work, and motivation really pulled off a truly touching event. Thank you, Becky!

We had THREE Teacher of the Year entries, one each for Elementary, Middle and High School. Congratulations and good luck to all of them as their packages go up for District and State judging.

Which reminds me, ALL of you have been busy! The “Other Post News” keeps growing and growing! If you’re doing something – anything, even as part of another organization – as a service to someone else, please let me know so that I can include it on our State reports and newsletters.

And now that the holiday season is almost here, I invite everyone to our Post Christmas Party on 11 December, at 7 pm. Please bring your families (and any prospective members you know!) and a dish to share. The Post will provide the beverages and the paperware. Sign up at www.perfectpotluck.com/ZEFV3989. Please RSVP to me by 9 Dec so we know how many plates, cups, etc., we’ll need to bring.

Don’t forget to tell all the Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Awards, Venture Crews, and Sea Scouts about our Scout of the Year contest. The form is included in this newsletter.

Lastly, January 9th is the 11th anniversary of the Sinsil 8 – when our Post namesake, SSG Dozier, and 7 others perished in Iraq. Jon’s father, Carl, is planning a remembrance gathering on that date – I will let you know what the final plans are.

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

And, as always, thanks to all of you for your service to our country, and your dedication to our veterans and their families! Semper Fidelis,

Chris Mulholland, Commander

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

2019 has been a great year for the Auxiliary.

Thank You All for what you do for the Veterans.



We are looking for new members to help us with our programs. Last year the Auxiliary spent \$4.4 million to Veterans, Active-Duty Military and their families. Auxiliaries spent \$4.0 million on

all Hospital projects and items. Number of hours served in the VA Medical Centers, Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Veterans Homes was 878,349. For Legislative there were 145,550 contacts made to help pass or block important bills. Total amount of scholarships awarded was \$122,627. Youth is very important to the Auxiliaries. Auxiliaries worked with 336,400 youth groups, 8,774 youth groups worked with the Auxiliaries conducting patriotic programs. 292,781 US flags were distributed; 16,185 POW/MIA Flags were distributed; 3,303 Auxiliaries conducted patriotic programs. If you know someone, please have them contact any of the members. We meet at the same time as the Post and look forward to meeting prospects. We have fun and the fellowship we enjoy is a bonus. Please consider joining our great organization.



VFW Auxiliary 2894 Wishes Everyone SAFE TRAVELS, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sandy Dunbar, President

HIKE ACROSS AMERICA FUNDRAISER DINNER, 2 OCTOBER



This past spring, the Post was approached about hosting a dinner to help raise funds for the Gary Sinise Foundation. The Post was asked by TShane Johnson of Hike Across America to support of his effort in raising donations for the Gary Sinise Foundation.

Shane began his hike on 9-11 at New York City's World Trade Center and is walking all the way to Orlando, Florida while carrying a 100 pound pack. He completed his walk in Disney World on Veterans' Day.



Shane autographed copies of his book after the presentation - here he is signing one for Auxiliary member Grace Schweers

In early October, he stopped here in Hampton Roads for 5 days of presentations and special events including breaking the world record for a 1 mile "run" with a 100 pound pack during the halftime of an ODU football game!

The Post advertised the fundraiser, prepared the food, and held the dinner with the assistance of Post 4809 at their post home. The dinner began with an array of incredible hors d'oeuvres, followed by a gourmet dinner prepared by Post member Becky Waters (a retired Navy Chief and graduate of the Culinary Institute of Virginia), then gourmet cupcakes and finally a presentation by Shane Johnson. It was a great evening of food, camaraderie and leadership.

VFW's National Senior Vice Commander, Hal Roesch (who lives in Phoebus) wanted to come but was already committed to another activity that evening. He did send a nice donation and a thank you card.

After costs, we raised and donated more than \$760 for the Sinise Foundation. The success of events like these are all due to the dedication and drive of our post members! Thanks for all that you do!

POST BUDDY POPPY DRIVE 2-3 NOVEMBER

We held our annual Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Drive over the weekend of 2-3 November in front of the Walmart at Grassfield Shopping Center. Over the two days, we had 18 volunteers, who worked 120 hours and collected \$2,430.28!



Post comrades Carl Dozier and Ron Mayfield collected more sitting down than the rest of us did standing up!

We also recruited several new members and had a number of others who indicated an interest in joining! All in all, a very successful weekend! We will be conducting our next Buddy Poppy Drive during the weekend of 16-17 May in honor of Memorial Day.

CHESAPEAKE'S VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The City of Chesapeake held memorial ceremony for Veterans Day at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month in front of City Hall. This was the 100th anniversary of "Armistice Day" (which became "Veterans Day in 1954). By the end of the ceremony everyone there was sporting one of our Buddy Poppies.

The ceremony was coordinated by the Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs,



Post members (lt to rt) Angie Taylor, Chris Mulholland, Jim Ireland, Kimball Thompson and John Peterson



which includes six members of the Post, and one emeritus member, Comrade Carl Dozier.

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

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 14 DECEMBER

Wreaths Across America will take place on **Saturday, 14 December**, at 9:00 am at **Albert J. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery**, 5310 Milners Road in Suffolk.

You can sign up as a volunteer on the Horton Cemetery website at



www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/17240/Overview?relatedIds=0

This year's ceremony starts at 1200 but you'll have to get there early - parking will be remote from the cemetery and you'll be shuttled in.

