

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
VFW Post 2894 Headquarters
3329 Battlefield Boulevard South
Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

Email: cdpost2894@vfwva.org

Web Site: <https://www.vfw2894.org>

Webpage: <https://vfw2894.org>

Visit us on Facebook



POST OFFICERS

Commander.....	Bob Gregory
Sr. Vice Commander.....	Susan Vitale
Jr. Vice Commander.....	Mike Kust
Adjutant.....	Dan Eaker
Quartermaster.....	John Peterson
Chaplain.....	Joseph McGourn
Surgeon.....	David Weber
Staff Judge Advocate.....	Matt Hamel
Service Officer.....	Jim Ireland

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President.....	Sharon Peterson
Sr. Vice President.....	Rosie Gregory
Jr. Vice President.....	Grace Schweers
Secretary.....	Sandy Dunbar
Treasurer.....	Donna Kust
Chaplain.....	Diane Hostetlar
Conductress.....	Laura Etheridge
Guard.....	Theresa Lynn Sein
Patriotic Instructor.....	Jean Dozier

NATIONAL

www.vfw.org

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2

VFW Post 2894 GoFundMe

<https://gofund.me/483584b0>



VFW POST 2894 COMRADES PARTICIPATE IN AREA WHEELCHAIR RAMP CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Members from VFW Post 2894 have become actively involved in volunteering their time and expertise in constructing wheelchair ramps for local veterans and their families. Partnering with Habitat for Humanity, Jim Ireland, Post and (continued on page 3)



Volunteers from VFW Posts 2582 and 2894 place aluminum ramp sections during the construction of a wheelchair ramp for a Vietnam veteran and his wife in Suffolk, Virginia.

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greeting Comrades! Our hot, rainy summer is over, and the kids are back in school, our fraternal year is in full swing and we're on the busy path of helping others and supporting the community, continuing to build our home (thanks to all those

who've helped with this process) and hopefully, having some fun in the process.

Now we embark on some of the busiest times of the year. Our Membership Committee Chairwoman is working hard to set up several recruiting events where we can put up a table and do some recruiting for the Post. We'll be involved with at least three District 2 recruiting events: the Neptune Festival, Suffolk Peanut Festival and one in our back yard, the Chesapeake Farm Fair. Of course, we'll be looking for volunteers to help man the table - please contact Susan Vitale, our Senior Vice Commander, for more information.

Remember the weekend prior to Veterans Day, 2-3 November, we'll be distributing Buddy Poppies at Sam's Circle Walmart and Edinburg Walmart. This is our biggest biannual money maker other than the Bataan Death March Memorial Walk, so we'll need all hands to work this event. We need two shifts a day of four-five people at each store to cover down on two doors per store. Please contact Mike Kust, our Junior Vice Commander and Buddy Poppy Coordinator, to sign up.

Please don't forget, Veteran's Day is fast approaching. Remember to come to City Hall on November 11th starting at 1100 to remember all those who have served.

We have four great programs that have applications due 31 October 2024: Teacher of the Year, Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Scout of the Year. Please get the word out to anyone and everyone that you know in the schools and Scout troops. These are some great opportunities to earn some great scholarship money! If you have someone to nominate, please contact Comrade Joe Hammers for more information.

Our Post Surgeon and Activities Committee Chairman are coordinating our entry into this year's Chesapeake City Christmas Parade. As in the past we'll be looking for max participation in this event. It's a great experience if you've never been in a parade.

Please don't forget to vote on ELECTION DAY November 5th! Make your voices heard!

Hope everyone had a great and safe summer and that you're all looking forward to cooler weather and the fall!

Semper Fidelis!

Bob Gregory

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings to All from the Auxiliary!

Fall—it is my favorite time of the year. Warm days, cool nights, beautiful colored foliage and flowers, and football! With November just around the corner thoughts turn to the holidays. Veterans Day and Thanksgiving are two obvious days when we think to "Honor the dead by helping the living". But there are many other days

when we can recognize our veterans.

In October:

26th – Day of the Deployed (for all service members deployed overseas)

In November:

5th – Election Day Don't forget to vote! Many have given the ultimate sacrifice so that you will have that right.

11th --Veterans Day

Thanksgiving and Christmas are just a few weeks away, and it is easy to remember those in need this time of year. Our National Presidents Special Project is disposable diapers and wipes. The Prince of Peace Food Pantry has been added to our Standing Rules. And of course there are numerous opportunities all over Chesapeake to donate. Unfortunately, the need does not end with the holiday season. Collecting a few items each time you shop will not only aid those families in need; it'll stretch your budget as well.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to each of you for all you do to support our veterans, military, and their families. I'm aware that many things are done that no one knows about, and you don't expect to be singled out for recognition. Those on the receiving end will never know your name or what you did exactly, but they are grateful that you took the time to do it, and so am I!

Sincerely,

Sharon Peterson
President, 2024-25

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: 3329 Battlefield Blvd S., Chesapeake, VA 23322, 757-572-3946 or adjpost2894@vfwva.org. Comments are always welcome.

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 newsletter is disseminated to the membership and friends of the Post via e-mail as well as being available on the Post website: Newsletters (vfw2894.org)

Semper fidelis - Dan Eaker

VFW POST 2894 COMRADES PARTICIPATE IN AREA WHEELCHAIR RAMP CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

(Continued from page 1) ...District 2 Community Service Officer, has coordinated several projects where comrades from area VFW Posts gather to layout and connect the various pieces that come in the aluminum ramp packages provided by Habitat for Humanity. With expert guidance provided by Marshal Vernon, Project Manager for Habitat for Humanity, members work together to ensure a stable and functional wheelchair ramp is provided for veteran families in need.



VFW comrades lay out sections of the aluminum wheelchair ramp in the initial stages of construction.



VFW Comrades pose with Vietnam Veteran Bob Alexander (center) in front of the new wheelchair ramp. Also pictured are (left, clockwise) Robby Goff, Jim Ireland, Dan Eaker and Daniel Hoffman.

On Saturday, 7 September, Post members Jim Ireland and Dan Eaker traveled to Suffolk to assist comrades from Post 2582 in

constructing an aluminum ramp for a retired Vietnam War veteran and his wife. Meeting up with Post 2582 volunteers Daniel Hoffman and Robby Goff at the veteran's residence, and under the expert supervision of Habitat for Humanity's Marshal Vernon, the team of five were able to construct an L-shaped ramp that came out twelve feet from the porch and then continued for another twelve feet to the driveway, all done in a "record" time of three hours and forty-five minutes.

On Friday, 13 September, another group of VFW volunteers gathered in Chesapeake to undertake a second ramp project. Again under the supervision of Habitat for Humanity Project Manager Marshal Vernon, VFW Post 2894 Comrades Jim Ireland, Dan Eaker, David Weber and Lonnie Artis, along with his son Jayzier,



Original wheelchair ramp used by the Chesapeake veteran's family prior to the upgraded ramp project.

the group took on a larger project that required an L-shaped ramp extending from the end of the porch out into the yard for about twelve feet and then running the length of the yard to the driveway for about sixteen feet. After removing the somewhat unstable



VFW Post 2894 volunteers finish up the final details of the aluminum wheelchair ramp for a Vietnam War Veteran and his family.

wooden ramp that was being used and cutting out the required section from the porch railing, the team broke up into smaller

elements and worked together to complete the various sections and connect the ramp in just over three hours. When the project was finished, the grateful veteran treated the crew to a supreme pizza from a local establishment.

