# **VFW OBJECTIVES:**

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



Post 2894

# Meetings

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



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   |                  |
| Adjutant             | Matt Hostetlar   |
| Quartermaster        | Mike Kust        |
| Chaplain Ki          |                  |
| Surgeon              | Dave Weber       |
| Staff Judge Advocate |                  |
| Service Officer      | Jim Ireland      |
|                      |                  |

# **AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

| President            | Sandy Dunbar       |
|----------------------|--------------------|
|                      | Christina Zinn     |
|                      | Bea Oakley         |
| Secretary            | Barbara Mulholland |
|                      | Donna Kust         |
| Chaplain             | Diane Hostetlar    |
| Conductress          | Anne Thompson      |
| Guard                | Jean Dozier        |
| Patriotic Instructor | Kevin Mulholland   |

NATIONAL

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STATE

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# 70 Years Ago: "The Miracle of Christmas"

by Chris Mulholland

# "The greatest rescue operation by a single ship in the history of mankind."

- U.S. Maritime Administration

On Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1950, US and South Korean troops had advanced to within 30 miles of the Chinese border and Manchuria. The US Marines and soldiers then took time out to celebrate one of America's most cherished celebrations with a Thanksgiving dinner of roast turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green peas and buttered corn, stuffing, pumpkin pie, and all the trimmings.

However, as one veteran of the campaign near the Chosin Reservoir recalled years later: "The gravy froze first, then the mashed potatoes. The turkey was still a little warm in the middle, if you ate real fast." None of the men who lined up for chow call that day knew it, but Thanksgiving dinner would be the last full meal most of them would eat for more than two weeks.

The following day, Friday, General Douglas MacArthur launched his "Homeby-Christmas" offensive to occupy all of North Korea up to the Yalu River border with China. On Saturday, 180,000 troops of the People's Republic of China (PRC) Volunteer Army attacked at the Ch'ongch'on River, and on Sunday, the PRC launched a massive counterattack

across the entire front with eight divisions of 300,000 soldiers. The US Army's 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was one of the first to report fierce resistance. Chinese attacks began with bugle calls and whistles, followed by thousands of soldiers charging forward. The 25<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Divisions began retreating back across the Ch'ongch'on River and toward the frozen Chosin Reservoir where they joined with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division and British Royal Commandos under heavy attack.

A shocked MacArthur told Washington: "We face an entirely new war."

General "Chesty" Puller, 1st MARDIV commander, described the situation as, "They're on our left, they're on our right, they're in front of us, they're behind us... they can't get away this time." Nevertheless, there were too many, and survival lay 78 miles away along a narrow mountain road at the port of Hungnam.

By breaking out of the trap and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, the 1st MARDIV denied the Communists their victory and transformed a tactical retreat into an offensive. Five of the seven Chinese divisions the Marines engaged were destroyed completely, never again to appear in the Korean war.

The full story of that "attack in another direction" was in our last newsletter.

(continued on page 7)

# **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, everyone! I'm hoping that the sooner 2020 is over, the better! It has been a very strange, and unsettling 365 days with our country and our private lives derailed due to a number of factors. Numerous events have been and continue being cancelled, we are all suffering personal trials and tribulations, lock downs, quarantines, etc., we're all hoping that 2021 will be a better year. We were unable to hold our annual Veterans Day buddy poppy drive which typically brought in about \$2,000 for charitable activities so we'll have to find other fund-raising events. The Department's annual Winter Convention in January has been cancelled due to our dear governor's decree limiting the size of public gatherings. Wreaths Across Horton Cemetery has also been canceled. We recently donated \$150 each to Toys for Tots, the Snowball Express, Gold Star Mother's of Hampton Roads for Wreaths Across America, and USO Hampton Roads.

However, please plan on joining us in a 'Peaceful Protest' Christmas Parade on December 5<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the parking lot of Towne Bank, 137 Mt. Pleasant Road, at 1630 and start our 'rolling' parade to City Hall at 1700. If you know of friends with interesting vehicles (we won't have any marchers) please ask them to join us. Antique cars, military vehicles, unique cars, they're all invited! We'll even have a Santa Claus... or two! We will also hold our annual Post Christmas Party on 9 December. Instead of a pot-luck, however, the Post will provide

all the food and drinks. Since the guvnah has limited all social gatherings to no more than 25, the Post will have 25 and the Auxiliary will have 25. Please RSVP to me by 4 Dec so we'll know how many we'll need to be ready for.

Don't forget to tell all 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 9<sup>th</sup> is the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sinsil 8 – when our Post namesake, SSG Dozier, and 7 others perished in Iraq. Jon's father, Carl, is planning a remembrance gathering on that date – I will let you know what the final plans are.

Some good news! Our Post Awards Committee met and judged five Voice of Democracy entries and three Patriots Pens. The winner of Post 2894's Patriots' Pen for 2020-21 is Michael Sauer, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Hugo Owens Middle School. In his essay, Michael wrote, "To me, being an American means having the freedom to pursue my dreams. It means having the opportunities to work hard and fight for what is important to me. The United States is a place where these freedoms are valued and protected... no matter what, I will not give up hope because I know that this tough time will not last forever. We are Americans, a strong team with lots of strength and courage. We will stand strong together and keep swinging the bat knowing that homeruns are in our future."

The winner of this year's Voice of Democracy contest for Post 2894 is Ysa Duenas, a senior at Grassfield High School.

Here's what she expressed in her essay, "The American heart that thrives and connects every citizen as we continue to face the challenges that lie ahead. The American heart that drums with the unwavering loyalty and courage shared between those who have already served and those who currently do."

We also submitted two Teacher of the Year entries for National consideration. Ms. Ashley Bullock is a social studies teacher at Deep Creek High School. She grew up in Chesapeake and graduated from Grassfield HS. Ashley is an engaging teacher who thrives on planning unique learning experiences for her students. Like our 2015 National TOTY, Craig Blackman, Ashley often wears historically connected costumes to school to teach specific historical lesson. She turns her classroom into World War I trenches providing students memorable learning experiences that will stay with them. This mindset makes Ashley an eternal student advocate on multiple levels, and a quiet hero in a chaotic world.

We also have a Middle School TOTY, Mrs. Laura Lerf, a guidance counselor at Hugo Owens MS. Laura Lerf, did something truly special to earn this honor. She personally created a support group, the Military Child Club, where kids of military families could share experiences and coping mechanisms, and help each other through difficult times. She then expanded this communal support to the entire school population, by celebrating Military Child Month each year, highlighted by a Military Child Day where the military kids and their parents are recognized and thanked for their sacrifice and service to our country.

