

**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: [cdrpost2894@vfwva.org](mailto:cdrpost2894@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.....             | Keith Nielson  |
| 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 Hostetler   |
| 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 RECEIVES CHURCHILL/COLONIAL DOWNS GRANT FOR \$2500**

(STORY ON PAGE 3)



VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory (center) accepts a \$2500 grant check from Churchill/Colonial Downs Director of Government Relations Aaron Palmer (right) as VFW Department of Virginia Commander Doug Hoffman looks on.

## COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings Comrades! I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and ready for spring. The planning for our 15th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk, our biggest Post fundraiser of the year, is in full swing and coming down to the wire. With

about two weeks to go until the event (April 18) we seem to be doing well with our sponsor donations - as of 1 April we are a little behind last year's pace, but hopefully we'll finish strong. If you know a business who would be interested in sponsoring our event, our sponsor letter and flier are included in this newsletter. Thanks to the BDM Committee, headed by Chuck Wolf and John Peterson, for their dedication and hard work to make this a truly historic event!

On the home front: As you all know, work continues in many areas. Thanks to Troy Hare, we have a new A/C and heating unit installed in the large bay. We can now start using the bay year-round for different events. So, we are busy. Of course, we are not yet where we want to be, but I think we are well on our way to making this a home to be proud of.

We continue our way to achieving our 11th All-American Post award again this year. Currently we have met all requirements for both All-State and All-American except for our National Day of Service in May. We have notified National that the project we are planning to do is taking care of the various landscaping tasks for a veteran's property - cutting the grass, edging, spreading mulch, etc. This is tentatively scheduled for 3 May starting at 0900, weather permitting. More to follow!

As you can see from our meeting briefings, the 101% requirement set by the VFW Department of Virginia has been easily accomplished - as of 2 Apr, we're sitting at 106.81%, which ranks us third in District 2 and 21<sup>st</sup> nationally in Division 4, so we're doing quite well. Thanks to each of you for pushing membership, but we cannot stop now. Keep up the great work and bring in more new members. If you know someone who is already a member and he or she hasn't paid their annual membership, please talk to them and see if you can get them to "re-up." Let them know if they sign up for a Life Membership, we'll cover the cost for their new cover.

Thanks again to all for your service to our Chesapeake Veterans.

Semper Fidelis!

Bob Gregory, Commander

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings from the Auxiliary! What a busy time of year! Now that spring has arrived the days are longer and warmer. Time to shake off the winter blues and start planning those gardens.

Post 2894's 15th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk is scheduled for April 18th. We help the Post during the event with registration for the three walks, sorting and bagging up T-shirts, and generally helping wherever extra assistance is needed to make it a successful event. We will also be donating a basket for the Silent Auction.

On April 21st there is a special election in Virginia. Be sure to vote on or before that day. It's important to make your opinion on the issues count.

May is always a very busy month for the Auxiliary. Besides Mother's Day, this year the Buddy Poppy Drive will be the weekend of May 16-17<sup>th</sup>. The Auxiliary will also be joining the Post at the Chesapeake Memorial Day Ceremony at City Hall. Every day is a good one to fly Old Glory, but other special ones are Victory in Europe Day on May 8th, Armed Forces Day on May 16th, and of course Memorial Day on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

The 2025-2026 fiscal year is coming to a close. Time to think about running for office positions, holding those elections, selecting delegates for District, Department, and National conferences, as well as attending local events that recognize and support our veterans.

I want to thank all our amazing members of VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary. If not for your hard work, dedication, and hours of volunteering, we could not support the VFW or the many veterans and their families who live in our community.

Sharon Peterson  
President, Post 2894 Auxiliary

## NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER 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))

**VFW POST 2894 RECEIVES CHURCHILL/COLONIAL DOWNS GRANT FOR \$2500** (From page 1) The VFW Department of Virginia collaborated with Churchill Downs/Colonial Downs and Virginia Veterans Foundation to receive an allocation of \$25,000 in grants to be awarded to VFW posts throughout the state.

The Department selected ten posts throughout Virginia, and VFW Post 2894 was one of the post designated to receive one of the ten grants. On Thursday, 26 March, VFW Post 2894 was formally recognized and presented with a check for \$2500 to assist with the ongoing renovations and upgrades the Post is undertaking to improve the overall condition of the Post home.

Mr. Aaron Palmer, Director of Government Relations for Churchill Downs, presented the check to Post Commander Bob Gregory as Mr. David Jones from Virginia Veterans Foundation and other Post members observed. The Post truly appreciates this generous donation and will ensure it is used to continue the beautification of the Post home.



*VFW Post Commander Bob Gregory discusses renovations completed with the assistance of the \$2500 grant with Churchill Downs Director of Government Relations Aaron Palmer as Post Service Officer Jim Ireland looks on.*

## OTHER POST NEWS

- **VFW Post 2894 Provides Honors Tribute to Fallen Sailor.** On Saturday, 28 March, the Post held a formal flag folding ceremony to honor the service of Chief Petty Officer Douglas G. Lebert, Jr. (retired). CPO Lebert passed away on 23 July 2025 at 68 years of age and was buried at sea on 10 December, 2025, off the coast of Savannah, Georgia.



*VFW Post 2894 member John Duenas folds the burial flag for CPO Douglas Lebert as Post Quartermaster John Peterson observes.*



*VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory (third from left) and Quartermaster John Peterson proudly display the \$2500 grant check from Churchill/Colonial Downs as other Post/Auxiliary members pose with the group.*

CPO Lebert was a Nuclear Electronics Engineer and a plank owner of the USS Carl Vinson, CVN-70, assisting with the construction of the ship's nuclear reactor. He was also an instructor at the Naval Nuclear Power School in Groton, Connecticut, before leaving the Navy.

