

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 233



Email: cdrpost2894@vfwva.org

Visit us on Facebook

POST OFFICERS

Commander..... Chris Mulholland
Sr. Vice Commander..... José Vazquez
Jr. Vice Commander..... Bob Gregory
Adjutant..... Matt Hostetlar
Quartermaster..... Mike Kust
Chaplain..... Andrew McMenamin
Surgeon..... Dave 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

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2



POST WINS ALL-STATE AGAIN – AND MORE!!

Through everyone's efforts the Post has once again been named an ALL-STATE POST!!! That is our fifth straight title in a row!



We also won the Richard A. Guager Americanism Award – named for a Past State Commander (1856-57)

for our outstanding Americanism activities.

And we won the William T. "Bill" Allen Hospital Award – named after a Past State Commander (1974-75) – that recognizes our work in supporting veterans and their families when sick.

Thanks to all of you who do the little things every day in our community! Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU!!!! And congratulations to everyone!

MICKEY TURNS 102!!!

The "senior" member of our Post – William "Mickey" Casady – turned 102 on May 3rd! Unfortunately, because of the Wuhan virus and his wife, Shirley, had injured herself, we weren't able to celebrate with him in person. However, we WILL be making it up to him at a later date!

Mickey is the oldest crewmember and plankholder of the USS IOWA (BB-61). He was born on May 3rd, 1918, in Pierce, Washington, when World War I was just entering its final phases and American troops were beginning to turn the tide of battle in Northern France.

After graduating from high school, Mickey enlisted in the Navy in 1937

but needed a request from his state senator for a height waiver before he could join – he was 3/4 inch short of



the 5' 4" minimum height requirement. He served for, "Twenty-two years, two months and 10 days."

During his stellar career he served in both WWII and the Korean War on a total of 10 ships! In 1940-'41 he was stationed aboard the USS Ranger (CV-4), the first "built from the keel" aircraft carrier in the US Navy. He spent the first part of WWII in the Atlantic hunting German submarines off the East Coast.

After earning his Electrician's Mate (EM) rating in '42, he was assigned to the USS Iowa (BB- 61) in 1943 as part of the commissioning crew. He would later also become a plankholder for the USS Basilan (AG-68) in 1944.

When Japan finally surrendered on August 11th, 1945, Mickey was aboard the USS Hopewell (DD-681) in the western Pacific. By the end of WWII he had served in all three naval areas of operation: the Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the Pacific.

In 1946, he was stationed on the USS Appalachian (AGC-61) and was off the Bikini Atoll during the testing of the atomic bomb.

When the Korean War broke out he was assigned to the USS Valley Forge (CVA-45). Mickey retired on May 1, 1959 as an Interior Communications Electrician Chief (ICC).



Shirley Jobs in church. She recalls that, "He was grieving himself to death." Mickey said that his time as a widower had been "rough" – it was important for him to have someone in love so in December 1995 – exactly one year after their first date – they were married.

He and Shirley have attended a number of reunions of the USS IOWA Veterans Association – including several aboard the actual battleship, now anchored in Los Angeles harbor. When he hasn't been able to attend in person, they have Skyped him in so that he could participate from a distance.

In 2015, Mickey joined VFW Post 2894 in his hometown of Chesapeake, Virginia. In 2017 – even though the Post was paying for his annual membership – he bought his own life-membership!

Mickey is also one of the few people left around who can claim to have spent a night at a club with Babe Ruth. However, he says that the happiness he has found has been his proudest achievement. "Happiness means a lot. God kept me happy; he kept me not wanting to die."

Happy 102nd Birthday, Mickey!

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Post 2894 was one of the first posts in Virginia to hold a "virtual" post meeting via video-conferencing. The April 8th meeting also happened to be our election for the new officers for the 2020-'21 fraternal year so we conducted that "virtually" as well, using Survey Monkey. The new officers are listed in the box to the left.

Congratulations to our officers!

As everyone is aware this has been a very different type of spring than one we have ever experienced. Due to the government restrictions, we had to cancel our largest event of the year, the Bataan Death March which contributed the most to our revenue for donations to needy veterans and their families. We also have had to cancel our Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Drive where we typically collected over \$3,000 for our charity fund. With the accompanying economic slow-down on local businesses and family budgets, the coming year looks to be a lean one for our Post's philanthropic activities.

I do want to recognize all those who spent countless hours planning and coordinating the BDM despite it being cancelled at the last moment. In particular I want to thank Matt and Grace Schweers, Ann Jones, José Vazquez, Brad and Becky Waters, Bob Gregory, John Guill, and Ken Belkofer. Thanks for all that you did behind the scenes.

As we were all taught in the Service: **IMPROVISE, ADAPT AND OVERCOME!** We shall get over this and



Mickey Casady (right) poses with Babe Ruth (Photo courtesy Mickey Casady)

Teaching young sailors was Mickey's favorite assignment in the Navy. He taught interior communications (IC) classes all over the U.S. including Washington DC and Miami. On May 1st, 1959 Mickey retired from service as an Interior Communications Electrician Chief (ICC).

After his retirement, he served 13 years as an aircraft electrician mechanics instructor at Norfolk Air Station,

eventually retiring from civil service in 1975.

While stationed in Norfolk during the early 40's, he met and then married Almira Ballance, a local girl from Knott's Island, North Carolina. They were married for 51 years before her death in 1993. A year later, he met

come out stronger at the other end! *We have set up a GoFundMe page in lieu of our Poppy Drive – please share far and wide* so that we can collect the funding we need to help needy veterans and their families.

Already, we are on the way to maintaining our active and busy Post. Our Post membership is at almost 110%, we are 3rd in the State and within the top 48 worldwide! We were just recognized as an All State Post – for the fifth time in a row!

The State convention will be reduced in size and scope and has been moved from Portsmouth in May to June 27th in Mechanicsville. I expect we will receive more honors then. In addition, the National Convention scheduled for Reno, Nevada in July was cancelled but we are hopefully on track to repeat recognition as an All-American Post for the 5th year in a row as well.

We also had to cancel our Annual Awards Ceremony but that hasn't stopped us from recognizing a number of local citizens in the community. You can read about their accomplishments later in this newsletter.

The annual South Norfolk Independence Day Parade has been canceled so we'll have to wait till next year.

I want to thank the officers of this past year and welcome the new ones for the coming year. Our installation ceremony will be conducted at our next post meeting – hopefully in person! – on June 10th. Come and wish the “new crew” good luck!

“Summer is coming” All that means is that the planning for our upcoming fraternal year is in full swing! The new year starts on July 1st, and – six weeks later – is our night with the Tidewater Tides.



If you know of anyone who is eligible for the VFW and would like to give back to the community while helping veterans, please encourage them to consider joining our Post.

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

Chris Mulholland, Commander

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from the Auxiliary. We hope everyone is doing well and staying Safe.

We held our election in April and installed the Officers that were present at our meeting in May. The following is a list of the Officers for the next year. President – Sandy Dunbar, Sr. Vice President – Christina Zinn, Jr. Vice President – Bea Oakley, Secretary – Barbara Mulholland, Treasurer – Donna Kust, Chaplain – Dianne Hostetlar, Conductress – Anne Thompson, Guard – Jean

Dozier, Trustee 3 Year – Grace Schweers, Trustee 2 Year – Jacki Conway, Trustee 1 Year – Anne Thompson, Patriotic Instructor – Kevin Mulholland. We are always looking for new members and members willing to hold an office. New members bring new ideas.