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

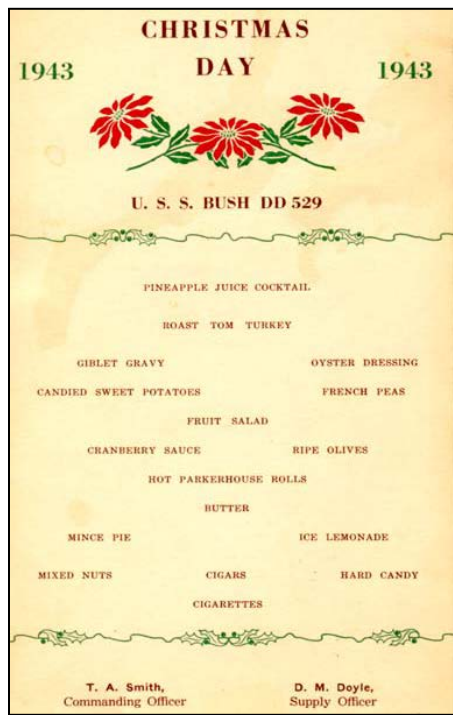
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and smiled at children, but the war had cast a pall over the holidays. It was hard to think of presents or peace on earth when parents anxiously read the news and prayed that every telegraph delivery man would pass them by. To make it all worse, no one was completely sure that the United States and its allies could even win the terrible war.

Kim saw the same gut-wrenching scenes play out every day - the prayers of frantic parents, the tears of newly enlisted soldiers saying their good-byes at train stations, the rush toward mailmen who might carry a letter from a loved one. The writer knew well that the news on the radio was both a curse and a blessing. Everyone felt the need to learn what was going on in the Pacific and Europe, but fear came with the knowledge as well... a biting fear when a parent or wife heard that a major battle had broken out in the same place a son, father, or husband had mentioned in their last letter home. With the coming of Christmas, the depression of being separated from loved ones was even worse.

Not only were families of overseas soldiers caught in a world of uncertainty and dread, so were many displaced rural men and women who had moved to New York and other large cities to work in plants and offices. Like many of the men in uniform, the war had taken civilians away from home. More were spending a Christmas away from family for the very first time, and were lonely and homesick.

When Gannon sat down with pen in hand to capture the unsettling scenes that surrounded her and everyone else in America, the cascade of emotion must have made writing "I'll Be Home for Christmas" very difficult. There was so much to say, so much that would be missed by those split apart by the hellish nightmare of war. Yet rather than try to cover everything, the writer simply wrote, in a straightforward, uncomplicated manner, about the heartache of being away from home at Christmas. Short, direct, and sweet, the poem Kim produced in so few lines somehow completely captured the emotions of hundreds of millions.



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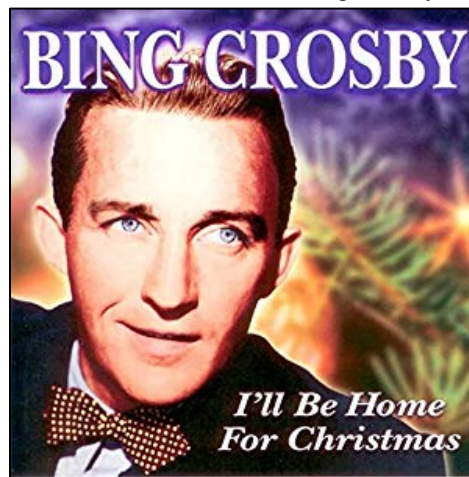
Gannon's words were brought to tunesmith Walter Kent. Also a New Yorker, Kent understood the sadness of the holiday season. Kent, who had already composed the sentimental hit "White Cliffs of Dover," inherently knew what the song needed. In his mind's eye, he saw empty chairs at the table, mothers trying to smile through tears as they baked cookies for remaining family members, and unopened presents on the tree. (During this period, Christmas presents were often very simple and tied to the tree rather than wrapped and placed under it.) With these pictures firmly set in his mind, he sought to find just the right notes to paint them into a musical score. When he finished his work, he had written a dreamy, hopeful melody that was a perfect fit to Gannon's words.

One of the true wonders of this song is that it sounds more like a letter home than a typical Christmas carol. Not only is there a real sadness evident in the words and melody, but a hopefulness as well. It's as if the singer were a homesick Marine, soldier, or sailor assuring those who missed him that he would soon be there with them again. Ultimately, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" left the listener with the final and urgent pleas, "Don't give up, we'll be together soon."



The spiritual nature of this song comes from its almost prayer-like message. Christmas in America had always been about family and remembering the One who started it all. Yet World War II had broken those bonds and disturbed the traditions of the holidays. "I'll Be Home for Christmas" eloquently acknowledged the hope that while things changed, given time, everyone would be home again.

On October 4, 1943, Bing Crosby recorded "I'll Be Home for Christmas." It became his 209th charting single and a follow-up to his holiday hit of 1942, "White Christmas." The latter had stayed on the charts for seventeen weeks during its initial release and reentered the hit parade in 1943 and stayed on there for another month and a half. Yet in the midst of the war, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" received more airplay and generated more sales than did the Crosby hit of the previous year. It quickly became the most



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requested song at Christmas U.S.O. shows in both Europe and the Pacific. Some historians have said that for service personnel and their families the only inspirational patriotic song that was its equal was "God Bless America."

Throughout World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, the song symbolized and captured the emotions of those on the battlefronts, as well as the emotions of those back home praying for their safe return. Recorded countless times by scores of different artists, it has sold millions of records. But beyond its remarkable sales is the way the song has been embraced by every facet of society. As a testament to its hopeful nature, even though it does not have a single reference to Jesus or the first Christmas, over the past [seventy-six] years it has been used in hundreds of cantatas and church programs.

Today, more than [seven] decades after it was embraced as a World War II holiday prayer, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" stirs new emotions. Most of those who returned home for Christmas after the war have left this world for the next. Yet because of the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served our country during those dark days, they will always be home for Christmas in our hearts, memories, and dreams.