My last bit of news. I'd like to share something Lou Gehrig said, "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth." I also share something else with Lou, I was recently diagnosed with ALS. I don't know what this will mean in the short term, but do in the long. I've been blessed with your trust and confidence as Post Commander since January 2014 and I thank you for that. But it also means that we have to start work on a good succession plan for the future. Please consider running for a position within the Post. More information will be

forthcoming.

We have accomplished just about everything required for All-American status this year except for membership. We are 16 members short of that requirement. Please tell neighbors, friends, work mates, etc., about us and ask them to consider joining one of the most active VFW posts in the nation. Thanks for all that you do for our vets, their families, and our country!

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!

Lastly, I'd like to share another quote from Lou Gehrig: "I close in saying that I may have had a tough break, but I have an awful lot to live for."

Semper Fidelis,

Chris Mulholland, Commander

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Christmas Greetings to Everyone from the Auxiliary. We want to welcome our newest member, Rosie Gregory. Thank you for joining the Auxiliary and we hope you enjoy the time you spend in the Auxiliary helping our Veterans.

The Auxiliary put 100 bags together with snack items such as Capri-Sun, Bag of Chips, Oreo Cookies, Peanut Butter Cheese Crackers and candy and delivered them to the VA Hospital in Hampton. The snacks will be given to Veterans being treated at the Oncology Clinic as well as other clinics. Christine was able to get the Kindergarten Art



Class at the school she teaches at to make cards thanking the Veterans. The cards were very cute and I am sure the Veterans will appreciate them. Dianne stamped the bags with Poppies making them festive and appropriate for Veterans. Thanks

The Members of the Auxiliary are also donating items to the

everyone for helping.

Cypress Landing Veterans Home in Chesapeake. They are requesting hats, gloves, socks, T-shirts, underwear, body wash, toothbrushes and tooth paste, body lotion and slippers. Diane Karangelen Arthur would like the items before December 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please call Sandy Dunbar.

Thanks to everyone for what you do for the Veterans. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Be Safe and Stay Healthy!

Sandy Dunbar, President

# FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE

# "Christmas Prayer for Our Troops"

Almighty and Everlasting God, as we celebrate the birth of



Your Son in this world and experience the peace He has to offer us today, we remember our troops at home and abroad who dedicate their lives to protecting our people on this planet.

We are sorry that war is still a part of our lives and that we call upon our young people to risk their lives for us,

putting themselves in harm's way for our freedom. We pray that You will enable us one day to put an end to war and truly experience peace on Earth, so that our Christmas celebrations will be full of joy.

We pray for our troops stationed both here and abroad. We ask that You bless, protect and preserve them wherever they are located. Help us to let them know how much we truly appreciate their service and give us opportunities to care for, encourage, and embrace them.

We pray for their families this Christmas who suffer from separation and distance at this time of year. Surround them with good friends and strong families. Be near to the wives, daughters and mothers, husbands, sons, and fathers who miss their loved ones.

We also remember those who have been wounded in action, who are recovering at home or in Veterans' hospitals. We pray for their healing, recovery, and tender care. We especially remember those who are permanently injured whether emotionally, mentally, physically, or neurologically. May they be deeply cared for and honorably respected.

We pray for our military leaders and Commander in Chief who need to make tough and unenviable decisions. We pray that You will grant them guidance and discernment to act upon the fresh challenges to peace that occur around the world.

Finally, we pray for those service families who have an empty chair at their Christmas tables that will never be filled. In the midst of their loss, surround them with caring friends and loving people. Let the real sacrifices that they have made, and still sadly experience, be humbly honored and deeply respected by all of us. May we cherish the freedom that our troops have accomplished through the giving of their lives. Amen

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3, NASB)

# OTHER POST NEWS

Ron Mayfield Volunteers with Therapeutic Horsemanship Program for Veterans. Almost every Saturday, you'll find Post comrade Ron Mayfield in the barns and paddocks of "Trails of Purpose" in rural Chesapeake between Deep Creek and Bowers Hill. Trails of Purpose (<a href="https://trailsofpurpose.com">https://trailsofpurpose.com</a>) was established in 2019. They operate as a Certified Professional Association of Therapeutic (PATH Horsemanship International Center. Their services are completely free of cost to all veterans and Gold Star family members. Ron volunteers as a mentor and horse aide. disabled veteran himself, he is well aware of the requirements and needs of other disabled vets. Trails of Purpose works to restore wellness to veterans through community and equine assisted therapies. They are passionate about creating a safe environment in which relationships with both humans and horses can thrive in. They believe in



Ron enjoying a moment with a staff member and a couple of four-legged friends.

nature's ability to heal and see the imperative need to assist in reigniting purpose in the lives of veterans. In addition, they also believe in the healing capabilities of equine partnerships. Horses, as prey animals, have mastered the skill of listening and sensing over the previous centuries. They are highly sensitive and incredibly honest. They cause their human partners to be open to trust and willing to work. This program utilizes Equine Assisted Therapies to grow the bond between horses and humans alike.

# • **SSG Jon Dozier Birthday Remembrance**. Staff

Sergeant Jonathan K. Dozier, US Army was born on 30 September 1977 and killed in action on 9 January 2008 in Iraq. Every Post members year, gather at his favorite local "watering hole", the Bier Garden in Portsmouth. remember him. This despite the



Wuhan coronavirus – was no different. Toasts were made, memories shared, and camaraderie exchanged. Thanks to Jon's dad, Carl and Jean Dozier for continuing this tradition.

• Post Honors 2019-20 Scout of the Year. At our Post meeting in October, Commander Chris Mulholland presented Eagle Scout – and now Venture Crewman – Noah Boucher with the Post Scout of the Year Award. Noah was given a SOTY medal, a certificate and a check for \$200 with his



parents looking on. earned his Noah Eagle Scout Award with Boy Scout Troop 303 and he is now a member of with Venture Crew 303. Noah from graduated HS, Grassfield

currently attending TCC on a 2 year full scholarship in engineering, and will then finish out his undergraduate degree at ODU. His goal is to graduate without any debt. While in high school, he interned with 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. He 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 elected to Order

of the Arrow. His 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 raised over \$3,700 and organized 60 volunteers who donated 484 volunteer hours. He plans on obtaining PhD in the Electrical Engineering field. We see him as a future nuclear engineer!