District 2 Meeting will be June 20th at Post 4809. Lunch will be at 12:00 and the Meeting will start at 1:00.

Due to the Virus, the Department convention will be June 27th and most of us will be attending by phone or computer.

More information will be provided later.

The Auxiliary Members are making masks to help a Boy Scout with his Eagle Scout Project. Grace Schweers will be mailing the masks the first week in June.



We are looking forward to meeting together again, in the meantime Stay Safe!

Sandy Dunbar, President

2020 POST AWARDS!

Due to the Wuhan virus, our Post's Annual Awards Ceremony for May 13th was cancelled. We sent out congratulatory letters to the winners with their prize money and will be presenting them with their appropriate plaques, medals, or trophies individually after the lock-down is lifted.

Here are our winners and what they each accomplished:

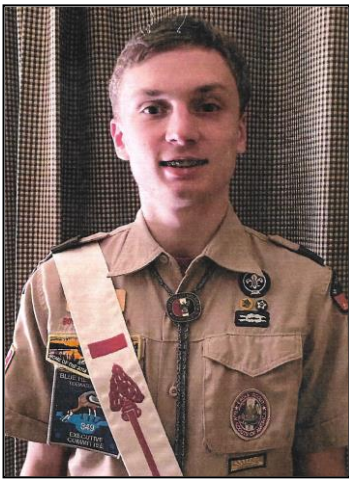
The **Voice of Democracy Award** is VFW's premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 40,000 high school students compete for more than 2.2 million dollars in scholarships and incentives. These scholarships range up to a national first place prize of \$30,000. This year, the Department of Virginia raised their prizes to match National's which meant that the first prize winner receives \$10,000, second wins \$5,000, and third prize is \$3,500! The VFW established the program in 1947 to provide high school students the 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: “*What Makes America Great.*” We had three wonderful entries. The winner of this year's Voice of Democracy contest for Post 2894 is Haydn Miller, a senior at Grassfield High School. Here is what he expressed in his spoken and written essay, “So, what makes America great? Freedom. There are various freedoms that every American has, such as the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom to keep and bear arms, and so many more. Many Americans have freedoms that they didn't even know they had. This principle is the basis of all actions in our society. We must

feel safe and protected along our borders. We must feel safe that our opinions will be valued, and we won't be jailed for our words. We must feel safe that we can stroll along to church without being put in handcuffs, which has raised problems in other areas of the world. America is different. Freedom is what makes individuals great, with that greatness we, the people, make America great." With patriotism like this, Haydn was enthusiastically awarded our Post's Voice of Democracy award. Honorable mentions go to Angelie E. Miranda, a senior at GFHS, and Robert W. Huffman, a senior at Princess Anne HS. Next year's contest is titled, "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?"

Unfortunately, we did not receive any entries for the Patriot's Pen contest. The state increased the prizes for this award as well to \$2,500, \$2,000, and \$1,500 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Please get the word out for next year's contest which is titled, "What is Patriotism to Me?" We also did not have any entries for the Patriotic Artist Award which is presented by the VFW Auxiliary. If you know of an aspiring young artist, please let them know about this opportunity.

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 Noah Boucher, an Eagle Scout with Boy Scout Troop 303,



and a senior at Grassfield HS. Noah is an incredibly intelligent young man – as a high school student he interned with the Jefferson Lab in Newport News, a nuclear research facility! One of his grandfathers retired from the US Navy while the other served in Korea with the US Army. Noah is an incredibly successful and driven young man, having attained high scholastic honors with a 4.07 GPA on a weighted 4.0 scale, exhibited innate leadership positions in every organization he was involved with, and uninhibitedly and proudly demonstrated his loyalty and patriotism in public. He earned all three Palm awards, Bronze, Silver and Gold, for Eagle Scout and his extraordinary leadership skills were recognized through his selection to the Order of the Arrow. Noah's Eagle Scout project consisted of installing over 700 linear feet of chain link fencing to finish enclosing the St. Matthew's Catholic

School playground and athletic fields. He single-handedly raised over \$3,700 and organized 60 volunteers who donated 484 volunteer hours. This fall, he will be attending college to study Electrical Engineering and he plans on eventually obtaining a PhD in the field. He has been accepted to several universities and is still waiting on responses from several more. We can see him as a future nuclear engineer! Honorable mention goes to Laney Bonner, Girl Scout with Troop 411 and a sophomore at Great Bridge HS.

This year, the VFW changed the requirement for a Post to achieve All-American status by having them nominate not just one Teacher of the Year but three! One each from each of the three categories – elementary, middle, and high school. Because we are lucky enough to have a great school system in Chesapeake, we were able to meet that requirement. 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 Teachers of the Year did – teaching them what it means to be free American citizens 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 traits of private and public character that undergird a constitutional democracy.

Ms. Kaileigh Matthews of Kids Heart Christian School is our **Elementary School Teacher of the Year** award winner. A graduate of Great Bridge HS and this spring from Regent University, Kaileigh is a dedicated young woman who cares deeply about her children. She is dedicated to her country, to her God and to her family. She has just been accepted for



a graduate degree at Regent and will be continuing her education in Counseling and clinical Psychology.

Mrs. Virginia "Ginny" Corbett of Hugo A. Owens Middle School is our **Middle School Teacher of the Year** award winner. Ginny is in her 21st year of teaching who places high expectations on her students. Mrs. Corbett motivates her students through a variety of interactive

activities which teach the life skills of collaboration, communication, critical and creative thinking through the use of technology, manipulatives, and art of music activities. She engages her students in all aspects of Civics: including the historical documents leading to the Declaration of Independence, to the Constitution and its Amendments. Mrs. Corbett stress the importance of Citizenship, its rights and responsibilities and the positive character traits of citizens through simulations and the Positive Behavior Intervention and Structures employed by the school system to teach and reward the behaviors of exemplary citizens. Among the civic duties she discusses is the military draft and she has the class propose a Bill to include women in the draft and debating if the draft is completely necessary in today's times. Mrs. Corbett routinely has students create their own political parties allowing them to produce platforms using current events and teaches citizenship through the reinforcement of respecting ideas that are different from others. Mrs. Corbett is engaged in the Military Child Club, sponsored by the Guidance Department, which Supports students who have parents serving in the military. Mrs. Corbett brings her subject to life and believes it is her duty to instill pride and love for one's country, one child at a time.

Mrs. Lee Mongold of Grassfield is our **High School Teacher of the Year**. Lee played a very important part in bringing back to life the memory of the Cornland Schoolhouse, a historic black-only school in southern Chesapeake. She had her students interview former attendees of the schoolhouse so as to capture the history and memories of this significant landmark. Two other factors made Lee's nomination for Teacher of the Year more meaningful: she is the daughter of a US Navy



veteran so she understands the sacrifices that military families make to support their loved ones overseas and the role of America around the world; and she is also heavily involved in Grassfield HS's Field of Valor which honors servicemen and women. Small American flags are sponsored in the name of a servicemember or veteran and then placed in a "field of valor" in front of the high school, next to a memorial to a Gold Star graduate of Grassfield. All of the proceeds are donated to VFW Post 2894 to help us in our mission of "honoring the fallen by helping the living." Lee is dedicated to her students, encouraging them to pay attention to local and national elections and issues. In addition to winning our Post award, Lee also won District 2 and the Department of Virginia's awards and was in the running for a national award!