After the burial at sea by the USS Truxtun, DDG-103, the ceremonial burial flag was shipped to the family but unfortunately arrived in a state of disarray since it had not been properly packaged and did not receive the final respect commonly afforded ensigns used in veterans' burial ceremonies. The Lebert family contacted the VFW Post 2894 and requested guidance on proper etiquette for the flag, whereby John Peterson, the Post Quartermaster, orchestrated a folding ceremony that provided final honors to the deceased veteran and his family.



*VFW Post 2894 Quartermaster John Peterson delivers the burial ensign for CPO Douglas Lebert to his sister, Mrs. Carol Lebert Richardson.*

On the afternoon of 28 March, VFW Post 2894 members and eight of nine siblings of CPO Lebert gathered at the Post Headquarters to celebrate and remember the contributions of this Navy veteran. Post members John Peterson, Roger Porter and John Duenas conducted a solemn tribute to CPO Lebert, respectfully ensuring the thirteen folds for the ensign were followed in accordance with military tradition.

The Lebert family was extremely grateful to the Post for providing this burial tribute to their brother and thanked all the members for the service they provide to veterans throughout the region.



*CPO Lebert's family pose for a picture with Post officers and members of the Flag Folding Detail at the conclusion of the ceremony.*

• **VFW Post 2894 Hosts American Legion Riders during Weekend Poker Ride Event.** On Saturday, 21 March, the Post provided early afternoon snacks and drinks for about a dozen motorcyclists participating in the American Legion Post 280 Poker Ride that kicked off the 2026 season throughout the area.



*Motorcycle riders from American Legion Post 280 pull in to the VFW Post 2894 Headquarters during the Poker Run on Saturday, 21 March.*

It was a beautiful day for a ride and several Post members were on hand to welcome the riders to the Post home for some quick refreshments and stimulating conversation as they paused to take a break from the road. Post Commander Bob Gregory was on hand to greet all the riders as they enjoyed the snacks and drinks while catching up on what's been happening in the region, as well as making plans for future rides and hosting opportunities.

Thanks to those volunteers who assisted with the set up and provisions, to ensure we kicked off the spring season with successful events such as this one – others to follow.



*VFW Post 2894 member Tim Brackens assists with card selection for an American Legion rider during the March Poker Run.*

If you would like to get involved with these types of events or even take part in a weekend ride, contact Tim Brackens or the American Legion Post 280 Riders for information on upcoming rides this spring and summer.



*American Legion Post 280 and VFW Post 2894 members pose for a group picture at the Post Headquarters during the March Poker Run.*

**15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK, 18 APR 2026**



Keep your calendar clear for the fifteenth annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk on Saturday, April 18<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: April 16, 2026

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!**



*Eagle Scout Artie Williams (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) stands next to his completed Flag Retirement Depository he designed and constructed for the Post. Standing with Artie is Troop Scout Master Matthew Gorski (far left), Assistant Scout Master Adam Goetz and VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory.*

## APRIL 1980 OPERATION EAGLE CLAW

On April 24, 1980, an ill-fated military operation to rescue the 66 American hostages held in Tehran ended with eight U.S. servicemen dead and no hostages rescued. The previous fall on November 4, 1979, militant students stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran, taking 63 Americans hostage. Three additional members of the U.S. diplomatic staff were seized at the Iranian Foreign Ministry. The incident took place two weeks after U.S. President Jimmy Carter had allowed the deposed Iranian ruler, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, into the United States for cancer treatment. Iran's new leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, called for the United States to return the shah, as well as for the end of Western influence in Iran. By mid-November, 13 hostages were freed. The remaining 53 hostages, however, had waited out five months of failed negotiations by April of 1980.



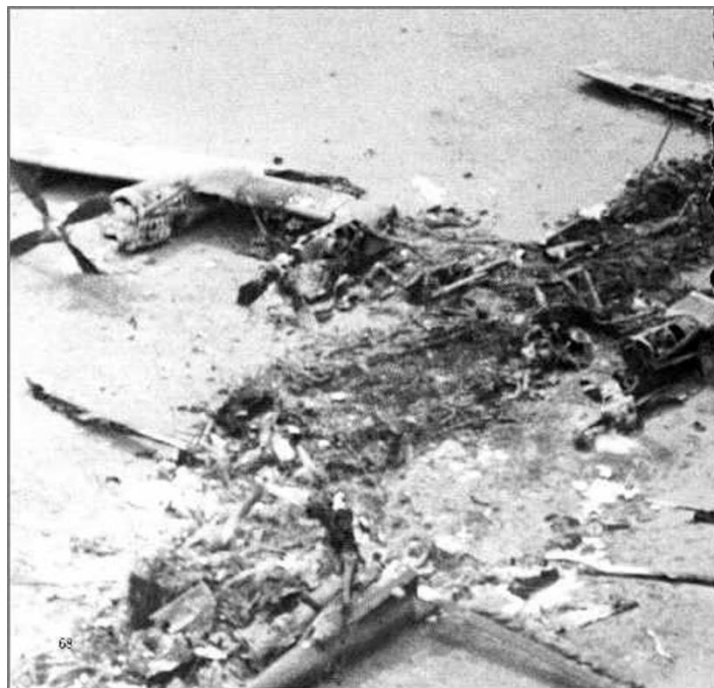
*Iranian students force entry into the U.S. Embassy, Tehran, in November 1979.*

During this time, American military commanders refined a plan for a possible rescue mission and conducted training exercises to evaluate the troops and equipment that would be used in such an undertaking. President Carter approved a military rescue operation on April 16, 1980. The plan utilized elements of all four branches of the U.S. armed services; the two-day operation called for helicopters and C-130 aircraft to rendezvous on a salt flat (code-named Desert One) some 200 miles southeast of Tehran. There the helicopters would refuel from the C-130s and pick up combat troops. The helicopters would then transport troops to the mountain location from which the actual rescue mission would be launched the following night. Starting on April 19th, forces were deployed throughout Oman and the Arabian Sea.

