



# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

## DECEMBER 2019

### COMMANDERS COMMENT

As we are now in the holiday season, I would like to extend to everyone my best wishes for a merry Christmas and happy healthy New Year. We are blessed to have post 7234 to give us a great place to congregate and socialize. So I would like to ask all



not to forget those who are less fortunate. There is a box for "Toys for Tots" in the front hall. Please find an extra \$5.00 and make a donation to the box. The box will be picked up on December 15th. We will also be taking donations for "Home of the Brave"; there will be envelopes to put gift

cards in. These men and women served our country and may be having a hard time getting back to living normal lives, so show your appreciation for them serving so we have the freedoms we have. Please also remember senior citizens and others who may be alone during the holidays. Take some time to spread a little cheer to them too. Our Veterans Day service was well attended as we had a packed house. Thanks Mark and the kitchen crew for a nice luncheon too. The honor guard did an excellent job as usual. I also enjoyed reading a few letters the students provided to our veterans from the John M Clayton Elementary School. They dropped off a shopping bag full. Our volunteer appreciation dinner was quite an event. I hope you enjoyed the evening as much as I appreciate all your help during the year. The VFW department of Delaware needs members to keep from being merged with another state department. We cannot let this happen! It is of utmost importance that we get new members. There are a lot of combat veterans moving into our state. We also need to talk to VFW members from other states and get them to transfer their membership to Delaware. Let's not forget about the banks for our national home located on the

bar and tables. This program helps not only children but families benefit from this also. If you are a veteran, then your children and grandchildren can benefit from this program. As always, remember to check the newsletter, bulletin board and calendar for upcoming events.

Remember the sick from our post.

**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

Hello Members, November was a very busy, successful and rewarding month for the Auxiliary.



Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Paint Event was a big success. All of the money raised, which was just over \$1200.00, will be used to assist with the unmet needs of our Veterans, Active Military and their families. Thank you to all who attended the event and created a beautiful work of art. A special thanks to

Carol Flood, Cindy and Dale Weese and Ellen Reilly for arranging the event, providing the refreshments and coordinating everything the day of the event. Over \$350.00 in contributions were received at the Buddy Poppy drives held at Hocker's Super Store and Weis Markets. Thank you to Cindy Weese, Carol Flood, Debbie Vischer-Jenson, Charlene Mertz, Lynn Hagood, Shirley Stong and Barbara



**Knighly for giving of their time to work the drives, and all the members of the community who generously supported our efforts. Buddy Poppy contributions not only help our local Veterans but the Veterans who work so diligently making the Poppies. All of the members working the event received a heartfelt appreciation from the community and many of them proudly displayed the Poppies over the Veterans Day weekend. Representative Ron Gray, Senator Gerald Hocker and Jack Gordon, the Mayor of Bethany Beach, attended the dedication of the Blue Star Memorial Marker in Bethany. The Marker is**



**beautiful and is in honor of all those who have served in the Armed Forces. We are so proud to be part of this memorable event and happy to assist financially to make this possible. As we move into December, we will be involving the children in events at the Post. The annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on December 15th from 2 to 4, with the highlight of the party being a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Auxiliary volunteers are needed to help set up, lead the activities for the children, and clean up. We will focus on the celebration of Christmas but will also incorporate some activities promoting patriotism in our youth. George Hickman has again identified needy families in his church. Through the generous efforts of the Post and Auxiliary we will do our best to fulfill the children's wish lists. In addition to the families from the church, Ellen Reilly and Carol Flood have identified 3 children residing at the Home**

**of the Brave II with their mothers, who are Veterans. We are happy to be able to help these families of our Veterans, for it is part of our mission and one we will aggressively pursue. Shirley Stong and Carol Flood delivered thirteen handmade lap robes to the Veterans at Elsmere VA Hospital. Thank you to Shirley and Carol for the time spent making the robes and delivering them to the hospital. You have brightened the Christmas of our Veterans. Don't forget to drop off your cookies for our troops between December 3 and December 6<sup>th</sup> and include a Christmas card. Last year we sent over 1400 dozen cookies to our troops. Thank you to Roberta for arranging this ever year. Wreaths Across America will take place on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Veteran's Cemetery in Millsboro, DE, with the laying of wreaths beginning at 10:30. There are 4000 Veterans' graves at the cemetery, so please consider giving a helping hand on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Our Auxiliary currently stands at 1178 members. Ten of our members have received recruitment awards so far this year. If you recruit a new member, please show your name and membership number on the application, for once you recruit 5 new members, you can be recognized with a recruitment award. Christmas is a time to celebrate with family and friends. A time to be thankful for all we have and also a time to remember a Veteran financially or with an act of kindness or just a kind word or visit. Thank you for all you do and I wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.**