I'll Be Home for Christmas

I am dreamin' tonight of a place I love
Even more than I usually do
And although I know it's a long road back
I promise you

I'll be home for Christmas
You can count on me
Please have snow and mistletoe
And presents under the tree

Christmas Eve will find me
Where the love light gleams
I'll be home for Christmas
If only in my dreams

FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE

"End of Life Issues

By Rev. Andrew McMenamain, Post Chaplain

This is the first installment on End of Life Issues. A new syndrome called Demoralization Syndrome has been postulated - Demoralization Syndrome.

Demoralization syndrome was newly defined as a combination of two psychological constructs: "existential distress" and "subjective incompetence." Existential distress and subjective incompetence make demoralization syndrome a crisis of spirit, where distress is not present based but rooted in the future. It is marked by anticipatory distress experienced as helplessness and hopelessness. Known as the hallmark of demoralization syndrome, existential distress is based on an anticipated loss of dignity in situations where there is a threat to life or basic human dignity. Feelings of hopelessness develop as the meaning



of past experiences is destroyed; tried and true coping mechanisms prove ineffective. When this threat is an inevitability, a helplessness sets in where one's sense of self-efficacy, self-esteem, and self-worth are at stake. Demoralization syndrome takes hold as the inability to control outcomes is viewed as a personal failing, not an unfortunate reality of a given circumstance. Nothing short of an attack on Self, this harsh self-blame provides the script for subjective incompetence. The self-imposed belief of incompetence is an assault on meaning, purpose, and most of all hope.

If you or a loved one are feeling a deep loss of hope and/or are acutely depressed, please seek help immediately. Speak with a counselor, clergy, friend or family member. In the case of any crisis you can contact the Veteran Crisis Center at 1-888-457-4838 or Text MIL1 to 839863. Support for service members, veterans, and their families is available 24/7/365. It's free and confidential. This crisis line offers compassionate, non-judgmental support and, where appropriate, connects people with the referrals, resources, or treatment they need to navigate through tough times.

FIELD OF VALOR, GRASSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

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



Kimberly Hammers, Grassfield HS, was National VFW's Third Runner-Up for 2016 Teacher of the Year

This year's display was noteworthy because Honor & Remember donated 477 miniature H&R flags with the names of



all the Gold Stars from Chesapeake, South Norfolk, and Norfolk County since 1777.

As Kimberly wrote, "Hampton Roads is an enormously patriotic community and home to innumerable armed forces service members. Saluting those members in recognition of Veterans Day is priceless in terms of the importance of honoring those who serve and have served to protect America over the years. This project was aimed at generating a visual and heart-felt salute to military service members through a display of American flags."

All of the funds will be used to support other veterans in need and their families! **Thank you so much, Kimberly!**

OTHER POST NEWS

• **SSG Jon Dozier Birthday Remembrance.** Staff Sergeant Jonathan K. Dozier, AUS was born on 30 September 1977 and killed on 9 January 2008 in Iraq. Every year, Post members gather at his favorite local "watering hole", the Bier Garden in Portsmouth, to remember him. Toasts are made, memories are shared, and camaraderie is exchanged. Thanks to Jon's dad, Carl and Jean Dozier for continuing this tradition.



Jon's father, Carl Dozier, giving a toast in his memory

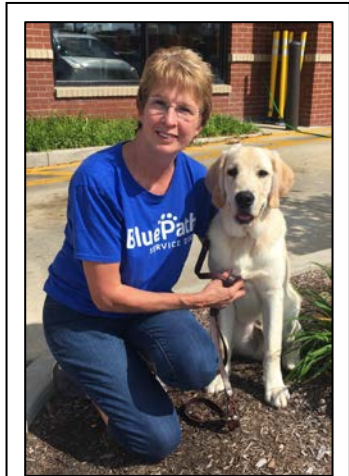
• **Sheriff's Great American Food Fest.** The Post has developed a close relationship with Sheriff Jim O'Sullivan and the Sheriff's Department. Every year, the Sheriff hosts a "Great American Food Fest" at City Park and provides free tickets to the Post to come and set up a recruiting and information booth. We recruit several new members each year and are able to publicize our post's activities and achievements within the community. This year was no different - it was a great success all around!



José Vazquez, Carl and Jean Dozier, and Ron Mayfield "man" the booth.

• **Donna and Mike Kust Begin Training a New Service Dog.** Auxiliary Treasurer Donna Kust and her husband, Post Quartermaster Mike, have raised 14 puppies as service dogs for people with disabilities. This past May, they handed over Rex, a Golden Labrador, for further training to help a child with autism. Donna decided to take a break from puppy training to care for their elderly lab, Quebec (their very first puppy). Unfortunately, Quebec passed away at the end of the

summer which brings us to the current situation. Here's what Donna recently wrote, "Meet BluePath Service Dogs, pup-in-training, Otto. I'm going to look at this from the perspective that things happen for a reason. You just never know when your 'Paths' will cross. Back in May I returned Rex to BluePath for his formal training. The Powers that Be had this little guy there and thought for sure that I would not be going home empty-handed. At that time I was dealing with the health of my 16-1/2 year old lab, Quebec (my first service puppy that I had raised) and I just couldn't take on a puppy. Quebec is no longer with us, but here it is Sept 29th which just happens to be Quebec's Birthday. And then there's Otto, our 'Paths' have crossed again. It all started with 1 puppy (Quebec) and Otto makes 14. So I guess he was destined to be with me." Thanks for all that you do, Donna!



