

## 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

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month – 7:00 pm  
VFW Post 2894 Headquarters  
3329 Battlefield Boulevard South  
Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

Email: [cdpost2894@vfwva.org](mailto: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](http://www.vfw.org)

### STATE

[www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)

### VFW VA DISTRICT 2

[www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2](http://www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2)

VFW Post 2894 GoFundMe

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



## VFW POST 2894 HEADQUARTERS BUILDING GETS A MAKEOVER

The VFW Post 2894 occupied the old Chesapeake Fire Station #7 in April of 2023. Since then, the building has been slowly transforming into a functional headquarters that comfortably accommodates over 200 people in a pleasing, professional environment. (continued on page 3)



*VFW Post 2894 Headquarters Conference Room received additional upgrades that included painting of doors, frames and installation of new carpet.*

## COMMANDER'S CORNER



As I was thinking of what to say in this edition of our newsletter, I could not get beyond what just happened with the loss of our 8-time Commander, Chris "Mule" Mulholland. Chris passed away last Friday, 24 January

2025, after an almost 5-year fight against Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS). Chris was more than a friend - he was a source of light, laughter, and unwavering support. His kindness, generosity, and unique ability to make others feel valued left a lasting imprint on everyone who he encountered. Chris was dedicated to the VFW, this Post and especially to the veterans of Chesapeake. Though Chris is no longer with us in person, his spirit lives on in the memories of the "Mule" we all cherish. We will carry forward Chris's legacy of kindness, resilience, humor, and support for veterans as we navigate the world that feels a little emptier without him. Rest in peace, Marine! You will always be loved, remembered, and missed. Semper Fidelis!

We are looking for comrades who want to serve the Post as officers. Our goal is to develop a slate of officers for our February meeting, officially nominate the slate in March, and hold our election in April. If you are interested in making the Post the best it can be, please contact the Election Chair, Kimball Thompson, via email at [thompson15@cox.net](mailto:thompson15@cox.net).

We don't just have the officer billets to fill, but the various committees as well. Please take a moment to consider stepping up and volunteering just a little bit more of your free time for the Post. We have some major plans and would like everyone's input and assistance.

Our biggest event of the year is coming up and I am asking everyone to block out your calendars for the 5th of April. This will be our 14th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk! We need 'all hands-on deck' for this event since it takes everyone's assistance - no matter how big or small - to pull it off successfully. I also ask every member to approach at least one business and ask them to be a sponsor of the march.

Once again, thank you all for what you do every day in supporting your families, our veterans, and our community!

Semper Fidelis!

Bob Gregory, Commander

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hello - It's 2025! Time to dust off the past and get ready for new and exciting things. Our Post home has a clean, new look with fresh paint and new flooring. In February we'll host our District 2 meeting and start getting organized for our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk held in April. There will be Lincoln and Washington birthdays, Valentine's and St. Patrick's Days. But also National Freedom Day (Feb 1<sup>st</sup>) and Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29<sup>th</sup>). A card of remembrance goes a long way to helping cheer someones day

On these cold and blustery winter days please take a few minutes to remember the families still suffering from hurricane Helene, the ones displaced by fires in California, and those right here in Virginia who struggle to have basic necessities like heat, food, or suitable warm clothing. Spring seems a long way off, but it's only a few short weeks until we see green start to cover the yards and buds popping out on the trees. Daylight Savings Time begins March 9<sup>th</sup> as days get longer and warmer. I'm looking forward to seeing our post flower bed bloom red with poppies this spring. Until that time, stay safe and think warm thoughts. Come August you'll be wishing it was January again!

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](mailto: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](http://vfw2894.org))

Semper fidelis,

Dan Eaker  
Newsletter Editor



**VFW POST 2894 HEADQUARTERS BUILDING GETS A MAKEOVER** (Continued from page 1) The initial focus was the two meeting rooms (Post and Auxiliary members) that were expanded and painted to improve the basic appeal to those spaces. Several roof leaks were repaired to ensure no moisture entered any of the rooms or bays and then dehumidifiers were added to several areas to reduce any mold buildup on the furniture. Finally in the fall of 2024 we passed all required city inspections and received the Building Occupancy Permit, allowing the Post to hold meetings for up to 227 people on the premises.

A major effort was now required to clean both the bays prior to a complete painting.



*VFW Post Headquarters Bay 1 after a power washing in preparation for the paint crew.*



*Bay 1 after a fresh coat of white/red paint.*

Post volunteers gathered on several occasions to move furniture and reposition boxes/materials being stored in Bay 2 so that both bays could be thoroughly cleaned and washed, followed by a complete painting of the walls, ceiling, and Bay 1 door, including all the exposed HVAC ductwork and roof supports. The painting

contract included all the other spaces in the building that had not been previously painted by Post members, so the Admin Office and hallway also received a fresh coat of white paint.

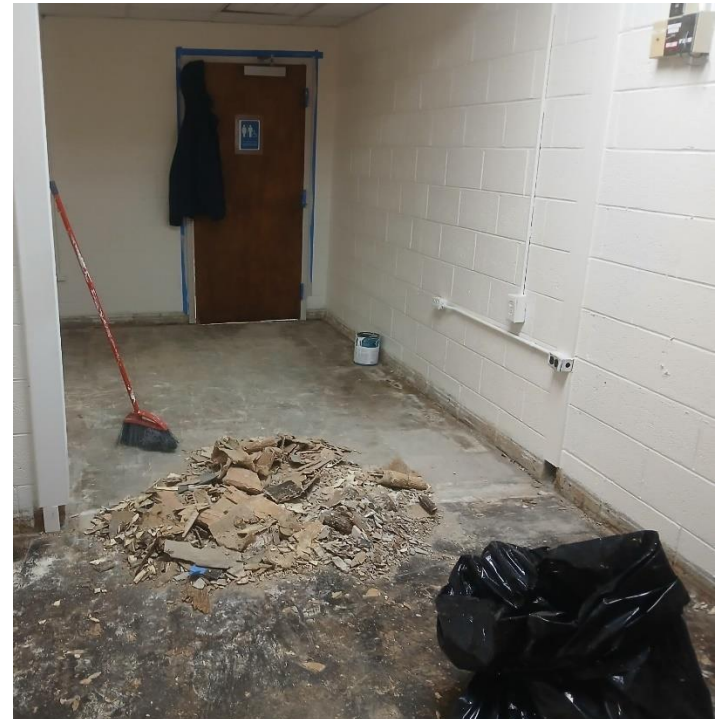
Prior to the floor upgrades, a Post working party came in and painted all the doors and associated trim with a light gray color to complement the ensuing carpet and laminated flooring. Once that was completed, another muscle movement of furniture and other sundry items was completed by Post volunteers to clear the spaces for the flooring crew.

In mid-January, carpeting was installed in the Conference Room, Auxiliary Room, Admin Office and hallway. Additionally, the Quarterdeck received a durable laminate flooring to provide a long lasting coverage for the high traffic entry.

A great big THANK YOU to all those Post members who provided their time and muscle to ensure these building upgrades were completed efficiently and on schedule! The VFW Post 2894



*Post Headquarters Conference Room being prepared for new carpeting.*



*Post Headquarters Quarterdeck prepared for new floor upgrade.*



Headquarters is now an asset that we can proudly present to our comrades in the veteran community as well as to the public in general.



*Post Headquarters Conference Room after new carpet installation.*



*Post Headquarters Quarterdeck after new carpet installation.*

Auxiliary met at the assembly area in Chesapeake to add the final decorations prior to the parade kicking off at 6:00 p.m.