**Let us always remember those who served and always try harder to serve them better.**

**Loyally yours,  
Carol Weber  
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.**



*Michael A. Beyer*

**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.**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

New Year's Eve tickets will go on sale the Monday after Thanksgiving for members starting at 4pm....First come, First served. We approved the replacing both stoves in the kitchen, Mark will now start looking for the best deal he can find with replacement taking place during the February annual shutdown. Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner went very well and up next is our Christmas Party on Friday, December 6th. We are going to do some serious investigation on upgrading our Wi-Fi. Don't forget that the Auxiliary will hold the Bryan Clark Spring Fling and Chinese Auction on April 26th. Our next Board of Directors Meeting will be on Monday, December 30th at 6pm.

VFW Ritual: General Rules: page 3 section 13(a)(c)  
Official Caps will not be worn during any meals.

Chairman Hal Dietrich

## SERVICE OFFICER OUTREACH

### Urgent Care versus Emergency Care

At the last Post meeting I confused some people when I spoke on the VA's new Urgent Care program. I will attempt to clarify it in this article. Emergency care is not urgent care. Emergency Care is an injury, illness or symptom so severe that without immediate treatment, you believe your life or health is in danger. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away. Veterans do not need to check with VA before calling for an ambulance or going to an emergency department. During a medical emergency, VA encourages all Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay. A claim for emergency care will never be denied based solely on VA not receiving notification prior to seeking care. It is, however, important to promptly notify VA after receiving emergency care at a community emergency department. Notification should be made within 72 hours of admission to a community medical facility. This allows VA to assist the Veteran in coordinating necessary care or transfer and helps to ensure that the administrative and clinical requirements for VA to pay for the care are met.

Urgent Care are those injuries and illnesses that require immediate attention but are not life-threatening, such as influenza, minor burns, and skin infections. There are two types of Urgent Care network locations: Retail and Urgent. Retail

locations include a walk-in health clinic, other than an office, urgent care facility, pharmacy, or independent clinic located within a retail operation. Reasons why you would seek care at a retail location include treatment of an uncomplicated illness such as a sore throat or earache. Urgent locations include an office or a clinic, whose purpose is to diagnose and treat illness or injury for unscheduled, ambulatory patients seeking immediate medical attention (aside from emergency rooms). Reasons why you would seek care at an urgent location include treatment of more pressing illnesses or injuries that are not life-threatening, like splinting, casting, lacerations, or wound treatment. This benefit is considered open access, allowing Veterans to access urgent care within VA's community care network and receive care without prior authorization from VA. The benefit started in June 2019. VA will pay for or fill prescriptions resulting from your urgent care visit. The urgent care provider may write a medically necessary prescription for up to a 14-day supply. Veterans will be able to fill their prescription at any in-network pharmacy with Express Scripts. The construction of the urgent care network is nearing completion. The VA continues to add sites wherever possible to allow the vast majority of Veterans to be within a 30-minute drive time from their home to a network urgent care/retail location. To ensure the most optimal user experience, you will continue to see refinements to this tool.

To check eligibility, call [1-833-4VETNOW](tel:1-833-4VETNOW) (1-833-483-8669).

#### **IMPORTANT:**

Before seeking care, [READ THIS important notice](#). The following link provides you with documents to use when seeking urgent care.