Donna and Otto

• **POW/MIA Display at Central Library.** For the second year in a row, the Post set up a POW/MIA display in Chesapeake's Central Library. The display included a "Missing Man Table" with a description of the meaning of all the symbols on the table. The display also included a list of all 72 Chesapeans who are still missing in action or who died as prisoners of war, as well as a book with a description of each individual. The names range from the Revolutionary War all the way to the War in Vietnam. The display stayed in the library for an entire week so that youths of all ages could see and read about POW/MIA Day.



• **POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony at City Hall.** For the fifth year in a row, the Post organized and conducted a POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony in front of City Hall on National POW/MIA Day. Mayor Rick West was on hand to read a proclamation and several city council members, including the Post's Judge Advocate,



From left, Commander Chris Mulholland, Doug Streit, Mayor Rick West, Dave Weber, Councilman Matt Hamel, Jim Keiper, Councilmember Debbie Ritter, and Chaplain Andy McMenamin and his wife "JP"

Matt Hamel, were in attendance as well. A description of the "Missing Man Table" was read before a recitation of the names of all 72 Chesapeans who are still missing in action or died as POWs. Each name was accompanied with the toll of a bell.

• **Post Helps Navy Family After Home Fire.** A young Navy family recently suffered a home fire, luckily, they were all out of the house when it happened. The fire started in the attic and burned into the upstairs bedrooms. They lost all of their clothing. The Post collected donations of cash and clothing which we then gave to the family for a total of \$300 in cash and



over \$100 worth of clothing. A special thanks to Comrades Tony Gravina and Frank Hunt for their generous cash donations. A neighbor of the family who happens to be the wife of a retired firefighter coordinated the collection and dissemination of the donations from throughout the community. We received a

nice thank you card from the family of 1st Class Petty Officer Josh Altheide.

• **POW/MIA Memorial Dedication at Horton Veterans' Cemetery.** Post 2894 participated in the



Auxiliary member Grace Schweers and Post Sr Vice Cdr José Vazquez carry the colors in a joint District 2 color ceremony



The new memorial

dedication ceremony for a POW/MIA memorial at the Albert G. Horton Jr Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk on 20 September, 2019. Everyone should visit



Grassfield HS students at the National Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, VA.

the cemetery in Suffolk to see this beautiful memorial for those held captive or still missing in action.

• **Post Sponsored High Schoolers to Attend Honor Flight.** The Post was asked to sponsor students from Grassfield High School who wanted to help with the first Honor Flight out of Tidewater. Some of the students in the class of Mrs. Kimberly Hammers, our Post Teacher of the Year in 2016, were unable to afford the cost of the trip so the Post voted to sponsor up to five students – ultimately, only three needed the assistance.

• **Post Members Assist with Mayor's Breakfast for Veterans.** Six Post comrades serve on the Chesapeake



Mayor Rick West (left) with Comrade Ken Belkofer and his wife, Marie (right).

Mayor's Commission on Veterans' Affairs (MCVA). One of the events they are responsible for setting up and running is the annual Mayor's Breakfast for Veterans. All veterans in the city of Chesapeake are invited for a free breakfast and presentation hosted by the Mayor to honor their service.

• **Comrade Jason Redman was Guest Speaker at Norfolk Police Academy Graduation Ceremony.**

Post Comrade Jason Redman was the guest speaker at the Norfolk Police Academy graduation ceremony on October 9th. Jay is a decorated US Navy SEAL veteran, a successful entrepreneur, and a nationally acclaimed motivational speaker.



• **Jon Dozier's Family Given a New Home.** Carl and Jean Dozier traveled to Apex, North Carolina over Veterans Day weekend to participate in the presentation of the keys to a new home for Amy and Emma Dozier. Amy is still getting used to the idea that she and Emma will be moving into a new home. Mix in the



notion that the deed comes free and clear — with no mortgage — and it’s all a bit overwhelming. “I have told them multiple times, ‘You could be building me a tiny house, and I would be completely happy,’” Dozier said of the builder, Experience One Homes. “I just feel so blessed that they’re so generous and want to do this for me and my family.” The home was provided by the nonprofit Operation Coming Home. OCH was established in 2007 by the Triangle Veterans Association and members of the Home Builders Association of Raleigh-Wake County to provide houses for families at no cost to the recipients. Each house costs an average of \$250,000 to build, and nearly all of the materials are donated by builders, vendors, contractors and other individuals in the community. Since Jon’s death, Amy has dedicated herself to serving veterans and their families. Inspired by groups who had helped her, she gained a master’s degree and became a nonprofit strategist. Since 2012, she’s been a mentor to other war widows and an advocate for Gold Star and veteran families. This strong desire to serve seemed to strike a chord with the members of OCH, she says. They decided a home was a good way to support her efforts to help other grieving families.

• **M1 Rifle Raffle Has a Winner!** This year’s raffle was an incredible success! We sold 327 tickets and raised almost \$2,200 after costs! Thanks to everyone who helped! The winner was Walter White, MSgt, USAFR (ret), who, interestingly enough, went to high school with Carl Dozier! He picked up his rifle in mid-November – just in time for Christmas! The ticket drawing took place after the Veterans Day Ceremony and our own State Senator John Cosgrove drew the ticket (unfortunately for him, not his own!)

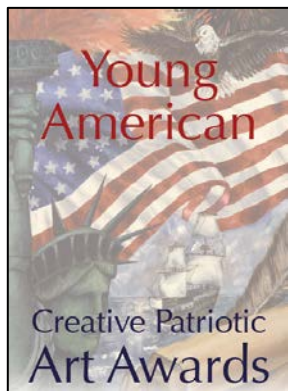


Walter White with his rifle and Commander Mulholland

PATRIOTIC ARTIST NOMINATIONS DUE 31 MARCH

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

Entry forms can be downloaded from our website



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

SCOUT OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DUE 1 MARCH



Now’s the time to start thinking about Scout of the Year! Any high schooler who has earned the Boy Scout Eagle Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Crew Silver Award, or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award is eligible for the Scout of the Year Award.