# · Post Donated Hospital Bed to Disabled

**Veteran.** The Post donated the Invacare hospital bed and alternating air-mattress of a recently deceased comrade (with a total worth over \$3000) to an 83-year old vet with Parkinson's disease: "We delivered and set up the bed today [Sunday, 4 Oct]. This is an incredible blessing to Lew. Thank you and the VFW so much again!! Lew served in



the Air Force ['57-'61]. This bed will give him comfort and safety. Chuck and Debbie (neighbors)."

• Post Honors Local Business Owners for Helping Disabled Veterans. At our Post meeting in October, we recognized and honored two local businesses who donated time, labor and material to



Cdr Mulholland presenting a plaque to Josh Reed, owner of Window World



Cdr Mulholland presenting a plaque to Josh Sagers, representing his boss, Dusty Shaw of Aire Serv

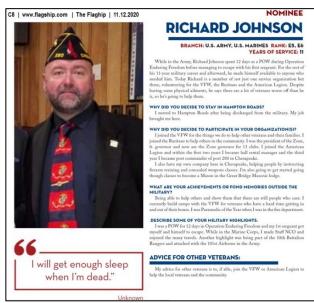
helping disabled and elderly veterans by presenting them with plaques.

 Josh Reed of Window World of Tidewater provided over \$4,000 worth of labor and material to replace a window leaky for disabled Korean War veteran. The window was located high above in a fover 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, custom-built window.

Dusty Shaw of Aire
 Serv of Great Bridge was
 unable to make the

meeting but sent his Regional Service Manager, Josh Sagers, to stand-in for him. Dusty and his employees replaced the HVAC system for a disabled WWII veteran and his wife. Dusty donated more than \$5,000 worth of labor and material.

• **Post Member Makes The News!** One of our own, Rich Johnson, was nominated for the Veteran's "Still



Serving Award" for 2020 by The Flagship newspaper! Congratulations!!

• Post Member Has a Baby! Captain Chris Kust, USA, and his wife, Breeann, welcomed Nathan James to the world on November 2<sup>nd</sup>! Nathan is also the first grandchild for Mike and Donna Kust. When they visited Chris and Breeann in Chapel Hill, NC, in mid-Oct, they covered the front of the house with balloons, flags and bunting, and covered the porch with wrapped baby-



shower gifts. Congratulations to everyone!



Dave Weber (left) assembling gift baskets

• Post Surgeon Helps

Assemble T'Day Gift

Baskets: LtCol Dave Weber,
USMC (ret) also serves as an officer with local Marine
Corps League Detachment
853. He recently helped them assemble Thanksgiving

Day gift baskets for needy active and veteran

military families.

• Post Members Were Busy This Election Year! From voting early, volunteering at local political party headquarter, attending rallies and meet & greets, to helping at the polls, and – of course – voting, Post and



Auxiliary members played a large role in this year's election cycle. Here's the most 'creative' VFW family, the Redmans, and how they dressed up to vote early at the Registrar's office!

• <u>Auxiliary Assembles Gift Bags for VA Clinic</u> **Patients.** Post Auxiliary members met to assemble



100 snack gift bags for veterans at the oncology department at the VA hospital in Hampton. Each bag had juice, crackers, nuts, and assorted snacks. You can read more about it in the Auxiliary President's column.

• <u>Post Marines Share Their Birthday Celebration!</u> The Post meeting in November happened to coincide with the 245<sup>th</sup> birthday of the founding of the Marine Corps. The Marines in the Post used the opportunity to hold a formal cake-cutting ceremony which is held around the world wherever Marines are stationed. The oldest Marine present



Becky Waters' masterpiece!

traditionally receives the first piece of cake and then hands over the second piece to the youngest, signifying the

passing of experience and knowledge from the old to the young of the Corps. The oldest Marine present was Comrade Keith Lindgren, born in 1945, who

enlisted in 1964 and served in Vietnam. The youngest Marine present was

Comrade
Nicolas
Werner,
born in
1977, who
enlisted in
1999 and



The oldest Marine passes on a piece of cake to the youngest.

served in Afghanistan. At the end of the ceremony, everyone joined in the singing of the Marines' Hymn. The evening was topped off with toasts of traditional "grog". The

Marines are especially grateful to Becky Waters who baked the incredible cake!

# • <u>Auxiliary Member Attends Army Officer</u> Candidate's School. Post Auxiliary member Chris



SGT Mulholland (It) and his roommate pose during the Land Navigation course

Mulholland is a Sergeant in the Army reserves. Late last year he applied for and was accepted for Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, Georgia. But due

to the Wuhan virus, he was not able to receive orders until late this October. His graduation is scheduled for February 19th, 2021. He will retain his MOS as a Military Intelligence analyst. Good luck!

• <u>Post Honors an Outstanding Young Man!</u> At our Post meeting in November, we recognized an outstanding young man, 15-year old Charlie Hecht. Charlie made 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, CDR David Hecht, is active duty Navy and Charlie was disappointed to see that numerous homes did not



CDR Mulholland (lt) presents plaque to Charlie while his dad looks on

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." Charlie was presented with The Unsung Hero Award for his fly-

the-flag campaign by Fox Nation at The Patriot Awards in St. Petersburg last year.

• <u>"His & Her" Pistol</u>
Raffle Has a Winner!
This year's raffle was an incredible success! We sold 254 tickets at \$10



Troy Hare (left) shows off his new "toys" with Cdr Mulholland

each! Thanks to everyone who helped! The winner was one of our newest life members, Troy Hare, who bought 30 tickets! The ticket drawing took place after the Veterans Day Ceremony in front of City Hall. We would like to thank Freedom Shooting Center in Virginia Beach who donated an FN 9 mm pistol – because FN had discontinued the original pistol for the raffle, Troy received an upgraded FNX! Congratulations!!

# 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:

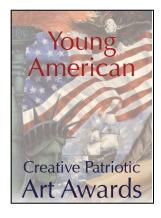
www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scout-of-theyear

# PATRIOTIC ARTIST NOMINATIONS DUE 31 MARCH

The VFW Auxiliary's 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 impa ct of work; and uniqueness. Students must in high school, no older than 18, and a US citizen or national.

# Entry forms can be downloaded at:



https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creativepatriotic-art-contest/

# ILLUSTRATING AMERICA NOMINATIONS DUE 31 MARCH

Illustrating America is another VFW Auxiliary art contest but for students in grades 1-8 who are enrolled in public, private, parochial or home study programs. The contest consists of three grade divisions: 1-2, 3-5 and 6-8, with national awards for first, second and third place in each grade division. They must be US citizens or Nationals but don't have to be related to anyone in the VFW or Auxiliary. Art must be two-dimensional, on canvas or paper, sized between 8"x10" and 18"x24". Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are not accepted. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. If the American flag is used, it does not need to conform to Federal code regarding colors or number of stars and stripes.