This year, we had the most Public Servant Awards we have ever had! Six! Each will be presented with a commemorative plaque at their respective headquarters.

Lieutenant Waitzel Kelley of the Chesapeake Fire Department is our **Emergency Medical Technician of the Year** – for the second time! He won the same award in 2017. Waitzel became a member of the CFD in June 2007 as a firefighter. In 2014, he obtained Paramedic certification



and immediately became an asset as an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Provider. He is the recipient of several letters of recognition and commendations for responsive and lifesaving actions – including seven(!) Life Saved Awards. In September of 2017, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. One month later, Lt. Kelley was named CFD's Field Medical Officer,

assisting the Battalion Chief in District operations and medical oversight in the Battalion. The issue of Paramedic retention and recruitment was identified as a weak spot in the department. Chesapeake is competing for skilled and knowledgeable advanced medical providers from the same pool of providers. There is a nationwide shortage of Paramedics throughout fire departments. CFD put together a working group to seek out ways to recruit and retain paramedics and named Lt. Kelley as the chair of the ALS Focus Group. Under his leadership, the group formulated several innovative recommendations and presented them to the Chief's Staff. Lt. Kelley's supervising Battalion Chief stated, "This is a passionate, young officer who I feel cares deeply about this problem and strives to find solutions rather than sit idle and complain. I witnessed first-hand the dedication, passion, and sincere desire to make true and honest suggestions to improve the over-all paramedic issue. He truly put forth honest, reasonable, achievable, and unbiased recommendations to improve the CFD." Waitzel was also named the Department's EMT of the Year for 2020.

Our **Firefighter of the Year** is Firefighter/EMT Timothy Livingston. Tim has gotten the fine reputation of being an exceptional leader within the Chesapeake Fire Department.

During the last year, he was the Acting Lieutenant during the response to three large fires. In each case Tim's clear-headed initial actions led to operations as smooth as if a seasoned Officer were there making decisions. Tim treats everyone with a genuine willingness to make that person better. Tim is eager to share his knowledge with his crew. He always works to the best of his ability going above and beyond. On top of spending time training with his crew, Tim finished an Associate degree in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University and continues to take as many classes



as he can to better himself. Tim has a busy life outside of the fire department, but if a brother or sister needs him, he is there. Tim is a talented mechanic and regularly shares this talent with members by fixing everything from cars to air conditioning units. Tim has readily accepted the role of "informal leader." Fellow firefighters look to Tim because of his willingness to help, his positive attitude, and his dedication.

For the second year in a row, we have a **State Trooper of the Year** Award. Special Agent Accountant Austin Pittman is assigned to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in the



Chesapeake Field Office. He was born into an Air Force family at RAF Mildenhall, England and was stationed all over the world before settling down in Yorktown. He is an alumnus of Longwood College with a degree in accounting. He joined the Virginia State Police in 2004 and is also a certified canine Trooper with

his German Shephard partner "Haro". He was promoted to Special Agent in January 2014 and assigned to Chesapeake. Austin is also a member of the agency's Officer-Involved Shooting Team, investigation incidents where firearms have been used by a member of the force. He is one of less than 20 Special Agents across Virginia with a license as a Certified Fraud Examiner. Since his arrival in Chesapeake, he has made over 75 arrests related to financial crime and is currently investigating an embezzlement case involving more than \$60,000 worth of goods and merchandise.

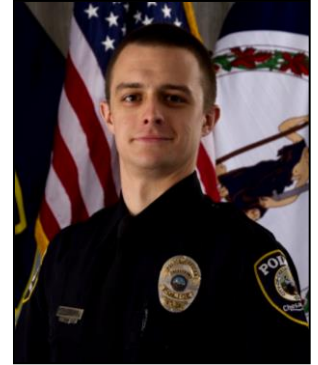
For the first time ever, we have two **Deputy Sheriffs of the Year**; Deputy Quitez Burke and Deputy Ronald Hastings Jr. They both won Medals of Valor and the Sheriff

Department's co-Deputies of the Year for an extraordinary incident last year. While driving home on I-64 from West Virginia in November, in heavy fog and icy roads, the two deputies came across a multiple vehicle accident at the Augusta and Nelson County line in the Afton Mountains. The driver of a tractor-trailer headed east had lost control and overturned it across the road. A chartered tour bus traveling behind him was unable to avoid the truck and hit it, splitting it in half. The bus then ran off the right side of the highway and came to rest against the guardrail. It was carrying more than 20 elderly passengers who were on their way from Charlottesville to West Virginia. Deputies Burke and Hastings secured the scene, helped evacuate the tour bus, and freed the driver of the 18-wheeler who was pinned in the cab of his vehicle. There were at least seven other minor crashes in the eastbound lanes of I-64 immediately following the initial crash. Luckily, none of these involved



any injuries. The accident closed all lanes of the highway for several hours. The tractor-trailer driver was taken to UVA Medical Center in Charlottesville for treatment of serious, but non-life-threatening, injuries. The bus passengers' injuries ranged from serious to minor.

Our **Police Officer of the Year** is Officer Daniel Taylor of the Chesapeake Police Dept. Officer Taylor is a native Chesapean, born and raised. He began his career in law enforcement in 2007 in Elizabeth City, NC and, in 2009, earned a position with their SWAT Team. In 2010 he decided it was time to return to Chesapeake and applied for the CPD. After graduating from the academy in 2010 he began serving with the uniform patrol. In 2014 Officer Taylor joined CPD's SWAT Team, while still working uniform patrol. In 2016 he joined the department's street crime unit. Officer Taylor recently returned back to uniform patrol and works in the Western Branch area. He has received numerous awards from the department including multiple team work awards and outstanding performer awards. He has also earned the department's award for illegal drug enforcement and the Chief's Award of Excellence. When Officer Taylor is not at work he spends his free time with his wife and children. His passion outside of work and family is the study and protection of venomous and non-venomous snakes.



Two years ago, we were approached by Hampton Roads Composite Squadron 141 of the **Civil Air Patrol** (CAP) for recognition of their Cadet Officer and Cadet NCO of the Year. The Civil Air Patrol is a congressionally chartered, federally supported, civilian auxiliary of the United States

Air Force. It performs three congressionally assigned key missions: emergency services, which includes search and rescue and disaster relief operations; aerospace education for youth and the general public; and cadet programs for teenage youth.



