

### 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.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 2894

#### 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.....	Grace Schweers
Jr. Vice President.....	Nelia Macasaet
Secretary.....	Sandy Dunbar
Treasurer.....	Donna Kust
Chaplain.....	Diane Hostetlar
Conductress.....	Diane Hostetlar
Guard.....	Tara Frederick
Patriotic Instructor.....	Anne Thompson

#### 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>



## POST AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN SOUTH NORFOLK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Members of VFW Post 2894 and its Auxiliary rallied around the flagpole and convoyed up to South Norfolk to participate in the annual Independence Day Parade on Friday morning, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Members of the Post and Auxiliary decorated several...(continued on page 3)



*VFW Post 2894 Senior Vice Commander Susan Vitale (right) displays the Post banner with her daughter Emily during the annual South Norfolk Independence Day Parade on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.*

## COMMANDER'S CORNER



Comarades – thanks to every one of you for another great fraternal year of 2024-25. We were recognized for the tenth year in a row as an All-American Post. Once again we were number one in the Department of Virginia for Division 4 and our Post newsletter

won the 2025 National Publication Contest Grand Award for District/Post Publications Large Frequency (published 5+ times per year).

We had another extremely successful Bataan Death March Memorial Walk thanks in no small part to the BDM “COO” Ted Roberts and “CFO” John Peterson and of course to all the volunteers from both our Post and Auxiliary. Without all of your hard work the success of this event would never have been possible! Thanks to you all!

At the June Department Convention, the Post was recognized as an All-American, All-State, and Honor Post for achieving 102% membership, finishing the year at 108.54%. And we continue to grow. As I have said many times, it is every one of you doing as much as you can, whether it is five minutes, five hours or five days – to support the Post with what we do best: taking care of veterans, their widows/widowers, and their families. Tremendous job to you all!

As I've said many times in the past, our success derives from our priority of being about “Service to Others” and living up to our motto of “Honoring the Fallen by Helping the Living.”

In June we installed our new officers, and I am looking forward to ANOTHER great year.

I want to thank all those who turned out for the South Norfolk Independence Day Parade. I would like to personally thank Eric Seidl for stepping up and coordinating this successful event. It was an honor to have our new Department of Virginia Commander Doug Hoffman ride along with us.

As we head into a very busy fraternal year, we have already started planning fund raising as well as recruiting events and activities – stay tuned for further details.

Remember to look at both our website and Facebook pages for more details about upcoming events.

Semper Fidelis!

Bob Gregory  
Commander

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings from the Auxiliary!

Summer has arrived! If there's any doubt, just step outside for a few seconds, or look at a thermometer. Rain has also put the humidity nice and high. Stay inside if you can, drink plenty of water, and remember--winter is coming!

I want to thank all the members of our Post 2894 Auxiliary. We had an amazing year in 2024-25! Due to all your hard work and multiple activities we made Outstanding Auxiliary, and in June at the Department Conference in Harrisonburg, VA we received recognition in four of the nine programs. The real winners of course are our vets and their families. We had a very nice entry in the Buddy Poppy contest. We didn't win, but it was amazing just the same. In August two members attended the National Conference in Columbus, OH.

Cooler weather, kids back in school, life settling back into 'normalcy'. Now's the time to start planning how to help at the new Veterans Medical Center, or budget in contributions to food pantry/donation, even start addressing Thank You notes to vets while you watch your Saturday night movie. A little effort, one day at a time, adds up to huge benefits for our vets.

Sharon Peterson, President  
VFW 2894 Auxiliary

## 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

**POST AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN SOUTH NORFOLK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE**

(Continued from page 1)...vehicles and walked or rode the one-mile parade route. It was a gorgeous morning for a warm walk in the summer sun and a great day for celebrating our nation's 249<sup>th</sup> anniversary of declaring our independence from Great Britain and establishing what would become one of the most powerful and influential democracies in the free world.



*VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory, driving, and VFW Department of Virginia Commander Doug Hoffman participate in the Independence Day Parade while Rosie Gregory enjoys the ride.*



*VFW Post 2894 Parade Coordinator Eric Seidl and his family enjoy the Independence Day Parade in South Norfolk.*



*VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary member Julie Boyer rides in the South Norfolk Independence Day Parade with some furry friends.*



*VFW Post 2894 members Brad and Becky Waters enjoy the morning parade while walking the distance.*

## POST AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS ATTEND VFW DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONVENTION

The VFW Department of Virginia held its annual convention in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on 19-22 June. Several of our Post and Auxiliary members trekked over to the western mountains to participate in this annual event. Post Commander Bob Gregory and his wife Rosie (an Auxiliary member), Quartermaster John Peterson and his wife Sharon (Auxiliary President), Jim Ireland (Post Service Officer), Sandy Dunbar (Auxiliary Treasurer), Julie Boyer enjoyed the hospitality and social environment, meeting many different VFW and Auxiliary members from around the state. Our Post received the Life Membership Increase Award due to the past membership increase that went from 250 to over 300 members.



*VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory (left) accepts the Life Membership Increase Award from VFW National Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt during the VFW Department of Virginia State Convention in June, as State Commander Mitch Rubenstein looks on.*

The Auxiliary also received recognition, being presented with a Certificate of Outstanding Auxiliary for all its achievements in supporting VFW Post 2894, area veterans, and their families throughout the community.

Additionally, the Auxiliary also received awards for Outstanding Member Participation in both the Legislator Contact and Americanism categories, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Veterans and

Family Support, and to top it off, was recognized at the President's Luncheon for Most Patriotic Hats!



*VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary President Sharon Peterson accepts the Certificate of Outstanding Auxiliary from VFW National Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt during the VFW Virginia State Convention*



*VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary members (from left) Rosie Gregory, Sandy Dunbar, Sharon Peterson and Julie Boyer pose for a picture during the VFW State Convention.*

## OTHER POST NEWS

- **Operation Blessing Donates Food to Veterans at Cypress Landing.** The VFW Post 2894 assisted in the coordination of a much need food donation to the veterans and their families residing at Cypress Landing. In April, Post Chaplain Joe McGourn worked with Operation Blessing, a local charity based in Virginia Beach, to resupply the food pantry at the residential facility in Chesapeake.



*VFW Post 2894 Chaplain Joe McGourn provides food donation to Operation Blessing.*

- **VFW Post 2894 Presents Outstanding Support Award to Chesapeake Sheriffs Department.** Because the Chesapeake Sheriffs Office was unable to have a representative attend the Post's annual Award Ceremony in late May, Post Commander Bob Gregory took the opportunity to present the Top Supporter Award to the Chesapeake Sheriff Dave Rosado the following week. On Wednesday, 4 June, the Commander and Post Adjutant met with Sheriff Rosado and presented the plaque for their superb support of our organization over the past year.



*VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory (right) presents the Outstanding Support Award to Chesapeake Sheriff Dave Rosado.*

- **VFW Post 2894 Members Participate in Flag Retirement Ceremony.** On Saturday, 7 June, members of VFW Post 2894 gathered at the American Legion Post 280 for their annual Flag Retirement Ceremony conducted in honor of Flag Day (this year's



*VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory places a flag on the retirement hearth during the American Legion Post 280 Flag Retirement Ceremony.*

ceremony was a week early due to scheduling conflicts). Post Commander Bob Gregory participated in the ceremony with other veterans who represented various veterans and civic organizations in the community.



*VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory renders honors to a retired flag during the American Legion Post 280 Flag Retirement Ceremony.*

- **VFW Post 2894 Members Remember Flag Day.** On Saturday, 7 June, members of VFW Post 2894 gathered at the Post to hoist the holiday ensign in commemoration of Flag Day.



*VFW Post 2894 members prepare to raise the Holiday Ensign to commemorate Flag Day.*



*Post members participated in the raising of the Holiday Ensign on 14 June in honor of Flag Day.*

Promptly at 0800, the smaller, regular flag was lowered and replaced with the much larger national ensign. Thanks to those members who came out and assisted with this event, as the larger flag definitely requires several people to ensure all the colors are handled with the proper respect and care.

Following the event, the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (VSSAR), Great Bridge Chapter, conducted a flag retirement ceremony, disposing of several worn colors in a respectful event that was attended by both members of the VSSAR organization and Post comrades who remained after the holiday flag posting to observe the retirement ceremony.



*Members of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Great Bridge Chapter, gather at VFW Post 2894 Headquarters on 14 June to perform a flag retirement ceremony.*



*A member of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Great Bridge Chapter, places an American flag in the burn barrel during the 14 June flag retirement ceremony.*

- **VFW Post 2894 Hosts USS Arlington Chief Petty Officers for Car Wash Fundraiser.** On Saturday, 21 June, CPOs from the USS Arlington and their family members met at the VFW Post 2894 Headquarters to raise funds for their group by holding a three-hour car wash. It was a fantastic day for the event, with numerous vehicles taking advantage of the opportunity to clean up after a weekend at the beach in North Carolina for a donation to the CPO Mess. The Post Headquarters lot allowed three vehicles at a time to be serviced, with washing, drying and vacuuming services available when requested. The fundraiser netted over \$700 and the CPO Mess generously donated \$100 to the Post for allowing them to use our location.



*Members from the Chief Petty Officers Mess from the USS Arlington turn to during their car wash fundraising event.*



*John Peterson proudly displays the catch for the day.*



*Chief Petty Officers from the USS Arlington quickly provide a wash and dry during the CPO Mess car wash at the VFW Post 2894 Headquarters.*

• **VFW Post 2894 Members Go Fishing in Canadian Wilderness.** During the first couple of weeks of July, VFW Post 2894 members Jim Ireland and John Peterson drove to Canada for a fly-fishing adventure on Lake Onaman in Ontario Province. Meeting up with other members of the crew on the three-day drive to Ontario, they continued to the lake via a float plane, where they enjoyed one week of Walleye and Northern Pike fishing. After seven days of fishing, they caught over 200 fish, but since they could only bring back four each, it made for a lot of fish dinners during the trip (most of the fish were turned loose in the lake). A truly enjoyable adventure that is highly recommended!



*Jim Ireland shows off a recently caught Walleye during the fishing expedition in Ontario.*



*Post members John Peterson (far left) and Jim Ireland (far right) enjoy an evening meal with fishing buddies in Canada.*

- **Local Navy Veteran Celebrates 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday.** On Friday, 18 July, Maurice Hubert, a U.S. Navy corpsman who served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, celebrated his 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Hailing from Oregon, he joined the Navy in 1941 before Pearl Harbor and then was arbitrarily assigned as a “medical assistant”, completing his training at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. He saw action with both the Marines and the Army, participating in the assaults on Iwo Jima and Okinawa as well as in the liberation of the Philippines. Congratulations on attaining this stunning milestone and may he continue to enjoy life as a centenarian!



*VFW Post 2894 Commander Bob Gregory (center) and Dan Eaker (left) congratulate U.S. Navy veteran Maurice Hubert on his 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.*

- **Post Raffle Fundraiser Set for Veterans Day.** The Post fall fundraiser has been set for Veterans Day, where a Smith and Wesson Model 1854 Stealth Hunter lever-action rifle will be awarded to the winning raffle ticket holder. The rifle is .44 caliber with a 16.3 inch barrel. Tickets will be on sale for \$10 each in the near future. A tremendous thanks to Freedom Outdoors for another fine donation to the Post to generate revenue that provides assistance to veterans in the greater Chesapeake area!



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

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ (VFW’s) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 26,400 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

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

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

This year’s theme is: **“How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”** Students interested in participating must submit their audio essay prepared on this year’s theme, with a completed 2025-2026 entry form, to their local participating VFW Post. The deadline for submitting an entry to a VFW Post is October 31st, 2025.

Entry forms can be downloaded at: <https://bit.ly/4dzrmpS>. Further details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

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

Each year, nearly 60,600 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW’s **Patriot’s Pen** youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of nearly \$1 million in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America’s history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing

their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. This year's theme is: ***"How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"***

Students interested in participating must submit their essay prepared on this year's theme, with a completed 2025-2026 entry form, to their local participating VFW Post. Entry forms can be downloaded at: <https://bit.ly/3AgSnjA>. Further details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

The deadline for submitting an entry for the Patriot's Pen contest to a VFW Post is October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Further details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

• **Teachers of the Year Nominations Due 31 October.**

Without our nation's veterans, America wouldn't be the great nation it is today. Our youth deserve to learn about our rich history, traditions and the role of our veterans in creating and shaping America.

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

For the Post to qualify as an All-State Post this year, we need to submit a nominee for one nomination for a teacher, K-12. If you know of someone who promotes a sense of pride in students through the teaching of civic responsibilities, flag etiquette, and patriotism, please nominate them for this prestigious National VFW Award! The deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025! Nominations must include the nomination form, nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available.

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

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

[Education/TeacheroftheYearEntryFormandBrochure.pdf?v=1&d=20240523T171419Z&la=en](https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/TeacheroftheYearEntryFormandBrochure.pdf?v=1&d=20240523T171419Z&la=en). The nomination form and further details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

**AUGUST 2021  
AFGHANISTAN**

After the 11 September 2001, attacks in New York and Washington, DC, it was determined that the perpetrators of the attacks were members of al-Qaeda, a militant Islamist network that had been allowed by Afghanistan's de facto rulers, the Taliban, to operate with impunity in that country, training terrorist teams and

exporting its jihadist ideology across the globe. When the Taliban failed to cooperate by handing over the terrorist leader Osama bin Laden, the United States invaded Afghanistan on 7 October to support the Northern Alliance in overthrowing the Taliban and dislodging al-Qaeda from its safe haven.

Although the Taliban was removed from power in a few short months of fighting and a new government was put in place, it failed to bring overall stability to the country and fighting continued for the next decade, with American troop surges on occasion to assist in stabilizing the Afghan countryside.

After U.S. forces located and killed Osama bin Laden in 2011, U.S. President Obama announced that the primary objectives of the war had been achieved and that the United States would begin withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan. On December 28, 2014, NATO's combat mission in Afghanistan ended, and some 13,000 troops remained solely to provide training and support to the Afghan military.

During the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump (2017–21), the United States took an increasingly dismissive stance on foreign affairs. It withdrew from several international treaties and disengaged from involvement in international institutions and enterprises. On December 17, 2018, the United States met with Taliban representatives to discuss the prospect of a peace process. Days later the United States announced its intention to withdraw thousands of its troops from Afghanistan, a move generally interpreted as signaling its seriousness in reaching a peace deal with the Taliban. The announcement caught the Afghan government off guard, but officials reassured the public that Afghan forces were already handling most security operations anyway.



*US Army soldiers assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division patrol Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.*

On February 29, 2020, the United States and the Taliban signed a peace agreement. It provided for a full withdrawal of U.S. troops over 14 months on the condition that the Taliban would take part in peace negotiations with the Afghan government and prevent affiliates of al-Qaeda and ISIL from operating within Afghanistan. The agreement did not include a condition that the Taliban reach an agreement with the Afghan government.

Despite some initial challenges, the Taliban appeared committed to upholding its side of the bargain, and the United States wasted little time in implementing its withdrawal. By late June, months ahead of schedule, it had reduced the number of U.S.

troops in Afghanistan from 13,000 to 8,600. Negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government did not begin until September, however, partly because of the Afghan government's reluctance to carry out the prisoner swap promised by the United States in the U.S.-Taliban agreement. Talks remained slow-going, and only in December did the two parties agree on a framework for the peace negotiations. Meanwhile, the United States continued to withdraw troops, and by January 15, 2021, only 3,500 U.S. troops remained in Afghanistan.

In February 2021 newly inaugurated U.S. President Joe Biden ordered a review of the previous administration's plan. Just weeks before the original deadline of May 1, he announced that the United States would proceed with the plan to withdraw but would delay its timeline by a few months.

The Taliban, emboldened by the ongoing U.S. withdrawal and the end of confrontations with U.S. forces, rapidly took control of dozens of districts in May-June and closed in on several provincial capitals. The group appeared to lack both the manpower and firepower to hold its gains against the larger and better-equipped armed forces of the Afghan government, but the latter's lack of coordination and lack of responsiveness to the insurgency allowed the Taliban to overrun the country within months, even as the United States set a new deadline for August 31. By mid-August the central government had collapsed, and the Taliban had captured nearly all of the country, including the capital, Kabul.



*A baby is handed up to the U.S. Army over a perimeter wall at the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on August 19, 2021, as Afghan civilians and others evacuate*

The unexpected outcome of U.S. disengagement stirred controversy at home for Biden, as Republican and some Democratic leaders criticized his administration for misjudging the strength and resolve of both the Taliban and Afghan government forces. Many called on the president to delay or reverse the withdrawal, but Biden reiterated his commitment to a full withdrawal by August 31.

The Taliban takeover led tens of thousands of Afghans and foreign nationals to rush to the international airport in Kabul. Many had fought the Taliban or had supported Afghan or NATO forces. In the last few weeks before the August 31 deadline, the United States focused its attention on evacuating refugees. With the joint

goal of seeing U.S. withdrawal to its completion, the evacuation included some level of cooperation from the Taliban, which facilitated movement of evacuees and provided a layer of security en route to the airport facilities.

Although the Taliban had thwarted a number of attacks on the airport facilities, an ISKP suicide bomber slipped through on August 26 and killed at least 170 Afghan civilians and 13 U.S. military personnel. The incident, in which the Taliban failed to provide the security guarantees conditioned in the peace treaty, raised concerns that the Taliban was not capable of preventing al-Qaeda, ISIL, and their affiliates from using Afghanistan to launch attacks. Plans to withdraw by the deadline went ahead, however, with U.S. forces taking additional precautions. Wariness of further attacks led U.S. forces to carry out a drone strike on August 29 that killed 10 civilians, including seven children. The target was later found not to be a security threat.



*August 2021 scene at Kabul's international airport in Afghanistan.*

The withdrawal of U.S. troops was completed on the night of August 30, shortly before the midnight deadline, and America's longest war (whose combat mission had ended nearly seven years earlier) came to a definitive end. With the Taliban returning to power, many people wondered whether the war—its high costs, the lives lost, and the devastating and drawn-out destruction—had been worth it. But optimists hoped that the defeat of al-Qaeda, along with new opportunities for the Taliban to prove its ability to govern, would lead to a more stable and secure Afghanistan than the one that was invaded in 2001.

\*Ref: Britannica Website - <https://www.britannica.com/event/withdrawal-of-United-States-troops-from-Afghanistan>

## **SEPTEMBER 1950 BATTLE OF INCHON, SOUTH KOREA\***

The Battle of Inchon, also called **Inchon landing**, was an amphibious invasion and a battle of the Korean War that resulted in a decisive victory and strategic reversal in favor of the United

Nations Command (UN). The operation involved some 75,000 troops and 261 naval vessels and led to the recapture of the South Korean capital of Seoul two weeks later. The code name for the Inchon operation was Operation Chromite.



*Landing craft of the first and second waves approach Red Beach on 15 September 1950.*

The battle began on 15 September 1950 and ended on 19 September. Through a surprise amphibious assault far from the Pusan Perimeter that UN and Republic of Korea Army (ROK) forces were desperately defending, the largely undefended city of Inchon was secured after being bombed by UN forces. The battle ended a string of victories by the North Korean Korean People's Army (KPA). The subsequent UN recapture of Seoul partially severed the KPA's supply lines in South Korea.



*A North Korean T-34 tank knocked out by US Marines during the UN advance from Inchon to Seoul.*

The UN and ROK forces were commanded by General of the Army Douglas MacArthur of the United States Army. MacArthur was the driving force behind the operation, overcoming the strong misgivings of more cautious generals to a risky assault over extremely unfavorable terrain. The battle was followed by a rapid collapse of the KPA; within a month of the Inchon landing, the Americans had taken 135,000 KPA troops prisoner.

Most military scholars consider the battle one of the most decisive military operations in modern warfare. Spencer C. Tucker, the American military historian, described the Inchon landings as "a brilliant success, almost flawlessly executed," which remained "the only unambiguously successful, large-scale US combat operation" for the next 40 years. Commentators have described the Inchon operation as MacArthur's "greatest success" and "an example of brilliant generalship and military genius."



*US Marines engaged in urban warfare during the battle for Seoul in late September 1950.*

\*Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Inchon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Inchon)

**+ SAFETY CORNER +**  
**AUGUST IS IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH**



August is Immunization Awareness Month. Vaccines against communicable diseases are important throughout life. They protect

individuals and their families and communities against infectious diseases. This is especially important for those most vulnerable - infants, the elderly,



and those with compromised or reduced immune systems.

Although no vaccine is 100% effective, vaccination is the important first step to beef up your immune system. Yearly, over 50,000 adults die from vaccine-preventable illness. Get vaccinated against diseases for which you are at risk and keep up to date as time passes and you age. Certain vaccines, such as tetanus, require periodic booster shots. As always, consult your health care provider as to what vaccines you need.

Stay healthy, for yourself, your family, and your fellow veterans.

**+** SAFETY CORNER **+**  
**SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**



September is National Preparedness Month. You need to be ready to cope with and survive emergencies or disasters that often strike our area. Among many things, preparedness includes emergency plans, emergency supplies, and possible evacuation routes. Extensive heat, floods, power outages, thunderstorms, tornados, all provide us with a challenge. But in our neck of the woods, the big bad wolf is the HURRICANE!



As we live through the peak of our hurricane season, it is important that we remain alert. Stay informed about coming storms. The National Weather System and FEMA provide early warnings, but our local weather watchers effectively keep us aware of what is brewing.

Plan ahead. Ensure that you have effective communication with your loved ones about what to do for a coming storm. Decide on a suitable shelter if you are staying in place but also plan on what evacuation routes are available for use.

Build and maintain an emergency kit. Update it yearly. Whether staying or going, certain things are critical:

- A minimum of 3 days' supply of water and non-perishable food.
- 2 weeks' supply of prescription medicines (pharmacies may be closed or without power).
- Battery powered or hand crank powered radio.
- Flashlight with extra batteries.
- First-aid kit.
- Whistle (to sound for help).
- If evacuating, include hand sanitizer, cash, plastic tarp, blankets/sleeping bags, trash bags, and changes of clothes.

Remember the five P's - Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance! (Ha! You thought I was going to say the six P's, didn't you?)

**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, Kimball Thompson, Carl Dozier, Summer Logue and Chuck Wolff
- **Membership/Recruiting Committee:** Bob Gregory, Susan Vitale, José Vazquez, and Dan Eaker
- **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 [jpeter310@gmail.com](mailto:jpeter310@gmail.com).

**Post Building Improvements Over the Past Fiscal Year**

- Extreme roof leaks– Roof was patched at NO CHARGE by Andrews Roofing
- Purchase of two dehumidifiers when humidity/roof leaks were creating mold on our fabric chairs \$426
- Painting the entire building and overhead in with multiple coats- \$2800 (Initial bid was \$6000, Jim Ireland bargained with them) Lowes provided the paint
- Replaced carpet in the Admin Rooms, Meeting Room and Tiled the entrance- \$5,000 (\$3200 donated by member)
- Front bathroom door frame- \$685 Bathroom fixtures, retile floor – \$1,200 (Donated by Home Depot)
- 12 X 16 Storage Shed - \$6,200 (Donated by two members)
- Lighting Donated by Home Depot (Installation donated by D2 Electric)
- Repair of back AC Units, freon added. (NO CHARGE by Troy Hare (Member) A/C and Heating)
- Big Project for the upcoming year is replacing the Airconditioning units with heat pumps (so we can shut down the boiler!) plus a split unit in the meeting room. We do not currently have funds. Estimated Cost: \$10,000

## AUGUST MILITARY HISTORY

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b>      Air Force Day</p> <p>1944    George S. Patton's Third Army begins 281 days of operations</p> <p>1944    Marines crush Japanese resistance on Tinian</p> <p>1946    Office of Naval Research is established</p> <p>1946    Battle of Athens, GA: WW II vets take up arms to prevent corrupt politicians rig local election</p> <p><b>2</b>      1819    First parachute jump in US, from a balloon</p> <p>         1887    Rowell Hodge receives a patent for barbed wire</p> <p>         1950    1st Marine Provisional Bde lands at Pusan, Korea</p> <p>         1964    Gulf of Tonkin: North Vietnamese patrol boats attack USS Maddox</p> <p>         1990    Iraq invades &amp; occupies Kuwait - onset of Desert Shield/Desert Storm</p> <p><b>3</b>      1804    USN squadron bombards Tripoli</p> <p>         1861    First manned balloon ascent from a ship, USS 'Fanny', Hampton Roads</p> <p>         1861    US Navy authorizes three ironclads: 'Monitor', 'Galena', &amp; 'New Ironsides'</p> <p>         1958    US sub 'Nautilus' (SS 571) passes under ice at North Pole</p> <p><b>4</b>      1790    Revenue Cutter Service formed, origins of USCG</p> <p>         1914    German forces march into Belgium starting WWI</p> <p>         2005    USS 'New York' (LPD-21) receives bow of 24 tons of steel from World Trade Center</p> <p><b>5</b>      1864    Battle of Mobile Bay: Farragut "damns" torpedoes</p> <p>         1898    US and Spanish troops skirmish outside Manila</p> <p>         1898    US landing party goes ashore at Cape San Juan, Puerto Rico</p> <p>         1921    Yangtze River Patrol Force established within US Asiatic Fleet.</p> <p>         1964    US begins bombing North Vietnam</p> <p><b>6</b>      1780    Battle of Hanging Rock: Tarleton's dragoons annihilate American column - Andrew Jackson (13) becomes a POW</p> <p>         1945    A-Bomb destroys Hiroshima, over 75,000 die</p> <p><b>7</b>      1782    George Washington creates Badge of Military Merit - Purple Heart</p> <p>         1789    US War Department established</p> <p>         1942    Guadalcanal: 1st Marine Div lands against light resistance</p> <p>         1990    Operation Desert Shield: First American troops reach Saudi Arabia</p> <p><b>8</b>      1942    Guadalcanal: Marines capture unfinished airstrip.</p> <p>         1988    Russian troops begin pulling out of Afghanistan after 9 year war</p> <p><b>9</b>      1945    Second Atomic Bomb dropped on Nagasaki, c. 30,000 die</p> <p><b>10</b>     1918    Alvin York captures "whole damned German Army"</p> <p>         1921    Congress forms US Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics</p> <p>         1949    Congress creates Department of Defense</p> <p><b>11</b>     1909    First use of "SOS"; SS 'Arapahoe', off Cape Hatteras</p> <p><b>12</b>     1645    Massachusetts Council orders third of men in each militia company "be ready on half an hour's warning for any service" - first "Minute Men"</p> <p>         1942    Guadalcanal: First US airplane reaches Henderson Field</p> <p>         1959    First firing of Polaris missile from ship</p> <p>         1972    Last American ground troops leave Vietnam</p> <p><b>13</b>     1846    CDR Robert Stockton leads an Army-Navy-Marine party to seize Los Angeles</p> <p>         1898    Spanish-American War: Armistice declared</p> <p>         1945    Okinawa: USS 'LaGrange' (APA-124) last US ship hit by kamikaze in WW II</p> <p>         1953    Gen Omar Bradley becomes Chairman of JCS</p> <p>         1961    Communists begin construction of Berlin Wall</p> <p><b>14</b>     National Navajo Code Talkers Day</p> <p>         1912    US Marines occupy Nicaragua</p> <p>         1942    First American air victory in Atlantic: Lt Ezra Shahan in P-38 shoots down Luftwaffe Condor patrol bomber off Iceland</p> <p>         1945    V-J Day; Japan surrenders</p> | <p><b>15</b>     1845    US Naval Academy is established at Ft Severn, Annapolis</p> <p>         1943    Kiska: US and Canadian troops land with heavy naval and air support'</p> <p>         1944    Operation Anvil-Dragoon: Allied troops land in Provence</p> <p>         1945    Hirohito's surrender message broadcast to Japanese people.</p> <p>              National Airborne Day, US</p> <p><b>16</b>     480 BC    Leonidas reaches Thermopylae with 300 Spartans and 700 Allies</p> <p>         1777    Battle of Bennington, VT: Americans defeat British</p> <p>         1780    Battle of Camden: British decisively defeat Americans</p> <p>         1918    US troops capture Archangelsk</p> <p>         1934    US ends occupation of Haiti, begun in 1915</p> <p>         1943    4th Marine Div activated at Camp Pendleton</p> <p><b>17</b>     1943    US troops under Gen Patton capture Messina</p> <p><b>18</b>     1911    Esther Voorhees Hasson appointed first Sup't of Navy Nurse Corps</p> <p>         1961    Construction on Berlin Wall completed</p> <p>         2011    Last American combat units redeploy from Iraq; 50,000 soldiers remain as a transitional force</p> <p><b>19</b>     National Aviation Day</p> <p>         1981    USS 'Nimitz' (CVN-68) A/C down Libyan A/C - "Line of Death"</p> <p><b>20</b>     1781    Washington marches from NY to fight Cornwallis at Yorktown</p> <p>         1982    US Marines land in Beirut</p> <p><b>21</b>     1800    First public concert by USMC Band, Wash. DC</p> <p><b>22</b>     1864    Geneva Convention: 12 nations establish International Red Cross</p> <p><b>23</b>     National Airborne Day</p> <p>         1944    6th Marine Div begins forming on Guadalcanal.</p> <p>         1944    Franco-American troops liberate Marseilles</p> <p><b>24</b>     1814    British burn Washington, after Sir George Cockburn eats Pres. Madison's dinner in White House</p> <p>         1949    North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) established</p> <p><b>25</b>     1921    US signs peace treaty with Germany</p> <p>         1943    US forces land on New Georgia, Solomon Islands</p> <p>         1944    Paris liberated from Nazi occupation</p> <p><b>26</b>     1775    First Congressional action on veterans' benefits</p> <p>         1839    US Revenue Cutter 'Washington' seizes Spanish ship 'Amistad', manned by self-liberated slaves, off Montauk Point</p> <p>         2021    Thirteen US service members killed in suicide bomb attack outside Kabul Airport, Afghanistan, during evacuation operations</p> <p><b>27</b>     1943    US bombers in China attack Japanese installations in Hong Kong.</p> <p>         1945    Third Fleet enters Sagami Bay, south of Tokyo Bay, as US troops begin occupation of Japan</p> <p><b>29</b>     1958    Air Force Academy moves to new facilities at Colorado Springs</p> <p><b>30</b>     1781    Battle of Chesapeake: French fleet defeats Royal Navy, sealing fate of Yorktown</p> <p>         1945    Gen MacArthur arrives in Japan</p> <p>         2021    Twenty years of occupation ends as all US troops are redeployed from Afghanistan.</p> <p><b>31</b>     1944    Allied offensive against Gothic Line in Italy</p> <p>         1949    83rd - and last - GAR encampment, attended by 6 of 14 remaining members</p> <p>         1994    Last Russian troops in Germany are withdrawn</p> |
|---|---|

## SEPTEMBER MILITARY HISTORY

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, Patron Saint of Aviators 1847</p> <p>1861 Grant assumes command of Federal forces at Cape Girardeau, MO</p> <p>1862 Congress abolishes daily issue of grog in US Navy</p> <p>1863 Sherman wins Battle of Jonesborough, Confederates evacuate, Atlanta burns</p> <p>1863 Union fleet bombards Fort Sumter</p> <p>1918 US troops land in Vladivostok, Siberia, stay until 1920</p> <p>1939 George C. Marshall becomes Chief-of-Staff of Army, serves until Nov 18, 1945</p> <p>1950 Thirteen North Korean divisions assault UN lines</p> <p><b>2</b> 1777 Battle of Cooch's Bridge, NJ: First use of "Stars and Stripes in combat"</p> <p>1944 Lt jg George H.W. Bush bails out near Chichi Jima, rescued by 'Finback' (SS-230)</p> <p>1945 Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam independent of France</p> <p><b>3</b> 1782 US gives its only ship-of-the-line, 'America', to France.</p> <p>1885 First Naval War College class convenes.</p> <p>1944 US Navy shells Japanese on Wake Island.</p> <p>1945 Japanese forces in Philippines surrender to US.</p> <p><b>4</b> 1945 US reoccupies Wake Island.</p> <p>1950 First appearance of comic strip "Beetle Bailey".</p> <p><b>5</b> 1774 First Continental Congress assembles in Philadelphia.</p> <p>1775 Continental Navy issues uniform regs for officers.</p> <p>1943 US airborne troops land at Nadzab, New Guinea.</p> <p><b>6</b> 1918 US Navy 14-inch railroad guns open fire on Western Front.</p> <p><b>7</b> 1776 David Bushnell's sub 'American Turtle' tries to sink HMS 'Eagle' in New York harbor.</p> <p><b>8</b> 1919 Ticker tape parade on Broadway for Gen. Pershing &amp; 25,000 Doughboys.</p> <p>1945 US troops land in Korea to assume occupation duties.</p> <p><b>9</b> 1776 "United Colonies" adopt name "United States of America".</p> <p>1943 Operation Avalanche: Anglo-American forces land at Salerno, Italy.</p> <p>1944 Allied troops liberate Luxembourg from Germans.</p> <p><b>10</b> 1813 Battle of Lake Erie: Commo Oliver Hazard Perry meets enemy and they are his.</p> <p>1944 Sir Frederick Browning says "I think we might be going a bridge too far".</p> <p><b>11</b> Patriot Day</p> <p>1773 Benjamin Franklin writes "There never was a good war or a bad peace".</p> <p>1812 USS 'Constitution' captures and destroys brig 'Lady Warren'.</p> <p>1814 Battle of Plattsburgh/Lake Champlain: Americans defeat British by land &amp; lake -- decisive battle of War of 1812.</p> <p>1918 Col. George S. Patton leads first US tank attack, St. Mihiel, France.</p> <p>1943 Allied forces secure Salerno</p> <p>1944 US 5th Armored Division enters Nazi Germany.</p> <p>2001 Terrorists attack World Trade Center Twin Towers in New York City and Pentagon, killing over 3000 Americans.</p> <p><b>12</b> 1814 Battle of North Point: Regulars &amp; Militiamen prevent British from capturing Baltimore.</p> <p>1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry VA.</p> <p>British commence overnight bombardment of Fort McHenry, inspiring</p> <p><b>13</b> 1814 "Star Spangled Banner".</p> <p>US soldiers &amp; Marines storm Chapultepec Castle, Mexico City.</p> | <p>1847 American troops under Winfield Scott capture Mexico City.</p> <p>1914 VFW Ladies Auxiliary organized (changed to "VFW Auxiliary" in 2015).</p> <p>1942 Guadalcanal, Bloody Ridge: Japanese retire.</p> <p>1966 Vietnam: Operation Attleboro begins against VC sanctuaries on Cambodian Border.</p> <p><b>15</b> 1862 Antietam Campaign: Stonewall Jackson captures Harpers Ferry.</p> <p>1862 Antietam Campaign: US troops find Lee's GO No. 191, wrapping some cigars.</p> <p>1918 Cpl Lee Duncan, US 135th Aero Sq, finds German shepherd pups in bombed out German military kennel near Toul, France; one becomes Rin Tin Tin.</p> <p>1942 US carrier 'Wasp' (CV-7) torpedoed and sunk off Guadalcanal.</p> <p>1944 Marines land on Peleliu, 450 miles east of Mindanao in Philippines.</p> <p>1950 Inchon Landing: Marines attack behind North Korean lines.</p> <p><b>16</b> 1919 American Legion incorporated by act of Congress.</p> <p>1942 3rd Marine Div activated at San Diego.</p> <p>1943 US Fifth and British Eighth Armies unite in Italy.</p> <p>1950 Eighth Army breaks out of Pusan Perimeter, in support of Inchon Landing.</p> <p><b>17</b> 1776 Spanish begin building Presidio of San Francisco.</p> <p>1862 Battle of Antietam: Bloodiest day of Civil War, over 3,000 die.</p> <p>1943 Ammunition explosion at Norfolk Naval Air Station.</p> <p>1944 Operation Market Garden begins: Allied Airborne invasion of Netherlands.</p> <p><b>18</b> Feast of St Joseph of Cupertino, Patron of Aviators and Astronauts</p> <p>1775 French complete Ft Carillon (Ticonderoga), NY.</p> <p>1947 US Air Force established.</p> <p><b>19</b> 1777 Battle of Freeman's Farm (1st Battle of Saratoga).</p> <p>1943 U.S carrier aircraft and B-24s raid Tarawa.</p> <p>1957 First underground nuclear explosion, Nevada.</p> <p><b>20</b> 1797 US frigate 'Constitution' - "Old Ironsides" - launched in Boston.</p> <p>1950 Omar Bradley promoted to 5-star General of Army.</p> <p>1984 Hezbollah bombing of American Embassy in Beirut, 25 die.</p> <p><b>21</b> 1872 James H. Conyers becomes first black USNA cadet.</p> <p>1941 Launch of first Liberty Ship, SS 'Patrick Henry'.</p> <p>1942 Maiden flight of B-29.</p> <p><b>22</b> 1862 President Lincoln issues preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.</p> <p>1944 Boulogne liberated by Allies.</p> <p>1958 Elvis arrives at Brooklyn Army Terminal, to board transport for Germany.</p> <p><b>23</b> 1779 Celebrated frigate duel between John Paul Jones' 'Bonhomme Richard' &amp; HMS 'Serapis'.</p> <p>1780 Maj. John Andre is captured, revealing Benedict Arnold's treason.</p> <p>1806 Lewis &amp; Clark Expedition ends at St Louis.</p> <p><b>24</b> 1918 Ens David S. Ingalls becomes first USN ace, in Sopwith Camel, while seconded to Royal Air Force.</p> <p>1929 Lt James H Doolittle makes first all-instrument flight, over Brooklyn.</p> <p>USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65) launched, first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.</p> <p>1960</p> <p><b>25</b> 1861 SecNav Welles authorizes enlistment of former slaves/</p> |
|--|---|

- 26 1918 US begins Meuse-Argonne offensive against Germans.  
1950 UN troops liberate Seoul, Korea.
- 27 1996 Taliban capture Kabul, installing Islamist theocracy in Afghanistan.
- 28 Feast of St Michael Archangel, Patron of Soldiers & of St Gabriel Archangel, Patron of Diplomats and Signalmen  
1781 Siege of Yorktown begins: last major battle of Revolutionary War.  
1850 Congress outlaws flogging in Navy and Merchant Marine.  
1918 Led by 107th Infantry, NY's 27th Div breaks through of Hindenburg Line at San Quintin Tunnel.  
1924 Two US Army planes end around-world flight, Seattle to Seattle, 57 stops.
- 29 1899 VFW Established.
- 30 1914 Army disbands Seminole Negro Indian Scouts, after 44 years of service.  
1946 Judgement at Nuremberg: 22 Nazi leaders found guilty.  
1949 Berlin Airlift ends after 277,000 flights.  
1949 US officially disbands Philippine Scouts.  
1977 Jonathan Kilian Dozier is born in Chesapeake, VA.

## POST 2894 CALENDAR

<b><u>AUGUST '25</u></b>	
9	Tides Baseball Game
13	Mulholland Internment, Arlington Cemetery
16	District 2 Quarterly Meeting VFW Post 3160, Norfolk

<b><u>SEPTEMBER '25</u></b>	
1	Labor Day
2	Victory-Japan (VJ) Day
8	Post Staff Meeting, Post HQ
10	Post Meeting, Post HQ
11	Patriot Day/National Day of Service and Remembrance
19	POW-MIA Recognition Day
20	Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs Breakfast
22	Autumn Begins
27	Military and Veterans Wellness Day
28	Gold Star Mother's Day

# MILITARY AND VETERANS COMMUNITY WELLNESS DAY

Saturday, September 27 · 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Chesapeake Conference Center



## WHAT TO EXPECT



**INFORMATION  
SESSIONS**



**RESOURCE  
TABLES**



**COMMUNITY &  
CONNECTION**



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



<https://MVCWDSept25.eventbrite.com>



## 2025-2026 COMPETITION

# VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

## Post 2894



"VFW made it possible  
for me to go to college."

- Rachel 2020 Prize Winner

### ELIGIBILITY

### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

**OCTOBER 31, 2025**

Students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (for which the application has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity.

## VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

- Open to students in grades 9-12 enrolled by Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 3–5-minute audio and written essay
- This year's theme is, "How are you showing patriotism and support for our country?"
- National Prize is currently \$35,000



[bit.ly/4dzrmpS](https://bit.ly/4dzrmpS)

<https://scholarsapp.com>





## 2025-2026 COMPETITION

# PATRIOT'S PEN Post 2894



**"VFW made it possible  
for me to go to college."**

- Rachel 2020 Prize Winner

### ELIGIBILITY

### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

**OCTOBER 31, 2025**

Students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (for which the application has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity.

### PATRIOT'S PEN

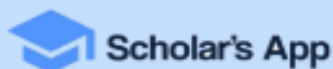
- Open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students
- enrolled by the Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 300 – 400-word essay
- This year's theme is, **"How are you showing patriotism and support for our country?"**
- National Prize is currently **\$5,000**



[bit.ly/3AgSnjA](https://bit.ly/3AgSnjA)

<https://scholarsapp.com>





<https://scholarsapp.com>

### HOW TO ACCESS THE PLATFORM

A **whitelist** or **allowlist** is a list or register of entities that are being provided a particular privilege, service, mobility, access or recognition. Entities on the list will be accepted, approved and/or recognized. Institutions that want to work with Scholar's App must whitelist the following domain: \*.scholarsapp.com/\* - each institution can do so by reaching out to their IT department or IT manager.

We are working on gaining an **allowlist** status with your State Department of Education, but if you're unable to access the platform, please use your personal device at home or on a public network to apply.

### SECURITY POLICY

Scholar's App set of security features:

- ScholarsApp complies with the SOC 2 Type II standard for security and offers a GDPR-compliant data processing agreement (DPA).
- Advanced DDoS protection - ScholarsApp combines in-house security systems with Cloudflare to block attacks.
- Vulnerability testing - ScholarsApp uses automated code testing, vulnerability testing (including OWASP Top 10), and continuous monitoring technologies.
- Penetration tested - ScholarsApp conducts pen tests annually (at minimum) following the comprehensive OWASP WSTG.
- State-of-the-art encryption - Your data is safeguarded in transit with TLS and at rest through RDS AES-256.
- Secured with AWS - ScholarsApp is built on AWS, which supports 143 security standards and compliance certifications.

### PRIVACY POLICY

Scholar's App is CPA (Consumer Privacy Act) compliant whereby the consumer has the right to limit use and disclosure of sensitive personal information. CPA provides personal information rights and protections for consumers, defined as natural persons. Scholar's App is compliant on not disclosing personal information to a third party for monetary consideration meaning we do not sell your personal information to third parties. CPA gives consumers the right to know what personal information Scholar's App are collecting and how that information is being used.

Scholar's App have two legal responsibilities toward consumers: they must inform consumers in advance regarding data collection and respond to a consumer's request to know what has been collected.

#### Inform Consumers

Scholar's App has posted our CPA-compliant privacy notice here: <https://privacy.scholarsapp.com/privacy-policy> and provides consumers what categories of personal information are being collected and for what purposes.

#### Consumer Request

Consumers can submit a request to know what personal information Scholar's App has collected from them. For a 12-month period preceding the request, Scholar's App must disclose the category of personal information it has collected, categories of sources, business or commercial purpose for collecting information, categories of third parties that Scholar's App shares personal information, and the specific pieces of personal information it has collected about that consumer. Scholar's App must provide this information free of charge, but only after verifying that the consumer is who they say they are.

## 2025-2026 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



**Entry Deadline: October 31, 2025**

### What is the Teacher Award Program?

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

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

### Why Should I Enter?

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

### Who is Eligible?

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

### How are teachers nominated?

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

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

### What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2025. It is the responsibility of the nominator to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

### What Are the Judging Criteria?

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

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

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

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

*If you have any questions, please call Mary Spencer, 816.756.3390, ext 6287 or [mspencer@vfw.org](mailto:mspencer@vfw.org).*

### Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: Name, Title

Phone  Best time to call

Alternative Contact: Name, Title

Phone  Best time to call

## 2025-2026 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



**Entry Deadline: October 31, 2025**

### 2025-2026 Official Entry Form Teacher Award Competition

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

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

#### Person Nominating Teacher

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

#### To Be Completed by the VFW Post

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

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

#### To Be Completed by the VFW District (If Applicable)

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

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

#### To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

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

Department Chairperson's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( ) Daytime Phone Email

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

#### Where Do I Submit My Entry?

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