*Members from VFW Post 2894 and its Auxiliary gather prior to the Chesapeake annual Christmas Parade.*



*Family members from VFW Post 2894 wave greetings from Santa's sleigh.*

## **VFW POST 2894 PARTICIPATES IN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE**

On Saturday, 2 December, members of VFW Post 2894 and its associated Auxiliary enjoyed being an attraction in the city of Chesapeake's annual Christmas Parade. On Friday evening prior to the parade, several members met at the Post HQs to assemble Santa's sleigh and place it in the back of a Ford F-150 truck in preparation for transport during the parade. On Saturday afternoon, everyone participating in the parade from both the Post and

## **OTHER POST NEWS**

- **VFW Post 2894 Christmas Party a Resounding Success!** On Wednesday, 13 December, the Post held its annual Christmas party in Bay 1 of the Post Headquarters. Immediately after the regular business meetings for the Post and Auxiliary, members gathered in the bay to enjoy a potluck culinary experience that was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who were able to attend. Thanks to those Auxiliary members who took the time to decorate the space and all those who provided the delicious trays of various delights, from fried chicken, various pastas and an assortment of desserts!





*Post 2894 Auxiliary member Dianne Hostetlar and Post member Becky Waters help set up the Christmas Party culinary delights!*



*VFW Post 2894 members enjoy some Christmas camaraderie and cheer at the Post/Auxiliary Christmas Party.*



*VFW Post 2894 members enjoy the selection of food options at the Post Christmas Party.*



*VFW Post 2894 members enjoy some camaraderie at the Christmas Party. From left: Ron Mayfield, Matt Hostetlar, Dianne Hostetlar and Matt Schweers.*



*VFW Post 2894 members and their families enjoy the Christmas Party. From left: Ruth Roberts, Susan Vitale, Blake Roberts, Ted Roberts and Jose Vazquez.*



*Post and Auxiliary members enjoy themselves at the Post/Auxiliary Christmas Party.*



## IN MEMORIUM

### Comrade Christopher Mulholland

#### 1958 – 2025



Christopher Ulrich Mulholland, Major, U.S. Marine Corps (retired), age 66 of Chesapeake, passed away peacefully at home with his family surrounding him on Friday, January 24, 2025 at home of Lou Gehrig's disease. Born 9 March 1958 in Oxford, England, he was the eldest of two sons of the late Iris (Frese) Mulholland of Chesapeake and Daniel Mulholland of Somerville, Mass.

Chris spent many of his formative years growing up in the small German village of Hesperinghausen in Northern Hesse. In April 1982, he married the love of his life, Barbara Ann Langone.

A graduate of Norwich University in Vermont, Chris was commissioned an infantry officer in the Marine Corps in 1980 and retired after 20 years of honorable and decorated service, to include tours in Beirut, Lebanon and Northern Iraq. The Corps brought him to Chesapeake in 1991. He was a graduate of the Naval War College and earned a Masters from ODU. After his retirement from active service in 2000, Chris worked the next 21 years as a government contractor, remaining in Chesapeake with his family.

He began his life-long passion with soccer as a five-year-old player in Germany and he became a successful player, coach, and - most of all - a referee. As a player he won numerous team and individual awards. As a USSF licensed coach he managed teams from U8B to men's division 1. But it was as a referee that he had his greatest success. Before his retirement from the active ranks, he was one of the top 200 USSF referees in the country and working top professional matches up and down the East coast. He taught and mentored thousands of referees around the globe.

In 2004, he and his son Kevin became involved with power soccer (powered wheelchair soccer) and he led the development of the International Laws of the Game. He was the first Director of International Referees for the Federation Internationale de Powerchair Football Association (FIPFA) and the first VP of the US Power Soccer Association (USPSA). He and Kevin stood up the Virginia Power Soccer Association (VPSA) and formed the Tidewater Piranhas who have twice earned silver at nationals.

He was the lead referee at the inaugural 2007 World Cup in Tokyo and traveled the globe, teaching other referees. He officiated in the European national and club championships, the Americas Cup, the Copa Libertadores, the Copa Sudamerica, and numerous US National Championships.

Chris was extremely involved in helping his community and serving others; a 40 year member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) he served as the Commander of VFW Post 2894 and as the National Deputy Chief of Staff. He also served as a Past Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Council 8240, earning numerous national awards with both organizations including six consecutive VFW All American Post awards. Within the city of Chesapeake, he served on a number of commissions and committees. He served in leadership positions for a variety of local, national, and

international soccer and referee associations; and with the Boy Scouts as Cubmaster for Cub Scout Pack 57 and Advancement Chairman with Troop 57.

Chris was extremely successful at whatever he attempted and enjoyed building things with his hands. He first picked up a rifle and pistol when he entered the Corps and became a successful competitive shooter. He never did anything with less than 150% effort. He loved to travel with Barbara, particularly off the beaten trail. He loved to cook. He loved the outdoors. He loved telling 'dad jokes.' He loved a house full of kids and friends. He lived with gusto, he laughed with gusto, and he loved with gusto.

After his diagnosis of Lou Gehrig disease on Friday the 13th, November 2020, Chris became a fierce and passionate advocate for veterans battling ALS. He developed a checklist for other veterans who receive an ALS diagnosis. He organized and led three teams that raised \$23,000 for the Walk Against ALS. He wrote an OpEd, "ALS Is Killing Veterans," that was published world-wide by the Military Times (October 28, 2021.) He authored a resolution, "Combating ALS in the Veteran Community," which was unanimously passed by the VFW's 123rd National Convention and calls upon Congress to dedicate more resources for veterans stricken with ALS. He was featured in a nationally shown news story titled "Veterans Voices".

Being diagnosed with ALS did not prevent Chris from enjoying soccer. He became a player again, this time in power soccer. With his first game he made some historic firsts: first parent-child duo to play in a sanctioned power soccer match, and first athlete with ALS to play competitive soccer in US history. Besides playing with his son Kevin, scoring five goals in nine regular season matches, and winning silver at the 2022 National Championships, he was proud of earning the only yellow card on the team!

Chris used to say, "My blood type and view on life are both the same: B Positive!" He always closed his correspondence with, "I will fight this battle till my dying breath." And he did, continuing his battle even after death by donating his brain to ALS research.

To the very end, Chris lived his life in accordance with the words of Saint John Paul II: "Never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid."

Chris is survived by his wife, Barbara; his children, sons Kevin and 1LT Christopher, USAR & wife Emilia (Libertini) of Chesapeake, and daughter Katy DeLacy & husband Rich of Dracut, Mass.; his beloved grandchildren, Adelyn Iris, Ella Rose and Christopher Archer DeLacy; his brother Maxwell Mulholland & wife Lynn (Walker) of Winthrop, Mass.; three half-sisters, Anna Mulholland of Brookline, Mass., Larissa (Mulholland) Abbruzzesse of Chicago, and Abigail (Mulholland) McGarry of Norfolk, England; as well as nephews, nieces, & numerous in-laws. He was predeceased by his father, Daniel Mulholland and mother, Iris M. Frese.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated February 18, 2025 at St. Stephen, Martyr Roman Catholic Church, Chesapeake. The family will receive friends from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Monday, February 17, 2025 at Great Bridge Baptist Church. Interment will be in Arlington National Cemetery at a future date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the [Christopher Mulholland Memorial Fund](#), to benefit the Virginia Power Soccer Association.

## 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK, 5 APR 2025



Keep your calendar clear for the fourteenth annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail in Deep Creek just off Route 17. Since Post 2894 is hosting this event, we would like to see all our members provide some level of support. We will also be

receiving assistance from the Marines of Northwest Security Group, the Chesapeake Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, and more as we host this commemorative event. We will close with a memorial ceremony dedicated to the survivors and families of Bataan/Corregidor as well as all the veterans of World War II and the Korean War.

The flyer for this event can be found at the end of this newsletter along with a sponsorship form. To register for the walk or sponsor the event go to [www.vfw2894.org](http://www.vfw2894.org).

- \$5 Walk Only
- \$16 With Shirt - Age 16 and Under
- \$30 With Shirt - Age 17 and Older
- Group Discounts available

Preregistration Ends: March 31, 2025

We are also looking for sponsors. If everyone in the post asks at least one business for their support, we can really make this a successful event. We have four levels of sponsorship:

- **Distinguished Service Sponsor** - \$2,500+
- **Superior Service Sponsor** - \$1000 - \$2499
- **Legion of Merit Sponsor** - \$500 - \$999
- **Meritorious Service Sponsor** - \$250 - \$499
- Donations such as gift certificates, services, or merchandise, for our silent auction/raffle are greatly appreciated.