Entry forms can be downloaded at: https://vfwauxiliary.org/illustrating-america/

# "The 1950 Miracle of Christmas"

(continued from page 1)

By breaking out of the trap and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, the 1<sup>st</sup> MARDIV denied the Communists their victory and transformed a tactical retreat into an offensive. Five of the seven Chinese divisions the Marines engaged were destroyed completely, never again to appear in the Korean war.

In those terrible days of 27 November to 13 December, the weather and terrain were as hostile as the Communist troops. Much of the fighting took place in temperatures 20 degrees

below zero. Food rations froze: truck batteries conked out; weapons wouldn't fire. men were lost to frostbite. And yet they prevailed

The Marine units were supported in their withdrawal by the US



Refugees boarding an LST at Hungham

Army's Task Force Faith to their east, which suffered heavy casualties and the full brunt of the Chinese offensive. The retreat of the US 8<sup>th</sup> Army from northwest Korea in the aftermath of the Battle of the Ch'ongch'on River and the evacuation of the X Corps from the port of Hungnam in northeast Korea marked the complete withdrawal of UN troops from North Korea.

What happened next is known as the Miracle of Christmas, as all of the UN forces and thousands of North Korean civilians were successfully evacuated from the port between 15 and 24 December in "Operation CHRISTMAS CARGO".

A perimeter was established around the port and, as the various units came in and were embarked aboard ships and departed, the defense would contract. The departing forces took all their weapons, ammunition, vehicles, and supplies with them, so that they would be ready to fight again.

Luckily, the Chinese did not attack in force to disrupt the operation which allowed for a reasonably organized withdrawal. They held back because they had suffered as much, if not more, than the UN troops and, knowing that the port was being evacuated, they would be able to enter the city soon without having to fight their way in.

A greater immediate problem than the approach of relatively few enemy forces was the mass movement of civilians toward the perimeter. Although there were plans to evacuate government officials, their families, and as many others as shipping space allowed, they had not anticipated the thousands of civilians trying to reach Hungnam.

Around 100 US ships had sailed to Hungnam to pick up the troops, supplies and ammunition and take them to the South Korean ports of Busan and Geoje Island. Rescuing thousands of refugees had never been part of the plan.

Cold and hungry, the North Koreans huddled at the water's edge and anxiously waiting to board American ships, knowing what would happen if they were left behind. The Chinese, massing in the nearby mountains, would storm into Hungnam and make an example of anyone who had defied them.

US and Republic of Korea (ROK) collaborators, Christians, anti-communists, and anyone deemed a "sympathizer" would be rounded up, interrogated, and punished. Many would be shot. Others would be sent to gulags or work camps where they would spend the rest of their lives as prisoners of the communist regime. Some would simply disappear. The only hope for the North Korean civilians at Hungnam was the US military.

Hearing rumors that the retreating Americans were allowing small groups of refugees to board ships, they had trekked through mountain passes, snowdrifts, roadblocks, and enemy troop formations to reach the port.

With bags, sacks, crates, and in some cases, babies, strapped to their backs, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, and everyday citizens from villages and towns across the region had said goodbye to families and friends and promised to return in a few days.

Despite the journey's constant dangers, it was worth it. They had lived under communism for five long years, and many



North Korean civilians making their way towards Hungnam (public domain)

wanted no part in China's takeover of their country or Kim Il-Sung's regime.

However, besides hampering evacuation operations by overcrowding the port area, the large refugee movement posed a danger of Chinese and North Korean infiltration of agents and saboteurs. To prevent overcrowding and infiltration, military police, intelligence agents, and perimeter troops attempted to block civilian entry but they were only partially successful. Civil affairs personnel distributed food and organized the refugees for evacuation as shipping space became available.

Marine Colonel Edward H. Forney, the evacuation control officer, and US Navy Admiral James Doyle, the top Navy commander at Hungnam, went into action. With teams of naval and amphibious experts, the two men worked around the clock to ensure the refugees were loaded as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Col. Forney's grandson, Ned, a Marine veteran himself, now lives in Seoul: "If you want to win a war – your job is not to rescue civilians. It's a nice thing to do. But the military does come first. Somehow it just happened. These guys there at Hungnam listened to their better angels and did what I like to say was the right thing, for the right reasons, in a very difficult situation."

The refugees huddled together on the shoreline, waiting and hoping for their turn. It took several days to get everyone aboard the ships.

Among them was a then 17-year-old Han Bo-bae with her mother. "It was a live or die situation," she says. "We didn't think of anything else other than we need to get on this ship or we will die.

"We didn't know where it was heading, but it didn't matter. We only knew that we might live if we get on the ship."

In a remarkable testament to American ingenuity, teamwork, and dedication, by December 24, the final day of the operation, 100,000 UN troops and another 100,000 refugees had been rescued.

Of the many ships that participated in the evacuation, SS MEREDITH VICTORY, a Merchant Marine cargo ship designed to carry only a handful of passengers, commanded by USN Captain Leonard LaRue (1914-2001), loaded 14,000



Refugees on Meredith Victory's weather deck, December 1950. (Photo credit: Bob Lunney)

refugees into her cargo holds. She was only designed to carry 12 passengers and a 47person crew. Her 16-hour voyage to Geoje-do, an island off

southern coast of Korea, became the "greatest rescue operation by a single ship in the history of mankind." One of the ship's officers later said, "We were just young men doing our jobs." It earned the cargo freighter a nickname – the *Ship of Miracles*.

On Dec. 22, 1950, Capt. LaRue peered through his binoculars as his ship approached the besieged port. LaRue could see thousands of shivering refugees lining the harbor in a desperate attempt to escape the marauding Communist Chinese and North Korean soldiers who surrounded, and were quickly closing in on, the city. "It was a scene of 'Dante's Inferno," LaRue would later recall.

In the book, *Ship of Miracles*, by Bill Gilbert, LaRue remembered that "Korean refugees thronged the docks. With them was everything they could wheel, carry, or drag. Beside them, like frightened chicks, were their children."

On the afternoon of Dec. 22, in gale force winds and swirling snow, the crew began to load the refugees into the cargo holds using makeshift booms and gangplanks.

First mate Dino Savastio recalled that, "The temperature was well below freezing, but the holds were not heated or lighted. There were no sanitary facilities for them...children carried children, mothers breast-fed their babies with another child strapped to their backs, old men carried children...I saw terror in their faces."

