



# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

## AUGUST 2020

### COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Our “Soft Opening” on Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> went very well with everyone adhering to our “Guidelines” and then we were thrown a curveball by our Governor restricting bar seating. Mark our Canteen Manager just took that in stride as he roped off the bar seating to comply. On July 9<sup>th</sup> we opened up Crab Night with



some restrictions and Social Distancing Guidelines. Our guests do love crabs, and following our Post Guidelines. Crab Night thus far has been a success. We will hopefully be starting Flip Five in August and ask everyone to follow the guidelines to have a fun and safe night.

Our long time Captain of the Honor Guard, Paul Burbank is stepping down after nine years of dedicated service to the Post as our Honor Guard Captain. I believe that Paul joined the Honor Guard in 2011 and became Captain in 2012. Paul has done a fantastic job as Honor Guard Captain which is reflected every time they perform their Sacred Duties. Anyone who attended the “Wall That Heals” ceremonies can attest to that. There wasn’t a member who joined our Post that Paul didn’t approach to try and recruit them for the Honor Guard. That recruitment approach was also quite successful. Paul will be sorely missed.

I have made two appointments. John Gossart will assume the duties as Honor Guard Captain and Jim Jensen as Post Surgeon. I know that they both will serve with honor for our Post.

The Department of Delaware VFW is again holding their annual Gun Raffle. The 1<sup>st</sup> drawing is for an

S&W M&P 9mm Range Kit Hand Gun. The 2<sup>nd</sup> drawing is for a Remington 12 gauge semi-automatic shotgun. The 3<sup>rd</sup> drawing is for a Rugar AR556 American Flag Cerakote. Tickets are 1 for \$10.00 or 3 for \$25.00. You can see me or Dean Levering for tickets. If you win, you must pass a background check, all FFL Laws apply.

As I mentioned last month our Post is a Great Place to come down to relax, have something to eat and visit with old friends. Our Bartenders, kitchen staff and volunteers are all looking forward to seeing everybody. So if you feel comfortable, bring your mask and join us, we would love to see you.

**May God bless all our Veterans.  
All Those who served  
Those who are now serving  
& All those who didn't return.  
May God bless America**

Hal Dietrich  
Commander  
732-371-2564



## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Well summer has sure arrived with a vengeance! slowly the post is reopening and although things are not back to normal we are getting to experience some of the things we enjoyed doing in the past.. Of course the beautiful sunsets at the post have not been



cancelled. There isn't much to write about with all our restrictions but I thought about all the posts on Facebook regarding veterans. We may "like" them or "share" them and maybe even add a comment to them. I was thinking about what else we could do to show our gratitude. When you're at the

post, do you ever see an older veteran and maybe thank him for his service. Do you have time to say "I bet you have some interesting stories from your service.' you can tell if he or she would be willing to share a story with you. It just might make their day to have you listen to their experience. Do you have any veterans in your neighborhood? With all the zucchini around these days, imagine dropping a loaf of zucchini bread at their house with a little note saying "thank you for your service". It just might bring a little cheer to their day especially if they are stuck in during the pandemic. Dean and I were out doing some yard sales recently and he had his Vietnam veteran hat on. I learned something very new at this house we were at and intend to read some more about it. We ran into a woman who questioned Dean about his Vietnam service. It turned out she was a "Donut Dolly" in Vietnam. I had no clue what that meant but listening to her was very interesting. So in short, there are stories out there that I couldn't even imagine. I'll be more open to listen, will you? I attended the "school of instruction on Saturday July 25th. There was a wealth of information for the chairmen of the various committees and resources for making the most of chairmanships. One of the best ways to find out what we do as an auxiliary and the programs we work on is to register on "Malta". It is a simple process with an id and password. If you haven't taken the time as an auxiliary member, I encourage you to get on your computer, smart phone or tablet and register. The website is [malta.vfwauxiliary.org](http://malta.vfwauxiliary.org) if you think you could contribute to one of the programs; speak to me by all means "get involved". There are still two

chairmanships open. Our next meeting is August 3rd at 7:00 p.m. if you can get there a little early there will be a special presentation before the meeting. Also I've invited our new Commander Hal Dietrich to come and introduce himself and perhaps say a few words to our auxiliary. Please let an officer know if you know of any veterans or family members with any special needs especially during this pandemic. Let Theo know of anyone who may be ill or needs special prayers and remember to say a prayer for all our veterans whether they are serving now or in the past.

Respectfully  
Mary (Ellen) Reilly  
President  
908-451-0624 OR [triplestmom1@gmail.com](mailto:triplestmom1@gmail.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

The Board met on July 28, 2020 with all Board members in attendance.

We set new guidelines for the kitchen and are reviewing the bar guidelines along with our Post rental agreement. Based on new guidance from our Governor, there is now a trace book near the food register for members to enter their info; if there is a Covid case you would be notified. Our Manager would like to start Flip Five starting August 5; he will put out further guidance. Our finances are getting better but we are still showing a negative number. We should be back in the black shortly as more functions and relief improve. There are an increasing number of non-members coming to the Post grounds to include the beach to hang out. We will review our current signs and improve on them to notify people our Post and grounds are for members and their guests only.