**PLEASE SHARE WITH FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, FAMILY  
- EVERYONE!**

## FEBRUARY 1991 OPERATION DESERT STORM BATTLE OF 73 EASTING

The Battle of 73 Easting was fought on 26 February 1991, during the Gulf War, between Coalition armored forces (US VII Corps and UK 1st Armored Division) and Iraqi armored forces

(Republican Guard and Tawakalna Division). It was named for a UTM north-south coordinate line (an "Easting", measured in kilometers and readable on GPS receivers) that was used as a phase line by Coalition forces to measure their progress through the desert. The Battle of 73 Easting refers narrowly to the violent armored combat action that took place in the final hours of 2nd ACR's covering force operation in the zone of Second Squadron and in the northern third of the Third Squadron zone. In the battle, four of the 2nd ACR's armored cavalry troops, Troops E, G, and I with Troop K contributing to I Troop's fight (totaling about 36 M1A1 tanks), defeated two enemy brigades, the Tawakalna Division's 18th Brigade and, later in the day, the 9th Armored Brigade.



*M1A1 tanks advance across the desert during the Battle of 73 Easting.*

The VII Corps' main body consisted of the American 2nd Armored Division (Forward), 1st Armored Division (1st AD), 3rd Armored Division (3rd AD), 1st Infantry Division (1st ID), and the British 1st Armoured Division (1 AD). The main U.S. unit in the battle was the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (2nd ACR), a 4,500 man reconnaissance and security element assigned to VII Corps. It consisted of three ground squadrons (1st, 2nd and 3rd), an attack helicopter squadron (4th), and a support squadron. Each ground squadron was made up of three cavalry troops, a tank company, a self-propelled howitzer battery, and a headquarters troop. Each troop comprised 120 soldiers, 12-13 M3 Bradley fighting vehicles and nine M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks. The job of the 2nd ACR was to cross the border and advance east as a forward scouting element, led by cavalry scouts in lightly armored M3A1 Bradleys with highly advanced thermals to detect enemy positions. Following closely behind were M1A1 Abrams tanks covering them from the rear, ready to move forward and engage the enemy. Originally advancing ahead of the 3rd Armored Division until late on 25 February, they shifted to the east and ahead of the advancing 1st Infantry Division as it moved north from its initial objectives. The regiment's mission was to strip away enemy security forces, clear the way of significant defenses, and locate the Republican Guard's defensive positions so they could be engaged by the full weight of the armored forces and artillery of the 1st Infantry Division. During the period of 23 February 1991 the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment attacked into Southern Iraq in the lead of VII Corps with such audacity that the Dragoon Battle Group quickly



overwhelmed superior enemy forces, demoralizing them and taking hundreds of enemy prisoners. The 2nd and 3rd Squadrons of the regiment destroyed two brigades of the Iraqi Republican Guards Tawakalna Division. The 2nd Squadron, 2nd ACR alone contributed 55 Iraqi tanks destroyed, 45 other armored vehicles, an equal number of trucks, hundreds of Iraqi infantry KIA, and 865 Iraqi soldiers taken prisoner.



*An M3 Bradley fighting vehicle moves past a destroyed Iraqi position.*

2nd ACR began the 26th of February on the VII Corps Objective still oriented to the northeast. In the early morning hours, the Third Squadron fought companies of the Iraqi 50th Armored Brigade, which had moved into the regiment's southern area to confirm reports that allied units were in the vicinity. The aviation squadron established a screen along the 50 Easting by 7 am, and by 8 am the armored cavalry squadrons had moved into their new zones. Third Squadron, operating in the center, destroyed a T-72 tank before 8 am, establishing the first ground contact with the Iraqi Republican Guard's Tawakalna Division. All three squadrons were in contact with security forces by 9 am but a violent sandstorm blew into the area and movement to the regiment's limit of advance, the 60 Easting, took until 11 am.

First Squadron meanwhile encountered scattered enemy positions in the south and by noon had reported destroying 23 T-55 tanks, 25 armored personnel carriers, six artillery pieces and numerous trucks. Second Squadron troops all reported resistance from small Tawakalna Division security outposts while Third Squadron destroyed similar outposts in the Regimental center. By 3:45 Second Squadron's E and G Troops were in contact with well-organized defenses of the Tawakalna Division. At the same time the Third and First squadrons in the center and south moved to clear their zones, encountering T-72s in Third Squadron's north and T-62 and T-55 tanks of the Iraqi 12th Armored Division further south.

The regiment moved from the 60 Easting with eight of its nine cavalry troops generally abreast of each other. The operation escalated into a full-out battle as E Troop (call sign "Eagle") maneuvered to the 70 Easting around 3:45 p.m. Heavy combat then spread to the south as I Troop of the Third Squadron closed the gap between the two squadrons and joined the fight. G Troop's attack to the north of E Troop made contact with defending units farther east and combat there became intense. Fighting continued into

darkness as the Iraqi division commander reinforced the 18th Brigade with his 9th Armored Brigade in the G Troop zone.

Eagle Troop received fire from an Iraqi infantry position in a cluster of buildings at UTM PU 6801. The Troop's Abrams and Bradleys returned fire, silenced the Iraqi guns, took prisoners, and continued east with the two tank platoons leading. The 9 M1A1 tanks of Eagle Troop destroyed 28 Iraqi tanks, 16 personnel carriers and 30 trucks in 23 minutes with no American losses.

At about 16:20 Eagle Troop crested a low rise and surprised an Iraqi tank company set up in a reverse slope defense on the 70 Easting. Immediately engaging the position, the troop destroyed the first of the eight enemy tanks encountered, with the other two tank platoons finishing the rest.



*An M1A1 Abrams main battle tank of the 2nd ACR gets direction during the battle.*

To the east of this encounter were several T-72s in prepared positions. Continuing the attack past the 70 limit of advance, the troop attacked through an infantry defensive position and on to high ground along the 74 Easting. There they encountered and destroyed another enemy tank unit of eighteen T-72s. In that action the Iraqis stood their ground and attempted to maneuver against the troop. This was the first determined defense the regiment had encountered in its three days of operations. Still, the Iraqi troops had been surprised because of the inclement weather and were quickly destroyed by the better trained and better equipped American forces.

After defeating that force, a scout platoon of two M3 Bradleys was sent north to regain contact with G Troop. In doing that the scout platoon encountered another Iraqi tank position of thirteen T-72s. The lightly armored Bradleys, each equipped only with a 25-mm cannon and two TOW missiles, are intended for reconnaissance, not direct engagement with armored tanks. Despite a misfire and having to reload the launchers in the face of the enemy, the two Bradleys destroyed 5 tanks before help arrived.

Other 2nd ACR Troops I, K, and G joined the fight minutes later. I Troop of Third Squadron had halted around the 67 Easting to control the limit of advance with its tank cannon. As the troop moved north to secure its northern boundary around 16:45, it came under fire from the same group of buildings E Troop had fought through an hour earlier. I Troop silenced the resistance with return



fire and then attacked to the 70 Easting. There they confronted T-72s in defensive positions south of those that E Troop had just destroyed. With initial support from K Troop, I Troop's tanks destroyed sixteen enemy tanks on that position and then attacked through it. Just beyond the defenses, I Troop observed another formation of enemy tanks moving in its direction and attacked it with tank and TOW fire. During that engagement, TOW missile fire from a K Troop Bradley struck and destroyed an I Troop Bradley, wounding all three crewmen. Before returning to positions along the 70 Easting, I Troop located the defending battalion's command post and destroyed its command bunker and security forces.



*A patrol from 2nd ACR rolls past a destroyed Iraqi T-72 tank.*

By 16:30, G Troop had gained a position on a ridge overlooking a wadi at and parallel to the 73 Easting, north of E Troop. As the regiment's northernmost unit, G Troop secured an open flank that would later become the 3rd Armored Division sector when they arrived 5hrs later. With G Troop oriented due east, they engaged two Iraqi BMP-1s within bunkers, facing south. The troop engaged Iraqi 18th Brigade tanks that initially were in defensive positions. Very quickly, however, G Troop found itself facing counterattacks by tank units of the Tawakalna Division and the Iraqi 12th Armored Division. Additionally, other Iraqi units attempted to retreat to the north along the wadi, which led them directly into G Troop's position.

