



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

DECEMBER 2016

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

November once again was another busy month to give thanks for all our freedoms. Veterans Day Ceremony was well attended. Once again the Veterans Dance was a success, once again Roger and Steve showed off their culinary skills providing an excellent dinner so that everyone could work it off dancing to the excellent Band OverTime. Thanks goes out to all who worked so hard to prepare Thanksgiving dinner and those who served and



cleaned up. We are very blessed to have so many caring volunteers! It is such a pleasure to provide Thanksgiving dinner so that no one spends it alone. The month of December again is a busy month to help those in our area at this time of year. Once again George and Barbara Hickman will be

collecting for 6 Families with 16 children. The Ladies Home of The Brave need many things this time of year as well. Did you know the Ladies receive no assistance from the Federal government like the men do? We will also continue to collect food items for the Food Bank. Stop in and see how nice Bob the bartender did decorating the VFW! Great Job Bob (ouch that hurt)! Connie and the Auxiliary will host a Christmas party for the local children and members children and Grandchildren. I am sure Santa will be there! We will once again celebrate Christmas with our annual member's Christmas party on December 9th. Snow Birds will be leaving us soon, if not already gone. We wish them well, but we will have plenty to do here with New Years, Valentine dance, Super Bowl, excellent dinners every night and super lunches all winter along with special celebrations. Please keep our sick members in your thoughts and prayers, and let me or one of the officers know of anyone you know who is in need or sick. I would like to wish all

of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year! God Bless our Veterans, God bless the Auxiliary who support them, and God bless America!

John Hickman
Commander
302-448-0723

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

VFW Post and Auxiliary Members,

December: 'Tis the season to be busy shopping, baking, visiting friends & relatives, and remembering others. It's the perfect time to remember and assist our veterans and their families in any way that we can! **Please** remember our Operation Cookie project this month. Cookies may be dropped off at our Post during the week of 12/5 thru early morning of 12/10. Our deployed military deserves that special "Taste of



Home" during the holidays. No time to bake? Donations are welcomed and greatly appreciated to assist with the shipping costs. **Donations** of small toiletries, playing cards, puzzles, etc. are still being collected to be used as stocking stuffers on Christmas morning

at the Veterans Hospital in Elsmere, De. Items are being accepted through December 5th at our Post. **Our Auxiliary** received over twenty Membership Applications at our November meeting. When recruiting a new member or accepting a potential new member's application, please adhere strictly to the proper procedures. All applications **MUST** be received at least one day prior to the monthly Auxiliary meeting for the members of the investigating committee to have ample time to investigate the applicant's eligibility. Any

application not COMPLETELY filled out will be returned, no exceptions. Remember that Life Membership fees will increase by 15% on January 1st, 2017. If you are an annual member, consider transferring to a life membership before the price goes up! **How** would you like to volunteer as an Elf for a few hours and assist in wrapping gifts with our VFW members? George Hickman is asking for your help on December 21st at 10:00 am at the Post.

Volunteers will be wrapping the Christmas gifts purchased for several families. Our Auxiliary gave a donation to this wonderful project last month and we appreciate all of the time and effort that George and his wife have given to this project, so, grab your Elf hat & give a hand! **Congratulations** to our November Unsung Hero, Dawn Drzewicki. Dawn is a "dual member" of the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary and is constantly recruiting new members. Active in many other civic and military organizations, Dawn has accumulated many volunteer hours to promote our message and work with veterans in the community over the many years that she has been involved.

Remember that we have an election for Treasurer this month; please make plans to attend our meeting.

In all the hustle and bustle in this busy month of December, please include a veteran in your plans and prayers. Please remember those who are not physically able to join us at our monthly meetings with a greeting card, phone call, or a visit.

Mark your calendar for the Children's Holiday Party on December 11th, 2-4 pm. We need cupcakes!

Have a truly blessed & memorable holiday and may the joy and spirit of the season remain within us each and every day of the year!

Loyally yours,
Roberta Walter
Auxiliary President
(302)537-2634 phone

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.



With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember

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

Hello Veterans in Sussex County, Delaware and surrounding areas

The Vet Center is located on 20653 N. Dupont Blvd (Route 113) in Georgetown, next to Burger King.