Nomination packages are due to the Post by 1 March 2020. To be eligible, nominees must:

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

Entry forms can be downloaded from the VFW website at: www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scout-of-the-year

+ DECEMBER SAFETY CORNER + Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving

The Holiday Season is known for being merry and bright, but they’re also known for being the deadliest season when it comes to drunk driving. Every holiday season, lives are lost due to drunk drivers.

As the calendar year winds down, the holiday festivities start up. Make sure you stay off Santa’s “naughty” list: Always choose sober driving, and always plan a safe ride home before you party. With holiday festivities and office parties taking place, it’s essential to plan a sober ride home before ever leaving for the event. So this holiday season, as you head out for a night of merry-making, remember: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving.*

According to NHTSA, 37,133 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2017, and 29 percent (10,874) of those fatalities occurred in crashes in which a driver had a blood alcohol concentration over the legal limit of .08 grams per deciliter. The holidays prove to be extra dangerous to drivers as more people—drivers and pedestrians alike—are out on the roads.

Drunk driving isn’t the only risk on the road: Drug-impaired driving is also an increasing problem on our nation’s roads. If drivers are impaired by any substance—alcohol or drugs—they should not get behind the wheel of a vehicle. Driving while designate a sober driver impaired is illegal, period. The bottom line is this: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.* It’s that simple.



Drinking and driving should never be combined. It's essential to plan a sober ride in advance if the holiday celebration will include alcohol. The alternative could change your life, not to mention the lives of your passengers, of pedestrians, or of other drivers and passengers nearby.

This holiday season, designate a sober driver before heading out for the evening. If you plan on drinking, plan on not driving.

Party with a Plan

First and foremost: Plan ahead. Be honest with yourself: You know whether you'll attend a party. If you plan to drink, plan for a sober driver to take you home. Is it your turn to be the designated driver? Take that role seriously—your friends are relying on you.

- Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive. Even if you've had only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely.
 - Download NHTSA's SaferRide mobile app, available on Google Play for Android devices: (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nhtsa.SafeRide&hl=en>), and Apple's iTunes Store for iOS devices: (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/saferride/id950774008?mt=8>). SaferRide allows users to call a taxi or a predetermined friend, and identifies the user's location so he or she can be picked up.
 - If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact the police.
 - Have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.
- Remember to play it safe this holiday season and always plan your sober ride before the festivities begin. If you are buzzed, do not drive. For more information, visit www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov.

✚ JANUARY SAFETY CORNER ✚ National Bath Safety Month

January is National Bath Safety Month: Safety Tips for Seniors & Children Safety Tips for Seniors

A common area where seniors often end up having accidents is falls in the bathroom, and helping prevent those kinds of accidents is what January's National Bath Safety Month is all about.

These types of accidents, while common, are sometimes overlooked as a cause for concern. The good news is, however, that bathroom falls are easily prevented if you take the right precautions.

It really only takes a few simple things to make your bathroom a lot safer. To decrease the likelihood of you ever taking a fall while in your bathroom, follow these useful tips:

- Install non-slip strips or mats in the bottom of your bathtub
- Have reachable safety handles for climbing in and out of the tub or shower, and by the toilet as well
- Keep a non-slip rug or mat on the floor at the entry/exit of the shower
- Make sure your bathroom floor stays clean and free of spills

- Keep a portable phone in your bathroom in case of emergencies

Safety Tips for Children

Stay with her. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children 4 and under always have a parent or caregiver present when they are near water, including the tub. Accidents can happen in an instant.

Prevent slips. Young children do not have the coordination or strength to hold steady if they lose their balance. Affix a slip-resistant plastic mat that suctions to the bottom of the tub and make sure the throw rug outside the tub does not slide when stepped on. Consider installing a grab bar for kids to hold onto when stepping in and out of the bath.

Test the temperature.

Always wait until the tub is finished filling up before placing your child in the water, as the temperature can change. Set your home's water heater to deliver water no hotter than 120 degrees to lower the risk of scalding. If you don't have control over the heater, buy an anti-scald device that attaches to the faucet.

Beware of sharp edges. Use a rubber cover for the faucet head and drape a towel over metal rails for shower doors when your child is in the bath. Make sure any glass shower doors are made of shatterproof glass. Avoid bath toys with hard edges or points that could be hazardous if your child falls onto them.

Taking these steps toward preventing falls in your bathroom could definitely help save a life, so put them into practice right away as part of National Bath Safety Month.



POST COMMITTEES – YOU CAN HELP!

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

- **Bataan Death March Committee:** Ann Jones, Grace Schweers, Becky Waters, Brad Waters, Anne Thompson and Bob Gregory.
- **Budget Committee:** José Vazquez, Mark Rios, Mike Kust, and Carl Dozier.
- **Awards Committee:** Brad Waters, Mark Rios, Tony Gravina, Joe Hammers, and Elizabeth Van Velzen.
- **Membership Committee:** José Vazquez, John Guill, Mark Rios, and Gary Dunbar
- **Building Committee:** Carl Dozier, José Vazquez, Becky Waters and Chris Cameron.
- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Andy McMenamin
- **Health Committee:** Surgeon David Weber
- **Scholarship Committee:** Carl Dozier, Elizabeth Van Velzen, Andy McMenamin, and Kimball Thompson.

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

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP - AND CONSIDER A LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

QUARTERMASTER DESK

Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$30 IF you go through our Post - if you go through National make sure you indicate Post 2894!