Next Board meeting will be August 25, 2020 at 1800 hrs. VFW Members are welcomed.

Stay safe.  
Chairman Tony Adams

## 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.



*James R. Watkins  
Andrew G. Favret  
Jay H Adams Jr.  
Sylvester J. Capuano  
William C. Black*

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

### Definition of a Veteran (VA)

There are many definitions of what constitutes a Veteran. For VA benefits the first step is determining whether the person meets the VA's definition of a "veteran". While anybody can



apply for VA benefits, not everyone is eligible to receive those benefits. In order to qualify for most VA benefits, the applicant must be a "veteran" or the dependent or survivor of a "veteran". The VA defines a veteran as a person who

served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

The first step is to determine whether the VA will consider an individual a veteran is to examine whether that person has experience that qualifies as "military, naval or air service". Members of the VFW have already established their eligibility in order to join the Post. But did you know Military service also includes service in organizations other than the conventional Armed Forces? Military Service also includes commissioned officers of the Public Health Service on full-time duty, commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or Environmental Science Services Administration. There are other WWII entities that also qualify.

The next step is to determine if the service qualifies as "active". For full-time "Active Duty" members of the 5 branches of the Armed Forces this is self-explanatory. It gets complicated when it comes to members of the Reserves and National Guard. A Reservist activated for 12 months in Afghanistan is considered to have active duty service during this time. For National Guard members to be eligible for VA benefits, they must have been activated for federal purposes. A National Guard member who is injured while dealing with flood relief ordered by the Governor is considered not to be on "Active duty" for VA benefits. It must be emphasized that members of the National Guard are only eligible for VA benefits stemming from their "federal service". This includes periods for which they were ordered into federal service by the President under 10 U.S.C.S. Any Reservist or National Guard members who have questions about their eligibility should call or email me. The last requirement is a discharge "Under Conditions Other Than Dishonorable". This is not as straight forward as it sounds. The discharges are 1. Honorable discharge; 2. Discharge under honorable conditions, or general discharge; 3. Discharge under other than honorable conditions, or undesirable discharge; 4. Bad conduct discharge; 5. Dishonorable discharge (issued only by a general court-martial and); 6. Administrative discharges that do not characterize an individual's service, which are; a. Entry level separation; b. Void enlistment or induction; c. Dropped from the rolls. A discharge is not set in stone. It is possible to get a discharge upgraded and it's not as hard as it sounds. There are also statutory and regulatory bars to VA benefits as well, but I won't go into them now.

In Comradeship,

H. Rich Fales, Post Service Officer  
(301) 325-3813  
Smokey1st@netzero.net

## CANTEEN CORNER

It is sure good to be writing my Canteen Corner again. Since March our lives have sure changed and the way we operate the Canteen has also. First of all I would like to say Thank You to everyone for being so cooperative in following all the guidelines that we have put in place to open the Post in a healthy manner. As other businesses are struggling with people not following guidelines our members have been great. This allows us to open more activities as the guidelines allow. In August, we will continue the Cheesesteak ordering procedure that is currently in effect. Orders must be called in. Once you pick up your order you may eat in the Post, if a table is available. Friday Night family Buffets will resume within the current guidelines established by the Governors emergency order. Starting Wednesday 8/5, we will resume Flip 5 on a limited basis. Special instructions will be issued by email and there will be no exceptions to the procedures. At this time we will not have DJ's on Friday Night and no Bands on Saturday's. These could change at any time and calendar revisions will be issued as needed. We are currently evaluating the possibility of having our annual Crab Feast in September. Ticket information will be sent out when a decision is made.

Face Masks are required at all times when not sitting, and please remember to Social distance when in lines.

See you at the Post  
Mark

## VFW GOLF ASSOCIATION

VFW Golf Association members play golf each Tuesday at the Salt Pond Golf Course. Please show-up at 7:30 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. tee time. Sign up for play by sending an email to [vwfgolf7234@gmail.com](mailto:vwfgolf7234@gmail.com) NLT noon on the Monday before the date of play. Remember all are welcome!!!

If you are thinking about joining the Golf Association, please contact our President, Ken Smith, at 267-228-7285 or [madriverken1946@gmail.com](mailto:madriverken1946@gmail.com) for more information.

Ed Pike

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD



Looking at the calendar for August, I noticed that August 4 will be celebrated as the 230th birthday of the Coast Guard. The Service traces its history to that date in 1790 when the first Congress, at the



request of Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, authorized the construction of ten armed ships described as cutters to enforce trade laws, protect the collection of tariff revenue and prevent smuggling. Known as the Revenue Marine, and later as the U.S. Cutter Service, the Service recorded a proud history in peace and war. Here are a few highlights I

wasn't aware of and you may find interesting.