By 18:30, the first of several waves of Iraqi T-72 and T-55 tanks advanced into the wadi. Fierce fighting ensued as wave after wave of tanks and infantry charged the troop. Combat became so intense at times that only massed artillery and mortar fires, attack helicopters and Air Force close air support prevented the enemy from closing with G Troop. During the fierce six-hour battle, the G Troop fire support team called in 720 howitzer and MLRS rounds, while using its own mortars continually to turn back attackers at close range. By 21:00, G Troop had expended nearly half of its TOW missiles and was becoming short of 25 mm and 120 mm cannon ammunition. To remedy the emergency, Company H, a tank company, was sent to relieve the troop. By then, G Troop had destroyed at least two companies of Iraqi armor. Hundreds of Iraqi

infantrymen and their lightly armored transporters lay scattered on the wadi floor.

Artillery fire and air strikes played a large role in the battle, especially in the far north. In direct support of 2nd ACR, the 210th FA Brigade fired missions out to the 78 Easting. Close air support missions struck targets in greater depth, preventing some Iraqi units from closing with G Troop or escaping the battle area. Attack helicopters flew in support of air scouts at key intervals during the day and the 2-1 Aviation Battalion's Apache helicopters destroyed two batteries of enemy artillery and struck march units along the IPSA Pipeline Road, just as the battle began in earnest.



*A destroyed Iraqi tank during the Battle of 73 Easting.*

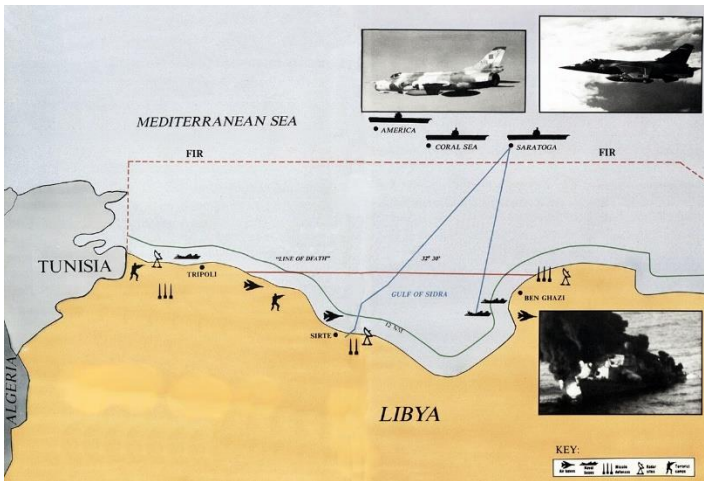
In total, the regimental fire support officer reported employing 1,382 rounds of 155 mm howitzer ammunition (high-explosive, dual-purpose improved munitions and rocket-assisted HE projectiles) and 147 MLRS rockets on 26 February. The 210th FA Brigade commander estimated that his two FA battalions and single M270 MLRS destroyed 17 tanks, seven APCs, six artillery pieces and around 70 other vehicles. The number of vehicles damaged by artillery was greater. The number of enemy infantry casualties caused by indirect fire proved impossible to determine but almost certainly exceeded the thirty infantrymen claimed.

The 2nd and 3rd Squadrons of the 2nd ACR destroyed two brigades of the Iraqi Republican Guards Tawakalna Division in the Battle of 73 Easting. The 2nd Squadron, 2nd ACR alone contributed 55 Iraqi tanks destroyed, 45 other armored vehicles, an equal number of trucks, hundreds of Iraqi infantry KIA, and 865 Iraqi soldiers taken prisoner. The 2nd Cavalry Regiment also captured 2,000 prisoners, destroyed 159 enemy tanks, and 260 other vehicles. The regiment's losses include 6 dragoons killed, and 19 wounded.

Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_73\\_Easting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_73_Easting)

## **MARCH 1986 OPERATION PRAIRIE FIRE - ACTION IN THE GULF OF SIDRA**

In the **Action in the Gulf of Sidra**, codenamed Operation Prairie Fire, the United States Navy deployed aircraft carrier groups in the disputed Gulf of Sidra in the Mediterranean Sea. Libya had claimed that the entire Gulf was their territory with an exclusive 62 nautical miles fishing zone. Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi asserted this in 1973, and dubbed it "The Line of Death". The United States claimed its rights to conduct Freedom of Navigation (FON) naval operations in international waters, a standard of 12-nautical-mile territorial limit from a country's shore.



*U.S. Navy Gulf of Sidra operations in 1986.*

Tensions between the United States and Libya heightened after the hijacking of TWA Flight 847 on 14 June 1985, and the Rome and Vienna airport attacks on 27 December that same year. At the same time, Libya began the installation of SA-5 Gammon surface-to-air missile batteries and radars they received from the Soviet Union in late 1985, to bolster their air defense. As the United States Navy had done for several years, they challenged Libya's claim to the Gulf of Sidra by crossing the so-called "Line of Death".

After the terrorist attacks in Rome and Vienna, the U.S. Navy began several FON operations in the area around Libya, in an operation named "Attain Document". The first two parts of the operation were held from 26 to 30 January, then 12–15 February, without incident. The third part began on 23 March, with a carrier battle group from the United States Sixth Fleet consisting of the aircraft carriers USS *America*, USS *Coral Sea* and USS *Saratoga*, in addition to five cruisers, twelve destroyers, six frigates, 250 aircraft and 27,000 personnel near the gulf. *Coral Sea* and *Saratoga* had participated in the first two parts of the operation, and were joined by *America* in mid-March. The aircraft carriers dispersed in an east–west line along the northern edge of Tripoli's Flight Information Region (FIR) approximately 150 nmi north of the Line of Death.

Previously, Muammar Gaddafi had made threats that he would shoot down or destroy U.S. aircraft or ships moving over the "Line of Death". By crossing the "Line of Death", American forces were

asserting their right to keep international sea lanes open and "conduct naval and air exercises in every part of the globe." During the operations held in January and February 1986, the United States Navy made 130 intercepts of Libyan fighters in the airspace over the Gulf of Sidra, although neither side opened fire.

On 23 March 1986, American aircraft from the three aircraft carriers crossed the "Line of Death" and began operating in the Gulf of Sidra.

On 24 March at 06:00, USS *Ticonderoga*, accompanied by two destroyers, USS *Scott* and USS *Caron*, moved south of the "Line", covered by fighter aircraft. A Libyan missile installation near Sirte launched two Soviet-made SA-5 "Gammon" surface-to-air missiles at 07:52, toward F-14A Tomcats of *America's* VF-102. The missiles missed their target and fell harmlessly into the sea. Two additional SA-5 missiles were launched at 13:52 toward F-14s acting as the southernmost combat air patrol. These missiles were jammed by an EA-6B Prowler; although Libyans and their Soviet instructors claimed that those two missiles had hit their targets, which had fallen into the sea.

Two hours later, two MiG-25 Foxbats took off from Benina air base with orders to intercept and shoot down some of the U.S. fighters. Before the Libyan aircraft could get close enough, a U.S. Navy E-2C Hawkeye detected them and alerted two F-14As from VF-33, which intercepted the MiGs at 20,000 feet. The Libyans began aggressive head-on maneuvering in an effort to get into firing position on the two F-14s.

The F-14 wing leader alleged "excessive hostile actions and intentions", which led the air warfare commander aboard USS *Saratoga* to give the pilots the signal "warning yellow, weapons hold". This meant the F-14s could open fire if necessary. An intense dogfight ensued, though without any missiles being fired. The F-14s dropped to 5,000 feet, where they had a distinct advantage over the MiG-25s and positioned themselves between the sun and the Libyans.