Membership in the organization consists of cadets ranging from 12 to 21 years of age, and senior members 18 years and older. Civil Air Patrol is a major operator of single-engine general aviation aircraft, including orientation flights for cadets and the provision of significant emergency services. Because of these extensive flying opportunities, many Civil Air Patrol members become licensed pilots. The Post presented Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Jonathen Loxley with the VFW C/NCO of the Year medal. Jonathen has been with CAP for little more than year but has been promoted quickly due to his eager acceptance

of increasing responsibilities. He has dedicated himself to working with cadet and senior member leadership as well as mentoring junior cadets. His high morals, trustworthiness and military conduct have been of a high order, worthy of emulation by his squadron. The Post also presented Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Aaron Hawkins with the VFW C/OFF of the Year medal. Aaron displays outstanding dedication to mentoring and improving the cadets in his squadron. He has demonstrated remarkable growth while serving in various leadership roles within the squadron and personifies all the qualities that the CAP cadet program seeks to inspire in its cadets.

The Post is also awarding VFW medals to JROTC members in Chesapeake's high schools. We award two outstanding cadets, one male and one female, at each of the six high schools. The award recognizes the achievements of the AFJROTC cadets and fosters their morale and *esprit de corps*. Typically, we present the awards at an event hosted at one of the high schools, but this year, we will give the medals to the lead instructor at their respective schools. Here are the awardees:



- Deep Creek: Anouk Velez-Castillo and Todd Parks
- Grassfield: Ndemia Ekong and Nicholas Bravo
- Great Bridge: Brianna Marsh and Howard Link
- Indian River: Brandon Ennis and Mikaela Casey
- Oscar Smith: Niaimy Delacruz and James Green
- Western Branch: did not nominate anyone

We also have some **special awards** that we will be

presenting at a later date: we have plaques for several local businesses who provided wonderful support to disabled veterans. The first is Josh Reed of Window World of Tidewater. Josh provided over \$4,000 worth of



Dusty Shaw (right) with one of his employees while installing duct work

labor and material to replace a leaky window for a disabled Korean War veteran. The window was located high above in a foyer and leaked like a sieve whenever it rained. Josh's employees removed the old window, tore out and replaced the framing, and installed a brand-new window.

The next two awards go to Scott Conyers of All Conyers Heating and Air Conditioning and Dusty Shaw of Aire Serv of Great Bridge. These two great Americans replaced the HVAC system and all the duct work for a disabled WWII veteran and his wife. Between the two of them, they donated over \$10,000 worth of labor and material.

Another special award is going to a special young lad named Charlie Hecht. Charlie just turned 15 and made the

national news last year for his effort to ensure that every home in his neighborhood of Los Gaviotas was decorated with an American flag for the Fourth of July. Charlie's dad is an active duty Navy officer and Charlie was disappointed to see that numerous homes did not fly the colors so he made it his mission to make it happen. He and his dad approached Lowes for donations and then he went around door to door, talking to his neighbors and providing them with flags for their yards and homes. "I think 99% of the houses have American flags on them now. It's amazing," Charlie said. "It feels really good, honestly, to know I've done something in my neighborhood for the better cause."



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR HONOREES!

OTHER POST NEWS

- **Post Helps Elderly Disabled Vet and Wife.** Our Post Service Officer, Jim Ireland, has been helping out an 80 year old veteran who is not in good health and whose



Back row (L to R): 80 year old vet, Carl Dozier & John Peterson. Front: Jim Ireland, José Vazquez, & Ron Mayfield. Not pictured are Matt Schweers, plus Carl's grandsons Sean & John.

wife is paralyzed from the waist down. She is in a wheelchair and he is her caregiver. They have been unable to keep up the yard work around their home. A social worker attended one of our Health Fairs for Veterans and called Jim requesting help for the couple. A couple of Post members trimmed trees and cleaned up his yard in the fall of 2019. The veteran called again this spring requesting help with spreading mulch, trimming bushes, mowing and edging. Five Post members along with two nephews of our Post's namesake, SSG Dozier, spent a morning doing all the things requested by the veteran. The veteran and his wife were extremely grateful

and referred to the members as "Saints", and were grateful for the "awesome job." José Vazquez told the vet that 'we take care of one another as veterans.' The veteran responded with a huge smile and said, "Yes, we do! You all are great, you serve our country while in Service and you are still serving. I think it is wonderful and you are all appreciated."

• **Post Comrade Retired and Is Now a "Doctor"!** Lieutenant Colonel Ted Roberts officially retired from the US Air Force on May 7th after 31 years in uniform! The following day, he graduated from Regent University with Doctorate in Strategic Leadership (DSL). The following day, Ted wrote: "I was deeply honored to find out yesterday that the Dean, Dr. Doris Gomez, the DSL



Ruth and "Doctor" Ted Roberts, Lt Col, USAF (ret)

Program Director, Dr. Kathleen Patterson, and the Faculty recognized me as the Outstanding Graduate for 2020 from the DSL Program. It's been a tremendous journey made possible by the support of my wife, Ruth, and children, Nyla, Alina, and Blake who put up with my many late nights and many weekends spent going to the Chesapeake Public Library to use their study rooms over the last 4 years. I also give God the glory and thank Him for the inspiration and strength to persevere. I know I am far better prepared to serve as a Christian Leader called to change the world." Congratulations Ted! And a well-done Bravo Zulu!

• **Post Donates to Crew of USS BATAAN.** In response to an article in the Virginia Pilot, the Post made a direct contribution of \$220 to a fundraiser to help raise the morale of the sailors of the USS Bataan currently deployed overseas. It must be particularly difficult for the young sailors to be deployed overseas while hearing of all the stresses their families are going through back home. We are looking forward to welcoming them home when they return in a couple of months.

• **Post Commander Honored a Montford Point Marine.** The post received an email from Mr. Curt Clarke of the Tidewater Chapter, Montford Point Marines, informing us about the burial of one of their members at Horton Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk on May 15th. Mr.

LeRoy Willie Cason was born on January 2, 1922 in Norfolk, Virginia. On Thursday, April 23, 2020, LeRoy died in District Heights, Maryland. LeRoy married his bride of 72 years, Celestine Bond in 1944. They had one child, Cynthia. In 1943 he enlisted into the US Marine Corps, becoming one of the first Blacks to join the Marines and trained at Montford Point, North Carolina. Corporal Cason helped form the Montford Point Marines Association and served as President for Tidewater Chapter 14. After moving to Maryland, he became a member of the District of Columbia Chapter 6. LeRoy retired from the Post Office with over 30 years of service. An avid bowler, Cason won many tournaments. He always said "Lefties are the best bowlers". He would continue to bowl into his Nineties. He was an all-around handy man. He built the house (and often remodeled it - inside and out) that he and his family lived in for more than 50 years. He was a blessing to others by using his handy man skills to offer assistance where and when needed. LeRoy Cason (affectionately known as Shorty by his family) will be truly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.



Chris Mulholland was on-hand as Mr. Cason's casket arrived from Maryland and rendered honors with a final salute as he was lowered into the ground. Montford Point Marines are legends within the Corps similar to the Tuskegee Airman. The opportunity for African-Americans to enlist and serve came in 1942 as the Corps began to recruit qualified African-Americans. The men who enlisted in response completed recruit training during a time and place where racism and segregation were a part of everyday life. Between 1942 and 1949, approximately 20,000 African-American men completed recruit training and became known as the "Montford Point Marines." Despite the challenges presented to them, their valor and performance at Peleliu, Iwo Jima, the Chosen Reservoir, Vietnam, and more, paved the way for our present integrated armed forces.