On April 24th, 1980, Operation Eagle Claw began when eight United States Navy RH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters took off from the deck of the American aircraft carrier, the USS *Nimitz*, in the Arabian Sea for a 600-mile trip to rendezvous in the Iranian desert with six C-130 transport aircrafts. The aircraft encountered a haboob, a violent wind-driven sandstorm common in desert. This

caused extreme visibility issues, damage to the aircraft, and sickness with the crews. President Carter and his staff received the news and decided to abort the mission.

As the force prepared to depart, a RH-53D helicopter crashed into a C-130 carrying extra fuel for refueling igniting a fire that killed 5 Airmen and 3 Marines.



*Wreckage of destroyed aircraft during Operation Eagle Claw in April 1980.*

While the mission was deemed a failure, the legacy born out of Eagle Claw endures today. The events of April 24, 1980 highlighted the need for compatibility and interoperability between the United States' various special operations components, thus creating Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

\*Ref: <https://www.asomf.org/operation-eagle-claw/>

## MAY 1969 BATTLE OF HAMBURGER HILL\* VIETNAM

The Battle of Hamburger Hill (13–20 May 1969) was fought by United States Army (US Army) and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces against People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) forces during Operation Apache Snow of the Vietnam War. Though the heavily fortified Hill 937 had little strategic value, US command ordered its capture by a frontal assault, only to abandon it soon thereafter. The action caused a controversy among both the US armed services and the public back home and marked a turning point in the US involvement.

The battle was primarily an infantry engagement, with the US troops moving up the steeply sloped hill against well-entrenched

troops. Attacks were repeatedly repelled by the PAVN defenses. Bad weather also hindered operations. Nevertheless, the Airborne troops took the hill through direct assault with heavy use of artillery and airstrikes, causing extensive casualties to the PAVN forces.



The battle took place on Dong Ap Bia (*Ap Bia Mountain*) in the rugged, jungle-shrouded mountains of South Vietnam, 1.2 miles from the Laotian border. Rising from the floor of the western A Sâu Valley, Ap Bia Mountain is a solitary massif, unconnected to the ridges of the surrounding Annamite Range. It dominates the northern valley, towering some 937 meters (3,074 ft) above sea level.

The battle on Hamburger Hill occurred in May 1969, during Operation Apache Snow, the second part of a three-phased campaign intended to destroy PAVN Base Areas in

the remote A Sâu Valley. This campaign was a series of operations intended to do damage to the PAVN forces in the A Sâu Valley, which had been an infiltration route into South Vietnam prior to 1966, when the PAVN seized the Special Forces camp in the valley during the Battle of A Shau and established a permanent presence.

Assigned to Apache Snow were three airmobile infantry battalions of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) - units of the division's 3rd Brigade: the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry; 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry; and the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry. Two battalions of the ARVN 1st Infantry Division had been temporarily assigned to the 3d Brigade in support. Other major units participating in Apache Snow included the 9th Marine Regiment; and 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, and the 3rd ARVN Regiment.

The operation was characterized as a reconnaissance in force. The plan called for the five battalions to "combat assault" into the valley by helicopter on 10 May 1969, and to search their assigned sectors for PAVN troops and supplies. The overall plan of attack called for the Marines and the 3/5th Cavalry to reconnaissance in force toward the Laotian border, while the ARVN units cut the highway through the base of the valley. The 501st and the 506th were to destroy the PAVN in their own operating areas and block escape routes into Laos.

The US and the ARVN units participating in Apache Snow knew, based on existing intelligence information and previous experience in the A Sâu, that the operation was likely to encounter serious resistance from the PAVN. However, they had little other

intelligence as to the actual strength and dispositions of PAVN units.



*U.S. forces assault up Hill 937.*

Initially, the operation went routinely for the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Its units experienced only light contact on the first day, but documents captured by 3/187th indicated that the PAVN 29th Regiment was somewhere in the valley. Prolonged combat had been relatively rare recently and it was anticipated that the U.S. battalion had sufficient capability to carry out a reconnaissance on Hill 937 without further reinforcement. However, rather than retreat, the PAVN in the valley were determined to stand and fight in a series of well-prepared concentric bunker positions on Hill 937.

Having made no significant contacts in its area of operations, at midday on 13 May, the 3rd Brigade commander decided it would move to cut off PAVN reinforcement from Laos and to assist the other forces by attacking Hill 937 from the south. Company B was heli-lifted to Hill 916, but the remainder of the 3/187th made the movement on foot, from an area 4 kilometers (2.5 mi) from Hill 937, with the 1/506th expected to be ready to provide support no later than the morning of 15 May. Although Company B seized Hill 916 on 15 May, it was not until 19 May that the 3/187th as a whole was in position to conduct a final assault, primarily because of nearly impenetrable jungle.

The 3/187th conducted multi-company assaults on 14 May, incurring heavy casualties, while the 1/506th made probing attacks on the south slopes of the mountain on 16 and 17 May. The difficult

terrain and well-organized PAVN forces continually disrupted the tempo of the US tactical operations on Hills 916, 900, and 937. Steep gradients and dense vegetation provided few natural landing zones (LZs) in the vicinity of the mountain and made helicopter redeployments impractical. The terrain also masked the positions of the PAVN 29th Regiment, making it nearly impossible to suppress anti-aircraft fire, while the jungle covered the movement of PAVN units so completely that it created a nonlinear battlefield. PAVN soldiers, able to maneuver freely around the LZs, shot down or damaged numerous helicopters with small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades, and crew-served weapons. The PAVN also assaulted nearby logistical support LZs and command posts at least four times, forcing deployment of units for security that might otherwise have been employed in assaults. Attacking companies had to provide 360-degree security as they maneuvered, since the terrain largely prevented them from mutually supporting one another. PAVN platoon- and company-sized elements repeatedly struck maneuvering US forces from the flanks and rear.