Thanks again to the Post volunteers for providing their time and effort to ensure the ramp projects were completed for these veterans in need.

If you would like to volunteer for one of the Wheelchair Ramp Tiger Teams or is you know someone in need of a wheelchair or ramp, please let Jim Ireland, the Post Service Officer know so he can take appropriate action for our community veterans and their families.



VFW Post 2894 Comrades Jim Ireland (center) and David Weber (right) enjoy some pizza provided by ramp benefactor and Vietnam Veteran Mr. Bob Ryan (left).

REMEMBERING VETERANS DAY

Though the Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28 June 1919, Armistice Day, declared on 11 November 1918, remained in the public imagination as the date that marked the end of the Great War. Every year Post 2894 republishes the famous poem written during the height of World War I by the late Colonel John McCrae of the Canadian Forces:

IN FLANDERS FIELD
- by John McCrae

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago,*

*We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved and now we lie,
In Flanders Fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you, from failing hands, we throw,
The torch, be yours to hold it high.*

*If ye break faith with us, who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,
In Flanders Fields.*

VFW POST 2894 WORLD WAR II VETERAN TURNS 100 YEARS OLD!

On Sunday, 29 September, VFW Post 2894 veterans joined family, friends and other community members to celebrate the centennial birthday of a World War II Marine Veteran and survivor of the Battle of Iwo Jima – Corporal Eddie Vincek. It was a full house at the Grassfield Ruritan Club who hosted the event, where over 100 Marines from Marine Security Force Training Company sang not only Happy Birthday, but all three stanzas of the Marine Corps Hymn!



WWII Marine Veteran Eddie Vincek is surrounded by Marines who wished him a happy 100th birthday.

Eddie Vincek was born and raised on a small farm in upstate New York. He was 18 when he joined the Marines in April 1943, about a year and a half after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and America plunged into a war that was already burning across the globe. After boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, Vincek was sent briefly to Norfolk, where he met a local girl named Mary Roth at a church polka dance. Later she would become his wife.

PFC Eddie Vincek was an infantry squad member with Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment of the 5th Marine Division. His unit trained in Hawaii for the invasion and then sailed westward across the Pacific Ocean to Saipan, where the Marine forces were assembling for the assault, a voyage that took 42 days. The 5th Marine Division attacked the island fortifications of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945, and Eddie hit the beach with his division on invasion day, staying until the grueling campaign was over more than a month later.

After the war, Eddie returned to Virginia to find Mary and the two got married in the same church where they'd met a couple of years earlier. They bought some land across from her parent's farm in Chesapeake, built a house and started a family, having a son and two daughters.



VFW Post 2894 Comrades Jose Vazquez (left) and Commander Bob Gregory pose for a picture with WWII Marine Veteran Eddie Vincek as he celebrates his 100th birthday!

Eddie worked at Globe Iron Construction Company for 42 years and made a point of being involved in his community. He and Mary were pillars of the Grassfield Ruritan Club, Meals on Wheels and other causes.

About his wartime experience, Eddie does have a lot to say. "I just never saw any reason to talk much about it, to bring it all

up. I didn't do anything special. I was just another Marine. Just doing my job."

VFW POST 2894 COMMEMORATES POW-MIA DAY AT CITY HALL



VFW Post 2894 set up the POW/MIA Missing Man Table inside Chesapeake City Hall for the week of 16-20 September.

On Friday, 20 September, the Post held a solemn ceremony in the forum of Chesapeake City Hall to remember area veterans who were former POWs or who continue to be listed as missing in action (MIA). Comrades David Pereira and Carl Dozier ensured the continuation of this annual event by coordinating the various aspects necessary to recognize the occasion. The event was attended by Mayor Rick West and several city council members as well as members from both VFW Post 2894 and American Legion Post 280. Our

sincere gratitude to David for taking on this challenge and continuing this annual tradition that ensures we never forget our local POW/MIA heroes.



Chesapeake Mayor Rick West delivers comments during the POW/MIA Commemoration. Council members Jeff Bunn and Dan Whittaker flank the mayor as Post members David Weber, David Pereira and Bob Gregory look on.



VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory (far left) and American Legion Post 280 Commander Mark Antley (far right) flank City Council members Debbie Ritter, Dan Whittaker, Mayor Rick West and Jeff Bunn at the POW/MIA Missing Man Table.



Attendees at the POW/MIA Commemoration pose for a picture with the Chesapeake City mayor and city council members.

OTHER POST NEWS

- **VFW Post 2894 Commemorates Patriots Day.** On Wednesday, 11 September, several Post comrades gathered to reflect on the day twenty-three years ago when nineteen terrorists flew civilian jet airliners into both towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and another into the south wing of the Pentagon. A fourth airliner was destined for its target when the passengers decided to take on the terrorists, resulting in the plane plunging into a field in western Pennsylvania. Flags across the nation were flown at half-mast to remember all those who perished, both the passengers in the airliners and the hundreds who were caught in the buildings on the ground when they were attacked by the planes and later collapsed, killing many in the Twin Towers before they could escape. Thanks to those that took on the morning dawn and assisted with the flag raising so we could reflect and remember what took place on that tragic day over two decades ago.



VFW Post 2894 comrades raise the holiday flag and lower it to half mast in commemoration of Patriots Day, 11 September.

- **VFW Post 2894 Comrade Participates in Nansemond Indian Nation Pow Wow.** VFW Post 2894 and the Great Bridge Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (GB SAR) are in a mutually supporting relationship. The GB SAR meets at the Post Home and when GB SAR compatriots conduct flag retirement ceremonies and Patriot Grave Marking ceremonies, comrades from the Post attend and participate. The GB SAR President, Vice



President and other SAR compatriots are veterans and are comrades in VFW Post 2894.

Post 2894 Comrade Kimball Thompson (right) and Nansemond Indian Nation member Herman Jackson pose for a picture.

Recently Comrade/Compatriot Kimball Thompson attended the Nansemond Indian Nation Pow Wow in Suffolk, Virginia with the SAR Color Guard. He interacted with many veterans and Virginia National Guard members while attending. Kimball provided information on 18th Century weapons to visitors to the Pow wow. Herman Jackson, a supporter of the Indian Nation who attended the Pow Wow, served twice in Vietnam with the Navy (look closely at his belt in the photo).

- **VFW Post 2894 Participates in Chesapeake Public Schools Teachers Symposium.** On Thursday, 28 August, three Post comrades set up Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen displays at Grassfield High School to provide visibility to the attending teachers on the details of the VFW scholarship program. Response to the display was tremendous, with teachers from all area middle and high schools interacting with the three VFW representatives,



VFW Post 2894 Comrades Bob Gregory, Dan Eaker and Joe Hammers man the VFW Scholarship Exhibit during the Teachers Training Symposium at Grassfield High School.

asking questions and enthusiastically taking the application forms and posters to display in their respective schools. A big thanks to Kimberly Hammers, our Post's Teacher of the Year for 2023-24, for organizing the event and to Bob Gregory, Dan Eaker and Joe Hammers for manning the counter and providing the information for all the teachers that came through the exhibit.