*A U.S. Navy F-14 fighter plane of VF-74 onboard the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga.*

The F-14s moved into a six o'clock position behind the hostile MiGs, locked on to them with radar and acquired AIM-9 Sidewinder tones, which meant they were ready to shoot the Libyans down. The MiGs moved off, seeming to follow a return course to their base. However, one of them reversed course, turning against the F-14s. The F-14 wing leader acquired the MiG and



requested permission to open fire. Before permission could be granted, the MiG-25 turned away and headed south.

Several Libyan patrol boats headed out towards the U.S. battle group, and the Americans responded by sending up aircraft to counter them. When one of the patrol boats locked on to American aircraft with its fire-control radar, USS *Richmond K. Turner*, a *Leahy*-class destroyer leader who had been serving as anti-aircraft radar picket ship defending the carrier group's right flank responded by firing an RGM-84 Harpoon missile, striking the vessel and setting it ablaze. It was towed back to Benghazi.

USS *Saratoga* launched A-7 Corsair II attack aircraft armed with AGM-88 HARM missiles from Attack Squadron VA-83, A-6 Intruder aircraft armed with Harpoon missiles and cluster bombs from VA-85 and EA-6Bs from VAQ-132. USS *America* had A-6Es from VA-34 and EA-6Bs from the U.S. Marine Corps squadron VMAQ-2 and USS *Coral Sea* had A-6Es from VA-55 and EA-6Bs from VAQ-135 in the air.

These were supported by several E-2Cs, F-14As, F/A-18 Hornets and KA-6D aerial refueling aircraft. The first air strikes occurred around 19:26 when two A-6E TRAM Intruders from VA-34 found the French-built *Beir Grassa*-class patrol boat *Waheed*. *Waheed* was first disabled by a Harpoon missile fired by one of the A-6 Intruders from VA-34 and then destroyed by Intruders from VA-85 using Rockeye cluster bombs.

Forty minutes later, F-14As, F/A-18As, A-7Es and EA-6Bs headed towards the SA-5 site near Surt at low level and suddenly climbed, which caused the Libyans to activate their radars and launch missiles at the incoming aircraft. This prompted the A-7Es to launch several HARM missiles. The strike formation then descended to 98 feet above sea level and turned back. According to declassified Soviet documents and memoirs published in 2001 one of the missiles damaged a Square Pair radar.

A-6Es from VA-86 and VA-55 turned to engage several Libyan missile boats. At around 21:55, two A-6Es from VA-55 attacked the Nanuchka-class corvette *Ain Zaquit* which was heading towards USS *Yorktown*, prompting *Yorktown* to vector the Intruders to deploy Harpoon missiles, one of which hit *Ain Zaquit* causing heavy damage. At the same time, *Yorktown* fired two Harpoon missiles at another La Combattante IIa-class boat, disabling it.

At approximately midnight the Libyans launched several SA-2 Guidelines and SA-5s, this time at the American A-6Es and A-7Es, which responded by heading towards the coast. A-7Es from VA-83 launched HARM missiles, disabling several Libyan radars. Three more SA-5s were launched from Syrte with a single SA-2 launched near Benghazi. At 07:30 another Libyan Nanuchka-class corvette was intercepted by A-6Es from VA-55 and was disabled by Rockeye munitions. The corvette was later sunk by a Harpoon missile launched from a VA-85 A-6E.

The operation was terminated after this strike with no losses to the Americans. 35 sailors were killed and there were unknown material losses to the Libyans.

Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Action\\_in\\_the\\_Gulf\\_of\\_Sidra\\_\(1986\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Action_in_the_Gulf_of_Sidra_(1986))

## SCOUT OF THE YEAR APPLICATIONS DUE 1 MARCH 2025

The Veterans of Foreign Wars annually recognizes Scouts who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the exceptional qualities of that rank. Prizes range up to \$5,000 scholarship for first place.



Now's the time to start thinking about Scout of the Year! Nomination packages for the Scout of the Year Award are due to the Post by 1 March 2025.

To be eligible, nominees must:

- Be a registered Scout who is an active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troup, Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship;
- Be a recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award, or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award;
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting, and community; and

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 and 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.

Entry forms can be downloaded from the VFW website at: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scoutof-the-year>. They can also be found at the end of this newsletter.

## + SAFETY CORNER + FEBRUARY IS HEART HEALTH MONTH



February is Heart Health Month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death worldwide. One in four deaths in the US are from heart disease, averaging one death every minute. There are multiple risk factors, some of which you can affect. These include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking, diabetes, obesity, and genetics. Make an effort to limit your risk and help prevent heart disease. Some actions you can take are:

- Eat a healthy diet. One of the most powerful things you can do is to limit your intake of fast foods, salt, and sugar.
- Limit use of tobacco products.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Limit your alcohol consumption.
- Exercise regularly. Try to achieve about 2 ½ hours of physical activity weekly, including walking, swimming, or even dancing.

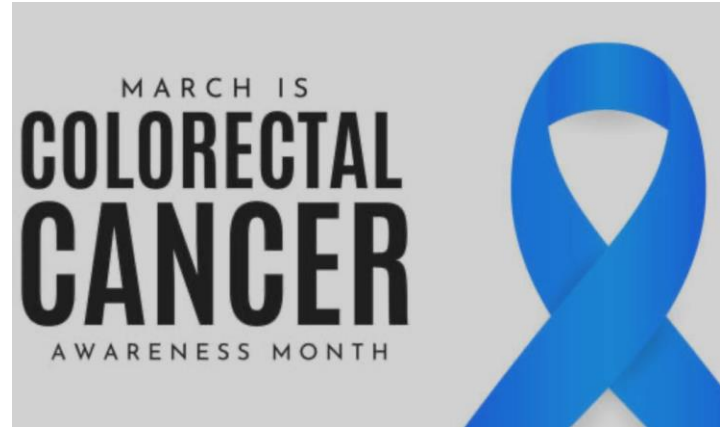
- Manage stress.
- Get regular health checkups with your physician.



If you take and maintain the above actions, you can improve your overall health, not only reducing your chances of developing high blood pressure or high cholesterol, but also developing heart disease. As the Vulcans say,

Live Long and Prosper!

You can reduce your risk of developing colorectal cancer by getting regular medical checkups, to include needed colorectal screening and colonoscopies as needed; the gastroenterologist can detect and remove suspicious polyps. Personally, exercise regularly, watch your diet, and listen to your physician. Oh, and live longer ... your risk decreases after age 70!



### **+ SAFETY CORNER +** **MARCH IS COLORECTAL CANCER MONTH**



March is Colorectal Cancer Month. Colorectal cancer is the second deadliest cancer in the US, but it is also preventable. Over 150,000 people will receive a diagnosis of colon or rectal cancer, and over 50,000 will die of it.

Colorectal cancer awareness is important because many cases of these cancers are preventable. Screening by colonoscopy can prevent this cancer because precancerous polyps found during the procedure can be removed at the same time. Regular screenings should start at about age 45. Early detection of cancer permits early treatment, which is more likely to be successful. Over 90% of cases of localized cancers are survivable.

Some known risks are:

- Age. The median age at diagnosis is 66, with 78% of new cases are diagnosed at age 55 or older. Yet, about 12% are diagnosed before age 50. (Early checkups may pay off!)
- Sex. Colorectal cancer is more common in men than women.
- Race. More than 50% of cases are found in the Black population.
- Family history. If your family has a history of colorectal cancer, your risk doubles.
- Personal history. Your risk increases if you have had a previous cancer diagnosis, have a high risk of polyps, or have Irritable Bowel Disease.
- Excessive alcohol use.
- Smoking.
- Obesity.

### **ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM THE POST SURGEON**



Some Veteran Resources: *Combined Arms*

*Combined Arms* is a non-profit organization that serves as a reference for veterans. By vetting and validating over 400 organizations, it ensures that veterans and their spouses have access to high quality care and assistance, many times at no cost to them.

*Combined Arms* is working with the Commonwealth of Virginia Division of veteran Services to form an integrated veteran's network. Through collaboration with non-profits, state, and international organizations, *Combined Arms* hopes to improve the well-being of our veterans.