HISTORY: Vet centers were established by Congress in 1979 out of recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era vets were still experiencing



adjustment problems. In April 1991, in response to the Persian Gulf era, Congress extended the eligibility to veterans to other periods of hostilities. Vet centers also offer counseling for veterans that experience sexual trauma or sexual harassment while in the military. Vet Centers are part of the Department of

Veteran Affairs. The services are free and all of the centers are based in the community. Vet Centers appreciate veterans' war experiences and assist members and families toward successful post-war adjustment in the community. **WHO ARE WE?**

We are the people in the VA who welcome home War Veterans with honor by providing quality Readjustment Counseling in a caring, understanding, and confidential manner. Many of the counselors are also veterans who take great pride in helping those who served. **WHAT DO WE OFFER?**

Readjustment counseling provides a wide range of psycho-social services to eligible veterans and their families. The efforts are to help veterans make a successful transition from military to civilian life. Included are individual and group counseling on such issues as PTSD, depression, sexual trauma, and substance abuse screening and treatment.

Additionally, we help veterans with anxiety, mood, anger management problems, support and referral services for benefits, medical, and other related post military issues. **IS THERE COUNSELING FOR FAMILY MEMBERS?** Yes. Family members are eligible for counseling services which include individual, groups, family sessions, support, and education. Please contact us for more information or call to schedule an appointment.

Carla Van Curen, office manager 302-824-9170

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

As December rolls in the Holiday Season begins, and The Post (thanks to Bob our bartender) will be full of Holiday decorations. We at the Post are very fortunate and we should all remember and help those who might need our support. We have some things going on that could use your support. George Hickman is collecting for 6 families which have 16 children. Donations can be made at the bar which George will collect to buy gifts. The Marine Corp. has their Toy's for Tot's box for dropping off toys in the lobby. Operation Cookie Drop-off (which is cookies that will be shipped to our troops) will have 3 drop off days at the Post. December 7th, 8th, and 9th all from noon till close. There is a Christmas tree on the table on the dance floor where there are lists for items needed by the residents of the Delaware Veterans home. As always, I know all our Members will be very generous. What a wonderful day Thanksgiving was. Steve and Rodger roasted 660lbs of Turkey(all of which were donated by you) in which we fed between 300 and 350 people. After eating the buffet everybody walked over to the 20 feet of tables, holding the desserts, that were also donated. To see our community come together helping each other was a very rewarding experience. Thanks to all that volunteered that day to make the day very successful. If you left hungry it was your own fault. Our Post Xmas Party (for members and their guest) will be on Friday 12/9 At 5pm. Dinner and Music will be provided, and a fun time will be had by all. The entrance door has been fixed and all Key cards now work. It is very important that you use your card when entering the Post. When you ring the bell instead using your card to enter ,the bartender has to stop what they are doing to hit the buzzer, and that slows them down. If you need a key card application are at the bar
Like always 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 sign-up at the Salt Pond Pro Shop by noon Sunday for the following Tuesday's golf. Starting October Show-up at 8:30 a.m. for a 9:00 tee time. Remember all are welcome!!!

Ed (Albert) Pike

Veterans Day Highlights

Some might think that the Veterans Day ceremony is the same every year. That we know exactly what to expect. Certainly, parts of the traditional ceremonial program are familiar, like the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem and some of the readings. Yet, somehow it's always moving. This year was no exception with Bernie Busby leading the singing of the Anthem and God Bless America; John Mitchell's Invocation prayer; Dean



Levering's reading of the "Soldier's Poem"; and Fulton reading "I Am a Veteran". Listening to the readings, I was reminded of a speech I once heard that went something like this: A lot of people wonder if they ever did anything really worthwhile or made a difference in their lives. Veterans don't have that problem. But with the familiar traditional ceremony, there's always something