VFW Post 2894 Comrade Joe Hammers explains some of the VFW Scholarship details to interested teachers during the Teachers Training Symposium.

- **Voice of Democracy Nominations Due 31 October.**
If you know of an eligible high schooler, please share this scholarship opportunity with him/her!

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 25,000 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$21,000, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000.

The Voice of Democracy Program is open to students in grades 9-12, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the U.S. and its territories.

Students record their original 3-to-5-minute essay on a flash drive/email for submission on the stated theme. Once the student creates their essay and completes recording the audio version to a flash drive, he/she can submit the typed version, flash drive and Voice of Democracy entry form to VFW Post 2894. The deadline is October 31st, 2024, and this year's theme is: **"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"**

Entry forms can be downloaded at: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

- **Patriots Pen Scholarship Nominations Due 31 October.**
If you know of an eligible middle schooler, please share this scholarship opportunity with him/her!

Each year, nearly 68,800 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW's **Patriot's Pen** youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of nearly \$1 million in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief.

The deadline for submitting an entry for the Patriot's Pen contest is October 31st, 2024, and this year's theme is: **"My Voice in America's Democracy?"**

- **TEACHERS OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DUE 31 OCTOBER.** Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program. Post 2894 has been fortunate enough to have a National Teacher of the Year (Craig Blackman, Indian River HS, 2015), a National 3rd Runner-Up (Kimberly Hammers, Grassfield HS, 2016), a Department Winner (Kathy Doren, Greenbrier MS, 2017), a District Winner (Kris Iaquinto, Great Bridge MS, 2019), and another Department Winner (Christine Kapko, Great Bridge HS, 2023)

For the Post to qualify as an All-State Post this year, we need to submit a nominee for one nomination for a teacher, K-12. If you know of someone who promotes a sense of pride in students through the teaching of civic responsibilities, flag etiquette, and patriotism, please nominate them for this prestigious National VFW Award! The deadline is October 31st, 2024! Nominations must include the nomination form, nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available.

The top prize winner receives \$1,000 plus another \$1,000 to the school, plaques for both teacher and school, and an all-paid expense trip to the 2023 VFW National Convention which will be in Baltimore, MD.

Entry forms can be downloaded at: <https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/TeacheroftheYearEntryFormandBrochure.pdf?v=1&d=20240523T171419Z&la=en>

• **VFW Post 2894 Host NFL Football Nights at Post Headquarters.** On Thursday night, 5 September, the Post kicked off the NFL 2024-25 season with a Game Party in Bay One of the Post HQ. Comrade Matt Squires coordinated the event, with a large six-foot wide screen that provided a great viewing picture for all those who came out to watch the game between the Baltimore Ravens and Kansas City Chiefs. Comrade Nick Fenton brought in pizza that was enjoyed by all in attendance that night!



VFW Post 2894 comrades watch the Ravens/Chiefs NFL football game on the big screen in Post HQ Bay One.

The Post repeated the event on Thursday evening, 19 September, highlighting the New York Jets versus the New England Patriots. Al Peterson provided baked lasagna and salmon salad sandwiches for those who came in to enjoy the game.

Next game is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 3 October, between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Atlanta Falcons. Games are currently going every other week (odd week in the game schedule), but if you have a particular game you'd like to have

hosted at the Post, just let Matt know and we'll arrange the viewing.

Stay tuned for future events of this nature – if you have a favorite team you'd like to see on the big screen, be sure to let Matt Squires know and we will schedule another Game Day/Night for that specific event – college games are also included in this planning. A big thanks to Matt for ensuring these two events went off without a glitch!

• **VFW Post 2894 Comrades Attend Annual Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs Breakfast.** On Saturday morning, 21 September, several members of VFW Post 2894 got out and enjoyed breakfast with other veterans from several area organizations as well as business and political leaders from around the area. Hosted by the Chesapeake City Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs, Mayor Rick West thanked everyone for attending and expressed his appreciation for all the veterans do to support area development and provide input to current issues.

Guest speaker for the event was Mr. David Huffman, Executive Director for Mission: POW-MIA, Chesapeake, a local organization that advocates for the families of those veterans who remain missing on the battlefields of the twentieth century. Mr. Huffman provided valuable insight in the issues that face not only



VFW Post 2894 comrades enjoy breakfast at the Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs annual event. From left: Susan Vitale, Matt Hamel, Jim Keiper (standing), DJ Hansen, Becky Waters and Brad Waters. Not pictured: Dan Eaker.

the families of those MIAs, but ongoing challenges of PTSD, homelessness, substance abuse, and suicide. He encapsulated all these issues into one category: Trauma. He explained that most of these issues are caused by the traumas experienced by both the veterans and their families. Feelings of loss and lasting questions surrounding losing a comrade (survivor's guilt) or having a loved one suddenly ripped from the family dynamic often results in unanswered questions that are carried inside for decades.

• **VFW Post 2894 Comrades Participate in POW-MIA Wreath Laying Ceremony at NAS Oceana.** On Tuesday, 24 September, NAS Oceana hosted a POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony at the Flame of Hope Memorial to honor all those

veterans who were Prisoners-of-War or are still listed as missing in action from the various international conflicts that involved American servicemen and women. VFW Post 2894 Quartermaster John Peterson, realizing the Post did not have a ceremonial wreath for the presentation, quickly put one together so that our Post, and the VFW organization, would be represented at the ceremony.

On that Tuesday afternoon, John, along with Dan Eaker, Post Adjutant, attended the ceremony, with John presenting the wreath for display with others surrounding the Flame of Remembrance at the monument site. Although it was a somewhat gloomy day weatherwise, the rain held off during the short ceremony and provided a great ambiance for the occasion and taking pictures for those who so desired. Thanks to John Peterson for rising to the occasion and ensuring our Post is visible at these types of events throughout the region.



*VFW Post 2894
Quartermaster John
Peterson presents the
Post Memorial Wreath at
the NAS Oceana POW-
MIA Remembrance
Ceremony.*

*VFW Post 2894
Comrades Dan
Eaker (left) and
John Peterson
participate in the
NAS Oceana
POW-MIA
Remembrance
Ceremony.*



• **VFW Post 2894 Comrades Participate in International Coastal Cleanup 2024.**

On Saturday, 21 September, hundreds of volunteers ventured to the Virginia Beach oceanfront as part of the International Coastal Cleanup Day 2024. This international event began more than 35 years ago, when communities rallied together with the common goal of collecting and documenting the trash littering their coastline. Since its beginning, more than seventeen million volunteers have collected more than 348 million pounds of trash.



*VFW Post 2894 member Mike
Kust and his wife, Auxiliary
member Donna Kust, donate
their time for the
International Coastal
Cleanup Day 2024 at the
Virginia Beach oceanfront.*

VFW Post 2894 member Mike Kust and his wife Donna traveled to the beachfront to participate in this important environmental maintenance, showing up at the Virginia Beach oceanfront to assist in policing the area for debris from 17th Street up to 40th Street. Thanks to their efforts

our local beaches will continue to be a natural beauty enjoyed by thousands of visitors for years to come!