• **Another Post Member Retires!** Eddie Dubois, CWO5, US Marine Corps, recently retired in a ceremony in Quantico and accepted the position of Senior Military Instructor (SMI) for the MCJROTC program at West Allegheny High School in upstate New York where he's originally from. He plans to join a VFW Post there when he eventually settles in but plans to stay in touch with us. Congratulations and good luck, Ed!



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

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS

All of us are contributing to our community in many different ways. Some are Scout leaders, others active participants in church activities; some are coaches, others board members. You've attended funerals for veterans; visited them in hospitals, brought them meals, etc. etc. All of these activities are reportable as community activities by Post members. The VFW Department of Virginia has an on-line reporting system (<http://va.vfwportal.net/public/index.php>, password is "post2894") where you can add the entries yourself. If you're uncomfortable doing that, drop me an email telling me what you've done and I'll make the entries myself. Chris Mulholland

CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE

A Prayer for Memorial Day: Remembering Those Who Have Fought for Our Freedom

by Debbie McDaniel

“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

Freedom is a gift, it's a treasure. And though we all may agree on that truth, it's often easy to take for granted the greatest gifts that God has given us in our lives.

But those most precious gifts are never free. They came with a price. With sacrifice. They were worth fighting for. And are still worth fighting for today. Many brave men and women were willing to face hard battles in order for us to enjoy that gift of freedom today.

For all those who have protected our nation, for the men and women in uniform, together, we say “Thank You.”

We take time to remember today, and say a prayer of gratefulness for the many who have been willing to pay a

great price for our freedom. May God help us to live so courageously, may we follow the brave examples of those who have gone before us...

Thank you for reminding us that there's incredible love and sacrifice displayed when one is willing to stand strong and fight for freedom.

This service of love and sacrifice on behalf of all people, points us directly to the greatest love of all, the very gift and sacrifice of Christ.

Our Savior was willing to pay the ultimate price, so that we can live free. Forever.

May God bless America, and all of those who have sacrificed so greatly for our freedom, and faithfully served our nation!

+ 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)

✚ SAFETY CORNER ✚ JULY IS NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH

As the weather warms up, pools are preparing to open and crowds are gearing up to head to the beach. National Water Safety Month is the perfect time to ensure you and your family are prepared to spend a fun, safe day by the water. And the American Red Cross can help!

Swimming is the most popular summer activity. While the best thing you can do to help your family stay safe is to enroll in age-appropriate swim lessons, it is also important to

Make Water Safety Your Priority

- Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.
- Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone. Even at a public pool or a lifeguarded beach, use the buddy system!
- Ensure that everyone in the family learns to swim well. Enroll in age-appropriate Red Cross water orientation and Learn-to-Swim courses.
- ***Never leave a young child unattended near water*** and do not trust a child's life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
- Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.
- Establish rules for your family and enforce them without fail. For example, set limits based on each person's ability, do not let anyone play around drains and suction fittings, and do not allow swimmers to hyperventilate before swimming under water or have breath-holding contests.
- Even if you do not plan on swimming, be cautious around natural bodies of water including ocean shoreline, rivers and lakes. Cold temperatures, currents and underwater hazards can make a fall into these bodies of water dangerous.
- If you go boating, wear a life jacket! Most boating fatalities occur from drowning.
- Avoid alcohol use. Alcohol impairs judgment, balance and coordination; affects swimming and diving skills; and reduces the body's ability to stay warm.

Prevent Unsupervised Access to the Water

- Install and use barriers around your home pool or hot tub. Safety covers and pool alarms should be added as additional layers of protection.
- Ensure that pool barriers enclose the entire pool area, are at least 4-foot high with gates that are self-closing, self-latching and open outward, and away from the pool. The latch should be high enough to be out of a small child's reach.
- If you have an above-ground or inflatable pool, remove access ladders and secure the safety cover whenever the pool is not in use.
- Remove any structures that provide access to the pool, such as outdoor furniture, climbable trees, decorative walls and playground equipment.
- Keep toys that are not in use away from the pool and out of sight. Toys can attract young children to the pool.

Maintain Constant Supervision

- Actively supervise kids whenever around the water—even if lifeguards are present. Do not just drop your kids off at the public pool or leave them at the beach—designate a responsible adult to supervise.
- Always stay within arm's reach of young children and avoid distractions when supervising children around water.

Know What to Do in an Emergency. If a child is missing, check the water first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.

- Know how and when to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.
- If you own a home pool or hot tub, have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment, a cell phone, life jackets and a first aid kit.
- Enroll in Red Cross home pool safety, water safety, first aid and CPR/AED courses to learn how to prevent and respond to emergencies.

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

The National Home Helpline is the gateway to help for military and veterans’ families, providing connections with supportive services and resources in communities all across the nation as well as referrals to our on-campus programs. And our war heroes can take comfort in knowing that their call will be answered by a caring professional who understands the unique challenges faced by today’s military and veterans’ families.

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

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

QUARTERMASTER DESK

Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$30.

Annual dues can be paid via mail (see our 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.

WWII HEADLINES: JUN-JUL 1945

- **Germans lack food and shelter:** When not playing, children searched for food to escape hunger. "There were G.I. mess halls," remembered American private George Stone,

"where at the garbage pails where you scraped off your mess kit or plate, there were small children 3-4-5 years old with a little can or pail begging for the scrapings to take home to feed the family." The situation did not improve by that winter. "Thousands of shivering, tired Germans lugged their bundles of wood to cold, bombed houses," reported Time magazine in December 1945. "Hospitals were crowded. Because the patients were undernourished, many died."

- **The secret city of Oak Ridge, Tennessee:** A billboard at the top-secret Oak Ridge facility reminds workers of the need for silence. Located in a remote mountain area of central Tennessee, Oak Ridge was created in 1942 for work on the Manhattan Project. As headquarters for the entire atomic bomb project, Oak Ridge housed a graphite reactor and facilities for producing the fissionable uranium isotope 235. All the while, the government tried to keep the city secret. Though it grew to a population of 75,000, the city never appeared on any maps. Security was enhanced by geography, fences, armed guards, and a strict system of badges and passes.

- **The first atomic explosion is a test in the New Mexican desert:** On July 16, 1945, a plutonium-core nuclear bomb was raised to the top of a 65-foot-high steel tower in the New Mexican desert about 30 miles southeast of Socorro. The Trinity test began when the bomb, called "the gadget," was detonated on July 16 at 5:30 a.m. The scientists, watching 10 miles from the tower, had disagreed on what would happen following the detonation -- from nothing to the end of the world. Instead it caused an explosion that was about the equivalent of 19 kilotons of TNT. The flash it created brightened the surrounding mountains and emitted a mushroom cloud about eight miles high.

- **Harry Truman and Allied leaders attend the Potsdam Conference:** President Harry Truman had his first and only meeting with the other Allied leaders, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin, in Potsdam, Germany, from July 17 to August 2, 1945. Churchill left before the conference ended because his party had lost the British general election; he was replaced by Clement Attlee. The Potsdam agreements clarified major postwar issues for Germany and Poland. The Potsdam Declaration called for Japan to surrender unconditionally or face complete destruction.