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

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

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



Age	One-Time Payment	Installment Payment
18-30	\$ 425	\$ 38.64
31-40	\$ 410	\$ 37.27
41-50	\$ 375	\$ 34.09
51-60	\$ 335	\$ 30.45

61-70	\$ 290	\$ 26.36
71-80	\$ 225	\$ 20.45
81 & over	\$ 170	\$ 15.45

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

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

DECEMBER MILITARY HISTORY

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

1918 American army of occupation enters Germany.

1955 Rosa Parks refuses to sit in back of Montgomery, AL, bus, defying South's segregationist laws.

1969 America's first draft lottery since 1942.
- 1823** President Monroe proclaims Monroe Doctrine, 'American continents, by free and independent condition... are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by European powers.'

1921 First successful helium dirigible, C-7, makes test flight in Portsmouth, Va.

1927 New Ford Model A introduced to American public.

1942 Allies repel strong Axis attack in Tunisia, North Africa.

1944 General Patton's troops enter Saar Valley and break through Siegfried line.
- 1918** Allied Conference ends in London deciding that Germany must pay for war.

1989 Presidents Bush and Gorbachev announce official end to Cold War at meeting in Malta.
- 1862** Winchester, VA, falls into Union hands, resulting in capture of 145 Southern soldiers.

1942 US planes make first raids on Naples, Italy.

1991 Last American hostages held in Lebanon released.
- 1933** 21st Amendment ends Prohibition in US, begun 13 years earlier.

1955 Bus boycott begins under Rev. ML King, Jr., in Montgomery.

1978 Soviet Union signs 20-year friendship pact with Afghanistan.
- 1492** Columbus lands on Santo Domingo in search of gold.

1934 American Ambassador Davis says Japan is grave security threat in Pacific.

1941 President FDR issues personal appeal to Emperor Hirohito to use influence to avoid war.
- 1917** US declares war on Austria-Hungary.

1941 Japanese planes raid Pearl Harbor in surprise attack.

1942 USN launches USS *New Jersey*, largest battleship ever built.
- 1943** US carrier-based planes sink 2 cruisers and down 72 planes in Marshall Islands.

1944 US conducts longest, most effective air raid on Iwo Jima.
- 1941** FDR tells Americans to plan for a long war.

1992 US Marines land in Somalia to ensure food and medicine reach deprived areas.
- 1898** US and Spain sign Treaty of Paris, ceding Spanish possessions, including Philippines, to US.

1918 US troops called to guard Berlin as coup is feared.

1941 Japanese troops invade Philippine island of Luzon.

1949 150,000 French troops mass at border in Vietnam to prevent Chinese invasion.
- 1941** US declares war on Italy and Germany.

1945 Boeing B-29 Superfortress shatters records by crossing US in 5 hours and 27 min.

- 12 1753** George Washington, adjutant of Virginia, delivers ultimatum to French forces at Fort Le Boeuf, reiterating Britain's claim to Ohio River valley.
- 1863** Orders given in Richmond, Virginia, that no more supplies from Union be received by Federal prisoners.
- 1967** US ends airlift of 6,500 men to Vietnam.
- 13 1862** Battle of Fredericksburg ends with bloody slaughter of Union troops at Marye's Heights.
- 14 1799** George Washington dies on Mount Vernon estate.
- 1960** US Boeing B-52 bomber sets 10,000-mile non-stop record without refueling.
- 15 1890** US soldiers attempt to arrest Sitting Bull in Standing Rock, SD: shooting breaks out and Lt. Bullhead shoots great Sioux leader.
- 1924** Soviet Union warns US against repeated entry of ships into Soviet territorial waters.
- 1938** Washington sends fourth note to Berlin demanding amnesty for Jews.
- 1965** US drops 12 tons of bombs on industrial center near Haiphong Harbor, North Vietnam.
- 16 1773** Young Americans, disguised as Indians, throw chests of tea in Boston Harbor.
- 1944** Germany opens Battle of Bulge in Ardennes Forest in Belgium.
- 1950** President Truman declares National Emergency as Chinese communists invade deeper into S.Korea.
- 1998** US launches missile attack on Iraq for failing to comply with UN weapons inspectors.
- 17 1903** Wright brothers' 1st successful flight near Kitty Hawk, NC.
- 1943** US forces invade Japanese-held New Britain Island in New Guinea.
- 1944** US approves end to internment of Japanese Americans.
- 18 1865** Slavery abolished in US. 13th Amendment formally adopted into Constitution.
- 1941** Defended by 610, American-held island of Guam falls to more than 5,000 Japanese invaders in 3-hour battle.
- 1972** President Nixon declares bombing of North Vietnam will continue until accord reached.
- 19 1959** Last civil war veteran, Walter Williams, dies at 117 in Houston.
- 20 1941** Flying Tigers, American pilots in China, enter combat against Japanese over Kunming.
- 1989** US troops invade Panama to oust General Noriega.
- 21 1620** Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock.
- 1862** Congress authorizes Medal of Honor for Navy personnel.
- 1944** German troops surround 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne in Belgium.
- 1945** General Patton dies at age 60 after injured in car accident.
- 22 1775** Esek Hopkins takes command of Continental Navy — total of 7 ships.
- 1944** During Battle of Bulge, General McAuliffe responds to German surrender request with: "Nuts!"
- 23 1941** US defenders on Wake Island capitulate to 2nd Japanese assault.
- 1944** Gen. Eisenhower confirms death sentence of PVT Slovik, only American shot for desertion since Civil War.
- 1948** Japan's Prime Minister Tojo and 6 others hanged for war crimes.
- 1974** B-1 bomber makes first successful test flight.
- 24 1814** Treaty between US and Britain, ending War of 1812, signed. News does not reach US until 2 weeks later (after Battle of New Orleans).
- 1943** General Eisenhower appointed Allied Supreme Commander.
- 26 1776** After crossing Delaware River night before, Washington leads attack on Hessian mercenaries at Trenton, takes 900 men prisoner.
- 27 1941** Japanese bombers attack Manila, despite claim as open city.
- 1944** General Patton's Third Army relieves Bastogne in Belgium.
- 1979** President Amin of Afghanistan murdered in coup backed by Soviet Union, beginning 10 year war.
- 28 1946** French declare martial law in Vietnam as war appears inevitable.
- 29 1778** British, attempting new strategy to defeat colonials, capture Savannah.
- 1890** Last major conflict of Indian wars as 7th Cavalry tries to disarm Chief Big Foot and followers at Wounded Knee SD.
- 1965** Christmas truce observed in Vietnam, while President Johnson tries to get North Vietnamese to bargaining table.
- 30 1803** US takes possession of Louisiana area from France.
- 1972** President Nixon halts air offensive and agrees to resume peace negotiations with Hanoi representative.
- 2006** Saddam Hussein hanged for crimes committed against own people during rule.
- 31 1775** George Washington orders recruiting officers to accept free blacks into army.
- 1942** After 5 months of battle, Emperor Hirohito allows Japanese commanders at Guadalcanal to retreat.

