



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

DECEMBER 2017

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

The leaves have fallen and the temperatures are dropping. A sure sign winter is approaching. With that said, let us not forget those who need help during these cold months. We had a full house turnout for our Veterans Day Service in the morning and another packed house for the dance that evening. Our Thanksgiving Day Dinner was a huge success serving over 300 people. As always, our volunteers stepped up and assisted in the serving and help for



the event. I will always reinforce the fact that without our volunteers none of this would be possible. They are the engine that drives our post. This month I would like to say a thank you for a much unrecognized part of our post "The Honor Guard". These veterans give their time often

with only a few hours notice to perform services for our fallen comrades. They are a great part of our post. Just a reminder that the Children's Christmas Party will be held on December 10th. The community is invited and of course Santa will be there. It is always a fun afternoon for the children. Thank you to the auxiliary for this event. Don't forget the children's box in our entrance way. Please donate a contribution of an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. We give gifts each year to needy families in our area. Please see George Hickman about donating to help pay for these gifts. It is a huge undertaking for him to do all the shopping. Helping others less fortunate is a big part of our community service.

Please 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

VFW Post and Auxiliary Members,



The month of December is probably the busiest month of the year for most of us. Shopping, baking, visiting family & friends become part of our daily routine. Let's not forget to assist our veterans and their families in any way that



we can! **HOLIDAY OPERATION COOKIE** is my favorite time of the year. Cookies may be dropped off at our Post during the week of 12/4 thru early morning of 12/9. Our deployed military personnel deserve 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 hard candy, nuts, or other snacks are also appreciated. Some persons include signed greeting cards (for the deployed) which are uplifting. Drop off hours are noon 'til 9:00 pm, Monday-Friday. As in past years, we are collecting small items to be used for stocking stuffers for the residents of the Veterans Hospital in Elsmere, DE. Suitable items are toiletries, puzzles,

playing cards, fiction & puzzle paperback books, slipper socks, writing utensils & tablets, etc. Greeting cards with special handwritten notes to a veteran would be nice. Items may be dropped off at the Post Auxiliary table until 12/17/17. George Hickman is asking for your help in December to serve as an Elf. Volunteers will be wrapping the Christmas gifts purchased by George & his wife for special families. We will send out an email when a date has been chosen. We are so fortunate to have George and his wife volunteer to carry out this wonderful project again this year. George, we APPRECIATE all that you do for others. We commend Sally Kubicki for her work with [Wreaths Across America](#) again this year. The special service dedicating the wreaths at the Delaware Veterans Cemetery in Millsboro, DE will be held on Saturday morning, Dec. 16th, 2017, at 11:30 am. Congratulations to our new Auxiliary Treasurer, Laurie Corsa; a very special THANKS to Renee McDorman, our past treasurer. We greatly appreciate these two ladies and their love for veterans and their willingness to volunteer.

In all the hustle & bustle in this busy month, please include a veteran in your plans and prayers. Please remember others with a greeting card, phone call, or a visit. Remember the children's Holiday Party on 12/10/17, 2-4 pm, and Connie's request for volunteers & cupcakes!

May the joy of the season be celebrated by you and your family, creating memories for a lifetime!

Loyally yours,
Roberta Walter
Auxiliary President

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO
MARK AND HIS STAFF
AND ALL VOLUNTEERS
FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR**

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

*Thomas L. Shea
Robert D Price
Edna Steele*

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

Veterans returned to the U.S. after fighting in the jungles of Vietnam a half century ago, but hundreds of them may be dying from a silent bullet — a slow-



killing parasite living in the men decades after the war, a new study revealed. Liver flukes, parasites that infect a human when raw or undercooked fish is eaten, are being investigated as the cause of a rare bile duct cancer among veterans who served in the Vietnam War. It could take years for

symptoms to show up. The Department of Veterans Affairs this spring commissioned a small pilot study to look into the link between liver flukes and the cancer. More than 20 percent of the 50 blood samples submitted to the study came back positive or bordering positive for liver fluke antibodies. The parasites can be killed in infected humans through drugs during the early stages. But they can also live in humans without treatment for decades because no symptoms show up — much like veterans who fought in the jungles of Vietnam during the war. Over time, swelling and inflammation of the bile duct can lead to cancer. Jaundice, itchy skin, weight loss and other symptoms appear only when the disease is in its final stages. The reporting found that about 700 veterans with bile duct cancer have been seen by the VA in the past 15 years. Less than half of them submitted claims for service-related benefits, mostly because they were not aware of a possible connection to Vietnam. The parasites affect 25 million worldwide, although liver flukes are rarely found in the Americas, and if left untreated, “they

can live for decades without making their hosts sick,” but can then lead to cancer.