[https://www.triwest.com/globalassets/documents/urgent-care/va\\_urgent\\_care\\_tips.pdf](https://www.triwest.com/globalassets/documents/urgent-care/va_urgent_care_tips.pdf)

To find an urgent care location use the following link. Currently the closest provider to the Post is MINUTECLINIC at 12001 Coastal Hwy in Ocean City, MD. 866-389-2727

<https://vaurgentcarelocator.triwest.com/Locator/Care>

Anyone needing Service Officer Assistance can contact me at (301)325-3813 or email me at [Smokey1st@netzero.net](mailto:Smokey1st@netzero.net)

Rich Fales, Acting Service Officer

## CANTEEN CORNER

As 2019 comes to an end I must thank everyone for a great year. I believe we set a record for visitors to the Post which allows our officers to support our veterans and the community when there is a need. During this Holiday season remember that there are others less fortunate in our community. We will have a Toys for Tots box in the lobby. As always I know our members will be very generous. Thanksgiving was another great success this year. The support from our members donating Turkeys was fantastic and everyone who attended enjoyed the feast with friends. Thanks to all the Volunteers that made this day possible. Our Post Christmas Party ( for members and their guest ) will be on Friday 12/6 at 5pm. Dinner & Music will be provided, and a fun time will be had by all. On 12/7 which is Pearl Harbor Day, as of this writing we are planning on having Charlie Heite a member of our Post and a Pearl Harbor Survivor to join us with his family for dinner. If you are at the Post and see Charlie please stop to say hello. Make sure you check the monthly calendar as we have changed the days for Flip 5 and cheese steak night during the Holiday weeks. Again this year we will open the Post at 3pm on Xmas Day. Please bring a covered dish to share for our Christmas Dinner at 4pm. Bring your neighbors who will be alone so they may have Dinner with friends. Please do not forget all the Men and Women that are currently serving our country, and might not be home for the Holidays and say a prayer for their safe return. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

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 8:30 a.m. for 9:00 a.m. Tee time. Remember all are welcome!!! If you are thinking about joining the Golf Association Please contact our President, Ken Smith, 267-228-7285 or [madriverken1946@gmail.com](mailto:madriverken1946@gmail.com) for more information.

Ed Pike

## ALASKA CRUISE 2021

I have been asked by many people to consider going to Alaska on our annual VFW Cruise. I have done a lot of research and was waiting for the best available Cruise to become available. Well the wait is over; I have booked and secured 35 cabins on the Carnival Miracle for an 11 day Cruise round trip from San Francisco. We will stop at the Ports of Ketchikan, Icy Strait, Skagway, Juneau, Cruise the Tracy Arm Fjord, and Victoria BC Canada. We will depart San Francisco on 6/20/2021 and return 7/1/2021. Our plan is to go to San Francisco on the 18<sup>th</sup> so we can enjoy this beautiful city before we depart. A copy of the Cruise Flier with pricing is included in this newsletter. Cruising with the VFW Group is very easy. If you decide on this trip call Becky at Bethany Travel 302-933-0955 and she will help you in securing a cabin. Once we determine the amount of people going I will secure Transportation, Airfare and Hotels for the Group. The price on the flier is for the cruise only. Please secure your Cabin early as this deal is good thru 2/22/2020 at this rate with a \$400 pp deposit. This will be our 5<sup>th</sup> annual VFW Cruise and on each Cruise we make more friends from the Post. Do not be left on the Dock. If you have any questions I will be happy to help you.

Mark

## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

It's that time again. Seems to roll around faster each year. Every December the Post has a Children's Holiday Party for all the children in our area. By "the Post" I mean Connie Weber and her team of



volunteers, as well as Mark and the Post staff. It's a lot of fun for the kids and the main event, as you might expect, is a visit from Santa, and usually Mrs. Claus, too. This year, the party will be on December 15, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Mark your calendars for the children. Thinking about Santa and all the letters kids send him every year, I thought it

would be interesting to pull a few letters from Santa's mail bag to see what they ask for. One report stated that during the busiest days in December, the post office in North Pole, Alaska receives as many as 1200 crates or bins of letters addressed to Santa. Here's a sample (reprinted from various sources and edited slightly) from some hopeful, worried, helpful, bossy, generous and loving youngsters.

Dear Santa. I want an order of fries, a computer and a chicken nugget. [unsigned]

Dear Santa. My name is Ella and I am 9. I have a question. What happens if you get sick? Do you have a back up Santa? Happy Holidays. Ella. P.S. How old are you? You have been around a long time.