• **VFW Post 2894 Recruiting Team Successful at Neptune Festival.** On the weekend of 27-28 September, Virginia Beach held the annual Neptune Festival at the oceanfront boardwalk. VFW Post 2894, along with other VFW District 2 recruiters, used this unique opportunity to interact with Hampton Roads area citizenry, discussing how Veterans Organizations support the local communities and encouraging resident veterans to get involved



*VFW Comrades Bill Cusson (Post 4809), Jim Wikkerink (Post 392)
and Jose Vazquez (Post 2894) recruit veterans for area VFW posts at
the Virginia Beach Neptune Festival.*

with the various organizations in their respective communities.

For the three days the recruiters were able to bring in a number of new members for all the posts in the Hampton Roads area. A big thank you to Jose Vazquez for braving the weather and bringing in new members to ensure the continuing development of our Post!

• **VFW Post 2894 Service Officer Coordinates Medical Equipment Delivery.**



Figure 1 VFW Post 2894 Service Officers Jim Ireland (right) and John Collick (Post 4411) load a Hoyer Lift on a pickup for distribution to a disabled veteran in Franklin, Virginia.

In late September, Jim Ireland, VFW Post 2894 Service Officer, got a call from Post 4411 in Franklin about a veteran in need of equipment for a bedridden disabled veteran in need. Due to the recent passing of a Post member, Jim knew that much of the necessary equipment was available and the family was ready to donate it to someone in need. Coordinating with John Collick, Service Officer for Post 4411, Jim was able to provide a Hoyer Lift and hospital bed with air-cushioned mattresses for the veteran in need.

Thanks to those VFW Post 2894 comrades who assisted with the loading of the equipment so that we got it over to the Franklin Post for further distribution!

OCTOBER 1950: SUNCHON TUNNEL MASSACRE OF U.S. POWS

In October of 1950, at Pyongyang, when the fall of that city appeared imminent, the Communists loaded approximately 180 American war prisoners into open railroad cars for transport northward. These men were survivors of the Seoul-Pyongyang death march and were weak from lack of food, water, and medical care. The journey is said to have taken four to five days. The climate was very harsh and many of the POWs, who were unprotected and given no food, water, or medical treatment, died during the trip.

The cars unloaded on October 30 at the Suncheon tunnel in Suncheon, South Pyongan, where the Americans were told by the North Koreans they would be given food and treatment. They were divided into groups of 40 and marched to the ravine, where the KPA mowed the Americans down *en masse* with submachine guns. A witness said the prisoners "went around the corner, into this ditch. Pvt. 1st Class John Martin, one of the survivors of the massacre, gave his account of the incident: "We went around the corner, into this ditch. They [the KPA] said, 'Get down; the planes. Get down; the planes.' So when we all ducked down some more

of them came up on us over a little rice paddy and they just opened up." Sixty-eight people were killed out of 138 people who died during the journey. By the time they had been rescued by a South Korean-American rescue mission, there were only twenty-one survivors, who a ROK detachment safely conveyed along with the dead to Pyongyang, where C-54 Skymasters flew them to Japan. Two of the survivors died of their wounds following their return to U.S. military control.



**NOVEMBER 1965
BATTLE OF THE
IA DRANG VALLEY
SOUTH VIETNAM**

In the fall of 1965, the Vietnam War was an event most Americans saw as a series of smaller battles leaving little to remember. That all would change when the First Cavalry Air Mobile Division flew into the Ia Drang Valley in the central highlands of South Vietnam.



The Air Mobile Division was a new concept. Battalions would use helicopters to be transferred in and out as artillery support came in from above. This allowed troops to be quickly brought in and out for battle. The central highlands had few roads and challenging terrain, making air mobility the only viable mode of transportation.

The Battle of the Ia Drang Valley would come to be remembered as one of the most iconic battles of the Vietnam War, and later would set the scene for the film *We Were Soldiers* based on the novel *We Were Soldiers Once.....And Young*. It was the first major combat action between U.S. ground forces and the North Vietnamese Army. And it all began early one fall day.



UH-1 "Huey" helicopters provide support to the 1st Cavalry Air Mobile Division during the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley, November 1965.

On the morning of November 14th, the 1st Cavalry landed at Landing Zone X-Ray at the base of the Chu Pong Mountains and by noon they were already under attack from the North Vietnamese. The fighting continued all day and into the night with the enemy relentlessly making assault after assault.

The North Vietnamese forces had succeeded in engaging the U.S. forces in very tight quarters. The cavalry regiment returned fire, but the enemy were dug into prepared fighting positions and many of the American leaders had died or were wounded during the initial stages of the attack.

Temperatures reached 100 degrees, and by the afternoon there was a firestorm battle for survival. Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Hal Moore and his men continued on, receiving support from artillery units and air strikes, helping the American troops hold themselves against the enemy.

During a 14-hour period, Major Bruce Crandall and Captain Ed Freeman repeatedly landed their helicopter under intense enemy fire at Landing Zone X-Ray. They resupplied ammunition, water, and supplies, while evacuating the wounded. They saved some 70 soldiers. Both later were awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for heroism in combat.

By the end of the first day, the 1st BN, 7th Cavalry was reduced to approximately 340 men. North Vietnamese forces had higher casualty rates, due to the U.S. airstrike and artillery support.

On the second day, North Vietnamese forces launched a heavy attack including hand-to-hand combat. Charlie Company took the brunt of the assault. A "Broken Arrow" was declared over the radio by the Battalion Forward Air Controller, which meant that an American unit was in imminent danger of being overrun. It was the signal for all available American aircraft to converge and provide aid to the American unit.



American forces evacuate from a landing zone during the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley.

The fighting continued for three hours. Charlie Company held their position, exemplifying extraordinary heroism and courage. By the end, there were no officers left and only 49 men that were not wounded.

With the arrival on foot of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry commanded by Lt. Col. Robert McDade, on the morning of November 16, there were now three Cavalry battalions crammed into the clearing, including Lt. Col. Walter Tully's 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry. By the third day of the battle, the Americans had gained the upper hand.

As the fighting around Landing Zone X-Ray subsided, McDade's 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, was ordered to move cross-country to Landing Zone Albany, where it was to be picked up by helicopter and moved to a new location. The U.S. unit was moving through the jungle in a long column when the 8th battalion of the North Vietnamese 66th Regiment sprang into a massive ambush. Of the 500 men, 150 were killed and only 84 were able to return to immediate duty. Companies C and D took the brunt of the Communist attack, and most of the men were quickly hit. It was the most successful ambush against U.S. forces during the course of the entire war.

Before the Battle of Ia Drang was over, 305 Americans had been killed along with an estimated 2,000 North Vietnamese troops. American officials declared the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley a victory.