For information, see [www.combinedarms.us](http://www.combinedarms.us) or call 1(844)489-8387.

**myhealth.va.gov** : Don't forget that your *MyHealthVet* log on will go away after 31 January 2025. The actual *MyHealthVet* site will not change, but you will need a *Login.gov* or an *ID.me* account to sign on and access your *MyHealthVet* account. You can link to either logon accounts on the current [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov) site. But hurry! Don't wait until the end of the month.



## POST COMMITTEES – YOU CAN HELP!

If you are looking to get involved and help the Post improve its work for and with veterans, think about joining one of the recently established committees. Contact one of the members of the committees you 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, 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:** 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

### Life Member Options

AGE as of DECEMBER 31 <sup>st</sup>	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](mailto:susan.vitale@verizon.com) and [jpeterston310@gmail.com](mailto:jpeterston310@gmail.com).

## FEBRUARY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1800 USS 'Constellation' takes French 'Vengeance' in 5-hour night battle
- 1862 Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of Republic" is published
- 1865 Sherman begins marching through South Carolina
- 1968 Saigon: Nguyen Ngoc Loan summarily executes Viet Cong murderer
- 2** 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends Mexican-American War
- 1901 US Army Nurse Corps established
- 1945 Escape attempt at Mauthausen concentration camp
- 1989 Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, ending 9 years of war
- 3** 1783 Spain recognizes US independence
- 1943 USS Dorchester sunk - the "Four Chaplains" immortalized
- 4** 1779 John Paul Jones takes command of 'Bonhomme Richard'
- 1941 USO (United Service Organization) is formed
- 1944 US 7th Infantry Division completes capture of Kwajalein
- 1945 Yalta Conference begins: FDR, Churchill, & Stalin
- 1959 Keel laid for USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), 1st nuclear aircraft carrier
- 5** 1918 Stephen W Thompson becomes first US pilot to down an enemy airplane
- 6** 1778 France recognizes US, signs treaty of aid in Paris
- 1832 US ship destroys Sumatran village in retaliation for piracy
- 1899 Spanish-American War officially ends
- 1945 Battle for Manila begins
- 1945 Over 4,000 American POWs freed from Luzon prison camps
- 7** 1800 Frigate USS 'Essex' becomes 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. warship to cross Equator
- 1945 General Douglas MacArthur returns to Manila
- 8** 1865 Martin Delany becomes first black major in US Army
- 1910 Boy Scouts of America founded.
- 1918 "The Stars and Stripes" begins publication in France
- 9** 1918 U.S. Army Chaplains' School formed at Fort Monroe
- 1943 Japanese complete evacuation of Guadalcanal, as US columns make contact at Cape Esperance, ending epic campaign
- 10** 1676 Battle of Lancaster: Massachusetts militia attack & defeat Wampanoag Indians
- 1763 Treaty of Paris ends French & Indian/Seven Years' War
- 1807 Congress establishes US Coast Survey
- 1962 USSR swaps U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for spy Rudolph Abel
- 12** 1948 First black Regular Army Nurse is commissioned: 1st Lt Nancy Leftenant; retires 1965 as major, USAF
- 1955 Pres Eisenhower sends US advisors to South Vietnam
- 13** 1861 1st Medal of Honor action: Asst Surg Bernard Erwin, Apache Pass, Az (awarded 1894)
- 1945 Allies begin fire-bombing of Dresden, about 50,000 die
- 14** 1778 USS Ranger carries recently adopted Stars and Stripes to foreign port for first time on arrival in France
- 1912 US sub 'E-1' (SS-24) commissioned, 1st American diesel boat
- 1945 US troops reach Bataan peninsula outside Manila
- 15** 1856 USS 'Supply' loads 21 camels at Smyrna, Turkey, for US Army
- 1898 Havana Harbor: Second class battleship USS 'Maine' blows up from undetermined causes, 258 killed
- 1919 American Legion formed in Paris
- 1944 Italy: Allies commence bombing & shelling Monte Cassino
- 16** 1804 Stephen Decatur retakes and burns USS 'Philadelphia', which had been captured by Dey of Tripoli
- 1945 US airborne forces land on Corregidor (fighting lasts until March 3)
- 1959 Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba
- 17** 1621 Plymouth Colony elects Miles Standish "Captain" of militia
- 1864 CSS 'H.L. Hunley' sinks USS 'Housatonic', and herself: 1st submarine victory, albeit Pyrrhic
- 1915 Edward Stone, 1st US combatant to die in WW I, mortally wounded
- 1943 "Joltin' Joe" DiMaggio joins Army
- 1944 US forces land on Eniwetok Atoll, which is secured on Feb 22
- 1945 US Navy "frogmen" clearing beaches at Iwo Jima take heavy losses
- 1947 Voice of America begins broadcasting to USSR
- 18** 1846 US Navy adopts "port" in place of traditional "larboard"
- 1865 Sherman captures Charleston, SC
- 1941 CINCUS Husband Kimmel writes, "I feel that an attack . . . on Pearl Harbor is a possibility."
- 19** 1942 FDR orders internment of Japanese-Americans on West Coast
- 1943 Battle of Kasserine Pass: Rommel's panzers hit US troops
- 1943 US Naval forces under MacArthur designated Seventh Fleet
- 1945 US Marines land on Iwo Jima
- 20** 1942 E. H. "Butch" O'Hare downs 5 Japanese aircraft, helping USS 'Lexington' (CV-2) beat off an air attack
- 1962 John Glenn becomes first American in orbit
- 21** 1903 Cornerstone laid for Army War College (now NDU)
- 22** 1821 Spain sells East Florida to United States
- 1909 Great White Fleet returns to Hampton Roads after world cruise
- 1915 Germany begins "restricted" submarine warfare
- 1935 Airplanes are prohibited from flying over White House
- 1942 FDR orders MacArthur to leave Philippines for Australia
- 1943 'Iowa' (BB-61) commissioned in Brooklyn
- 1944 US Eighth Air Force erroneously bombs Enschede, Arnhem, Nijmegen, Netherlands, kill about 800
- 1974 First woman naval aviator: Lt. j.g., Barbara Ann Allen
- 23** 1778 Baron von Steuben joins Continental Army at Valley Forge
- 1795 USN Supply Corps founded as Office of Purveyor of Supplies
- 1836 Santa Anna lays siege to Alamo, stormed on March 6
- 1903 US leases Guantanamo Bay from Cuba for \$4,000 a year; Castro has refused to cash checks since 1959
- 1942 Japanese submarine 'I-17' shells Elwood, California.
- 1945 Iwo Jima: 28th Marines raise US flag on Mount Suribachi
- 1945 Operation Grenade: Gen Simpson's Ninth Army attacks Ruhr
- 1945 Liberation of captives in Japanese internment camp at Los Baños, Philippines
- 1946 Yamashita Tomoyuki, 60, Japanese general, "Tiger of Malaya", hanged by Allies
- 1979 Frank Peterson Jr. becomes first black Marine Corps general
- 24** 1779 George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes from British
- 1917 Britain gives "Zimmermann Note" to US, revealing German efforts to get Mexico to invade southwest
- 1945 Manila liberated, after heavy fighting & serious civilian casualties
- 1968 US and Vietnamese troops complete liberation of Hue City
- 1991 Ground Phase of Operation Desert Storm begins, resulting in



- liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation
- 25** 1836 Samuel Colt patents a practical revolver
- 1945 First B-29 fire bomb raid on Tokyo, burns 10,000 acres
- 26** 1775 Battle of Salem, Mass.: British expedition to seize colonists' arms is turned back, "Leslie's Retreat"
- 1848 Marx & Engels publish "The Communist Manifesto"
- 1863 Lincoln signs National Currency Act, establishing greenbacks
- 1940 US Air Defense Command established at Mitchell Field, LI, NY
- 1942 USN aviator Don Mason signals, "Sighted sub, sank same"
- 1944 First woman USN captain, Sue Dauser, Navy Nurse Corps
- 1949 USAF plane begins first nonstop around-the-world flight
- 1993 Islamist terrorists bomb World Trade Center, 7 die
- 2001 Taliban destroy Great Buddhas of Bamiyan, in Afghanistan
- 27** 1704 Indian raid on Deerfield, Ma; 40 die, 100 captured
- 1991 Operation Desert Storm: Iraqis ousted from Kuwait
- 28** 1893 USS 'Indiana' (BB-1) launched, first American 1<sup>st</sup> class battleship
- 1991 Desert Storm ground war ends after 100 hours