The effectiveness of US maneuver forces was limited by narrow trails that funneled attacking companies into squad or platoon points of attack, where they encountered PAVN platoons and companies with prepared fields of fire. With most small arms engagements thus conducted at close range, US fire support was also severely restricted. Units frequently pulled back and called in artillery fire, close air support, and aerial rocket artillery, but the PAVN bunkers were well-sited and constructed with overhead cover to withstand bombardment. During the course of the battle the foliage was eventually stripped away and the bunkers exposed, but they were so numerous and well constructed that many could not be destroyed by indirect fire. napalm, recoilless rifle fire, and dogged squad and platoon-level actions eventually accounted for the reduction of most fortifications, though at a pace and price thoroughly unanticipated by American forces.

US command of small units was essentially decentralized. Fire support for units in contact was also decentralized. Supporting fires, including those controlled by airborne forward air controllers, were often directed at the platoon level. Eventually human error led to five attacks by supporting aircraft on the 3/187th, killing seven and wounding 53.

On 18 May the US brigade commander ordered a coordinated two-battalion assault, with the 1/506th attacking from the south and 3/187th attacking from the north, trying to keep the 29th Regiment from concentrating on either battalion. Fighting to within 75 meters (246 ft) of the summit, Company D, 3/187th nearly carried the hill but experienced severe casualties, including all its officers. The battle was one of close combat, with the two sides exchanging small arms and grenade fire within 20 meters (66 ft) of one another. An exceptionally intense thunderstorm reduced visibility to zero and ended the fighting. Unable to advance, 3/187th again withdrew down the mountain. The three converging companies of 1/506th struggled to take Hill 900, the southern crest of the mountain, encountering heavy opposition for the first time in the battle. Because of the heavy casualties already sustained by the units the division commander seriously considered discontinuing the attack but decided otherwise. He decided to commit three fresh battalions to the battle and to have one of them relieve the 3/187th in place. The 3/187th's losses had been severe, with approximately 320 killed or wounded, including more than sixty percent of the 450 troops who had assaulted into the valley. Two of its four company

commanders and eight of twelve platoon leaders had become casualties.



*U.S. forces rest after consolidating on the crest of Hill 937.*

Two fresh battalions, the 2/501st Infantry and ARVN 2/3d Infantry, were airlifted into landing zones northeast and southeast of the base of the mountain on 19 May. Both battalions immediately moved onto the mountain to positions from which they would attack the following morning. The 3rd Brigade launched its four-battalion attack at 11:00 on 20 May, including two companies of the 3/187th reinforced by Company A 1/506th. The attack was preceded by two hours of close air support and ninety minutes of artillery preparatory fires. The battalions attacked simultaneously, and by 12:00 elements of the 3/187th reached the crest, beginning a reduction of bunkers that continued through most of the afternoon. Some PAVN units were able to withdraw into Laos, and Hill 937 was secured by 17:00.

As it had no real military significance aside from the presence of the PAVN on it, the US and ARVN forces abandoned the hill on 5 June as the operations in the valley were concluded. The battle brought into sharp focus the changing US tactics from Westmoreland's search and destroy operations designed to engage PAVN/VC forces whenever and wherever they were located, to Abrams' new approach of attacking the PAVN/VC logistics "nose," which would be prepositioned to support attacks, and which, if disrupted, would prevent large-scale PAVN/VC attacks. The controversy over the conduct of the Battle of Hamburger Hill led to a reappraisal of US strategy in South Vietnam. As a direct result, to minimize casualties, General Abrams discontinued a policy of "maximum pressure" against the PAVN to one of "protective reaction" for troops threatened with combat action, while simultaneously President Richard Nixon announced the first troop withdrawal from South Vietnam.

*\*Ref: Wikipedia-[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Hamburger\\_Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Hamburger_Hill)*

**+** SAFETY CORNER **+**  
**APRIL IS WALKING SAFETY MONTH**



Walking is an excellent way to improve your life. It improves your mood and reduces stress. The actual work of walking improves both your health and balance, helps to maintain a healthy weight, and can lower your blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Walking outside, while enjoyable, can be dangerous.



Unnoticed traffic and unstable terrain can result in injury or death, so there are ways to minimize your risk while increasing your benefits:

- Walk facing traffic.
- Be visible; wear light or reflective clothing, especially at night.
- Whenever possible, use sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from the road as possible.
- Always use crosswalks or intersections. Look right, look left, and make eye contact with drivers to be sure they see you.
- Stay alert; stay off your phone and watch for vehicles.
- Avoid mid-block crossings.
- Walk with a buddy in unfamiliar areas and at night.
- Wear adequate footwear.
- Know your route, especially in busy areas or at night.
- Carry ID and emergency contact information.  
Enjoy your walks, be safe, and enjoy life.

**+** SAFETY CORNER **+**  
**MAY IS OUTDOOR SAFETY MONTH**



As we happily greet Spring and the return of warmer weather, we tend to spend more time outdoors. In our rush to enjoy our newfound freedom from winter boredom, we are at risk of injury if we are not careful.



There are ways to decrease our risks and increase our enjoyment of the great outdoors.

- Be aware of weather forecasts. Spring brings the chance of rapidly changing weather, especially in Virginia.
- Dress in layers to easily adapt to quick temperature changes.
- Initially limit your outdoor activity during peak sun hours of 1000-1600. Acclimate gradually.
- Wear sun protection of at least SPF 30. Try to work or play in the shade.
- Stay well hydrated (beer doesn't count).
- Remember you are in the insects' domain. Mosquitoes and ticks can spoil your fun. Use insect repellent of at least 20% DEET.
- Wear footwear suitable for your activity. No flipflops while playing softball.
- Avoid wearing loose fitting clothing when cooking outdoors, especially loose or hanging sleeves.
- Use extra care in grassy areas or those with loose soil.