- **Crew members killed by sharks after sinking of the Indianapolis:** Medical personnel tend to sailors from the USS *Indianapolis* who survived days in the water after the heavy cruiser was sunk by a Japanese submarine. *Indianapolis*, returning after delivering atomic bomb parts to Tinian, went down in 12 minutes on July 30, 1945. Though the ship was overdue at Leyte, no alert was issued. The survivors were accidentally spotted by a patrol aircraft on August 2. Of the 1,196 crew members, all but 317 died, many of them killed by sharks. In a remarkable miscarriage of justice, the Navy placed blame for the disaster on the ship's captain, Charles McVay, charging him with "failing to zig-zag."

- **President Harry Truman's approval for the atomic attacks:** A handwritten note by President Harry Truman approves the wording of a statement he plans to issue after the first atomic bomb is dropped on Japan. Sent in reply to a cable from Secretary of War Henry Stimson, the message reads, "Release [the statement] when ready but not sooner than

August 2." The Allies' demand for unconditional surrender, sent to Japan on July 26, 1945, was rejected. The U.S. had successfully tested an A-bomb in mid-July, so by the end of the month Truman knew that at least one of the two A-bombs that remained would be dropped on Japan, sooner rather than later.

- **Preparation for the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki:** The selection of potential atomic bomb targets began even before the Trinity test bomb was detonated near Alamogordo, New Mexico, on July 16, 1945. The Target Committee at Los Alamos recommended Hiroshima as a likely target as early as May. By late July, the list of potential targets included four cities: Hiroshima, Kokura, Kyoto, and Niigata. Kyoto was later dropped from the list due to its significance as a cultural center. Nagasaki took Kyoto's place. Hiroshima remained the primary target, followed by Kokura and Nagasaki. Each city had military facilities of some type. Hiroshima was a headquarters and logistics base; Kokura had a large munitions plant; Nagasaki had various arms factories. Of equal importance, these sprawling urban areas did not require precision bomb drops and would vividly demonstrate the destructiveness of the new weapons. Civilian casualties were not an issue. This was total war, and civilian populations were considered a legitimate target in the effort to break Japan's will to fight.
- **Colonel Paul Tibbets in charge of A-bomb drop:** The *Enola Gay* was the B-29 that carried the atomic bomb in the attack on Hiroshima. Colonel Paul Tibbets spent months organizing and training the 509th Composite Group to meet the unique challenges of dropping atomic bombs, all with no assurance that the mission would actually take place. The successful bomb test in New Mexico in July 1945, followed by Japan's rejection of a demand for unconditional surrender, prompted President Truman to authorize use of the bomb.
- **Heavy casualties on Okinawa, Japan:** U.S. Marines were assaulted near Wana Ridge on Okinawa. Despite heavy casualties, the American divisions continued to batter the enemy defenses, transforming the terrain into a moonscape. Japanese resistance continued as General Ushijima Mitsuru's best units were gradually annihilated. Shuri fell in late May, and by mid-June the Japanese 32nd Army began to collapse. Ushijima committed suicide on June 22, and Japan lost 110,000 men in the battle. American dead totaled 12,281, making Okinawa the most costly Allied operation of the Pacific war -- which did not bode well for the upcoming invasion of Japan.
- **Japan's rocket-powered weapon, the Ohka (Cherry Blossom):** U.S. Marines faced Japanese Ohka (Cherry Blossom) flying bomb at Okinawa's Yontan Airfield. Nicknamed "Baka" ("Fool") by the Allies, the rocket-propelled missile included a one-ton warhead. The weapon was designed to be launched from an aircraft and guided to its target -- usually a ship -- by a suicide pilot. The Ohka reached speeds of 650 mph in its rocket-assisted dive, making it virtually unstoppable on its final approach. Appearing late in the war, Ohkas are credited with sinking or damaging three ships beyond repair and significantly damaging three additional vessels.

JUNE MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1774 British close Port of Boston in punishment for "Tea Party"
- 1862 Battle of Seven Pines: Confederate Gen. Joe Johnston wounded, relinquishes command to Robert E. Lee
- 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor, Day 1
- 1866 Fenians attack Fort Erie, Ontario, from US soil
- 1871 US Sailors & Marines land in Korea, to protect U.S. citizens
- 1877 US troops authorized to pursue bandits & Indians into Mexico
- 1914 SecNav Josephus Daniels' G.O. 99 bars alcohol in fleet
- 1939 Director of Naval Research Laboratory, proposes research in atomic energy for use in subs
- 1944 Allied forces begin covering much of Britain with smoke screens, as troops crowd assembly areas for D-Day
- 2 Feast of St. Elmo, Patron of Sailors
- 1774 Parliament passes Quartering Act, billeting troops in private homes
- 1784 Congress disbands last elements of Continental Army, save for 100 troops guarding supplies at West Point and Ft. Pitt
- 1865 Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department surrenders to Union forces
- 1914 Glenn Curtiss flies his 'Langley Aerodrome'
- 3 1784 Congress creates US Army, forming 1st American Regt (now 3rd Infantry) on a cadre of 100 troops left over from Continental Army
- 1916 Congress establishes ROTC (based on Norwich Univ. program)
- 1959 First US Air Force Academy graduation
- 1965 First American "space walk", Maj. Edward White, Gemini 4
- 4 1789 Constitution of United States goes into effect
- 1918 US & French halt Germans at Chateau-Thierry
- 1942 Battle of Midway: Japanese lose four CVs, USS Yorktown badly damaged
- 1944 Allied forces liberate Rome
- 5 1917 US begins draft registration: 10 million eventually sign up
- 1944 First B-29 raid over Tokyo; one lost to engine failure
- 1947 SecState George C Marshall outlines "Marshall Plan"
- 1967 Six Day War begins between Israel & Arab neighbors
- 6 1898 Marines land at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- 1898 Action at Santiago, Cuba: US ships exchange fire with Spanish batteries
- 1918 US Marines secure Belleau Wood
- 1944 D-Day - www.strategypage.com/cic/docs/cic174b.asp#three
- 1944 Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., earns Medal of Honor on Utah Beach
- 1945 Okinawa: Marines capture Naha airfield
- 7 1775 "United Colonies" change name to "United States"
- 1912 US Army Air Service tests an airplane-mounted machine gun
- 1917 Liverpool: first American troops reach Europe
- 1942 Aleutians Campaign: Japanese troops land on Attu.
- 1942 Midway Campaign: 'Yorktown' (CV-5) sunk
- 8 1965 US troops ordered to fight offensively in Vietnam
- 1967 Israeli air and naval forces attack USS 'Liberty' (AGTR-5), 34 Americans die
- 9 1863 Battle of Brandy Station; largest cavalry fight of Civil War
- 1944 Normandy: U.S. VII & V Corps link up to form continuous beachhead
- 1945 Luzon: Sixth Army manages to isolate Japanese forces.
- 1945 Premier Kantaro Suzuki declares Japan will never surrender
- 1959 First ballistic missile sub launched, USS 'George Washington'