US Navy ships fired at the enemy on the city's outskirts, shuddering the harbor with each salvo. Smoke billowed into the overcast skies as elements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division fought to save the now encircled Hungnam. Outnumbered but undaunted, the brave Americans were desperately trying to buy time for the evacuation of the frightened refugees.

It took nearly 24 hours, but the crew somehow managed to fit 14,000 refugees within the ship's five cargo holds. Conditions on board the ships were, to say the least, difficult. Refugees were crammed between vehicles, boxes of ammunition and supplies. There was no food or water.

Robert Lunney, a 90-year-old retired USN Rear-Admiral who was then

an officer under the command of Larue, stated. "The true heroes of the Hungnam Evacuation were the evacuees who boarded that ship in search of freedom."

Three of the refugees aboard the MEREDITH VICTORY were the parents and sister of future South Korean President Moon Jae-



Lee Gyong-pil, who was given the name Kimchi 5, was born on a cargo ship. (Photo credit: Lee Gyong-pil)

In, who was born three years later in January 1953.

In 1954, LaRue joined the Benedictine monastery at St. Paul's Abbey in Newton, N.J. He was known as "Brother Marinus," and lived there until his death in 2001. When asked about the Christmas Miracle many years later, LaRue said, "I was always somewhat religious, even in my youth in Philadelphia...I think often of that voyage...and as I think, the clear, unmistakable message comes to me that on that Christmastide, in the bleak and bitter waters off the shores of Korea, God's own hand was at the helm of my ship."

In 2004, the Guinness Book of World Records cited it as the largest transportation of evacuees ever. No lives were lost and, along the way, five

babies were born. The US crewmen didn't know any Korean names, so they called each of the babies "Kimchi".

The last one, "Kimchi 5", was born on Christmas day. There was barely enough room on board to stand – and there wasn't much medical equipment, either. "The midwife had to use her teeth to cut my umbilical cord," Lee Gyong-pil remembered. "People said the fact that I didn't die and was born was a Christmas miracle. I didn't really like it [Kimchi name] at first. Because Kimchi 5? I have my own name. But when I thought of it deeply, I didn't mind it and now I thank the person who named me."

On Christmas Eve, the last day of the Chosin-Hungnam saga, the lead story in *The New York Times* read:

# Evacuation of Hungnam Completed . . . UN Fleet Brings Out 105,000 Soldiers and 100,000 Refugees

The largest amphibious withdrawal of the Korean War, and the greatest sea-borne, military evacuation of civilians, under combat conditions, in US history, was over.

President Harry Truman was ecstatic. "I thank God for the success of the Hungnam operation. It is the best Christmas present I've ever had," he proclaimed after receiving a 1 a.m. Christmas call from Omar Bradley, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Remarkably, there are an estimated one million descendants of those rescued at Hungnam who now live in freedom in South Korea, the United States and other countries around the world.

But there is deep sorrow too for those left behind. As the Americans sailed away from Hungnam for the last time on Christmas Eve, Rear Admiral James Doyle looked through his binoculars. "He saw at least as many refugees on the shore as the US had rescued," says Ned Forney, who is writing a book to document the evacuation.

But the US said it had no choice. They had to blow up the port to ensure the Chinese army would not take any remaining



Demolition charges destroy Hǔngnam port on 24 December 1950

supplies or assets.

Army combat engineers and Navy underwater demolition teams blew up the port as they left under the covering

barrage of Navy warships off the coast.

Han Bo-bae watched from the deck of her ship and described the port as a "sea of fire". Not long after the explosions, the Chinese army infiltrated the town.

"So many were still waiting at the port. So many couldn't make it to the ship," she recounted. "There were still many waiting and they must have perished. It hurts my heart, the artilleries, the bombs. War shouldn't happen."

No one knows what happened to Kimchi numbers 2, 3 or 4.

The parents of the first baby born on board, "Kimchi 1", better known as Sohn Yang-Young, made a heartbreaking decision at Hungnam that would haunt them all their lives.

Most of the refugees thought they would only be gone a few days – perhaps a few weeks at the most. The plan was always to return. But none of them did.



Geoje HuengNam Retreat Memorial Tower

Sohn Yang-

young's parents had two other children at that time. Taeyoung, aged 9, and Youngok, aged 5. It was bitterly cold. The port was in chaos.

Mr Sohn's father looked at his heavily pregnant wife and knew she had to get on board. He decided to leave his two other children with their uncle and reassured them that he would return form them soon.

They never saw one another again. Even when the fighting stopped and an armistice was signed, the peninsula was divided. The two Koreas are still officially at war.

For years, Mr Sohn's mother begged her husband to go back for their children, and yet she knew she was asking the impossible. Every morning she would take a bowl of sacred water and rice and pray in front of them as an offering for her lost children.

Mr Sohn still hopes his family is alive. After all, he himself came from the Ship of Miracles. Now he wishes for just one more, and has this message for his brother and sister: "Our parents missed you every single day they were alive. Even though they're now in heaven I believe they're still looking for you. I do hope our dream will come true in the very near future. I do hope."

To this day, the refugees continue to express their appreciation. Mr. Sohn ("Kimchi 1") said recently: "All these years I've been telling my children to think about the life I've lived and what it was like to be a refugee. I also tell them to think about how the Americans came to a strange land, gave their lives, and rescued so many people...we should not forget the sacrifices of the young soldiers. Their lives were just as precious as ours."

# + DECEMBER SAFETY CORNER + National Safe Toys and Gifts Month

During December, participate in Safe Toys and Gifts Month. Since December is the biggest gift-giving month in the world, it's important to keep safety in mind as you're shopping for the little ones in your life.



According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 251,700 toy-related injuries were treated by hospital emergency rooms around the U.S. in 2010. Of those, 72% of them were people younger than 15 years old. A few years earlier, toy makers recalled over 19 million toys across the globe due to safety concerns like lead paint and small magnets. Since then, toy safety has improved, but shoppers can take precautions to keep children in their lives safe.

Buying toys and other gifts are one of the most exciting parts about the holiday season. I mean, who doesn't love watching a friend or family member open a gift and seeing their eyes light up with excitement?! In all the eagerness, it's easy to forget about simple safety. So before making any purchases this year, keep safety in mind, so the holidays don't turn from the happiest time of the year to the scariest!

Spread the word and raise awareness this December. Here are some ways to be sure you're shopping safely this year.