The service members killed in the Battle of Ia Drang are remembered on Panel 3E of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Reference: <https://www.vvmf.org/topics/Ia-Drang/>

IN MEMORIUM

Comrade Richard A. Joiner

1966 – 2024



Chief Richard Joiner (USN, Ret.), affectionately known as both "Rich" and "Ricky," 58, passed away peacefully on June 25, 2024. He was born in Florida to the late Donald Joiner and Alice Lawley. His brother, Jeffery Joiner, also preceded him in death.

Richard served his country for over 30 years, twenty of which was with the US Navy. After retiring as a Chief, he started his role as an Information Technology Specialist for the

Department of Defense. He transitioned to Military Sealift Command in Bahrain where he played a vital role in supporting combat operations in the region. He had a vast knowledge of computer syndrome which made him indispensable to the Military Sealift Command CENT Commodore and Task Force 53 Commander. As an Information Technology Specialist for the Department of Defense, Richard supervised the delivery of 2,400 new computers to support improved telework requirements for his department. He served as a SME (subject matter expert) for a variety of computer networks and communications system.

He enjoyed working and loved his job dearly, spending many hours poring over his work. When he wasn't working, Richard had many passions. IT was a huge interest of his. He loved computers and could fix any computer issue that arose. He enjoyed fishing, eating, and traveling. He had a love for movies, particularly the thriller, comedy, and horror genres. He had a recognizable and thunderous voice, and he often used it to sing and host karaoke nights on Tik Tok. His joy was infectious, and he loved to joke and laugh. He could take the saddest day and make it bright.

More important than his many impressive achievements, however, is who Richard was as a person. He was a humble and loving man who knew and loved God. He provided for his family and was a leader amongst men. Often touted as the wisest individual in the room, his tenacity and brilliance led him to be a point of guidance for many. He offered honest opinions and words of advice, and at times, a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on if that was all that was needed. He was always there to help, even when he didn't want to be or have to be. Richard had a gentle soul, and cared not only for humans, but for animals as well.

Left to cherish his memory: his son, David Joiner; daughter, Paige Joiner (both of [Norfolk, VA](#)); step-mother, Marva (Stella) Joiner; niece, Amanda Joiner; step-sister, Cyndi Fischer; step-nephew, Justin Fischer; and step nieces, Brandy Fischer-Ferlito and Ashley Fischer-Anderson (all of Warren, Michigan).

+ SAFETY CORNER +

OCTOBER IS CRIME PREVENTION MONTH



The safety topic for October is Crime Prevention. All of us are interested in crime reduction, and there are many things we can do as individuals to help reduce the occurrence of crime. These include:

- Stay alert and aware:
 - Always be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to what is occurring around you.
 - Don't use your phone when walking. It will distract you from any dangers that may appear.
 - Walk in well-lit busy areas. Outdoors, choose well-used trails and paths.
 - Be aware of anyone near you when using an ATM; cover the pad when entering your PIN.
- Secure your home:
 - Employ lights to make your home less attractive to criminals.
 - Dusk-to-dawn outdoor lights are very effective, as are motion detector lights.
 - Locks help limit entry to your home. Use strong deadbolts on all exterior doors. Install locks on all ground floor windows.
 - Lock your doors even when you are at home.
- Community watch:
 - Join your local community watch if you have one. Collective vigilance is effective.
 - Report suspicious persons or activity.
- Be cautious on-line:
 - Use strong passwords.
 - Don't share personal information.
 - Post vacation photos after you get back; why tell criminals your home is currently empty!



- Use caution traveling:
 - Keep your documents on you.

Keep your bags and personal items near you at all times.

Again, be aware of your surroundings.

Using the above tips, as well as good judgement and common sense, can do your part in reducing crime. Make the world safer for everyone.

+ SAFETY CORNER +

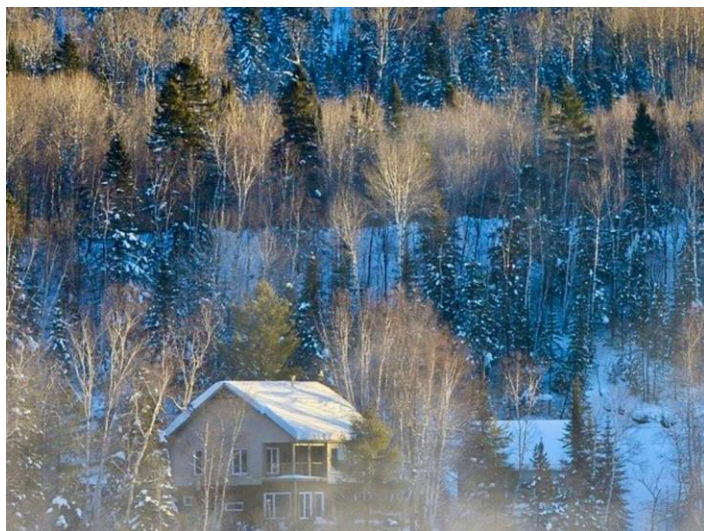
NOVEMBER IS COLD WEATHER INJURY AWARENESS MONTH



Although November is noted for Thanksgiving, it also is Cold Weather Injury Awareness Month. We live in a temperate area, but many of us travel to the northern states come fall or enjoy hunting and fishing in the great outdoors. This can expose us to cold weather injuries, even at temperatures of 40 or

60 degrees. Persons with conditions such as hypertension, hypothyroidism, or diabetes are especially vulnerable. Even poor physical condition is a danger. Long term exposure to cool and wet conditions can result in non-freezing injuries such as:

Trench foot
Frost bite
Hypothermia
Wind chill



Hunters are especially subject to trench foot. Long periods of cool or cold with wet feet are dangerous. When wet, feet lose heat

25 times faster than when dry. Keep your feet dry. Bring a towel and dry socks with you to use when necessary.

Hypothermia is a danger even at temperatures around 60 degrees. As your body loses heat, the brain shunts blood to your internal organs and the brain itself to maintain life. Being wet in cool weather over a long time is like being in a cold mountain lake. You will lose heat and eventually consciousness.

Wind chill is self-explanatory ... who hasn't experienced being outside, shivering, and hurriedly returning to that warm fireplace. Always wear the proper clothing for expected or possible cold, wet, windy weather.

Be careful and come back from your excursion healthy and well.

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 are interested in and let them know you would like to help:

- **Bataan Death March Committee:** Ted Roberts, John Peterson, Matt Schweers, Grace Schweers, Ann Jones, Becky Waters, Brad Waters, Matt Hostetlar, Diane Hostetlar, Jose Vazquez, and Bob Gregory
- **Budget Committee:** John Peterson, Bob Gregory, Susan Vitale, Mark Rios, Brad Waters, Mike Kust, Dan Eaker and Carl Dozier
- **By-Laws Committee:** Bob Gregory, Matt Hostetlar, Frank Sgromolo and Jose Vazquez
- **Community Service Committee:** Jim Ireland, Susan Vitale, John Guill, David Weber, Frank Sgromolo, Kimball Thompson, Ron Mayfield, and John Peterson
- **Awards/Scholarship Committee:** Mark Rios, Mike Kust, Dan Eaker, Joe Hammers, Carl Dozier, Otmar Guzman, Ron Liston, Kimball Thompson, and Chuck Wolff
- **Membership/Recruiting Committee:** Bob Gregory, Susan Vitale, José Vazquez, and Dan Eaker
- **Building Renovation Committee:** Kimball Thompson, Jim Ireland, Susan Vitale, Anne Thompson, Ken Belkofer, Matt Overbeck and Jim Keiper
- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Joe McGourn and Dan Eaker
- **Health/Safety Committee:** Surgeon David Weber, Frank Sgromolo
- **Activities Committee:** Carl Dozier, Dan Eaker, Susan Vitale, Joe McGourn

QUARTERMASTER DESK



Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$35 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 the front of the newsletter) or to the Quartermaster at one of our meetings.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

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

Annual Members!