Following these safety steps will decrease the risk of sunburn, falls, insect-borne illness, and other injuries. We wish you a healthy and active summer.

**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:** Chuck Wolff, 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, Keith Neilson, and Dan Eaker

- **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:** Dan Eaker, Mark Rios, Mike Kust, David Weber, Joe Hammers, Kimball Thompson, and Chuck Wolff
- **Membership/Recruiting Committee:** Bob Gregory, Susan Vitale, and José Vazquez
- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Joe McGourn and Dan Eaker
- **Health/Safety Committee:** Surgeon David Weber, Frank Sgromolo
- **Activities Committee:** Dan Eaker, Susan Vitale

**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 [jpeter310@gmail.com](mailto:jpeter310@gmail.com).

## APRIL MILITARY HISTORY

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| <p><b>1</b> 1863 US adopts conscription for Civil War<br/>         1893 USN establishes rate of Chief Petty Officer<br/>         1945 Okinawa: 60K U.S. soldiers &amp; Marines land on Easter Sunday<br/>         1945 US First &amp; Ninth Armies meet to form Ruhr pocket.<br/>         1954 US Air Force Academy established.<br/>         1954 US Army forms first helicopter battalion, Fort Bragg, NC<br/>         1991 Warsaw Pact officially dissolves</p> <p><b>2</b> 1827 Construction of 1st U.S. Naval Hospital begins, Portsmouth, Va<br/>         1865 Battles of Petersburg/Ft Gregg/Sutherland's Station, Va: Robert E. Lee forced to evacuate Richmond<br/>         1917 Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany<br/>         1982 Argentina invades Falkland Is, initiating 72-day losing war with Britain</p> <p><b>3</b> 1865 Union forces occupy Richmond &amp; Petersburg, to tune of "Dixie"<br/>         1948 Harry Truman signs Marshall Plan</p> <p><b>4</b> 1776 First USN victory at sea: USS 'Columbus' captures HM Tender 'Hawke'<br/>         1862 Yorktown: First serious fighting of Peninsular Campaign<br/>         1865 Lincoln sits in Jeff Davis' chair, in Confederate White House<br/>         1942 Bataan: Fil-American forces fall back after Japanese break through<br/>         1943 4th Marine Div activated at San Diego<br/>         1949 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) formed</p> <p><b>5</b> 1951 Julius &amp; Ethel Rosenberg, atomic spies, sentenced to death.<br/>         1986 Berlin: 2 US servicemen &amp; Turkish woman die in terrorist bombing<br/>         1991 Iraq: US begins relief air drops to Kurds in north</p> <p><b>6</b> Army Day and National Tartan Day<br/>         1862 Battle of Shiloh, Day 1: Confederate success<br/>         1866 Union vets form Grand Army of Republic<br/>         1917 US declares war on Germany, entering WWI<br/>         1945 Okinawa: Massive kamikaze attack on US fleet sinks six ships<br/>         1991 Operation Provide Comfort initiated to defend Kurdish refugees fleeing their homes in Northern Iraq after the Gulf War ended.</p> <p><b>7</b> 1862 Battle of Shiloh, Day 2: Grant defeats Confederates<br/>         1942 USN agrees to accept black Americans for general service.<br/>         1943 Japanese inflict heavy losses on Allied shipping around Guadalcanal.<br/>         1945 First Navy Nurses land on Iwo Jima: Lt, jg, Ann Purvis &amp; Ens Jane Kendeigh<br/>         1980 President Jimmy Carter breaks relations with Iran over hostage crisis<br/>         2017 U.S. conducts missile strike on Shayrat Airbase, Syria, in response to chemical attack on the town of Khan Shaykhun</p> <p><b>8</b> Feast of St Walther Gautier of Pontoise, Patron Saint of POWs<br/>         1865 Lee's retreat cut off near Appomattox Court House<br/>         1956 Parris Is, SC: 6 Marine recruits drown during unauthorized night exercise<br/>         2015 VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary founded</p> <p><b>9</b> 1865 Appomattox: Robert E Lee &amp; Army of Northern Virginia surrender<br/>         1898 Lt Andrew Rowan leaves for Cuba with "a message for Garcia"</p> | <p>1942 Bataan: 75,000 U.S. &amp; Filipino troops surrender to Japanese</p> <p><b>10</b> 1918 Near Toul, in eastern France, 104th Infantry begins 4 day determined defense against German assault, to become 1st American regiment awarded Croix de Guerre<br/>         1945 Allies liberate Buchenwald concentration camp<br/>         1963 USS 'Thresher' (SSN-593) sinks east of Cape Cod, 124 die.</p> <p><b>11</b> 1863 Battle of Suffolk, VA<br/>         1898 Pres McKinley asks for Declaration of War against Spain<br/>         1899 Treaty of Paris: Spain cedes Puerto Rico, Philippines, Guam to US<br/>         1900 USN accepts first submarine, USS 'Holland', originally designed for Fenians.<br/>         1942 American merchant mariners are authorized to receive DSM.<br/>         1951 Harry Truman fires Gen Douglas McArthur<br/>         1991 Persian Gulf War Armistice Signed</p> <p><b>12</b> 1861 Confederates shell Fort Sumter, initiating Civil War<br/>         1911 First US naval aviator: Lt Theodore Ellyson<br/>         1916 Battle of Hacienda Santa Cruz de la Villegas: Maj. Charles Young, senior black officer in US Army, leads squadron of 10th Cav ("Buffalo Soldiers") to rescue white 13th Cav, besieged by Mexicans<br/>         1924 Off Balboa, Panama, 19-year-old hooker Madeline Blair found aboard USS 'Arizona' (BB-39), plying her trade since ship left New York one month earlier.<br/>         1942 Bataan: Japanese massacre four hundred Filipino officers<br/>         1966 First B-52 raids on North Vietnam<br/>         1981 First US space shuttle launch (Columbia)<br/>         1993 Bosnia: USS 'Theodore Roosevelt' (CVN-71) &amp; NATO initiate no-fly zone</p> <p><b>14</b> 1818 US Army Medical Corps formed<br/>         1865 Abraham Lincoln mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre, on Good Friday<br/>         1898 USS 'Solace' commissioned, first hospital ship in USN since 1865, and only purpose-built hospital ship in history of fleet.<br/>         1912 RMS 'Titanic' strikes iceberg, 11:40 pm<br/>         1945 Tokyo firebomb raids: B-29s damage Imperial Palace<br/>         1986 U.S. warplanes bomb Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in retaliation for Berlin discotheque bombing.<br/>         2018 U.S. and allies launch missile strikes on targets in Damascus, Syria, in response to Douma chemical attack</p> <p><b>15</b> 1861 Ft Sumter surrenders<br/>         1861 Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers<br/>         1865 Stars and Stripes are again hoisted over Ft Sumter<br/>         1947 Former Army 2nd Lt Jackie Robinson begins playing for Brooklyn Dodgers, integrating modern Major League baseball.<br/>         1952 First test flight of prototype B-52<br/>         1986 US bombs terrorist bases in Libya, following Berlin disco bombing</p> <p><b>16</b> 1916 French Army forms Escadrille Americaine<br/>         1945 US troops enter Nuremberg<br/>         1945 USS 'Laffey' (DD-724) survives six kamikaze hits, off Okinawa.<br/>         1946 US launches captured V-2 rocket, White Sands, NM<br/>         1947 Congress grants Navy Nurses full commissioned status</p> <p><b>17</b> 1846 Battle of Cerro Gordo: Winfield Scott defeats Mexican Army<br/>         1861 Virginia is eighth state to secede from Union</p> |
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- 1864 Grant suspends POW exchanges over Confederate refusal to treat black troops as soldiers
- 1961 Bay of Pigs: 1,400 Cuban exiles land to overthrow Castro
- 18** 1644 Thousands of Pamunkey and allied Indians raid Virginia Colony, killing 500 settlers, initiating 32-months' long Second Tidewater War, in which colonists triumph
- 1775 Paul Revere, Samuel Prescott, & William Dawes make "midnight ride"
- 1934 US Army stops issuing sabers to cavalry.
- 1942 Doolittle Raid: 16 B-25Bs off CV Hornet strike Tokyo
- 1942 WWII edition of "Stars & Stripes" begins publication in England
- 19** 1775 Battles of Lexington & Concord -- "The Shot Heard 'Round the World"
- 1783 Congress orders hostilities with Britain at end, 8 years after "The Shot Heard 'Round the World."
- 1909 Canonization of Joan of Arc, Patron of Soldiers, & Women in Military Service
- 1919 Leslie Irvin of US makes first free fall parachute jump.
- 1941 US Marines begin construction of airfield on Wake Island
- 1989 USS 'Iowa' (BB-61) gun turret explosion, 47 die
- 20** 1789 George Washington sworn in as 1st President, Federal Hall, NY
- 1861 Union forces burn & abandon Gosport (Norfolk, Va) Navy Yard.
- 21** 1836 Battle of San Jacinto: Texas secures independence from Mexico.
- 1898 US declares war on Spain.
- 1914 US Marines and sailors occupy Vera Cruz, Mexico
- 1918 Baron von Richtofen, known as the "Red Baron" is shot down and killed during the Battle of the Somme
- 1995 1st Lt Sarah Deal becomes first U.S. Marine Corps pilot
- 22** 1944 New Guinea: U.S. Army troops land near Hollandia
- 23** Feast of St. George, Patron of Soldiers
- 1861 Robert E Lee named major general and commander of Virginia state forces
- 1945 Allies in Italy reach Po River
- 24** 1863 War Department issues GO No 100, The Law of Land Warfare, first US ROE.
- 1943 US 7th Inf Div. trained for desert warfare, sails from San Francisco to Alaska
- 1944 1st Boeing B-29 arrives in China over Himalayas -- "the Hump"
- 1980 "Desert One": US operation to save 52 hostages in Iran fails, eight die
- 25** 1862 Farragut occupies New Orleans, La
- 1875 Combat on Pecos: Lt. John Bullis and Black Seminole Indian Scouts SGT John Ward, Trumpeter Isaac Payne, & PVT Pompey Factor rout 25-30 Lipan Indian raiders, for which Scouts are awarded Medal of Honor
- 1914 First USN air combat mission: Lt. Patrick Bellinger conducts a reconnaissance over Veracruz, receiving some damage from machine gun fire.
- 1945 Last Boeing B-17 attack against Nazi Germany
- 1945 US & Soviet forces meet at Torgau on Elbe River
- 1960 USS Triton completes first submerged circumnavigation of globe
- 26** 1607 English colonists land at Cape Henry, VA
- 1805 William Eaton and Lt Presley O'Bannon attack Derna, Libya, and phrase, "to the shores of Tripoli" enters national lexicon.
- 27** 1773 British Parliament passes Tea Act, leading to Boston Tea Party
- 1778 John Paul Jones begins 2-day raid on Whitehaven, U.K.
- 1813 Toronto captured by Americans under Gen Zebulon Pike
- 1861 Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson assumes command at Harper's Ferry
- 1945 US 5th Army liberates Genoa
- 28** 1945 US 5th Army reaches Italian-Swiss border.
- 1956 French leave Vietnam
- 1965 US Marines land in Dominican Republic, stay until Oct '66
- 1967 Mohammad Ali refuses induction into army
- 1971 Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr., promoted to Rear Admiral; first black admiral in US Navy
- 29** 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville begins
- 1945 US liberates Nazi concentration camp in Dachau
- 1970 US & South Vietnamese troops invade Cambodia.
- 1975 Last US personnel pull out of Vietnam.
- 30** 1492 Ferdinand & Isabella agree to bankroll Columbus
- 1798 US establishes Department of the Navy
- 1900 US annexes Hawaii
- 1908 1st Co., Signal Corps, 71st Reg, NYNG, formed to conduct aeronautical operations; now 106th Rescue Wing, oldest Air Guard unit.
- 1945 American & Soviet forces link up at Torgau in Germany
- 1975 Vietnam War Ends
- 1980 Terrorists seize Iranian Embassy in London

## MAY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1862 David Farragut captures New Orleans
- 1898 Battle of Manila Bay: Adm Dewey orders, "You may fire when ready."
- 1931 Empire State Building opens
- 1960 Francis Gary Powers' U-2 spy plane shot down over Sverdlovsk
- 1982 British bomb Argentinean positions at Port Stanley; Falkland Islands War begins
- 2** 1863 Stonewall Jackson wounded by own men at Chancellorsville, dies May 10th
- 1945 Berlin formally surrenders to Red Army
- 1945 German forces in Italy surrender
- 2011 U.S. Special Operations Forces kill Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan
- 3** 1846 Mexican army invades Texas
- 1861 Lincoln orders expansion of Army by 23K & Navy by 18K
- 1943 US 1st Armored Div captures Mateur, Tunisia
- 1946 Military Tribunal in Tokyo begins war crimes trials
- 4** 1946 US Marines recapture Alcatraz from rioting prisoners
- 1942 Battle of Coral Sea begins
- 1970 Ohio National Guard kills four students at Kent State
- 5** 1814 British attack Ft Ontario, Oswego, NY
- 1862 Cinco de Mayo: Mexican forces defeat French at Puebla
- 1862 Peninsular Campaign: Battle of Williamsburg, VA
- 1864 Battle of Wilderness: Germanna Ford/Wilderness Tavern
- 1908 Great White Fleet reaches San Francisco.
- 1942 Philippines: Japanese troops land on Corregidor
- 1945 Oregon: Japanese balloon bomb kills pregnant woman and five children.

- 1965 First large US ground units arrive in South Vietnam
- 6** 1937 Hindenburg disaster, Lakehurst, NJ, thirty-six die
- 1941 Bob Hope stages his first USO show, March Field, California
- 1945 Axis Sally makes her last broadcast
- 1962 USS 'Ethan Allen' (SSBN-608) fires first nuclear warhead from submerged sub
- 7** 1915 British passenger ship Lusitania torpedoed by German submarine
- 1942 Battle of Coral Sea begins
- 1954 Dien Bien Phu: Vietminh overrun French after 55-day siege
- 1989 Panama: Manuel Noriega seizes power after losing election
- 8** 1886 Confederate veteran John S. Pemberton invents Coca Cola
- 1911 Birth of Naval Aviation: USN orders first airplane, Curtiss A-1
- 1942 Battle of Coral Sea, Day 2: USS 'Lexington' (CV-2) sunk
- 1945 V-E Day; Germany signs unconditional surrender
- 1952 US conducts first H-Bomb test, Eniwetok Atoll
- 9** 1831 Alexis de Tocqueville arrives at Newport, RI, for ten-month tour
- 1926 Lt Cdr Richard Byrd & CMM Floyd Bennett fly over North Pole
- 10** 1676 Bacon's Rebellion begins in Virginia.
- 1775 Benedict Arnold, Ethan Allan, & Green Mountain Boys capture Ticonderoga
- 1862 Confederates torch & evacuate Norfolk/Pensacola Navy Yards
- 1940 Battle of France begins (WWII)
- 1960 USS 'Triton' (SSN-586) completes first submerged circumnavigation.
- 1968 Vietnam War: Paris peace talks begin; Battle of Hamburger Hill
- 11** 1862 CSS 'Virginia/Merrimac' scuttled in James River
- 1938 First USCG award of DFC, LT C. B. Olsen, for rescue at sea
- 1978 Margaret Brewer becomes U.S. Marine Corps' first female general officer
- 12** 1607 Foundation of Jamestown, Virginia
- 1789 NYC Revolutionary War veterans form Society of St Tammany
- 1943 Trident Conference: Roosevelt and Churchill plan strategy
- 1975 US merchant ship 'Mayaguez' seized by Cambodian force
- 13** 1908 Navy Nurse Corps is established.
- 1943 USN Bureau of Navigation becomes Bureau of Naval Personnel
- 14** 1653 Massachusetts Council declares that 1/8th of each militia company be available to march on 1 day's warning.
- 1801 Tripoli declares war on US, initiating First Tripoli War
- 1804 Lewis & Clark Expedition sets out from St Louis
- 1836 Mexican President Santa Anna, prisoner of Texans, signs Treaty of Velasco, conceding Texan independence.
- 1845 USS 'Constitution' lands Marines at Danang, Indochina
- 1856 USS 'Supply' delivers 50 Turkish camels to US Army at Indianola, Texas
- 1942 US Army forms Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC)
- 1945 US offensive on Okinawa, Sugar Loaf Hill captured.
- 1975 US raids free Cambodian-held ship 'Mayaguez' with heavy losses
- 15** 1862 Ben Butler issues famous "Woman Order," and proves every woman in New Orleans is a lady.
- 1939 Dupont introduces nylon; within year Japanese sales of silk to US fall 30 percent.
- 1940 First successful test flight of American helicopter, Vought-Sikorsky US-3
- 17** 1987 USS 'Stark' (FFG-31) hit by Iraqi missiles, thirty-seven sailors die
- 18** 1775 1st USS 'Enterprise' enters service, prize taken by Benedict Arnold on Lake Champlain
- 1861 Battle of Sewall's Point, VA
- 1917 Congress passes Selective Service Act
- 1984 Jerome G Cooper becomes first African-American general officer in U.S. Marine Corps
- 19** 1951 UN begins counter offensive in Korea.
- 1958 NORAD formed.
- 1967 US bombs Hanoi
- 20** Armed Forces Day
- 1912 Battlecruiser SMS 'Moltke' reaches Hampton Roads, on only visit to US by German capital ship
- 1930 President Hoover reviews US Fleet off Virginia Capes
- 21** 1861 Richmond, Va, designated Capital of Confederacy
- 1881 Clara Barton founds American Red Cross
- 1917 Leo Pinckney first American drafted during WW I
- 1944 West Loch, Pearl Harbor: ammo-laden LST blows up, 6 LSTs lost, 200 killed, "2nd Pearl Harbor."
- 1968 USS 'Scorpion' (SSN-589) sinks off Azores, ninety-nine die
- 22** National Maritime Day
- 1959 Benjamin O Davis Jr. (USMA '36) becomes first African-American Army general
- 1985 US sailor Michael L Walker arrested for spying for USSR
- 23** 1862 Valley Campaign: Stonewall Jackson takes Front Royal, Virginia
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- 24** 1764 James Otis coins phrase "No taxation without representation!"
- 1861 Benjamin Butler declares fugitive slaves Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory, & James Townsend "contraband of war"
- 25** 1787 Constitutional Convention opens in Philadelphia
- 1961 JFK pledges US will put man on moon by 1970
- 27** 1607 Battle of Jamestown: English settlers repulse attack by two hundred Indians
- 28** 1830 Congress authorizes Indian removal from Eastern states
- 1980 First fifty-five women graduate from U.S. Naval Academy
- 29** 1945 Okinawa: 1st Marine Division Captures Shuri Castle
- 30** 1868 First "Decoration Day" [now "Memorial Day"], designated by GAR CINC Maj Gen John Logan
- 1943 Aleutian Islands off coast of Alaska retaken by U.S. 7th Infantry Division
- 1958 Unknown soldiers of WWII & Korean War entombed in Arlington National Cemetery
- 1962 USS 'Arizona' Memorial dedicated to Pearl Harbor
- 31** 1900 Boxer Rebellion: Multi-national relief forces reach Peking

## POST 2894 CALENDAR

<b><u>APRIL '26</u></b>	
5	Easter
6	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
8	Post Meeting/Elections, Post HQ
15	Income Taxes Due
18	Bataan Death March Memorial Walk Great Dismal Swamp

<b><u>MAY '26</u></b>	
9	VFW Day of Service
9	VFW District 2 Quarterly Meeting Post 392, Virginia Beach
10	Mothers' Day
11	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
12	Air Force JROTC Awards Ceremony
13	Post Meeting, Post HQ
16-17	Buddy Poppy Fundraiser
21	Post Awards Ceremony
25	Memorial Day
27-30	VFW-Dept of Virginia State Convention Harrisonburg, VA



# VFW Post 2894 - Chesapeake, VA Remembrance



## 15th Annual Bataan Death March



### Memorial Walk

April 18, 2026

### Dismal Swamp Canal Trail



In memory of the estimated 80,000 prisoners and the 5,000-18,000 Filipino and 500-650 Americans who died during the 65-mile, WW II force march



#### APRIL 18th 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

#### Virtual Walk at Your Leisure

Not Available to Participate April 18<sup>th</sup>?  
Runners and walkers can participate anywhere in the world between February 18, 2026 to April 18, 2026. The run/walk can be done safely and at your own pace.

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  
Pre-Registration Ends: April 16, 2026  
[Walk.Chesapeake@gmail.com](mailto:Walk.Chesapeake@gmail.com)



SSG Jonathon Kilian Dozier  
Memorial VFW Post 2894  
3329 Battlefield Blvd, South  
Chesapeake, VA 23322



[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)

Date:  
Name  
Address

Subject: Continued sponsorship of the Chesapeake Bataan Death March Memorial Walk – April 18, 2026

The members of VFW Post 2894 are looking forward to your continued sponsorship of our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Bataan Death March (BDM) Walk April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at the Dismal Swamp Trail, Chesapeake Virginia.

Our mission is twofold; one, to educate today's generation 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, 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>

**Sponsor levels:** You will play a pivotal role in our continued mission providing financial assistance, roofs, ramps, doors, windows, and HVAC systems to struggling veterans' homes.

- **Distinguished Service Sponsor - \$2500+** Tier one recognition on event materials and social media
- **Superior Service Sponsor – \$1,000 - \$2,499**
- **Legion of Merit Sponsor – \$500-\$999**
- **Meritorious Medal Sponsor – \$250 - \$499**
- **Donations in kind such as gift certificates, services, or merchandise**

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

Should you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to contact us at 757-567-7201. Visit our web site for the great things we do and have accomplished. Your continued support makes a meaningful difference. Our tax deductible 501(c)19 EIN is 54-1796492.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Gregory  
Commander, VFW Post 2894  
3329 Battlefield Blvd South  
Chesapeake, VA 23322



# MILITARY AND VETERANS COMMUNITY WELLNESS DAY

Saturday, September 26 · 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Chesapeake Conference Center



## WHAT TO EXPECT



**INFORMATION  
SESSIONS**



**RESOURCE  
TABLES**



**COMMUNITY &  
CONNECTION**

**Chesapeake**  
VIRGINIA  
Integrated Behavioral Healthcare



To register for the event, scan the QR code below!



<https://MVCWDSept25.eventbrite.com>