Dear Santa. If you want to grab a beer, feel free. The fridge is near the kitchen door. From Flynn.

Dear Santa. How are you? Well enough chit chat. This year I want a Space Lego set, some jelly beans, a Sharks jacket and hat, an AK-47 and any Nintendo game. [unsigned]

Dear Santa. I am so good and never say bad words to my parents or give anyone the middle finger. Josie. P.S. Am I on the Good List?

Dear Santa. Please leave before 6:00 AM. My alarm goes off at 6:00. P.S. My stocking is on the left.

Dear Santa. All I want is a golden retriever puppy, another dog or a fish. I do not care. But please do not tell my parents, because they do not want another pet. Love, Linda.

Dear Santa. I think you are too fat and I'm not leaving you any cookies. You need to stay away from junk food and don't eat so much on your trip around the world. That's why I'm leaving you vegetables with ultra skim milk. I hope you lose some weight because with you and all those toys, I feel sorry for Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph. I sure hope you brought everything I asked for. Well, if I don't see you this year in person, I hope to see you next year. [unsigned]

Dear Santa. Why can't people know when you're in the house? Can the reindeer talk? Can you leave me a sleigh bell off your harness, please? Lane.

Dear Santa. I would like to get things for my family, but have no money. I was hoping you can help me by getting them presents and just putting my name on them so they'll know I thought of them. Bethany.

Dear Santa. What list am I on? The naughty or nice list? If I'm on the naughty, what can I do to get off? Hope it's not too late. Ashley.

Dear Santa. If you bring presents, please bring the batteries. Thanks, DK.

Dear Santa. Even though I know the truth, I want you to know how much I enjoyed believing in you for the past 9-1/2 years. Love, Ava.

Dear Santa. I only want one little thing this year. Please bring me an elf. I promise not to let the dog get it. Carly.

Dear Santa. I wanted a remote control car and helicopter, but I don't want that anymore. Kids at school are still picking on Amber. It's not fair because she doesn't do anything to them. I prayed that they would stop, but God is busy and needs your help. Is it against the rules for you to give gifts early? Can you ask Big Time Rush to come to Amber's birthday party? It will make her so happy. If you can't get them to come, just get her everything she asks for. Thanks Santa. Love Ryan. P.S. My Mom throws the best birthday parties. You can come if you want.

You've got to love the kids. For them, you want to say, in the words of that famous 1897 editorial testament to the spirit of Christmas in the New York Sun: "Yes, Virginia, there I a Santa Claus. . .to make glad the heart of childhood." So thanks to Connie and everyone who helps at the Christmas Party for all the joy they bring to the kids at the party. Looking forward to the party and other events on the Post calendar, here are a few other dates in December to keep in mind.

Dec. 5. Prohibition ends (1933)!

Dec. 7. National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Dec. 13. Recognized as the birthday of the National Guard. On this day in 1636, the first militia regiments in North America were organized in Massachusetts.

Dec. 21. First day of Winter.

Dec. 22. Happy Hanukkah (which begins at sundown) to our Jewish members and friends.

Dec. 25. Merry Christmas!!

Hope you enjoy every day in December.

Jerry Hardiman

**VFW FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET**  
**DECEMBER 13th 2019**  
 5:00 – 7:00 pm

CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS  
 MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY  
 VEGETABLE OF THE DAY  
 FRIED FISH    TOSSED SALAD  
 ROLLS & BUTTER

Donation: \$12 AYCE

MUSIC 6-10 pm  
**THE JONES BOYS**

**VFW FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET**  
**DECEMBER 20th 2019**  
 5:00 – 7:00 pm

ROAST PORK & SAUERKRAUT  
 MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY  
 VEGETABLE OF THE DAY  
 FRIED FISH    TOSSED SALAD  
 ROLLS & BUTTER

Donation: \$12 AYCE  
 DJ ROCKIN RAY  
 MUSIC 6-10 pm

**VFW FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET**  
**DECEMBER 27th 2019**  
 5:00 – 7:00 pm

SALISBURY STEAK  
 MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY  
 VEGETABLE OF THE DAY  
 FRIED FISH    TOSSED SALAD  
 ROLLS & BUTTER