Renewals are due now and must be paid by 31 June.

VFW Post 2894 will purchase your LIFE member hat when you convert to Life. \$50 value!

Join the 150 Life Members in the Post.

See Senior Vice Cmdr Susan Vitale or the Quartermaster, John Peterson

AGE as of DECEMBER 31 st	One-Time Payment	\$45 + 11 Payments of
18-30 Years Old	\$425.00	\$38.64
31-40 Years Old	\$410.00	\$37.27
41-50 Years Old	\$375.00	\$34.09
51-60 Years Old	\$335.00	\$30.45
61-70 Years Old	\$290.00	\$26.36
71-80 Years Old	\$225.00	\$20.45
81 Years & Over	\$170.00	\$15.45

Installment plan requires member approval from National and must be validated before purchase of hat.

Life and Annual Dues can be paid on line at our web page
<https://vfw2894.org/join-the-vfw>

Points of contact for Annual dues and Life Conversion: susan.vitale@verizon.com and jpeter310@gmail.com.

OCTOBER MILITARY HISTORY

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 1880 John Philip Sousa becomes director of Marine Corps Band | 5 1943 US aircraft & ships raid Japanese positions on Wake Is, leading to execution of American civilians held prisoner. |
| 1942 Maiden flight of Bell P-59 Airacomet, first US jet fighter | |
| 1943 Allied forces liberate Naples | 1986 Former US Marine Eugene Hasenfus captured by Nicaraguan Sandinistas after his plane carrying arms for the rebels is shot down, initiating what became known as the "Iran-Contra" controversy. |
| 1945 US Army discharges MSGT Joe Louis | |
| 1955 Commissioning of USS 'Forrestal' (CVA-59) 1st supercarrier | 6 1781 Americans & French begin siege of Cornwallis at Yorktown |
| 1957 B-52 bombers begin full-time flying alert in case of USSR attack, which continues until early 1990s | 7 1777 Second Battle of Saratoga (Bemis Heights): Americans win |
| 2 1799 Washington Navy Yard established | 2001 US & Allies initiate war in Afghanistan after Taliban refuses to surrender Osama bin Laden. |
| 1835 Battle of Gonzales: Texans rout Mexicans, touching off Texas Revolution | 2004 Allies commence Operation Phantom Fury, the Second Battle of Fallujah in Iraq, the bloodiest battle of the conflict for American forces |
| 3 1895 Publication of Stephen Crane's "Red Badge of Courage" | 8 1918 Sgt Alvin York captures "whole damned German Army" |
| 1921 Unknown Soldier sails from France aboard USS 'Olympia' | 9 1942 Guadalcanal: Marines encircle Japanese 4th Inf Regt |
| 1990 East and West Germany united as the Republic of Germany | 1945 Broadway ticker tape parade for Admiral Chester W. Nimitz |
| 4 1821 First USN squadron sails for anti-slavery patrol off Africa | 10 1944 17 US carriers raid Ryukyus |

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>11 1861 Battle of Dumfries/Quantico Creek, VA
1944 Japan announces it will "fight to last man, woman, child, weapon, and piece of equipment."</p> <p>12 2000 Islamist suicide boat attack on USS 'Cole' (DDG-67) at Aden, 17 die, about 40 wounded</p> <p>13 1775 Congress establishes Continental Navy
1864 John Mosby raids Harpers Ferry</p> <p>14 1942 Guadalcanal: Japanese ships land reinforcements, shell Marines
1942 New Guinea: Heavy fighting, Templeton's Crossing, Kokod Trail.</p> <p>15 1944 Peleliu secured: Japanese KIA abt 12,000, US over 1,200.</p> <p>16 1859 John Brown's "Raid" on Harper's Ferry
1863 U.S. Grant named commander of Union forces in West
1940 WW II draft begins; #158 drawn first
1962 Missile Crisis: JFK learns of Soviet missiles in Cuba</p> <p>17 1777 British General John Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga
1781 British General Lord Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown
1916 Battleship 'Arizona' (BB-39) commissioned at Brooklyn Navy Yard
1922 1st US carrier take-off: Virgil C. Griffin in VE-7SF off 'Langley' (CV 1)
1944 Battle of Leyte Gulf, largest naval battle in history, begins.</p> <p>18 1767 Completion of survey of Mason-Dixon Line, defining mutual borders of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware
1859 US Marines under Robert E. Lee capture John Brown & his party at Harper's ferry
1945 Nuremburg War Crimes Trial begins in Munich, Germany</p> <p>19 1879 William Tecumseh Sherman says, "War is hell."
1915 USN establishes submarine base at New London, Ct.
1950 UN forces enter Pyongyang, capital of North Korea
1987 US warships destroy Iranian oil platforms in Persian Gulf
2001 Airborne invasion of Afghanistan; Qandahar Airfield seized</p> <p>20 1944 MacArthur returns to Philippines at Leyte, w/200,000 troops
1944 US First Army secures Aachen, first large German city captured by the Allies.
1978 U.S. Women's Army Corps disestablished and women integrated into the regular Army forces</p> <p>21 1797 USS 'Constitution' - 'Old Ironsides' - launched at Boston.
2011 President Obama announces withdrawal of remaining troops from Iraq, thus concluding American involvement there.</p> <p>22 1836 Sam Houston inaugurated as 1st elected President of Republic of Texas (1836-1838)
1954 West Germany joins NATO</p> | <p>1962 Missile Crisis: JFK imposes naval blockade on Cuba</p> <p>23 1775 Congress bars blacks from army, but is generally ignored
1942 Guadalcanal: Battle of Edson's Ridge - Japanese assault broken
1983 Beirut: Suicide truck bomb kills 243 US personnel</p> <p>24 1942 FDR directs all available ammo, aircraft, & equipment be provided to forces engaged on Guadalcanal or bound for North Africa, even if it means stripping units elsewhere</p> <p>25 1943 Battle of Cape St. George: five US destroyers sink 3 of 6 Japanese destroyers
1958 US Marines leave Lebanon (there since July)</p> <p>1983 US and West Indian forces occupy Grenada</p> <p>26 1861 Last ride of Pony Express
1944 Leyte Gulf ends: losses, Japan 34 major warships, US 6</p> <p>27 1775 Congress formally establishes US Navy
1810 U.S. annexes West Florida from Spain
1942 Battle of Santa Cruz Island: USS 'Hornet' (CV-8) sunk
1954 Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. becomes first black general in USAF</p> <p>28 1942 "Tokyo Express" lands troops on Guadalcanal.
1962 Khrushchev orders missiles out of Cuba, ending Missile Crisis</p> <p>29 1929 "Black Friday": Crash of '29
1944 Near Aachen, 1st Inf Div Rabbi Sidney Lefkowitz & cantor PFC Max Fuchs conduct first Jewish service for American troops on German soil, broadcast worldwide, with accompanying artillery fire</p> <p>30 1954 Defense Department announces elimination of all segregated units</p> <p>31 1803 US Frigate 'Philadelphia' grounds off Tripoli & taken by Barbary pirates
1941 'U-552' sinks USS 'Reuben James' (DD-245), 115 die; first US ship lost in WW II
1952 First thermonuclear bomb detonated, Marshall Islands
1968 President Johnson halts all bombing of North Vietnam</p> |
|---|---|