- (SSBN-598)
- 10 1776 Congress appoints committee to write a Declaration of Independence
- 1801 Tripoli declares war on US, for refusing to pay protection, initiating First Barbary War (1801-1805)
- 12 1987 Ronald Reagan says, "Mr. Gorbachov, tear down this wall."
- 1999 NATO peacekeeping forces begin operating in Kosovo, Yugoslavia
- 13 1900 Boxer Rebellion begins in China
- 1912 First successful parachute jump from airplane, Capt Albert Berry, Jefferson, Ms
- 14 1775 US Army formed from New England forces before Boston
- 1777 Congress replaces "Grand Union Flag" with "Stars & Stripes"
- 1777 John Paul Jones takes command of USS 'Ranger'
- 1942 Bazooka goes into production at Bridgeport, Ct
- 1949 State of Vietnam formed within 'French Union' under Emperor Bao Dai
- 1982 Falklands: Argentines surrender to Britain; 74-day war ends
- 1985 Lebanese Shiite gunmen hijack TWA 847 after takeoff from Athens
- 15 1776 Americans burn and abandon Montreal
- 1864 Battle of Petersburg: Grant's first assault
- 1864 Robert E Lee's home, Arlington, becomes military cemetery
- 1877 Henry O Flipper becomes first black cadet to graduate from West Point
- 1944 US Marines land on Saipan
- 1955 First nationwide civil defense drill - "Duck and Cover!"
- 1978 Soyuz 29 carries two cosmonauts to Salyut 6, to stay 139 days
- 1991 Mt Pinatubo, Philippines erupts, closes Clark Air Force Base
- 16 1858 Lincoln says "A house divided against itself cannot stand"
- 1864 Siege of Petersburg & Richmond begins
- 17 1745 American colonials capture Louisburg, Cape Breton I., from French
- 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill (Breeds' Hill)
- 1777 19 year old Marquis de La Fayette (Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier) & several other French volunteers for American Revolution land at Charleston
- 1898 Navy Hospital Corps ("Corpsmen") established
- 1916 Pershing leads Punitive Expedition into Mexico in unsuccessful attempt to kill Pancho Villa
- 1945 Final Japanese defensive line on Okinawa breached
- 1965 Vietnam: First B-52 raid, 50 km north of Saigon
- 1972 Watergate: Republican operatives break into Democratic Party offices at Watergate Hotel in Washington
- 18 1778 British evacuate Philadelphia
- 1812 US declares war against Britain
- 1878 Congress creates US Life Saving Service ("Coast Guard")
- 19 1778 Washington's troops leave Valley Forge
- 1878 Congress passes Posse Comitatus Act, to prevent military from enforcing civil rights laws
- 1944 "Marianas Turkey Shoot" - Battle of Philippine Sea: in 2 days Japanese lose 3 CVs, 426 a/c, US 70 a/c.
- 1967 Muhammad Ali convicted of refusing induction into Army
- 20 1675 Wampanoag Indians raid Swansea, Mass., initiating "King Philip's War" (1675-1676)
- 1782 Congress adopts Great Seal of United States
- 1813 War of 1812: US gunboats engage three British ships at Hampton Roads, VA
- 1867 US buys Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million
- 1941 US Army Air Corps is reorganized as Army Air Forces
- 1947 Cold War: Congress charters CIA
- 1963 Cold War: Washington-Moscow "hot line" established
- 21 1876 Gen Terry sends Custer's 7th Cav to scout Little Bighorn River
- 1948 Berlin Airlift begins
- 22 1938 Joe "Brown Bomber" Louis KO's Max "Hitler's Heavyweight" Schmeling at 2:04 into their rematch, in Yankee Stadium
- 1942 US introduces "V-Mail" for military personnel
- 1944 FDR signs "Servicemen's Readjustment Act", better known as "GI Bill of Rights"
- 1945 Okinawa secured: 110,000 Japanese troops, 100,000 civilians, 17,520 US troops died
- 23 1938 Congress establishes US Maritime Service
- 25 1864 Petersburg: Union troops begin a tunnel under Confederate lines
- 1876 Battle of Little Big Horn: Crazy Horse does in Custer
- 1942 Eisenhower takes command of US forces in Europe
- 1950 North Korea invades South Korea. claiming "self-defense"
- 1996 Dhahran, Saudi Arabia: Islamists bomb Khobar Towers, 19 Americans die, 500 Saudis & Americans injured
- 26 1917 First American combat troops arrive in France
- 1924 US Marines leave Dominican Republic, after 8 years of occupation
- 1963 Berlin: Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner" is wildly applauded
- 27 1927 USMC adopts "Sgt Jiggs," an English bulldog, as its mascot
- 1950 US sends 35 military advisers to South Vietnam
- 28 1948 Berlin Airlift begins
- 1965 President Johnson orders US ground forces to Vietnam
- 29 1863 Lee orders his forces to concentrate near Gettysburg
- 1945 Operation Olympic: Truman sets invasion of Japan for Nov 1st

JULY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 1: Lee wins, but Union troops fall back on very strong position
- 1864 Battle of Petersburg (to July 31)
- 1867 Dominion of Canada formed
- 1870 James W Smith becomes first black man to enter West Point
- 1918 Marines secure Belleau Wood
- 1950 First US ground troops arrive in Korea
- 2 1776 Continental Congress declares Thirteen Colonies independent
- 1777 Vermont abolishes slavery, first "state" to do so
- 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 2: A draw
- 1903 US leases Guantanamo Bay from Cuba for \$2,000 a year
- 1926 US Army Air Corps established and Congress authorizes Distinguished Flying Cross
- 1942 JCS authorize "Operation Watchtower," seizure of Guadalcanal
- 1957 'Seawolf' (SSN 575) completed, first sub with liquid metal cooled reactor
- 3 1754 Col. George Washington (22) surrenders Ft. Necessity to French
- 1775 George Washington assumes command of Patriot forces investing Boston
- 1863 Battle Gettysburg, Day 3: "Pickett's Charge" is shattered
- 1950 First US-North Korean clash: TF Smith overrun
- 1988 USS 'Vincennes' (CG-49) accidentally shoots down Iranian airliner, 290 die
- 4 1776 Independence Day: Two days after voting for independence, Continental Congress adopts formal "Declaration of Independence"
- 1777 John Paul Jones hoists Stars and Stripes on USS Ranger, Portsmouth, NH