## MARCH MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1781 Continental Congress adopts "Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union."
- 1954 Bikini: US detonates 15 megaton hydrogen bomb
- 1954 Puerto Rican nationalists open fire in Congress, 5 wounded
- 1961 Peace Corps is established
- 2008 USS 'New York' (LPD-21), incorporating steel from World Trade Center, christened at New Orleans
- 2** 1776 Americans begin shelling British troops in Boston
- 1807 Congress bans importation of slaves effective Jan 1, 1808
- 1836 Texas declares independence from Mexico
- 1859 Paddle steamer USS 'Saginaw' commissioned, first American warship built on West Coast, at Mare Island
- 1867 US Navy Civil Engineering Corps founded
- 1938 15th Infantry leaves China after 26 years in garrison at Tientsin & Peking.
- 1945 Philippines: Japanese resistance on Corregidor ends.
- 3** 1776 US squadron under Commo Esek Hopkins attacks Nassau, Bahamas: First American overseas expedition
- 1813 Office of Surgeon General of US Army is established
- 1815 Second Barbary War: US declares war on Algiers for piratical acts, 3 years after Algerians declared war on US
- 1863 Congress passes "Enrollment Act," initiating federal conscription
- 1871 US Navy Medical Corps established
- 1899 George Dewey is promoted to Admiral of the Navy
- 1915 Congress authorizes a Chief of Naval Operations (CNO)
- 1915 Congress creates Naval Reserve
- 1931 Congress adopts "Star Spangled Banner" as national anthem
- 4** 1789 U.S. Constitution goes into effect
- 1814 Battle of Longwood: Americans defeat British, near Wardsville, Ontario.
- 1861 CSA adopts "Stars & Bars" as national flag
- 1877 5-times wounded veteran Rutherford B Hayes inaugurated as president
- 1881 Former Maj Gen James A Garfield inaugurated as president
- 1889 Bvt Brig Gen. Benjamin Harrison inaugurated as 21st president
- 1897 Bvt Maj William McKinley inaugurated as 23rd president
- 1943 Battle of Bismarck Sea ends: Japanese lost 12 ships, thousands of men.
- 5** 1770 The Boston Massacre
- 1821 Veteran James Monroe is inaugurated as 5th president
- 1945 US VII Corps captures Cologne (Köln)
- 1960 Elvis honorably discharged from US Army
- 6** 1822 USS 'Enterprise' captures 4 pirate ships in Gulf of Mexico
- 1831 Edgar Allen Poe expelled from West Point
- 1836 Santa Anna's Mexicans storm Alamo, after 13 day siege
- 1944 USAF begins daylight bombing of Berlin
- 7** 1774 British close port of Boston to all commerce
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell is granted a patent for telephone
- 1942 First black cadets graduate from USAAF flying school at Tuskegee
- 1945 9th Arm Div captures Ludendorff Bridge over Rhine at Remagen and enters Germany
- 8** 1945 1st African-American Navy Nurse commissioned: Ens. Phyllis Daley
- 1945 Luzon: Sixth Army offensive against Japanese Shimbu Line.
- 1950 First woman medical officer assigned to US naval vessel: B R Walters
- 1950 USSR announces development of atomic bomb
- 1958 'Wisconsin' (BB-64) decommissioned; for first time in 62 years, USN has no battleships in commission
- 1965 Vietnam: First US combat troops arrive (3,500 Marines)
- 9** 1798 Dr George Balfour appointed first surgeon in USN
- 1847 Winfield Scott lands army at Veracruz, Mexico, and begins siege.
- 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads II: USS 'Monitor' fights CSS 'Virginia' to a draw, preserving blockade
- 1945 US B-29s bomb Tokyo, est. 80,000-120,000 die - highest toll in a single air raid, exceeding even atomic bombs
- 10** 1942 NY's 27th Inf Div sails for Hawaii - first division to ship out in WW II.
- 11** 1779 US Army Corps of Engineers established
- 1942 Bataan: MacArthur leaves for Mindanao on PT-Boat
- 1943 American Volunteer Group ("Flying Tigers") renamed Fourteenth Air Force
- 12** 1912 Girl Scouts of America founded
- 1942 Burma: Joseph Stilwell assumes combined U.S./Chinese command.
- 1947 US announces "Truman Doctrine," to fight communism
- 13** 1942 Julia Flikke, Nurse Corps, becomes first woman colonel in US Army
- 15** 1493 Columbus returns to Spain from his first voyage
- 1781 Battle of Guilford Court House: British barely defeat Colonists and retire from Carolinas to Yorktown, Virginia
- 1916 Pershing begins 10-month pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico
- 1944 Abbey of Monte Cassino destroyed by Allied bombing
- 16** 1882 US Senate ratifies treaty establishing International Red Cross
- 1945 Iwo Jima: organized Japanese resistance ends, mopping up continues.

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|--|---|
| <p>1968 My Lai Massacre, perhaps 450 die</p> <p>1985 AP correspondent Terry Anderson taken hostage in Beirut</p> <p><b>17</b> 1762 First St Patrick's Day parade in New York City</p> <p>1776 British forces evacuate Boston; George Washington orders extra gill of whiskey to every Irish soldier in army</p> <p>1966 US mini-sub locates missing H-bomb in Mediterranean off Palomares, Spain</p> <p><b>18</b> 1776 George Washington's army occupies Boston</p> <p>1952 Communist offensive in Korea begins</p> <p>1951 Herman Wouk's novel "Caine Mutiny" is published</p> <p>1989 Maiden flight of Boeing V-22 Osprey VTOL aircraft</p> <p><b>19</b> 2003 Operation Iraqi Freedom begins (2003-2011)</p> <p><b>20</b> 1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" published</p> <p>1896 Marines land in Nicaragua to protect US citizens</p> <p>1922 First US carrier commissioned: 'Langley' (CV-1)</p> <p>1939 Naval Research Lab proposes development of nuke power</p> <p>1942 Gen MacArthur vows "I shall return"</p> <p><b>21</b> 1866 Congress authorizes national soldiers' homes</p> <p>1942 Jimmy Stewart enlists in USAAF</p> <p>1946 Strategic Air Command is formed</p> <p>1951 Julius &amp; Ethel Rosenberg convicted of espionage</p> <p><b>22</b> 1622 1<sup>st</sup> Indian War: Powhatan attacks Jamestown, 347 die</p> <p>1794 Congress prohibits export of slaves from United States.</p> <p>1917 3rd Lt. Elmer F. Stone becomes USCG Aviator No. 1</p> <p>1945 Patton's Third Army crosses Rhine</p> <p><b>23</b> 1775 Virginian Patrick Henry famously states "...give me liberty or give me death!"</p> <p>1806 Lewis &amp; Clark reach Pacific Coast</p> <p>1882 USN establishes Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI)</p> <p>1903 Wright Brothers receive patent for their airplane</p> <p>1957 US army sells its last homing pigeons</p> | <p>1965 Gemini 3 launched, first US 2-man space flight (Grissom &amp; Young)</p> <p>2003 USMC Task Force Tarawa captures An Nasiriyah after hot fight</p> <p><b>24</b> 1898 Battleships 'Kearsarge' (BB 5) &amp; 'Kentucky' (BB 6) launched at Newport News</p> <p>1919 New York's 27th Division returns from Great War, marches up Fifth Avenue</p> <p>1920 1st USCG air station established, Morehead City, NC</p> <p>1944 The Great Escape: 76 Allied officers flee Stalag Luft 3</p> <p>1945 Operation Varsity: Allied airborne crossing of Rhine</p> <p>1945 Gen. George S. Patton pisses in Rhine from pontoon bridge near Oppenheim, Germany</p> <p>1986 US &amp; Libya air-sea clash in Gulf of Sidra</p> <p>1999 Kosovo Campaign begins</p> <p><b>25</b> 1655 Battle at Annapolis, MD: between Puritans &amp; Royalists</p> <p>1813 USS 'Essex' takes 'Neryeda', first USN victory in Pacific</p> <p>1905 Most battle flags captured during Civil War returned to South</p> <p>1915 1<sup>st</sup> USN submarine disaster: USS 'F-4' sinks off Hawaii, 21 die</p> <p>1945 US First Army breaks out of Remagen bridgehead</p> <p><b>26</b> 1943 First woman awarded Air Medal: Army Nurse Elsie Ott</p> <p>1945 Okinawa: Kamikaze attack US fleet</p> <p>1951 USAF flag approved</p> <p><b>27</b> 1794 Congress approves construction of 6 frigates, including USS 'Constitution'</p> <p>1814 Battle of Horseshoe Bend: Andrew Jackson defeats Creeks</p> <p>1945 Wiesbaden falls to US XX Corps</p> <p><b>29</b> 1973 Last US troops leave Vietnam, 9 years after Tonkin Gulf</p> <p><b>31</b> 1854 Commo Perry forces Japan to open ports to foreign trade</p> <p>1917 US gains Virgin Islands from Denmark for \$25 million</p> <p>1968 LBJ announces he will not seek re-election</p> <p>1995 Somalia Campaign ends</p> |
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## POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>FEBRUARY '25</u>	
2	Ground Hog Day
8	District 2 Quarterly Meeting VFW Post 2894
10	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
12	Post Meeting
14	Saint Valentine's Day
17	Presidents Day