### EARLY HISTORY

**Coastal Defense.** From 1790, when the Continental Navy was disbanded, until 1798, when a new U.S. Navy was created, Revenue Marine cutters provided America's only armed naval force for coastal defense and protection of commercial shipping.

**Enforcement of Anti-Slave Trade Laws.** Starting with the Slave Trade Act of 1794, which was signed into law by President George Washington, the Revenue Marine enforced laws that prohibited the international slave trade on U.S. vessels; U.S. citizen employment on foreign vessels involved in the trade; and eventually prohibited the "importation" of slaves into the U.S. Records reflect that between 1794 and 1865, U.S. Revenue cutters captured approximately 500 slave ships. The ships were subject to forfeiture and sale and the crews subject to prosecution in U.S. Courts. The slaves were set free, although research didn't disclose if they were freed in states where slavery was prohibited or returned to their home

countries. How many thousands of human beings were rescued in all those years is also unknown. But God bless the crews of the Revenue Marine for their valiant life-saving humanitarian service. We can say the same exact thing for our Coast guard since then and right up to today.

War With France. In the so-called “Quasi War” (whatever that means) with revolutionary France from 1798 through 1800 to counter French attacks on American merchant ships, President John Adams placed the Revenue Marine under the overall command of the newly re-established U.S. Navy. In the undeclared war fought almost entirely at sea, the Revenue Marine distinguished itself, just as its successors have done in every U.S. war and conflict since then. The few cutters that were large enough for ocean duty captured 15 armed French vessels, assisted in the capture of 5 others and recovered at least 10 American ships from the French.

#### NAME CHANGES AND EXPANDED MISSION

In 1863, Congress renamed the Revenue Marine as the U.S. Cutter Service. In 1915, Congress merged the Cutter Service with the U.S. Lifesaving Service and designated the combined organization as the U.S. Coast Guard. The legacy and many traditions of the LSS became part of the Coast Guard’s search and rescue history and mission. For example, the unofficial LSS motto was adopted by the Coast guard. “The book says you have to go out; it doesn’t say you have to come back.” Talk about mission focused.

#### MISSIONS

The Coast Guard is an agency within the Department of Homeland Security. It is one of the six military services of the United States (now including the new Space Force). Its operational missions include the following:

Ports, waterway and coastal security;  
Drug interdiction;  
Navigation aids;  
Search and rescue;  
Marine safety;  
Military preparedness; and  
Law enforcement

#### SEMPER PARATUS

That’s the official motto of the Coast Guard. It’s translated from Latin as “Always Ready.” It’s also the title of the official song of the Service. I have to confess that I don’t know the words and haven’t

recognized the melody when I heard it. But I recently heard a stirring rendition by the Minnesota Arrowhead Chorale. Here’s the refrain:

We’re always ready for the call.  
We place our trust in Thee.  
Through surf and storm and howling gale,  
High shall our purpose be.  
Semper Paratus is our guide,  
Our fame, our glory too.  
To fight to save, or fight and die.  
Aye! Coast Guard, we are for you.

Well, we are for you, too. Happy Birthday, Coast Guard.

Stay well and enjoy every day in August,  
Jerry Hardiman

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Commander	Hal Dietrich
Sr. Vice Cmdr	Tony Adams
Jr. Vice Cmdr	John Gossart Jr.
Quartermaster	Bill Hensley
Adjutant	Fulton Loppatto
Chaplain	John Mitchell
Judge Advocate	John Gossart Jr.
Surgeon	James Jensen
Officer of the Day	Rob Gill
Guard	James Jensen
Service Officer	Rich Fales
Honor Guard Capt	John Gossart Jr.
Trustee	Danny Steele
Trustee	George Smith
Trustee	Robert Criswell

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	Tony Adams
President	Hal Dietrich
Vice President	John Gossart Jr.
Treasurer	Bill Hensley
Secretary	Ken Weber
Board Member	Frank Mathers
Board Member	Fulton Loppatto
Board Member	Ed Wolfe
Board Member	John Mitchell
Board Member	James Jensen
Board Member	Dean Levering

## AUXILIARY TEAM

President	Ellen Reilly
Sr Vice Pres	Dale Weese
Jr Vice Pres	Karen Ware
Secretary	Ty Magliola
Treasurer	Roberta Walter
Chaplain	Theo Loppatto
Guard	Shirley Stong
Conductress	Karen Vitsorek
Patriotic Ins	
Trustee	Connie Weber
Trustee	Debbie Vischer-Jensen
Trustee	Larry Hamby

**Our Commander, Hal Dietrich 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:**

**Hal Dietrich 732-371-2564**

### 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:**

**Rich Fales (301)325-3813 or email me at**

**[Smokey1st@netzero.net](mailto:Smokey1st@netzero.net)**

### For the Latest Updates and News

**Please send your email to**

**[vfwpost7234@vfw7234.com](mailto:vfwpost7234@vfw7234.com)**