- 1801 1st Presidential Review of Marine Band and Marines, at White House.
- 1802 US Military Academy opens at West Point
- 1818 Congress rules flag shall have 13 stripes and one star for each state
- 1832 Samuel Francis Smith's "America" sung in public for first time
- 1863 Vicksburg surrenders to US Grant
- 1942 First American bombing mission over Nazi-occupied Europe
- 1942 American Volunteer Group ("Flying Tigers") becomes 14th AF
- 1950 Carriers USS 'Valley Forge' (CV-45) & HMS 'Triumph' make first UN air strikes of Korean War
- 5** 1814 Battle of Chippewa: "Those are regulars, by God!"
- 1814 US Sloop-of-War 'Peacock' captures four British ships
- 1861 Skirmish at Newport News: US retakes Gosport Naval Base
- 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 5: Lee retreats
- 6** 1777 Burgoyne's British & Hessians capture Fort Ticonderoga
- 1785 Congress introduces dollar
- 1911 First naval air station established, Annapolis, MD
- 1976 Women admitted to US Naval Academy for first time
- 7** 1846 Commo John D. Sloat takes Monterey, claims California for US
- 1920 USN aircraft tests "radio compass", Norfolk, Va
- 1941 Iceland: US Marines relieve British forces so they can fight elsewhere
- 1944 Saipan: Japanese troops make final "banzai" charge
- 1944 US B-29s from China attack Japan.
- 1966 Marines initiate "Operation Hasting" - to clear NVA from DMZ
- 8** 1853 Commodore Perry sails frigate Susquehanna into Tokyo Bay
- 1865 C.E. Barnes receives US patent for machine gun
- 1945 TF38 arrives off Japan with 20 carriers; to stay until war is over
- 1950 Douglas MacArthur named CinC UN forces in Korea
- 9** 1755 Braddock's Defeat: Battle of Monongahela - Daniel Boone is wagon driver
- 1776 Declaration of Independence read to Washington's troops in NY, whereupon citizens pull down George III's statue to make musket balls
- 1918 Congress establishes Distinguished Service Cross
- 1944 US secures Saipan: 3,200 US, 27,000 Japanese KIA, & many civilian suicides
- 10** 1821 US takes possession of Florida from Spain
- 1943 Operation Husky: US & Commonwealth forces invade Sicily
- 1953 American troops abandon Pork Chop Hill, Korea
- 11** 1786 US pays Morocco \$10,000 to "protect" merchant ships from piracy
- 1798 Congress reactivates USMC, disbanded in 1784
- 1812 US invades Canada near Detroit
- 1919 US Navy Pay Corps becomes Supply Corps
- 1943 USN surface ships break German-Italian tank attack at Gela, Sicily
- 1955 USAF Academy opens with 300 cadets at Lowry AFB, CO
- 12** 1942 U-Boat lands four German saboteurs on Long Island, soon captured
- 14** 1813 Lt John M. Gamble, becomes only US Marine to command a ship, prize 'Greenwich'
- 1825 Lafayette reviews 2nd Bn, 11th NY Arty (7th NY), which adopts name "National Guard"
- 1900 "China Relief Expedition" captures Tientsin from Boxers
- 1959 First nuclear powered cruiser commissioned, USS 'Long Beach' (CGN 9)
- 1972 Vietnam: Jane Fonda makes first of 10 broadcasts on Radio Hanoi.
- 15** 1958 Marines land in Lebanon, to support government
- 16** 1861 Bull Run Campaign: Gen McDowell advances from Washington toward Fairfax Courthouse
- 17** 1927 USMC pilots conduct first combat dive bombing, Ocotol, Nicaragua.
- 18** 1863 54th Mass. leads gallant attempt to storm Fort Wagner, near Charleston
- 1914 US Army Air Service formed within Signal Corps
- 1944 US troops capture St. Lo, Normandy
- 19** 1812 1st Battle of Sackett's Harbor: Americans beat off British attack across Lake Erie
- 1886 'Atlanta' commissioned, first USN steel cruiser
- 1897 Lt Robert E. Peary departs on year-long Arctic Expedition
- 20** 1881 Sioux leader Sitting Bull surrenders to federal troops
- 1942 Congress creates Legion of Merit
- 1942 First WAACs begin basic training
- 1944 Marines land on Guam.
- 1948 US reinstitutes draft, for Cold War
- 21** 1823 Lt David G. Farragut leads raid to destroy pirate base in Cuba
- 1861 First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas: Confederate Victory
- 1930 Veterans' Administration established
- 1969 Neil Armstrong's "small step" on moon - 2:56:15 AM GMT
- 22** 1802 US Frigate 'Constellation' defeats 9 corsair gunboats off Tripoli
- 1905 Remains of John Paul Jones removed from Paris for transportation to Annapolis
- 1943 Patton captures Palermo
- 1987 USN begins escorting re-flagged Kuwaiti tankers in Persian Gulf
- 23** 1944 US forces land on Japanese-held Tinian from nearby Saipan
- 24** 1948 Soviets initiate blockade of Berlin
- 1969 Muhammad Ali convicted of refusing induction in US Army
- 25** 1866 David G. Farragut appointed first Admiral in US Navy
- 1866 US Grant is named first full general in US Army
- 1947 US Army, Navy, & Air Force subordinated to new DoD
- 26** 1948 Truman initiates integration of Armed Forces
- 27** 1909 Orville Wright demonstrates plane for Army, flying 72 minutes
- 1953 North Korea & UN sign armistice
- 1954 Armistice divides Vietnam in two
- 1995 Korean War Veterans Memorial dedicated in Washington
- 28** 1898 Skirmish at Ponce, Puerto Rico, which shortly surrenders to US
- 28** 1914 Austria-Hungary attacks Serbia, igniting WW I
- 1931 Congress makes "Star-Spangled Banner" national anthem
- 1932 Douglas MacArthur routs Bonus Army against orders
- 1945 Kamikaze sink their last ship, USS 'Callaghan' (DD-792), off Okinawa.
- 1945 US Army B-25 crashes into 79th floor of Empire State Bldg, 14 die
- 29** 1949 Berlin Airlift ends, as Soviets end blockade
- 1967 Fire aboard USS 'Forrestal' (CV-59), Gulf of Tonkin, 134 killed
- 30** 1864 Petersburg Campaign: Battle of Crater
- 1909 US Army accepts delivery of first military airplane
- 1942 WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) created
- 1945 USS 'Indianapolis' (CA-35) torpedoed & sunk; nearly 900 die over next 4 days
- 1966 US airplanes bomb demilitarized zone in Vietnam
- 31** 1777 Marquis de Lafayette becomes major-general in Continental Army
- 1813 British attack Plattsburgh, NY
- 1925 Last Allied occupation forces leave Rhineland

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@vfwva.org.

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 is via e-mail. If you prefer a 'hard-copy' via 'snail-mail' (a 'paper copy' via 'US Postal Service' for you old(er) farts!) please let know.

Semper fidelis, *Chris Mulholland*

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



NORFOLK TIDES
HARBOR PARK
15 August, 7:05 pm*
vs Rochester Red Wings
Followed by fireworks!
Navy Night

VFW POST 2894
"Night Out" with
Norfolk Tides

Tickets \$25 (normally \$35.25**) – includes Patio seating & BBQ – adult beverages are extra.
Contact cdrpost2894@vfwva.org for reservations by August 1st.

* Short Post Meeting on Party Patio at 1800
** Post pays difference

POST 2894 CALENDAR

JUNE	
5	First Day of Summer
6	D-Day Anniversary (1944)
10	Post Meeting, 1900 – Officer Install
14	Army “Birthday” (1775) – Flag Day
20	District 2 Convention – Post 4809 Norfolk (lunch 1200/mtg 1300)
21	Father’s Day
25	Start of Korean War (1950) / Khubar Towers bombing (1996)
27	Department Convention – Post 9808 Mechanicsville Rich Johnson awards – USMC Museum Korean War Armistice (1953)
30	End of VFW Fraternal Year

JULY	
1	Start of VFW Fraternal Year
3	Fireworks show, City Park
4	Independence Day
8	Post Meeting/Quarterly Audit, 1900
27	Anniversary of Korean Armistice (1953)
28	Anniversary of start of WWI (1914)

**OR YOUR AD
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PO Box 15842
Chesapeake, VA 23328



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