JANUARY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1776 British torch Norfolk, Virginia
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect
- 1950 First woman doctor commissioned in USN, Mary T. Sproul
- 1950 Indo-China: Viet Minh open a major offensive against the French
- 1951 Massive Chinese/North Korean assault on UN-lines
- 1962 US Navy SEAL teams established.
- 2** 1776 First American flag displayed
- 1945 USN convoys depart Leyte to invade Luzon, while beating off Kamikaze.
- 3** 1777 Battle of Princeton: Washington defeats British
- 1944 Marine ace "Pappy" Boyington (28 kills) captured by Japanese
- 1990 Panama's Gen Manuel Noriega surrenders to US authorities
- 4** 1989 Second Gulf of Sidra Incident: two USN F-14s down two Libyan MiG-23s
- 5** 1608 Capt. John Smith is captured by Indians
- 1781 Richmond burned by British forces under Benedict Arnold
- 6** 1776 "NY Provincial Company of Artillery" organized; now 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, senior unit of Regular Army
- 1927 US Marines sent to Nicaragua
- 1941 FDR's "Four Freedoms" address; of speech & worship, from want & fear.
- 7** 1942 Bataan: 15,000 US & 65,000 Philippine troops go on half-rations, as Japanese close in
- 1953 Pres Truman announces development of hydrogen bomb
- 8** 1815 Battle of New Orleans, 15 days after Treaty of Ghent
- 1877 Battle of Wolf Mountain, Montana: Crazy Horse defeated by US Army - last battle of Great Sioux War
- 1973 Secret peace talks between US & North Vietnam resume near Paris
- 9** 1861 First Shot of Civil War: US steamer 'Star of the West' is fired on by Confederate batteries off Charleston
- 1936 Garand M-1 semi-automatic rifle adopted by US Army
- 1942 FDR establishes Joint Chiefs of Staff
- 1945 Luzon: 6th Army lands in Lingayen Gulf.
- 1952 USMC recalls Ted Williams to active duty for Korean War
- 10** 1847 US Navy-Marine Corps landing party occupies Los Angeles

- 1943 Guadalcanal: US forces begin general offensive to eliminate Japanese.
- 1946 Army Signal Corps bounces radar beam off moon.
- 11 1785 Continental Congress convenes in New York
- 1945 Japanese decide to put remaining resources into suicide weapons.
- 1991 Congress authorizes Pres G.H.W. Bush to undertake offensive operations against Iraq
- 12 1946 82nd Airborne Division marches up Fifth Avenue to tumultuous greeting
- 13 1968 Beginning of Tet Offensive in Vietnam
- 14 1784 Congress ratifies Treaty of Paris, ending Revolutionary War
- 1867 Alfred Nobel makes first public demonstration of dynamite
- 1943 Casablanca Conference: FDR, Churchill, & Stalin
- 1969 Fire aboard USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), off Vietnam, 28 die, 344 injured
- 15 1865 Union soldiers, sailors, & Marines take Ft Fisher, NC
- 1973 Pres Nixon suspends all US offensive action over North Vietnam
- 16 1776 Continental Congress approves enlistment of free blacks
- 1944 Gen Eisenhower takes command of Operation Overlord
- 1957 Three B-52s leave California on first non-stop world flight
- 1970 Col Kadhaffi becomes premier of Libya
- 17 1781 Battle of Cowpens: Dan Morgan annihilates Tarleton's Anglo-Tory force
- 1955 USS 'Nautilus' (SSN-571) gets underway on nuclear power
- 1966 B-52 carrying four hydrogen bombs crashes off Spanish coast
- 1991 Operation Desert Storm: Coalition airstrikes against Iraq
- 18 1911 First airplane lands on ship: Eugene Ely in Curtiss Flyer on USS 'Pennsylvania' (ACR-4)
- 19 1920 Senate rejects American membership in League of Nations
- 20 1778 1st American court martial opens, Cambridge, MA
- 1783 Hostilities cease in Revolutionary War
- 1887 Senate approves lease of Pearl Harbor for a base
- 1914 USN opens school for aviators at Pensacola, Fla.
- 1944 Rapido River: US 36th Div begins two-day attempt to force German defenses
- 1981 Illegally held by Iranian government for 444 days, 52 Americans are finally released
- 21 1903 "Dick Act" creates modern National Guard
- 1968 Battle of Khe Sanh begins -- ends Apr 8
- 22 1944 Operation Shingle: Allies land at Anzio
- 23 1968 North Koreans capture USS 'Pueblo' & 83 crew in East Sea/Sea of Japan
- 24 1847 Col. Price defeats 1,500 Indians & Mexicans to secure New Mexico for US
- 25 1945 Audie Murphy earns Medal of Honor
- 1969 US-North Vietnamese peace talks begin in Paris
- 26 1862 Lincoln issues General War Order #1, calling for Union offensive
- 1911 Glenn Curtiss tests first successful sea plane, San Diego
- 1913 John Paul Jones laid to rest in Chapel of US Naval Academy
- 1942 Marines land in Northern Ireland - 1st US troops to reach Europe
- 1948 Executive Order 9981: Truman orders Segregation in Armed Forces ended
- 27 1915 US Marines begin occupation of Haiti
- 1943 First USAAF raid on Germany, at Wilhelmshafen
- 1973 US and North Vietnam sign cease-fire
- 1977 Pres Carter pardons most Vietnam War draft evaders
- 28 1915 US Coast Guard created from Life Saving and Revenue Cutter Services
- 1942 Ens. Donald Mason radios, "Sighted sub, sank same."
- 29 1944 USS 'Missouri' (BB-63) launched in Brooklyn
- 30 1781 Articles of Confederation, establishing perpetual union of "United States of America"
- 1945 Philippines - Cabanatuan: 126 US & Filipino raiders liberate 500 prisoners from a Japanese P/W camp
- 31 1944 U.S. troops land on Kwajalein and nearby islands in the Marshalls
- 1945 11th Airborne Div lands - by sea - at south entrance to Manila Bay.
- 1961 Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr., becomes first black American to command warship, 'Falgout' (DE-324)
- 1981 Last enlisted USN aviator retires

