

TAPS

- June 1 – Clyde Easter
- Aug. 18 – Fenton Darrah Quesenberry
- Sept. 6 – Glenn Edgar Jackson
- Oct. 2 – Dennis Leroy Frazier
- Nov. 6 – Jean Worrell
- Nov. 15 – Milton H. Bond
- Dec. 12 – Edward Clarence Alderman
- Dec. 19 – Garland Russell Jennings
- Dec. 30 – James Melvin Bowen Jr.
- Dec. 31 – Dixie Bernard Hawks

LEST WE FORGET



Flags Retired In Ceremony

Boy Scouts from the Carroll and Baywood communities “retired” nearly four dozen old tattered, torn and faded flags in a special ceremony November 14 at the VFW Post 1115 Veterans Memorial Park.

Participating were Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from Troops 83, 281 and 810 and Packs 83 and 810 along with leaders Jim Parker, Brad Dalton, Randy McKenzie and Tim Phipps.

The flag retirement followed a special ceremony at the VFW Memorial.

Assisted by some JROTC Cadets, guests and members of the general public, the flags were destroyed one at a time by burning in a dignified manner. A total of 40 flags were retired including many American Flags, several state flags and POW/MIA flags.

Scheduled to coincide with the week of Veterans Day, the ceremony is performed regularly in a manner prescribed by the U.S. Congress.

VFW Post 1115 is a collection point for anyone wishing to bring a flag in for retirement.



Auxiliary Presents Books And Cards

The VFW Post 1115 Auxiliary delivered cheer during Veterans Day week in the form of cards for Veterans and special books to area schools and the library. Participating in the donation were members Christine Martin, Marcia Semones, Patty Baskett, Echo Baskett, Deborah Newell, Jeanette Smith and Penny Johnson while Earl Baskett joined the Ladies on the deliveries. The group spent several hours driving all over the county to bring copies of an informative patriotic book “One Flag One America” to the Hillsville Library, Hillsville Elementary School, Gladesboro Elementary, Fancy Gap Elementary and other locales. They also collected cards made by first graders at Galax Elementary School and delivered them to Veterans at care facilities.



Chaplain's Message

**Have Hope
For The New Year**
Donald Trausneck
Asst. Post Chaplain

Every year at this time, when we begin a new 12 months, we have hope that it will be better than the previous year, but this time it is more true than ever before.

As we look ahead to the rest of 2021, we must have hope, so the words of Billy Graham in his New Years Prayer in The Saturday Evening Post in 2008 is quite relevant:

"Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future. We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us, but you alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. Help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives.

"In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

"We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve our Armed Forces and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Bring our divided nation together and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your word reminds us that, as it is written in Psalm 33:12, 'Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord' – AMEN

Share Your Story

Not everyone at the VFW knows about everyone's military experience but it would be nice to learn something about our fellow Veterans. If you would like to share a story and have it printed in this newsletter, please send a brief report (four or five paragraphs at most) with a photo we can use to donalddt65_music@centurylink.net.

Here is the first report:

Donald Trausneck

My wartime experience was in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam during all of 1968 and the first few months of 1969. As a Quartermaster 3C on the barracks ship USS Benewah (APB-35) of the Mobile Riverine Force, I had the ship's helm as my battle station as well as during all other special details.

After several months on Benewah, we learned that a Quartermaster on the USS Mark (AKL-12), a light cargo ship that steamed the Mekong River delivering supplies, was either killed or disabled and I was ordered on board that ship for the rest of my tour in Vietnam.

Midway through my tour, I spent R&R in Hawaii, which I will never forget.

Other than my Vietnam service, I spent the rest of my time in the Navy on three ships homeported in Norfolk – the aircraft carrier USS Randolph (CVS-15), amphibious force flagship USS Pocono (AKL-12), and troop transport USS Rockbridge (APA-228). I enjoyed one Med cruise, one Northern Europe NATO cruise, several Caribbean cruises, and a great stop at Fort Lauderdale. Randolph was my favorite home ship of my four years in the USN.

I have always regretted that I did not stay in the Navy until retirement.

(Now let's hear someone else's story)



ABOVE: Donald Trausneck mans the helm of USS Benewah in the Mekong

Two brand new pool tables have been placed in the VFW lobby for use by members. They were donated by recent new member Willie Compton, seen here lining up a shot. A talented musician, Willie became familiar with the Post when he started attending the Monday Night Jam sessions, and before the temporary shutdown he was a regular participant. Any member in good standing may use the pool tables when they come to the Post. Bring plenty of quarters.





Left: Hayley Snow, Voice of Democracy Winner



Right: Sheila Hommena, Teacher of the Year

Contest Winners Chosen By VFW

Sheila Hommena, kindergarten teacher at Oakland Elementary School, is the Teacher of the Year for Grover King VFW Post 1115 while Carroll County High School senior Hayley Snow is the winner of the Voice of Democracy contest and eighth grader Rebekkah Hancock won the Patriot's Pen contest.

The three contests are sponsored nationally by The Veterans of Foreign Wars. All three winners were advanced to the next level of competition in the Virginia VFW Ninth District.

Oakland Principal Larry Williams submitted Hommena for consideration as Teacher of the Year. In his nominating letter, Williams wrote, "Sheila is an outstanding teacher who instills patriotism and pride in our nation on a daily basis. She takes pride in preparing for our annual Veterans Day program by prepping her students beforehand with Veteran-themed lessons and often invites a Veteran into the class to talk about his service with students.

"For the last eight years she has coordinated a Christmas stocking program for Veterans and active duty troops stateside and overseas. The last several years she has collected and stuffed stockings for Veterans at the Salem Veterans' Hospital. Despite the pandemic, plans are in the works to provide these stockings again this year." Hommena, who lives on Pipers Gap Road in Galax, remarked, "I am deeply honored to be recognized by the American Heroes of the VFW Post 1115 of Hillsville.

"I began the Operation Santa Soldiers Stockings in 2011 as a Kindergarten project to teach history, compassion, map skills, love with respect for those who gave their all and others who gave their lives to protect us. We sent packages to Davie County to a National Guard troop who had just returned from Egypt and Iraq. We have sent packages to the nuclear division of the U.S.S. Enterprise. Our following years we have traveled to the Salem Veteran Hospital to visit, sing and hand out our Christmas stockings and gift bags. I am blessed that Carroll County High School and Carroll County Middle School students along with kindergarten to fifth graders still ask to go each year. Thank you so much for the Honor."

The 17-year-old Snow, of Woodlawn, won the V.O.D. scholarship essay contest which had a theme this year of "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?"

In her award-winning entry, she wrote "a country with liberty, equality, and worthy of praise. Our founding fathers envisioned these of us, but we have proudly exceeded those through our citizens. We have grown to become a stronger country who takes pride in its freedom, equality, Veterans, and environment.

"No country is perfect, but our country has risen above ignorance and never been afraid to pronounce its wrongdoings.

"As times have changed and our country has progressed, we have and will continue to stay pure in the heart and strong in the mind. We may have exceeded our founders' visions of us, but this is only the beginning. We have a beautiful country with strong citizens and a willing government. This country will always continue to progress, overcome obstacles, and better itself for those who love it."

Hancock, who attends Carroll County Middle School, won the Patriot's Pen contest which had a theme of "What is Patriotism to Me?"

Her essay read, "the definition of patriotism is showing love and devotion to your country. For me, patriotism is showing up and supporting your country no matter what it is going through." Hancock urged people to "always respect and honor our Flag."

She concluded, "patriotism is buried deep down inside all of us and is shown all around the world, whether you are joining the military or you are honoring and respecting each and every soldier who has fought for their country."

FROM THE STATE COMMANDER:

I HOPE EVERYONE HAD THE BEST OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON. THIS HOLIDAY SEASON WAS DIFFERENT, AND WE HAD TO APPROACH IT DIFFERENTLY. THE FACT IS THAT WHILE VACCINES ARE ON THE WAY, COVID-19 PERSISTS. WE HAVE SEEN INCREASES IN VIRUS POSITIVITY THROUGHOUT THE STATE. WE ASK ALL OF YOU TO OBSERVE THE 3W'S: WEAR A MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS AND WATCH YOUR DISTANCE.

HOPEFULLY BY JUNE WE ALL CAN GET TOGETHER FOR STATE CONVENTION.

WE HAVE A FEW POST THAT HAVE REACHED THEIR MEMBERSHIP GOAL OF 100% ALREADY. GREAT JOB I SALUTE THEM. THE STATES GOAL FOR ALL POST WAS TO BE 90% BY DECEMBER 31. IF YOU MADE THAT GOAL, THANK YOU FOR THE HARD WORK. THE NEXT MILESTONE GOAL IS FOR ALL POST TO BE AT 95% BY THE END OF MARCH.

I WANT TO THANK EVERY MEMBER FOR THE WORK THEY DO IN THEIR COMMUNITY, HOSPITAL, SCHOOL, SCOUTS AND THEIR POST HOMES. PLEASE CALL YOUR POST MEMBERS AND DO A "BUDDY CHECK" TO FIND OUT HOW THEY ARE DOING, AND TRY TO DO ANYTHING THEY NEED. FIND WAYS TO CONTACT OUR VETERANS IN THE VA HOSPITAL EVEN IT'S BY JUST A CARD LETTING THEM KNOW WE ARE ALL THINKING OF THEM.

GREAT JOB, TEAM VIRGINIA.

**– ERIC MALLET,
STATE COMMANDER**

Auxiliary Officers:

President:

Marcia Semones

Sr Vice President:

Donna Minton

Jr. Vice President:

Patty Baskett

Treasurer:

Debra Newell

Secretary: Patty Baskett

Conductress:

Echo Baskett

Chaplain:

Emily Dobbins

Guard: Oleta Bauman

Patriotic Instructor:

Donna Minton

3 Year Trustee:

Christine Martin

2 Year Trustee:

Elsie Wylie

1 Year Trustee:

Emma Edwards

Message from the Auxiliary

Happy New Year to all the ladies and gentlemen of the Auxiliary.

We are still in the midst of this Pandemic. We still remain vigilant to keep our distance of the Covid.

Our Auxiliary remains active with our projects. We have participated with the Voice of Democracy, the Patriotic Art and Teacher of the Year.

This past year we purchased the book One Flag, One America for each elementary school in Carroll County and also the Carroll Library. We had intentions to present each one to each school but Covid interfered. We did deliver Carroll County Library, Hillsville, Fancy Gap and Gladesboro schools. This group were Patty Baskett, Echo Baskett, Christine Martin, Earl Baskett, Don Trausneck and myself. We will deliver to the other schools.

We were blessed to take in a new member. We welcome Catherine Rowe to our midst. We were sad to drape the Charter in memory of Grace Cox, Earlene Dalton, Annie Mae Horton, Mary Howlett and Iva Easter. We miss our members.

We have been placing the names of members that paid their dues by Dec. 2020. Lesa Dalton's named was drawn for a Life Membership. Congratulation Lesa.

We are still active and we will be relieved when this Covid is a thing of the past. We will be a great Auxiliary and we will do great things.

Marcia Semones
Auxiliary President