<u>MARCH '25</u>	
1	
10	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
12	Post Meeting, Post HQ
15	Norfolk St. Patrick's Day Parade
17	St. Patrick's Day



**Once the baby arrives, many military members and veterans in Hampton Roads cannot afford to purchase diapers and baby wipes!**



**Help the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary support Operation Bottom Cover!**

**O P E R A T I O N**

**B O T T O M C O V E R**

**Chesapeake VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary and the Hampton Roads area VFW Auxiliary Posts will be purchasing these supplies in support of our military community.**



Donate here or  
online at  
[www.vfw2894.org/  
g/merchandise-  
%26-donations](http://www.vfw2894.org/merchandise-%26-donations)



# 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:scouting@vfw.org)



# VFW POST 2894



## Gun Raffle



**SIG SAUER P320-M18 3.9" BARRELL  
W/2 X 21 AND 1 X 17 ROUND MAGAZINES**

**MILITARY ISSUED AND OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS SIDEARM:**

- (1) Slide is optic ready, allowing for customization
- (2) Comes standard with SIGLITE night sights
- (3) Equipped with an M1913 accessory rail
- (4) Commercial Version with Military Features



***\$10 per ticket, only 400 to be sold  
(buy nine and get tenth free!!)***

***Drawing at Chesapeake Memorial Day Service at  
City Hall, Monday, 26 May 2025***

***Need not be present to win***

***Must 21 years of age and legally eligible to purchase a firearm***

**Contact a VFW Post 2894 member to purchase  
your ticket(s) today!!!**





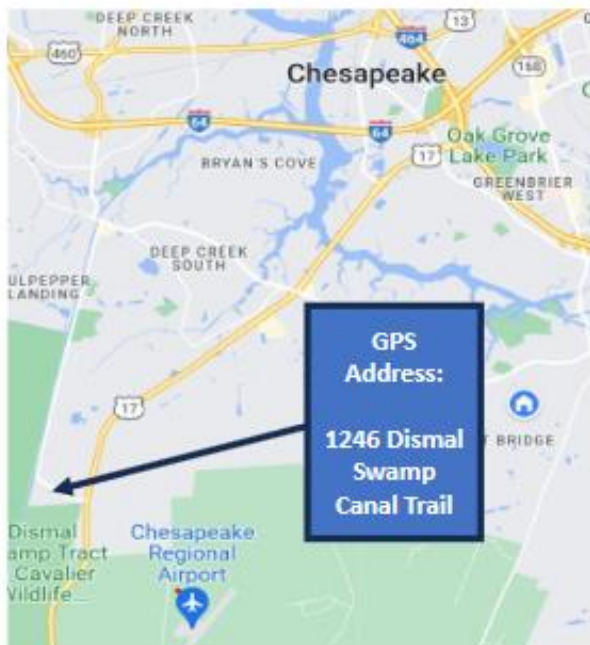
## VFW Post 2894 - Chesapeake, VA



**14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Bataan Death March  
Memorial Walk  
April 5, 2025  
Dismal Swamp Canal Trail**



**In memory of the thousands of American and Filipino prisoners who died on the 66 mile forced march.**



### April 5 ON-SITE EVENTS

Registration Starts: 6:00 AM  
16.6 Mile Walk: 7:00 AM  
5 Mile Walk: 10:00 AM  
1 Mile Walk: 11:00 AM  
Closing Ceremony: 12:00 PM  
Historical and Veteran  
Remembrance Displays  
Food Sales  
Silent Auction and Raffles

Registration and Sponsors: [www.vfw2894.org](http://www.vfw2894.org)  
\$5 Walk Only / \$16 With Shirt - Age 16 and Under /  
\$30 With Shirt - Age 17 and Older / Group Discounts  
Preregistration Ends: March 31, 2025  
[Walk.Chesapeake@gmail.com](mailto:Walk.Chesapeake@gmail.com)



SSG Jonathon Kilian  
Dozier Memorial VFW  
Post 2894  
3329 Battlefield Blvd,  
South



[www.vfw2894.org](http://www.vfw2894.org)

Reply to:

[cdrvfw2894@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrvfw2894@vfwva.org) or  
[walk.chesapeake@gmail.com](mailto:walk.chesapeake@gmail.com)

Chesapeake, VA 23322

Subject: Invitation to Sponsor/Support Chesapeake Bataan Death March Memorial Run/Walk 2025

Greetings,

I am Robert (Bob) Gregory, Commander of VFW Post 2894 and retired Marine Master Sergeant. We are a non-profit 501(c)19 organization and 28-year member of the Chesapeake community. Our commitment is to "*Honor the Fallen by Helping the Living*" by assisting veterans and surviving spouses in times of need. The National VFW awarded our post the 2020 and 2023 VFW Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award, outperforming 6,200 VFW Posts nation, and world-wide. We are the only post receive the award twice.

We are ramping up for our 2025, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual, Chesapeake Bataan Death March Memorial Run/Walk to take place on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the Dismal Swamp Trail, Chesapeake, Virginia. Our goal is twofold; one, to educate people on the sacrifices of the greatest generation and two, to generate funds to aid us in our mission to help veterans in Chesapeake/Hampton Roads. The event is comprised of three walks: 16.6 miles; 5 miles; 1 mile. The Mayor, City Council, CERT, police, fire, and sheriff's department have made this a true community event. Previous year's event can be viewed at <https://vfw2894.org/bdm>

As a sponsor, you will play a vital role in providing renovations such as roofs, ramps, doors, windows, and HVAC systems, to local veteran's homes at little to no cost to the veteran or surviving spouse.

- **Distinguished Service Sponsor - \$2,500+**
- **Superior Service Sponsor – \$1,000 - \$2,499**
- **Legion of Merit Sponsor – \$500-\$999**
- **Meritorious Service Sponsor – \$250 - \$499**
- **Donations such as gift certificates, services, or merchandise, for our silent auction/raffle.**

Sponsorship donations can be made by check to *VFW Post 2894* or on-line at <https://vfw2894.org>.

Please help spread the word.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to contact me at 757-675-6273. Visit our web site for the great things we do and have accomplished. Your support will make a meaningful difference. Our tax deductible 501(c)19 EIN is 54-1796492.

Sincerely,

Robert Gregory  
Commander, VFW Post 2894