new and interesting to learn in every Veterans Day program. For example, this year I learned that Robert Criswold, who placed the ceremonial flower on the wreath on behalf of Army and National Guard veterans, is really our friend, "Bougie," the always cheerful and helpful volunteer at so many Post activities, like our Sunday breakfast crew. All this time, I've wondered why in the world his parents named him "Bougie." The main highlight of the program this year was the guest speaker, Chief Boatswain's Mate, Jim Pond, from the Indian River Coast Guard Station. (For some reason known only to the Navy and Coast Guard, "Boatswain" is pronounced "Bosun.") In his remarks, Jim recounted the story of USCG Signalman First Class Douglas Munro, the only recipient of the Medal of Honor in the Coast Guard. Here's the story, summarized from my notes on Jim Pond's remarks and subsequent follow-up research. Douglas Munro, from South Cle Elum, Washington, enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1939, when he was 19. In June 1941, President Roosevelt transferred part of the Coast Guard to the Navy to serve on smaller vessels, like LCPs (Landing Craft, Personnel, also known as "Higgins boats") and LCTs (Landing Craft, Tank), because of their experience and skill in handling small boats. Munro was assigned to an attack transport in the Pacific, the Hunter Liggett, which carried a number of LCPs and LCTs. On September 27, 1942, Munro was in charge of a group of LCPs in a rescue operation to evacuate a battalion of Marines in the area of Point Cruz, Guadalcanal, who were under attack by a much larger Japanese force. After a majority of the Marines were safely evacuated, under heavy enemy fire, some were trapped on the beach and facing annihilation. Munro then led other LCPs to rescue them. He maneuvered his small craft, with its two .30 caliber machine guns, to shield and protect the loading boats. When the task was nearly complete, Munro was

killed by enemy fire, two weeks before his 22nd birthday. His crew carried on until the last boat cleared the beach. The Citation for the Medal of Honor reads, in part: "By his outstanding leadership, expert planning and outstanding leadership, and dauntless devotion to duty, he and his courageous comrades undoubtedly saved the lives of many who otherwise would have perished." Is it any wonder then, why the Marine Corps still holds the Coast Guard in high esteem? There are a few interesting facts in the rest of this story. The battalion of Marines that was rescued was commanded by then Lieutenant Colonel and later Lieutenant General, Lewis B. ("Chesty") Puller, the most decorated Marine in American history. Douglas Munro's posthumous Medal of Honor was presented to his mother, Edith Munro, personally by President Roosevelt. A short time later, Mrs. Munro, then in her mid 40s, joined the SPARS, the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. She was commissioned as a lieutenant, the oldest SPAR in the Coast Guard, and served on active duty until November 1945. Jim Pond certainly provided an inspiring story for reflection on Veterans Day. And then there was the always pleasant highlight of sharing a meal at the Post with friends. Thanks to all who worked to make this Veterans Day so memorable.

Jerry Hardiman

Birthday Party Dance Challenge



On the day after Veterans Day, Saturday, November 12, Mark, who keeps all the events going, arranged another great Veterans Day Dinner and Dance party. A celebration to follow the solemn ceremony the day before. This one was a lot of fun as always, but especially with the addition of a surprise birthday party group that challenged Norm's dancing stamina as never before. But before the dancing you have to eat and Roger and Steve prepared a delicious dinner for the hungry crowd. (Just a quick side note here. "Roger and Steve," or "Steve and Roger." It's getting so you can't say one name without the other. A great team!) If you were thirsty, and many seemed really

parched, Bob, Debbie and Sharon were there at the oasis to revive you. Water available at the end of the bar, but that line never seems too long. We're very fortunate to have these good people, and everyone else who helps, taking care of business and keeping everyone else fed, hydrated and happy. We're spoiled. On to the dancing. Music was provided by "Overtime." Should be renamed "Double Time." I consulted with Norm, our resident expert on such matters, for his opinion. Norm pronounced them "a good dance band." That quickly became obvious. Early on, Mark introduced a guest, Lucy Muehleisen, who was celebrating her 70th birthday, accompanied by eleven women friends. Apparently, they were staying at Sea Colony for a weekend of tennis (and partying). Anyway, Mark led everyone in singing "Happy Birthday" to Lucy and somehow the evening became a birthday party for everyone. Lucy and her friends all loved to dance and they were out there with "Overtime" most of the night. Without knowing all their names, they became known collectively as the "Twelve Dancing Ladies." I'm thinking here that name should be part of the "Twelve Days of Christmas" song, along with "Ten Lords A Leaping." In fact, the whole song should be updated. Think about it. "A Partridge in a Pear Tree?" Have you ever seen one? "Six Geese A Laying?" "Eight Maids a Milking?" And what's with all the birds, the partridge, doves, French hens and calling birds? But I digress. This could be a subject for a future newsletter. Back to the dancing. The only lord-a-leaping I saw as a partner with the dancing ladies was my role model, Norm. He did his best to meet the dance marathon challenge, but seemed worn out toward the end. Goes to show you. Norm, too, is only human. One of Lucy's friends said they never expected to have so much fun and could not have planned a better party. Lucy's husband is retired Army Sergeant Major George Muehleisen. Their son Eric is a Sergeant Major presently assigned to the Special Operations Command. Another son, Alex, is now in the Army Reserve. So it's a military family and everyone at the Post was happy to celebrate Lucy's birthday with her. Especially Norm, who is now resting up for New Year's Eve.