Donation: \$12 AYCE

MUSIC 6-10 pm  
**DJ JT CRUISE**

**CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th**  
 2:00 - 4:00 pm

FUN FOOD    GAMES    CRAFTS

SPECIAL PRIZES FOR ALL

VISIT MR & MRS SANTA CLAUS

Sponsored By: MASON DIXON  
 VFW 7234 and AUXILIARY

MARSHY HOPE WAY  
 OCEAN VIEW, DE

**COMMUNITY WELCOME**



**HOLIDAY  
 OPERATION COOKIE  
 DROP OFF**

**MARK YOUR  
 CALENDAR**

**VFW DROP OFF TIMES:**

TUESDAY, 12-3-19	Noon 'til Close
WEDNESDAY, 12-4-19	Noon 'til Close
THURSDAY, 12-5-19	Noon 'til Close
FRIDAY, 12-6-19	Noon 'til Close
SATURDAY, 12-7-19	DEADLINE by 10:00am

Packing tips: NO round tins; square pans preferred  
 or pack cookies flat in gallon freezer bags. Nuts, hard  
 candy, etc. also allowed. Greeting cards welcome!

**THANKS & WARM HOLIDAY  
 WISHES TO OUR COMMUNITY**

**MASON DIXON VFW MEMBERS &  
 AUXILIARY**  
 MARSHY HOPE WAY  
 OCEAN VIEW, DE



## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Commander	Dean Levering
Sr. Vice Cmdr	Hal Dietrich
Jr. Vice Cmdr	Rich Fales
Quartermaster	Bill Hensley
Adjutant	Fulton Loppatto
Chaplain	John Mitchell
Judge Advocate	John Gossart Jr.
Surgeon	George Hickman
Officer of the Day	Rob Gill
Guard	James Jensen
Service Officer	Bob Corsa
Honor Guard Capt	Paul Burbank
Trustee	Danny Steele
Trustee	George Smith
Trustee	Ed Wolfe

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	Hal Dietrich
President	Dean Levering
Vice President	Fulton Loppatto
Treasurer	Bill Hensley
Secretary	Ken Weber
Board Member	Frank Mathers
Board Member	Rich Fales
Board Member	Hal Barber
Board Member	John Mitchell
Board Member	Rick Delaney
Board Member	Mike Grabowski

## AUXILIARY TEAM

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

**Our Sr Vice 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:  
Dean Levering 443-553-1167**

**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)**

# CARNIVAL MIRACLE

11 Day Alaska Cruise from San Francisco, CA

Departing June 20<sup>th</sup> 2021

Sunday-San Fran CA      Monday-Fun Day at Sea  
Tuesday-Fun Day at Sea      Wednesday-Ketchikan AK  
Thursday- Icy Strait Point AK      Friday-Skagway AK  
Saturday- Juneau AK      Sunday -cruise Tracy Arm Fjord  
Monday-Fun Day at Sea      Tuesday-Victoria BC Canada  
Wednesday- Fun Day at Sea      Thursday-San Fran CA

*Prices below are based on double occupancy and are per person.  
Price includes cruise, port charges, Gov. Taxes,*

Inside Cabin(4K).....	\$1433.64
Oceanview(6A).....	\$1608.64
Balcony Cabin (8C).....	\$2108.64
Balcony Cabin (8D).....	\$2118.64
Balcony Cabin 8E).....	\$2128.64
Balcony Cabin (8F).....	\$2138.64

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> guest cabins available upon request.\*A limited number of each category above is available and subject to change based on availability.      Hold yours today!

\$400.00 per person  
on or before February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020 and final on or before March 12<sup>th</sup> 2021  
cabin number assignment and dining confirmed when you have paid \$400.00 per person

**\$50.00/ person cancellation fee if booking is cancelled after deposit made**  
**PASSPORTS ARE REQUIRED**

Arranged by *Bethany Travel/Dream Vacations*  
28436 DuPont Blvd., Millsboro, DE 19966  
(800) 806-8747 or (302) 933-0955

[www.bethanytravel.net](http://www.bethanytravel.net)

Insurance, Gratuities & Transportation are not included in above rates