FROM THE EDITOR

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

505 Piping Rock Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322
757-482-4981 or cdrpost2894@va.vfwwebmail.com

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

**CHRISTMAS
PARADE, DEC 7TH**

**MARCH WITH US AT
THE FRONT OF THE
PARADE WITH OUR
POST FLOAT!!!**



Scout of the Year Program



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

girl scouts



WHAT IS THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM?

Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States awards three individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank. Awards are as follows:

- \$5,000 1st place National scholarship
- \$3,000 2nd place National scholarship
- \$1,000 3rd place National scholarship

AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

- Be the recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.
- Be a registered, active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship at the time the above reward was received.
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting and community.

Prior National Scout of the Year winners are ineligible. 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. A local Post can be identified by zip code at www.vfw.org/find-a-post.

WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

- Deadline for entry to VFW Post is March 1.
- One candidate with full entry criteria must be submitted by a VFW Post to the next level of judging by April 1. The VFW Department (state) Scouting chairman can provide this information.
- The Department winner must be selected and submitted by their Department (state) Scouting chairman to the VFW National Headquarters by May 1.

Questions should be directed to 816-756-3390 ext 6155 during normal business hours Monday through Friday or emailed to scouting@vfw.org.

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED?

The following documentation should be submitted:

- **Photograph of the Scout** — must be attached to this form. The Scout must appear in correct, complete uniform for their current rank. Recommended size 3" x 5".
- **School Participation Record** — a single page, one sided resume of the candidate's school activities indicating academic achievements, offices held, honors received and significant participation in other activities.

- **Scouting Record** — maximum of three pages, one side only, listing of all Scouting participation beginning with Cub Scouts or Brownies - years of participation, unit numbers and sponsors. Also include when Eagle, Gold, Summit or Quartermaster Award was received and Palms. Identify leadership positions held at all levels, participation in Scouting activities (jamborees, Order of the Arrow conferences, etc.) and the candidate's Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster Project.
- **Community Service Record** — a single page, one sided resume listing participation in community and religious service organizations (excluding Scouting and school), noting leadership positions held and any recognition received.

Official Entry Form

VFW Scout of the Year Program

MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH CONTESTANT
and submitted DIRECTLY TO A VFW POST IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Home Phone

Email

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Scout Troop Number

SCOUT/VENTURE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing information is accurate and if I am the winner, I will make myself available to receive the award at a presentation ceremony as designated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Scout/Venture Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

UNIT LEADER'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above-named Scout/Venture is an active member of our unit or was when the award was received and the information supplied by the candidate is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Unit Leader's Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

PARENT'S CONSENT

I hereby certify that all information on this application is correct. I willingly submit this name for consideration as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States' Scout of the Year. If this individual is selected as the winner, I will ensure that he/she is allowed to attend a presentation ceremony as designed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Father, Mother or Guardian Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

- **Letters of Recommendation** — Submit three letters, no more than two pages in length from:
 - A scout leader.
 - A community member.
 - A teacher/faculty member (if homeschooled, a parent letter is allowed).
- In addition, you may include one or two additional letters, no more than two pages in length from local community members who have special knowledge of the candidate's abilities/accomplishments.
- **Completed Entry Form** — submitted to a local VFW Post. Local Posts can be identified by zip code at www.vfw.org/find-a-post.

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>DECEMBER '19</u>	
7	Chesapeake Christmas Parade / Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
7-8	Battle of Great Bridge Reenactment
11	Post Meeting/ Christmas Party, 1900
14	Wreaths Across America, Suffolk, 0900
16	Auxiliary Christmas Party, 1400-?
21	Winter Begins
22	Start of Hanukkah
24/25	Christmas Eve/Christmas
31	New Year's Eve

<u>JANUARY '20</u>	
1	New Year's Day
8	Post Meeting, 1900 (Quarterly Audit)
9	Sinsil 8 Anniversary (2008)
10-12	VFW Dept of VA Winter Council, Portsmouth
20	Martin Luther King Day

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



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

Place
Stamp
Here



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED