



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

AUGUST 2017

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

As my first month as commander comes to an end, I can tell that we are on the right track to having another rewarding year. Our float with the National Guard for the 4th of July parade was a great experience. A sincere “thank you” to Uncle Sam, “Jerry” and Betsy Ross “Rosemary” for their enthusiastic participation. The post has been doing well with our events and dinners, thanks to our staff and volunteers. The heavy rain we had a few weeks ago flooded the Chicken Shack and as a result, the



fridge for the shack stopped working. Ken contacted Coastal Maytag and they donated a new one. So if you are in need of a new appliance, let’s show our appreciation and give them a call. Some of us made the trip to New Orleans for the VFW National Convention. Ellen and I drove

down and stopped at VFW Post 5877 in Aiken, SC and Post 49 in Mobile AL. We met some really nice people in both places. We learned some new things at both posts. Of course, although nice, neither could compare with Post 7234! We had a great time in the Big Easy and we learned a bit more about the VFW. There were men and women from all over the United States and other countries gathered together showing their dedication to the VFW. It was a very inspiring experience rekindling enthusiasm to work for the good of all veterans. Remember, every day is Veterans Day.

God bless all veterans.

Those who served

Those who are now serving

& Those who didn’t return.

God bless America

Dean Levering
Commander
443-553-1167

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

VFW Post and Auxiliary Members,



Hot, humid, heavy traffic, short tempers, abundance of tourists: it must be August! I hope while enjoying the beautiful summer days, you are finding time to help a veteran or their family. Our July dinner did very well; sincere thanks to those who volunteered to help and especially the talented VFW chefs. Our August dinner will be the 18th and once again we will need baked goods and



volunteers to work. The Cooler Raffle is doing quite well; remember to buy your tickets by the 18th at which time the winner’s name will be drawn. School of Instruction will be held in Dover on August 12th. This is a good opportunity to share ideas with other Auxiliary members and learn the skills of reporting

our activities. More details to be presented at our August meeting. The National VFW Auxiliary MALTA membership system has not been activated as of late July so any Auxiliary approved membership applications from our July meeting have not yet been processed by National. Please relay this message to persons you may have recruited that have not yet received their membership card. When recruiting potential new members, please remember that yearly dues are \$35/yr plus \$15 processing fee for the first year and \$35/yr thereafter; life membership dues amounts are listed on the application. Also, remind applicants that they MUST sign where indicated or their application will be returned. Our Auxiliary donated over 3000 American flags and 500 Buddy Poppies that National Guard members and their families distributed during

the Bethany Beach July 4th Parade. I was proud to be a participant in the parade with the VFW and the National Guard and their families. Our Auxiliary membership has grown in the past year and I would love to invite all of you to join us at our August 7th meeting. Remember, our Auxiliary is only as strong as you help make it! Stay cool, enjoy the sunny days, and frequent our VFW Post canteen often! Hope to see you on August 7th.

Loyally yours,
Roberta Walter
Auxiliary President

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families who have lost loved ones. Eternal rest grant unto them O' Lord, may the perpetual light shine upon them, and may they rest in peace. Amen.



*Henry E. Simmons Jr
Raymond W. Thibeault
Albert H. Steele Sr.*

Please call John Mitchell at 302-381-9934 for the VFW or Theo Loppatto at 302-537-5661 for the Auxiliary, if a member is sick or has passed away.

SERVICE OFFICER OUTREACH

All VFW members & AUX

The GI Bill Gets a 'Forever' Update



The GI Bill helped build today's middle class. It sent millions of World War II veterans to college, to work, and to the suburbs. Tom Brokaw called it "a brilliant and enduring commitment to the nation's future." One way we make sure that the GI Bill endures is by updating it to meet the times.

So today the House is set to take action on the biggest GI bill expansion in a decade. Here's what H.R. 3218 does:

Right now, veterans have to use their education benefits within 15 years of the end of their service. We're taking those limits away. From now on, new service members will be able to use the GI bill's education benefits throughout their lifetimes. They will have the flexibility to get an education later in life. This is a big change, and it's why we call this the

#ForeverGIBill.

Another big change concerns post-9/11 Purple Heart recipients, who need to put in three years of service to receive full benefits. The new law will give full GI bill eligibility to all post-9/11 Purple Heart recipients, regardless of how long they have served. And this GI Bill update gives veterans a better shot at in-demand science and technology jobs. A pilot program will help veterans take advantage of non-traditional technology courses. And benefits will be extended by nine months for veterans enrolled in STEM five-year degree programs. This is good news as we work to **improve job training** and close the skills gap.

The **American Legion** says this bill will mean "a new era for all who have honorably served in uniform, and for the nation as a whole." According to **Student Veterans of America**, it will represent "a new era for education for veterans."

The job of the Service Officer, at the post level is to refer as needed or pass along information from various sources. The Vietnam Veteran like those before him and after him has been aware of the use of various weapons to include Chemicals. That is the reason I do advise veterans to register with the VA. I knew of one case of a sailor who was involved in the SHAD experiment. He stated he founded out about it by registering for the VA. Sadly He is now dead. Not trying to ruin anyone summer but Marines and sailors be advised between SHAD and Lejeune its no wonder we deal with PTSD.

Please remember in the Corsa Household (Veterans are our only business).

Please if I can assist in any way let me know
302 933 0119

Respectfully Robert P Corsa, Service Officer

CANTEEN CORNER

What a great July we had. It was good to see our members bringing in their families and enjoying all our activities. We are most certainly a family Post. We will continue all our weekly activities in August, so make sure you look at the calendar closely, so you do not miss anything. As we go into August, we are starting to plan for our Fall activities. Tickets have now gone on sale for our Crab feast to be held on Sunday September 10th. Last year's event was sold out and I expect tickets to go very fast. Please get your groups together and see the bartenders to get your tickets and reserve your table. Tickets also have gone on sale for our Bull & Oyster Roast that will be held on Saturday October 14th. Like the Crab feast this event also sold out both last year and in the spring. See the bartenders to purchase your tickets so

you will not get shut out. To wrap up our summer we will be having our Labor day Picnic on Sunday September 3rd. Bring the family and enjoy our indoor picnic. An event that is in the planning, is our Delaware Hospice Benefit Dinner scheduled for Friday September 8th. Delaware Hospice has done so much for our Members and their Families and it is our time to show our appreciation. The evening will start out with a candle lighting ceremony, where you may purchase and light a candle for a love one who has passed on. This is a very emotional ceremony as the candles remain lit all evening. Please watch for details for this wonderful event. It is good to see that our members are getting and using the Key cards to enter the front door. It has speeded up the service at the bar as our bartenders are not having to stop every minute to release the door. If you have not got yours yet, please get the form needed and we will get you your card. Also remember when bringing a guest, please have them sign in. After another successful Sunday bus trip to The Red Roost Restaurant. Our next trip is being planned for Sunday September 17th. Please look for the bulletins for details. If you have not been on one of our trips you do not know what you're missing. As always if you have any suggestions please let me know.

See you at the Post Mark

VFW GOLF ASSOCIATION



VFW Golf Association

members continue enjoying golf each Tuesday at the Salt Pond Golf Course. Please sign-up at the Salt Pond Pro Shop by noon Sunday for the following Tuesday's golf. Show-up at 7:30 a.m. for the 8:00 tee time. Remember all are welcome!!! Thanks to everyone who participated with the Sunday Morning Buffet Breakfast on July 16th. Please join us on August 13th for the last breakfast of the season and help make it as successful as the last 3. (To sign-up please contact Phil Dulk @ duker01@icloud.com). We held the Summer Tournament this year on July 11th at Salt Pond. With 21 golfers participating everyone enjoyed the competitive golf and camaraderie. Congratulations to all the winners. We extend a special thank you to Frank Slahetka for his efforts coordinating the tournament. Also, congratulations to Jerry Morris on his hole-in-one during our round on July 25th!

Ed (Albert) Pike

THANKS AGAIN TO COASTAL MAYTAG

Coastal Maytag, our good neighbor and long-time supporter on Cedar Neck Road, has once again come to the assistance of the Post in a time of need. Ken Weber reported that a heavy rainstorm and flooding in the area of the Chicken Shack in July had knocked out the refrigerator. You may recall that Coastal Maytag donated that refrigerator to the Post last year. Ken contacted Stan Clark at Coastal Maytag and after inspection Stan determined that repair didn't make economic sense. The Post was prepared to purchase a new refrigerator, but Coastal Maytag generously donated a replacement. Refrigeration is an essential part of the Chicken Shack operation because it enables us to provide cold water and sodas to our customers, as well as the volunteers working in the heat. So the replacement is very much appreciated. Many thanks from the Post, especially the Chicken Shack Crew, to Coastal Maytag for their generosity and continued support of the VFW. Something to think about when you're considering purchasing new appliances. Veteran Discount.

Jerry Hardiman
"Chicken Shack Volunteer"

CRAB NIGHT IS FUN NIGHT



One of the most popular evenings at the Post during the summer is the weekly crab feast every Thursday, on the calendar as "Steak and Crabs Night." The



popularity is the result of the work of all those involved who keep everything running smoothly and, of course, the star of the show: the Chesapeake Bay blue crab. The dining room and atrium are typically full of happy diners enthusiastically cracking crabs. . . or taking an easier route with the steaks, steamed shrimp, crab cakes and

other menu items. Whatever your taste, you're going to enjoy yourself. Did you ever wonder how this crab craze got started and why it continues to draw so

many people together every summer? I mean it takes some effort to crack the crabs and a lot of crabs to get a satisfying meal. I think the first reason has to be the sweet and tender crab meat. After all, the scientific name for the blue crab is *Callinectes Sapidus*. “Callinectus” from the Greek for “beautiful swimmer,” and “sapidus,” from the Latin for “savory” or “tasty.” For catching them, the emphasis is on the swimmer part. But for eating, the emphasis is definitely on the tasty. If you measure taste by consumption, the blue crab tops all the other crabs in the US combined, including stone crabs, king crabs, Dungeness and snow crabs. And far more than lobsters, oysters and clams. The proof is in the eating. If you’re interested in the natural history and 3 to 5 year life of the blue crab, the incredible distances they travel, the bountiful Chesapeake estuary and crabbing, a great source of information and enjoyable reading is William Warner’s book, *Beautiful Swimmers: Watermen, Crabs and the Chesapeake Bay*. Thinking about crabbing, I have to tell you one story. Rosemary and I have a friend from Maryland who I will call Jane, because that’s her name. Jane was a sergeant with the U.S. Capitol Police, someone you could always count on to do the right thing in any situation and a lot of fun to be with. One time we were talking about the best way to catch crabs, one of the many areas where I have to plead ignorance. So I asked: “Jane, which do you prefer, crab pot or hand line?” Quick as a wink, Jane just said: “For me, I like to use a VISA or Master Card.” That has become my preference, too. Or cash at the Post. Quick and easy. Back to natural history. The Chesapeake Bay provides more crabs for human consumption than any other body of water in the world. One recent estimate was 150-240 million crabs a year, depending on conditions. Well, the diners at the Post certainly enjoy their share. About 40-50 dozen crabs every summer Thursday so far. Like so many other good times we enjoy, it wouldn’t happen without the time and effort of Mark, our Canteen Manager, the kitchen and bar staffs and all the volunteers. On recent Thursdays, the team included our chefs, Steve Karten and Roger DeFritas, and a new addition, Brandon Colwell, doing a great job on the dishwasher. (I just learned a better way to clean trays.) Here’s a list Mark, Chris and Linda helped me put together:

Alec (not Baldwin)
Steve Corrado
“JC” Daughaday
Dan Hudock
Jerry Jacynski
Cathy May
Mary Ann Peden

Ellen Reilly
Hal and Peggy Soloman
John Vitsorek.

My apologies to anyone I missed and for any misspelled names. As always, the kitchen and dining room team is backed up by Bob, Debbie and Sharon at the bar, who keep people hydrated and smiling. Many thanks to everyone who makes the Thursday evenings so enjoyable.

Jerry Hardiman

LOOKING FORWARD TO AUGUST

Heading into August, here are some dates to think about, together with all the events on the Post calendar.

August 1. Air Force Day

August 4. U.S. Coast Guard established in 1790 as the predecessor Revenue Cutter Service. The U.S. Life Saving Service, fully established in 1878, was merged with the Revenue Cutter Service in 1915 to form the newly named U.S. Coast Guard. The USCG motto is *Semper Paratis* (Always Ready). As those who have visited the Indian River Life Saving Service Station may remember, the Coast Guard also retained the motto of the Life Saving Service, paraphrased here from memory as “The book says you have to go out. It doesn’t say you have to come back.”

August 11. First SOS signal (... _ _ _ ...) transmitted by radio in 1909. Is Morse Code still used today? When I asked a Coast Guardsman, he said “they still had to know some of the old ways.”

August 14. VJ Day in 1945. Japan surrendered, officially ending World War II.

August 16. National Airborne Day (“All the way!” echoing in the distance.)

August 19. National Aviation Day

August 21. Solar Eclipse. As the moon moves between the Earth and the sun blocking the sun’s light, a total solar eclipse will be seen on a path across 14 states, beginning in Oregon at 10:15 AM Pacific Daylight Time, and ending at 2:49 PM, Eastern Daylight Time in South Carolina. The rest of North America, including Delaware, outside the “path of totality” will see a partial eclipse. Wherever you happen to be, don’t forget the special protective glasses (Not regular sunglasses) to avoid severe and permanent retina damage looking directly at the sun. NASA suggests four manufacturers of the inexpensive cardboard shades with solar filters: Rainbow Symphony; American Paper Optics; Thousand Oaks Optical; and TSE 17. Or you can just watch the eclipse safely on NASA’s website. For more

information, visit NASA's eclipse page at eclipse2017.nasa.gov. If you miss it this year, don't be too disappointed. There's another total eclipse coming on April 8, 2024. That's one I'm planning to see. And you can watch "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" anytime, the greatest eclipse movie ever.

August 24. NATO established in 1949.

August 26. Women's Equality Day (and don't you forget it!)

Oh, I almost forgot the St. Ann's Church Bazaar August 3-5. I mention it only because of a notice on another church bulletin that read: "Ladies. Remember the Bazaar. Here's your chance to get rid of everything not worth keeping but still too good to throw out. Bring your husbands!" I don't know yet if I'm going.

Hope you enjoy every day in August.
Jerry Hardiman

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON & EVENING OF FOOD & FUN

**FOOD SERVED
3 - 7 pm**



**GREAT MUSIC
4:30 - 9:30pm**

BEEF OYSTER STEW SAUSAGE & PEPPERS POTATO SALAD DRAFT BEER & SODA
RAW OYSTERS STEAMED SHRIMP COLE SLAW BAKED BEANS & SODA

Donation: \$30/person
****Benefits Veterans Relief Fund**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14th, 2017

Music by: DJ RAY DISNEY

COMMUNITY WELCOME

**MASON DIXON VFW POST
MARSHEY HOPE WAY, OCEAN VIEW, DE**



**CELEBRATE
LABOR DAY**

ENJOY OUR INDOOR PICNIC

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 3rd, 2017
4:00 pm 'til 7:00 pm
FOOD SERVED**

**PIT BEEF PIT HAM
BBQ CHICKEN HOT DOGS
MAC & CHEESE COLE SLAW
CORN ON THE COB
TOSSED SALAD**

DONATION: \$ 9.00 A.Y.C.E.

**MUSIC by DJ DISNEY
5:00 pm 'til 9:00 pm**

**MASON DIXON VFW
POST #7234
SPONSORED
MARSHY HOPE ROAD
OCEAN VIEW, DE**



COMMUNITY WELCOME

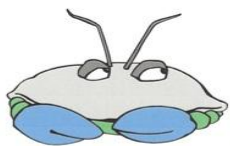
FRIDAY DINNERS

AUG 4 HOMEMADE MEATLOAF

AUG 11 SHRIMP SCAMPI

AUG 18 CHICKEN MARSALA

AUG 25 ROASTED PORK



**CRAB
FEAST**

SUNDAY, 9/10/17

**3pm
'til
7pm**

**STEAMED CRABS
STEAMED SHRIMP
CHICKEN HOT DOGS
MD. CRAB SOUP
CORN ON THE COB
BAKED BEANS COLE SLAW
POTATO SALAD**

**DONATION: \$35
A.Y.C.E.**

**MASON DIXON VFW POST #7234
MARSHY HOPE WAY
OCEAN VIEW, DE**



**TICKETS REQUIRED - MAY BE PURCHASED AT CANTEN BAR
WILL SELL OUT - BUY EARLY!**



VFW LEADERSHIP TEAM

Commander	Dean Levering
Sr Vice Cmdr	Robert Criswell Jr
Jr Vice Cmdr	John Hickman
Quartermaster	Bill Hensley
Adjutant	Fulton Loppatto
Chaplain	John Mitchell
Judge Advocate	John Mitchell
Surgeon	George Hickman
Officer of the Day	Rick Delaney
Guard	Rick Smith
Service Officer	Bob Corsa
Honor Guard Capt	Paul Burbank
Trustee	Danny Steele
Trustee	George Smith
Trustee	Ed Wolfe

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Dean Levering
Vice President	Hal Barber
Treasurer	Bill Hensley
Secretary	Ken Weber
Chairman	Robert Criswell Jr
Board Member	Rick Smith
Board Member	John Hickman
Board Member	Fulton Loppatto
Board Member	John Mitchell
Board Member	Rick Delaney
Board Member	Mike Grabowski

AUXILIARY TEAM

President	Roberta Walter
Sr Vice Pres	Carol Weber
Jr Vice Pres	Donna Paddock
Secretary	Susan Wallace
Treasurer	Rene McDorman
Chaplain	Theo Loppatto
Guard	Shirley Stong
Conductress	Ellen Reilly
Patriotic Ins	Jackie Umstetter
Trustee	Connie Weber
Trustee	Debbie Vischer-Jensen
Trustee	Debbie Morlock-Wood

Our Quartermaster, Bill Hensley is a notary. He will provide notary services to members at no cost. Donations to the VFW will be accepted. Please call the post at 302-539-9981 to schedule.

FOOD BANK

Please continue to drop off food items at the entry way. We continue to support our local families in need. Thank you for your donations.

VFW POST 7234 HONOR GUARD
TO BECOME A MEMBER, PLEASE
CONTACT PAUL BURBANK
757-288-6248

Member in Need of Assistance
Please call:
John Hickman 302-448-0723

Member Sick or Deceased
Please call:
For VFW – John Mitchell 302-381-9934
For Aux – Theo Loppatto 302-537-5661

Assistance with VA claims or benefits
Please call:
Bob Corsa 302-745-1668

For the Latest Updates and News
Please send your email to
vfwpost7234@vfw7234.com