NOVEMBER MILITARY HISTORY

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 1765 Stamp Act goes into effect in British colonies
1835 Texans begin siege of San Antonio (it falls Dec 4)
1943 Bougainville: 3rd Marine Div lands at Cape Torokina, Empress Augusta Bay
1951 First atomic explosion with troops present, NM
1952 First hydrogen device exploded, Eniwetok Atoll
1967 North Vietnamese 1st Division attacks allied outposts at Dak To in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam.</p> <p>2 1783 Washington's "Farewell Address to Army," at Rocky Hill, near Princeton
1917 First US troops KIA in France</p> | <p>1944 US & Filipino troops clear Japanese from central valley on Leyte.</p> <p>3 1783 Continental Army mustered out of service, Rocky Hill, NJ
1979 Teheran: Iranians storm US embassy to take 63 hostages</p> <p>4 1862 Richard J. Gatling receives patent for clever device
1950 US troops retreat from Pyongyang, North Korea</p> <p>5 1917 Maj. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr, leads first American patrol into "No Man's Land"</p> <p>6 1945 First jet carrier landing: Ryan FR "Fireball" on USS 'Wake Island' (CVE-65)</p> |
|--|--|

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>7 1865 CSS 'Shenandoah' surrenders to British authorities at Liverpool, seven months after Appomattox</p> <p>1973 The War Powers Act becomes law.</p> <p>2004 The Second Battle of Fallujah commences in Anbar Province, Iraq</p> <p>8 1942 Operation Torch: US/British forces land northwestern Africa</p> <p>1950 Lt. Russell J. Brown's F-86 scores North Korean MiG-15 in history's first jet-on-jet combat</p> <p>9 1921 The Unknown Soldier arrives at Washington aboard USS 'Olympia'</p> <p>1984 "Three Servicemen" Statue added to Vietnam Veterans Memorial</p> <p>1989 The Berlin Wall comes down.</p> <p>2001 Battle of Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan</p> <p>10 1775 Congress establishes Marine Corps</p> <p>1782 Chillicothe, Ohio, George Rodgers Clark defeats Indians and Tories; final battle of Revolutionary War.</p> <p>1945 US liberates Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald</p> <p>1954 USMC ["Iwo Jima"] Memorial dedicated in Arlington</p> <p>11 1839 Virginia Military Institute opens</p> <p>1864 Sherman's March: Burning of Rome, Georgia</p> <p>1909 USN begins construction of base at Pearl Harbor</p> <p>1918 World War I armistice</p> <p>1921 Escorted by 30 holders of Medal of Honor, "Unknown Soldier" laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery</p> <p>12 1942 Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, Day 1: Japanese aircraft raid Henderson field, both fleets converge on Iron Bottom Sound</p> <p>13 1775 Americans under Maj Gen Richard Montgomery capture Montreal</p> <p>1776 John Paul Jones captures British transport 'Mellish'</p> <p>1982 Vietnam War Memorial dedicated</p> <p>14 1910 First airplane takeoff from ship: Eugene Ely in Curtiss Flyer, off USS 'Birmingham' (CL-2)</p> <p>1965 Battle of Ia Drang commences in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam.</p> <p>15 1864 Sherman burns what Confederates haven't of Atlanta</p> <p>16 1982 Maiden voyage of Space Shuttle 'Columbia'</p> <p>17 1869 Suez Canal opens</p> <p>1913 Panama Canal opens</p> <p>1917 First US ASW Victory: Destroyers 'Fanning' (DD-37) & 'Nicholson' (DD-52) sink 'U-58', in Irish Sea</p> <p>18 1961 JFK sends 18,000 military advisors to South Vietnam</p> <p>1965 Battle of Ia Drang ends with 234 American deaths and 250 wounded.</p> | <p>19 1492 Columbus lands in Puerto Rico</p> <p>1863 Abraham Lincoln gives Gettysburg speech</p> <p>1944 New Guinea: U.S. troops land</p> <p>1950 Eisenhower becomes supreme commander of NATO</p> <p>1999 USCG Capt Earl R. Fox, Public Health Service, retires; last WW II veteran on active service</p> <p>20 1866 First national convention of Grand Army of Republic [GAR]</p> <p>1945 General of Army George C. Marshall steps down, after 2272 days as Chief-of-Staff</p> <p>21 1943 Operation Galvanic: Marines in heavy fighting on Tarawa, National Guardsmen advance on Makin, while Marines land on Abemama, 75 mi SE of Tarawa.</p> <p>22 1943 FDR, Churchill, & Chiang meet to discuss defeat of Japan.</p> <p>23 1942 USCG Women Reserve (SPAR's) established.</p> <p>1943 Operation Galvanic: US forces secure Tarawa & Makin</p> <p>1944 Gen Patch's Seventh Army captures Strasbourg.</p> <p>1967 North Vietnamese forces are forced to withdraw from Dak To, ending the costliest engagement between allied and Communist forces.</p> <p>1983 Grenada Campaign Ends</p> <p>24 1941 CNO warns fleet "surprise aggressive movement" by Japan imminent</p> <p>1944 First B-29 raid from Saipan; 111 bombers hit Tokyo.</p> <p>25 1783 Evacuation Day: British leave New York City, their last base in US, and that evening Governor George Clinton of New York honors George Washington with banquet at Frances' Tavern, where thirteen toasts were offered, beginning with "The United States of America"</p> <p>1961 USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), first nuclear-powered carrier, is commissioned</p> <p>26 1862 Lincoln meets ". . . little lady who started this big war," Harriet Beecher Stowe</p> <p>27 1789 President George Washington proclaims last Thursday in November a day of prayer and thanksgiving</p> <p>1943 Teheran Conference: Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin talk strategy</p> <p>28 1795 US pays \$800,000 & frigate for "protection" from Algerian & Tunisian pirates</p> <p>29 1760 Rogers' Rangers capture Detroit from French</p> <p>1951 1st underground atomic explosion, Frenchman's Flat, NV</p> <p>30 1782 Preliminary Treaty of Paris: American and British sign preliminary articles to end Revolutionary War</p> <p>1943 Teheran Conference: FDR, Churchill, & Stalin agree to launch Operation Overlord in May of 1944</p> |
|---|--|

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>OCTOBER</u>	
1	Jonathan Dozier Birthday Celebration Bier Garten Restaurant, Portsmouth
2	Great American Food Fest
5	National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Day
7	Start of OEF (2001) Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
9	Post Meeting, Post HQ
10	Chesapeake Fire Department Award Presentation
12	Chesapeake Virginia Wine Festival
13	U.S. Navy Birthday (1775) USS Cole Bombing (2000)
14	Columbus Day
23	Bombing of Marine Barracks Beirut (1983)
26	Annual Farm Fair
27	Navy Day
31	Halloween

<u>NOVEMBER</u>	
2-3	Buddy Poppy Fundraiser
3	Daylight Saving Time Ends
5	Election Day
9	VFW District 2 Meeting, Post 4411
10	U.S. Marine Corps Birthday
11	Veterans Day
11	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
13	Post Meeting, Post HQ
28	Thanksgiving



A big shout out to our friends at Home Depot for their assistance with all the VFW service projects - past, present and future! Thanks for your generous donations.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!!!