1. Make sure to inspect the toys before you buy them. Try to avoid toys with sharp edges, lots of little parts, or parts that can be easily pulled off. (Especially if it's for a baby or toddler)



- 2. Make sure the age and skill level marked on the toy matches the age and skill level of the child you're buying for.
- 3. Label check! Toys should have a label for ATSM (American Society for Testing and Materials) that proves it's up to standard. ATSM testing is more important than many people realize.
- 4. Do not give toys with ropes, cords, or that can heat up, and avoid crayons and markers unless they are labeled nontoxic.

Follow this advice, and your whole family is sure to have a very merry (and injury-free) holiday season!

+ JANUARY SAFETY CORNER + National Bath Safety Month



This January is Bath Safety month, reminding you to take some extra precautions and save yourselves from home injuries. Bathing is such a routine activity that we often neglect to take proper precautions while we're in what is absolutely one of the most dangerous places in our homes. But there are a lot of things we can do to minimize the risk of injury in the bath. And many of these precautions are especially important for the very young and the very old. Safety bars — or grab handles — and non-slip mats inside the tub or shower are just two of the most effective — and most common — ways to stay safe in our soapy havens. Let's look at a few more — in honor of National Bath Safety Month, which takes place every January.

## HISTORY OF NATIONAL BATH SAFETY MONTH

Before Ancient Greece, in prehistoric times, the sea and rivers served as the most raw and original form of a bath. The oldest accountable daily ritual of bathing can be traced to the ancient Indians. They used elaborate practices for personal hygiene with three daily baths and washing. These are recorded in the works called *grihya sutras* and are in practice today in some communities. As communities formed in the ancient world, public baths became the main form of bathing, largely because many didn't have access to private bathing facilities. The Great Bath of Mohenjo, daro is one of the earliest public baths in history. Located in Sindh, Pakistan, the bath dates back to the ancient Indus Valley Civilization — one of the three oldest human civilizations, next to ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia.

"Showers" in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia involved rich people having private rooms in which servants poured cold water out of jugs over them, but the ancient Greeks were really the first to pioneer what we now consider the modern shower. The first showers where water actually flowed through a pipe were originally developed by ancient Greeks. The Romans expanded on this pipe system creating their famous aqueducts that provided indoor plumbing and bath houses with water. These public bathhouses were virtually the first spas, fully equipped with massages, exercise, and entertainment.

By the early twentieth century, personal cleanliness became a greater concern. Growing awareness of germs inspired new advice on bathing to remove "invisible dirt" which caused disease. Meanwhile, industrial production techniques made tubs cheaper, and warm baths became more acceptable as a means of comfort and relaxation.

# **NATIONAL BATH SAFETY MONTH FAQS**

- 1. How do you get injured in the shower? The most common mechanisms of bathtub and shower-related injuries are slips and falls, hot-water scalds, and submersions.
- 2. **How many people die from using the bathtub?** According to a report by the agency, 4,866 people drowned to death in a bathtub in 2014, up from 2,870 in 2004.
- 3. Are showers cleaner than baths? According to Hygiene Expert, showers are better than baths only when you're dirty or sweaty from being outdoors or exercising. If you're just washing off from a normal day, a bath will get you just as clean as a shower. Plus, the steam from a bath can open up your pores and release the dirt.

# HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL BATH SAFETY MONTH

- 1. Install no-slip mats in the bath These are low-cost but absolutely necessary additions to the bath. They're a simple solution that helps prevent slips in the tub. And put small no-slip rugs outside the bath, too.
- 2. Safety (handles) first Install a couple of safety handles in the bath and near the toilet to prevent slips and falls and to assist those who need it from entering and exiting the tub or shower. They're also a good idea for helping those who have difficulty standing up from the toilet.
- 3. Childproof the bathroom Make sure items intended for adults sharp razors, clippers, tweezers are kept safely

stored in the bathroom and away from curious hands of little ones.

### **5 FUN FACTS ABOUT BATHS**

- 1. Soaking: Feels good and it's good for you = Studies show that soaking in a hot bath soothes muscle aches, lowers blood pressure, and helps us get a good night's sleep.
- 2. The sweet truth about hot baths = Some studies seem to indicate that a hot bath can lower blood sugar for type 2 diabetics.
- 3. **It's a bath bonanza** = The Baths of Caracalla in Rome were built in the third century AD and could hold up to 1,600 bathers at once
- 4. Water, water everywhere = Most Americans use between 80 and 100 gallons of water per day and the average American family uses about 300 gallons.
- 5. **Bathroom falls** = The National Institute on Aging reports that 80 percent of falls suffered by those aged 65 and older occur in the bathroom.

### WHY NATIONAL BATH SAFETY MONTH IS IMPORTANT

- 1. It reminds us to protect those we love = The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports an alarming stat: drowning remains a leading cause of death while infants and adults older than 85 are most likely to drown in a bathtub.
- 2. **Knowledge is power** = Protecting ourselves and those we love begins by learning the facts. National Bath Safety Month inspires us to seek them out. (And you came to the right place for that!)
- 3. **Better safe than sorry** = It may seem like too much trouble to retrofit the bath in order to protect ourselves and others from what may seem like a rare occurrence. Unfortunately, those sound like famous last words.

# 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 our committees. Contact one of the members of the committee you're interested in and let them know you'd like to help:

- <u>Bataan Death March (17 Apr 2021) Committee:</u> Matt & Grace Schweers, Ann Jones, Becky & Brad Waters, Anne Thompson, Matt & Diane Hostetlar, and Bob Gregory
- <u>Budget Committee:</u> José Vazquez, Mark Rios, Mike Kust, and Carl Dozier
- <u>Awards Committee:</u> Brad & Becky Waters, Mark Rios, Tony Gravina, Joe Hammers, and John Guill
- <u>Membership Committee:</u> José Vazquez, John Guill, Mark Rios, and Gary Dunbar
- <u>Building Committee:</u> Carl Dozier, José Vazquez, Becky Waters and Chris Cameron
- Visiting Committee: Chaplain Kimball Thompson
- Health Committee: Surgeon David Weber
- <u>Scholarship Committee:</u> Carl Dozier, Chris Mulholland, 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@vfwnationalhome.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 onetime 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 | <b>Installment Payment</b> |
|-----------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 <a href="www.vfw.org">www.vfw.org</a>, 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.
- 2 1823 President Monroe proclaims Monroe Doctrine, 'American continents, by free and independent condition... are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by European powers."
  - **1921** First successful helium dirigible, C-7, makes test flight in Portsmouth, Va.
  - 1927 New Ford Model A introduced to American public.
  - 1942 Allies repel strong Axis attack in Tunisia, North Africa.
  - **1944** General Patton's troops enter Saar Valley and break through Siegfried line.
- 3 1918 Allied Conference ends in London deciding that Germany must pay for war.
  - **1989** Presidents Bush and Gorbachev announce official end to Cold War at meeting in Malta.
- 4 1862 Winchester, VA, falls into Union hands, resulting in capture of 145 Southern soldiers.
  - 1942 US planes make first raids on Naples, Italy.
  - 1991 Last American hostages held in Lebanon released.
- 5 1933 21st Amendment ends Prohibition in US, begun 13 years earlier.
  - **1955** Bus boycott begins under Rev. ML King, Jr., in Montgomery.
  - **1978** Soviet Union signs 20-year friendship pact with Afghanistan.
- 6 1492 Columbus lands on Santo Domingo in search of gold.
  - 1934 American Ambassador Davis says Japan is grave security threat in Pacific.
  - **1941** President FDR issues personal appeal to Emperor Hirohito to use influence to avoid war.
- **7 1917** US declares war on Austria-Hungary.
  - 1941 Japanese planes raid Pearl Harbor in surprise attack.
  - **1942** USN launches USS *New Jersey*, largest battleship ever built
- 8 1943 US carrier-based planes sink 2 cruisers and down 72 planes in Marshall Islands.
  - **1944** US conducts longest, most effective air raid on Iwo Jima.
- 9 1941 FDR tells Americans to plan for a long war.
  - **1992** US Marines land in Somalia to ensure food and medicine reach deprived areas.
- **10 1898** US and Spain sign Treaty of Paris, ceding Spanish possessions, including Philippines, to US.
  - 1918 US troops called to guard Berlin as coup is feared.
  - 1941 Japanese troops invade Philippine island of Luzon.
  - **1949** 150,000 French troops mass at border in Vietnam to prevent Chinese invasion.
- 11 1941 US declares war on Italy and Germany.
  - **1945** Boeing B-29 Superfortress shatters records by crossing US in 5 hours and 27 min.
- **12 1753** George Washington, adjutant of Virginia, delivers ultimatum to French forces at Fort Le Boeuf, reiterating Britain's claim to Ohio River valley.
  - **1863** Orders given in Richmond, Virginia, that no more supplies from Union be received by Federal prisoners.
  - **1967** US ends airlift of 6,500 men to Vietnam.
- 13 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg ends with bloody slaughter of

- Union troops at Marye's Heights.
- 14 1799 George Washington dies on Mount Vernon estate.
  - **1960** US Boeing B-52 bomber sets 10,000-mile non-stop record without refueling.
- 15 1890 US soldiers attempt to arrest Sitting Bull in Standing Rock, SD; shooting breaks out and Lt. Bullhead shoots great Sioux leader.
  - **1924** Soviet Union warns US against repeated entry of ships into Soviet territorial waters.
  - **1938** Washington sends fourth note to Berlin demanding amnesty for Jews.
  - **1965** US drops 12 tons of bombs on industrial center near Haiphong Harbor, North Vietnam.
- 16 1773 Young Americans, disguised as Indians, throw chests of tea in Boston Harbor.
  - **1944** Germany opens Battle of Bulge in Ardennes Forest in Belgium.
  - **1950** President Truman declares National Emergency as Chinese communists invade deeper into S.Korea.
  - **1998** US launches missile attack on Iraq for failing to comply with UN weapons inspectors.
- 17 1903 Wright brothers' 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Japanese
  - **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

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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 halfrations, 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 Philipppines Cabanatuan: 126 US & Filipino raiders liberate 500 prisoners from a Japanese P/W camp
- **31** 1944 U.S. troops land on Kwajelein 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

# YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!!!

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 <a href="mailto:cdrpost2894@ya.vfwwebmail.com">cdrpost2894@ya.vfwwebmail.com</a>

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, 1700,

Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_

March with us and our Post Float!!!



# Scout of the Year Program





# 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 <u>one</u> VFW Post. A local Post can be identified by zip code at <u>www.vfw.org/find-a-post</u>.

### 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 <u>April 1</u>. 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 <u>May 1.</u>

Questions should be directed to 816-756-3390 ext 6155 during normal business hours Monday through Friday or emailed to <a href="mailto:scouting@vfw.org">scouting@vfw.org</a>.

## 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.

### 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                     |                    |  |
| Gty, 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/vyvv) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|

## 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/vvvv) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|

## 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) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|

- 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.
- 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 <a href="https://www.vfw.org/find-a-post">www.vfw.org/find-a-post</a>.

NOOA AMERICAN

# ELIGIBILITY

- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schoo
- Student must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national.
- member to participate, but the student must attend school in the Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary same state as the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary
- GED and adult education students, or national winners of Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Young American Creative Patriotic Art



- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Complete contest application and attach to back of entry.
- » Also attach a typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less).
  - Teacher or supervisory adult signature required on contest application. If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag

Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other

Digital art, photography and jewelry are NOT ACCEPTED.

pertinent rules of the code.



The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$31,500 AMOUNTS

\$15,000 \$7,500 \$3,500 FIRST PLACE SECOND PLACE THIRD PLACE

\$1,500 FOURTH-FIFTH PLACE

SIXTH-TENTH PLACE

# TWO-DIMENSIONAL SUBMISSIONS

- Art must be an canvas or pape
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used.
- Do not frame two-dimensional pieces.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries must be matted in white. Do not use color mats. Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used.
- Art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24", not including mat.

# THREE-DIMENSIONAL SUBMISSIONS

- Art can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, metal work, fabric, wood, etc.
- Art should be no larger than 18" in any direction.
- Art cannot be more than 5 lbs. in weight.

# STUDENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Auxiliary by March 31. Entries submitted to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will be returned.

# JUDGING AND AUXILIARY DEADLINES

Entry will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation and patriorism expressed; content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas; design technique; to tal impact of work.

Those selected to judge the contest on all levels will be teachers, professionals and persons knowledgeable about art. Comments of local and state judges will be attached to and forwarded with the art.

One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to District Judging (if applicable). APRIL 10: Local VFW Auxiliary and District judging complete.

APRIL 15: Local VFW Auxiliary and District (if applicable) winners due to Department (state) One winner from each District (if applicable) advances to Department (state) Judging. Scholarships Chairman for judging.

One winner from each Department (state) advances to National Judging MAY 5: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.

PATRIOTIC AR

CONTES

JULY: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners

udged at National Convention



up-and-coming artists and encourages A scholarship contest that recognizes patriotism in youth.

www.vfwauxiliary.org

YOUNG AMERICAN PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION Please print or complete fillable form at www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships. NAME AGE GRADE CITY Chesapeake STATE VA ADDRESS **EMAIL** PHONE SCHOOL DATE ART COMPLETED Teacher's or supervisory adult's signature verifying that the entry was done by you: SIGNATURE X TEACHER OR PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the VFW Auxiliary Magazine and on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if I win one of the top national awards. STUDENT SIGNATURE X State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, TV, newspaper, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artwork must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by other artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of other artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified. SOURCE MEDIA USED IN ENTRY (e.g., colored pencil, oil paint, pottery) PLEASE ATTACH A TYPED EXPLANATION OF THE ENTRY (250 Words or Fewer) ARTWORK NOT SPONSORED BY A LOCAL VFW AUXILIARY WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT BEING JUDGED. STATE VA SPONSORED BY VFW AUXILIARY # 2894 CITY Chesapeake DATE JUDGED VFW AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRMAN CHAIRMAN OF JUDGES' SIGNATURE (Required) DISTRICT JUDGING (Optional) DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRMAN DATE JUDGED CHAIRMAN OF JUDGES' SIGNATURE (Required) **DEPARTMENT JUDGING** DATE JUDGED DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRMAN CHAIRMAN OF JUDGES' SIGNATURE (Required) X Department first-place art entry must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by May 5 or it will be disqualified.

406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111

# Illustrating America

An art contest for students in grades 1-8.

# **CONTEST ELIGIBILITY**

- Open to all students in grades 1-8 who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home study program in the United States.
- Student must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national.
- Does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate, but the student must attend school in the same state as the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.

### CONTEST RULES

- · Art must be two-dimensional.
- Art must be on canvas or paper.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker, glitter or other media may be used.
- Submit canvas entries on stretcher frames or canvas board; other entries must be matted on white or reinforced with heavy paper.
- The art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24", not including mat.
- · Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are not accepted.

### NATIONAL AWARDS

### Grades 1-2

First place: \$100 gift card Second place: \$50 gift card Third place: \$25 gift card

### Grades 3-5

First place: \$100 gift card Second place: \$50 gift card Third place: \$25 gift card

### Grades 6-8

First place: \$100 gift card Second place: \$50 gift card Third place: \$25 gift card

## STUDENT DEADLINES

March 31: Student entry deadline to VFW Auxiliary.\*

# JUDGING AND AUXILIARY DEADLINES

Entry will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. If the American Flag is used, it <u>DOES NOT</u> need to conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors or number of stars and stripes.

One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to District judging (if applicable).

April 10: Local VFW Auxiliary and District judging complete.

One winner from each District (if applicable) advances to Department judging.

April 15: Local VFW Auxiliary and District (if applicable) winners to Department (state) Youth Activities Chairman for Judging.\*

One winner from each Department advances to National judging.

May 5: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.\*

July: First through third place winners named in each of the three grade categories and displayed at National Convention.

\* required deadlines



www.vfwauxiliary.org

# Illustrating America

An art contest for students in grades 1-8.

| TUDENT NAME  |   |  | AGE                       |
|--|---|--|---------------------------|
| CHOOL  |   |  | GRADE                     |
| MEDIA USED IN ENTRY (e.g. o  | colored pencil, c   | rayon, watercolor, etc.)   |                           |
| ARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _  |   |  |                           |
| DDRESS   |   |  |                           |
| CITY   |   | STATE  | ZIP                       |
| MAIL   |   | PHONE  |                           |
| eacher or supervisory adult's  | signature verify  | ring that the entry was done by  | the student listed above. |
| EACHER OR PARENT/GUAR  | DIAN NAME   |  |                           |
| IGNATURE   |   |  |                           |
|  |   | bove to be published in VFW Auxiliary Maga<br>N Auxiliary and the VFW Store if named a w                                   |                           |
| ARENT/GUARDIAN NAME  |   |  | ·<br>                     |
|  |   |  |                           |
| IGNATURE   |   |  |                           |
| IGNATURE   |   |  |                           |
|  |   | VFW AUXILIARY WILL BE RETU   | RNED WITHOUT BEING JU     |
| ARTWORK NOT SPONSOR  | ED BY A LOCAL   |  |                           |
| ARTWORK NOT SPONSOR<br>PONSORED BY VFW AUXILIARY #   | ED BY A LOCAL 2894  | VFW AUXILIARY WILL BE RETU   | STATE V                   |
| ARTWORK NOT SPONSOR PONSORED BY VFW AUXILIARY #  | ED BY A LOCAL 2894  VFW AUXILIARY   | VFW AUXILIARY WILL BE RETU   | STATE V                   |
| ARTWORK NOT SPONSOR<br>PONSORED BY VFW AUXILIARY #<br>PATE JUDGED<br>HAIRMAN OF JUDGES' SIGNATUR   | ED BY A LOCAL  2894  VFW AUXILIARY  (REQUIRED)  | VFW AUXILIARY WILL BE RETU  CITY Chesapeake  (YOUTH ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN  | STATE_V                   |
| ARTWORK NOT SPONSORI PONSORED BY VFW AUXILIARY # DATE JUDGED HAIRMAN OF JUDGES' SIGNATUR DISTRICT JUDGING (Optional) DATE JUDGED   | ED BY A LOCAL  2894  VFW AUXILIARY  (REQUIRED)  DEPARTMENT Y  | VFW AUXILIARY WILL BE RETUCITY _ Chesapeake YYOUTH ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN   | STATE V                   |
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# **POST 2894 CALENDAR**

| DECEMBER '20                    |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 5                               | VFW "Protest" Christmas Parade        |  |
| 5-6                             | Battle of Great Bridge Reenactment    |  |
| 7                               | Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day          |  |
| 9                               | Post Meeting/ Christmas Party, 1900   |  |
| 10                              | Start of Hanukkah                     |  |
|                                 | Wreaths Across America, Suffolk, 0900 |  |
| Auxiliary Christmas Party, 1400 |                                       |  |
| 21                              | Winter Begins                         |  |
| 24/25                           | Christmas Eve/Christmas               |  |
| 31                              | New Year's Eve                        |  |

| JANUARY '21 |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1           | New Year's Day                       |
| 9           | Sinsil 8 Anniversary (2008)          |
| 13          | Post Meeting, 1900 (Quarterly Audit) |
| 18          | Martin Luther King Day               |

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!!!

Fold here



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



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Place Stamp Here