Jerry Hardiman

**HOLIDAY
OPERATION COOKIE
DROP OFF**

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

VFW DROP OFF TIMES:

DEC 7th	Noon 'til close
DEC 8th	Noon 'til close
DEC 9th	Noon 'til close
DEC 10th	Packing Day

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

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

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

**VFW
FRIDAY FAMILY
BUFFET**

DECEMBER 23rd, 2016
5:00 pm 'til 7:00 pm

FRIED CHICKEN
MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY
BUTTERED CORN & CARROTS
POTATO SALAD
FRIED FISH
TOSSED SALAD
BISCUITS

Donation: \$10 AYCE

**Music by
DJ RAY DISNEY**

Sponsored by:
MASON DIXON
VFW POST #7234
Marshy Hope Road
Ocean View, DE

COME JOIN
THE FOOD,
FUN, &
FRIENDSHIP

**VFW
FRIDAY FAMILY
GREEK NIGHT BUFFET**

DECEMBER 2nd, 2016
5:00 pm 'til 7:00 pm



**Donation: \$ 10
AYCE**

PASTITSIO
SPINACH PIE
PORK SOUVIAKI
GREEK PASTA
FRIED FISH
TOSSED SALAD
ROLLS & BUTTER



**MUSIC: DJ RAY DISNEY
6-10 pm**

Sponsored by:
**MASON DIXON
VFW**
Marshy Hope Rd.
Ocean View, DE

ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL
SUNSET WITH US

COMMUNITY WELCOME

**VFW
FRIDAY FAMILY
BUFFET**

DECEMBER 30th, 2016
5:00 pm 'til 7:00 pm


HOMEMADE MEATLOAF
MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY
GREEN BEANS
FRIED FISH
TOSSED SALAD
ROLLS & BUTTER

Donation: \$10 AYCE

MUSIC: DJ RAY DISNEY

Sponsored by: Mason Dixon
VFW Post #7234 AUXILIARY
Ocean View, DE

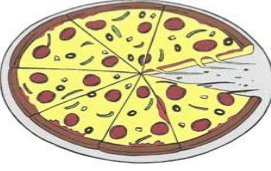
**COMMUNITY
WELCOME**



**GOURMET
PIZZA
NIGHT**

MIX & MATCH

4 DIFFERENT VARIETIES
WHITE PIZZA
SPINACH PIZZA
STUFFED PIZZA
CHICKEN ALFREDO
PIZZA



FRIED FISH
TOSSED SALAD
BREAD STICKS

DECEMBER 16th, 2016

**MASON DIXON VFW #7234
FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET**

Serving 5 pm 'til 7 pm

Donation: \$10 Music by: DJ Ray Disney
A.Y.C.E. 6-10 pm

COMMUNITY WELCOME

VFW LEADERSHIP TEAM

Commander	John Hickman (302-448-0723)
Sr Vice Cmdr	Dean Levering
Jr Vice Cmdr	Robert Criswell Jr
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	Mike Grabowski
Trustee	Danny Steele
Trustee	George Smith

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

AUXILIARY TEAM

President	Roberta Walter
Sr Vice Pres	Carol Weber
Jr Vice Pres	Connie Weber
Secretary	Susan Wallace
Treasurer	Carol Black
Chaplain	Theo Loppatto
Guard	Shirley Stong
Conductress	Ellen Reilly
Patriotic Ins	Jackie Umstetter
Trustee	Ruth Ann Sagers
Trustee	Donna Paddock
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**