BUSINESS CARD - \$25/ISSUE; \$100/YEAR
QUARTER PAGE - \$35/ISSUE; \$150/YEAR
HALF PAGE - \$45/ISSUE; \$200/YEAR

VFW MEMBERS/VETERAN-OWNED
BUSINESSES RECEIVE A 20% DISCOUNT

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY



2024-2025 Theme

"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

The Rules

Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: First, visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.vfw.org/FindaPost) to "Find A VFW Post." If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2024. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

2024-2025 Official Entry Form Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

() _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) _____ Grade in School _____ Age _____ Jacket Size _____

School Name, City, State _____

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable) _____

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

() _____

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have not inappropriately used any AI tools or Chat GPT. I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant _____ Date _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature _____ Post # _____

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable) _____

Post Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

VFW Post Email _____

No. of students participating _____

No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$ _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$ _____

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairperson Signature _____ Dist. # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

() _____

Phone _____ Email _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature _____

() _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

For assistance contact:
816.968.2787
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____



Revised 03/2024

PATRIOT'S PEN



2024-2025 Theme

"My Voice in America's Democracy?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 73,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students are ineligible.)

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.

- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of October 31, 2024. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

How Am I Judged?

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:

You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points:

Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:

Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

What Is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2024-2025 theme is:

"My Voice in America's Democracy?"

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2024.

Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find a VFW Post."

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/contactus to look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

For assistance contact
the VFW National Headquarters
at 816.968.2787
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

2024-2025 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

What Are the Rules?

- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).
- The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.
- At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants

No. of winners

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner ☒ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Best Time To Call: _____



Revised 01/2024

2024-2025 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

What is the Teacher Award Program?

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America's youth. VFW and its Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America's educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They're concerned about the perpetuation of America's noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn't you like to see them get the honor they deserve? Now you can.

Why Should I Enter?

VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. The national awards include \$1,000 Smart/Maher award for each of the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses, \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school, commemorative plaques and all-expense-paid trip to the VFW National Convention.

Who is Eligible?

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national VFW winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the official entry form contained on the next page, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed entry form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit vfw.org/FindaPost for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2024. It is the responsibility of the nominator to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Citizenship (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

Innovation (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

Resources (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

Passion (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

*If you have any questions, please call
Tammy Beauchamp, 816.756.3390, ext 6287
or tbeauchamp@vfw.org.*

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: Name, Title

Phone

Best time to call

Alternative Contact: Name, Title

Phone

Best time to call

2024-2025 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

2024-2025 Official Entry Form

Teacher Award Competition

Please tell us who you are nominating—below in box.

Name: First, M.I., Last	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
() Phone	Email
Grade Level (K-5, 6-8, or 9-12)	
School Name	
School Address	
() School Phone	School Email

Person Nominating Teacher

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this teacher has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Teacher Award Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairperson's Signature	Post #
VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairperson's Signature (If Applicable)	
Post Address	
City, State, Zip	
VFW Post Email	
No. of teachers participating	
No. of winners advanced to District	
Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$	
Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses \$ (banquet, pins, etc.)	

To Be Completed by the VFW District (If Applicable)

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Teacher Award District Competition and is our entry into the Department judging.

District Chairperson's Signature	Dist #
Address	
City, State, Zip	
() Phone	Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Teacher Award Department Competition, is our entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson's Signature	
() Daytime Phone	Email

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries will begin at the local VFW Post level. Individual nominees may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One Post winner can be submitted for each level, and to District by Nov. 15. If your Department does not have a District judging, then submit to your Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. Otherwise, one District winner, at each level, may advance to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to find your local VFW Post. Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/ContactUs and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at tbeauchamp@vfw.org.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program



WHAT IS THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM?

Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recognizes 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.

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. There is no minimum age requirement for applicants as long as all other eligibility criteria has been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old. If an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year, they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline. A Scout may enter through only one VFW Post. A local Post can be identified by zip code at vfw.org/FindaPost.

WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

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

Questions should be directed to during normal business hours Monday through Friday or emailed to scouting@vfw.org.

Official Entry Form

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH CONTESTANT
and submitted directly to a VFW post in your community.

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone

Email

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Scout Troop Number

SCOUT/VENTURE CERTIFICATION

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

Scout/Venture Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

UNIT LEADER'S CERTIFICATION

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

Unit Leader's Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

PARENT'S CONSENT

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

Father, Mother or Guardian Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)



SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

PHONE:

SPONSORING VFW POST

POST NUMBER:

ADDRESS:

POST COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE:

DISTRICT CERTIFICATION IF APPLICABLE, CHECK WITH THE VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT #:

DISTRICT CDR.:

DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY DEPARTMENT VFW SCOUTING CHAIRMAN OR DEPT. COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT:

SUBMITTED BY:

SIGNATURE:

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED?

The following documentation should be submitted:

- **Photograph of the Scout** — must be attached to this form. The Scout must appear in correct, complete uniform for their current rank. Recommended size 3" x 5".
- **School Participation Record** — a single page, one-sided resume of the candidate's school activities indicating academic achievements, offices held, honors received and significant participation in other activities.
- **Scouting Record** — maximum of three pages, one side only, listing of all Scouting participation beginning with Cub Scouts or Brownies - years of participation, unit numbers and sponsors. Also include when Eagle, Gold, Summit or Quartermaster Award was received and Palms. Identify leadership positions held at all levels, participation in Scouting activities (jamborees, Order of the Arrow conferences, etc.) and the candidate's Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster Project.
- **Community Service Record** — a single page, one-sided resume listing participation in community and religious service organizations (excluding Scouting and school), noting leadership positions held and any recognition received.
- **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 vfw.org/FindaPost.

WHO MAKES UP THE VFW SCOUTING TEAM?

The backbone of Scouting in the VFW is the VFW Scouting Team. These VFW members are deeply involved in Scouting, most with decades of experience.

Appointed by their Department Commander, they are responsible for promoting scouting in their state. They are available to encourage Posts to sponsor units, support units and individual Scout projects. They should be the Department's "expert" on all phases of scouting. Many Departments have multiple members of the VFW Scouting Team, but every Department should have at least one individual to promote the values of scouting to youth and to the VFW itself. For more information on the VFW Scouting Team call email scouting@vfw.org