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

Respectfully Robert P Corsa, Service Officer

CANTEEN CORNER

December begins the Holiday Season and Bob our Bartender, will have the Post full of Holiday decorations. It is the season to help those in our community who are less fortunate. George Hickman is again collecting for needy families in which he can buy gifts for the children. If you would like to donate you can do so at the bar in an envelope, marked Xmas gifts. Please help make these children's Christmas the best that they have had. The Marine Corp. has their Toy's for Tot's Box in the lobby and which they are collecting toys. As always, I know all our members will be very generous. Again this year, Thanksgiving was a wonderful Day. Somewhere between 300 & 350 people enjoyed the delicious Turkey Dinner. Thanks to all the wonderful people that donated turkeys, 30 Birds were roasted and consumed. I would like to Thank, Steve and Rodger and all the people that volunteered that day to make this a very rewarding experience. Our Post Xmas Party (for members and their guest) will be on Friday 12/15 at 5pm. Dinner & Music will be provided, and a fun time will be had by all. I would like to personally Thank everyone for their support of the Post this year. From all the people that volunteered to all the customers that came thru the doors we made Post 7234, in my opinion, the best in the country. 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.

Happy Holidays To All

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. Weather permitting, VFW Golf Association members will golf each Tuesday throughout the Winter at the Salt Pond Golf Course. You do not need to sign up in advance. Show-up at 8:30 a.m. for the 9:00 tee time. Remember all are welcome!!!
Ed (Albert) Pike

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION REVISITED

On Thanksgiving Day, Rosemary mentioned a couple of friends who were helping out during dinner at the Post, giving up part of their day so others could enjoy



Thanksgiving. I don't have all the names, but thanks to everyone involved, including everyone who prepared and served the meal and worked behind the bar. Their service reminded me of the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner that Mark arranged back in October and the number of volunteers that filled the place. The full house didn't even include a lot of volunteers who weren't able to attend. Think for a minute about all the separate teams: the Honor Guard; the year-round Cheese Steak, Flip Five and dinner teams; the summer Sunday breakfast crews and Chicken Shack and crab night teams; and Auxiliary activity volunteers. And don't forget the officers and directors, all of whom volunteer to serve. When you can get almost everyone together, it's an impressive sight and you realize why volunteering is the hallmark and energy of the Post. There are a lot of reasons for volunteering: To be part of a worthwhile cause helping others; pitching in when you see something that needs to be done; the enjoyment of working with friends; and sometimes just being asked to help. Some may have started long ago, volunteering for KP and other work details in the military and are still trying to recapture those happy moments. And don't forget the T-shirts. Here's the best explanation I've heard. Someone, I think it was Paul Brennan, said that "service is in their DNA." Whatever the reason or reasons, when it comes to fund-raising activities, the benefit to those in need from the service of volunteers is enormous. Here's a partial list of beneficiaries.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Local veterans in time of need
VA Mobile Van
VA Clinic, Georgetown
VA Medical Center, Wilmington
VFW Post 8246 in Texas (emergency shelter for 250-300 victims of Hurricane Harvey)
VFW National Home for Children
Operation SEAs the Day
Wreaths Across America
Millville and Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Companies
National Guard Youth Camp
Delaware State Police Community Fund
Special Olympics
Delaware Hospice
Alzheimer and cancer research programs
Area food banks
Indian River High School Junior ROTC
Beebe Medical Foundation
Numerous Sussex County and local charities, including CHEER Foundation for Meals on Wheels and senior service programs.

When you were volunteering here you were there, too, helping everyone and every program on that list. As individuals, we couldn't do so much for so many. But working together, it is possible. In the words of Eli Picard, Commander of VFW Post 8246 concerning the flood relief assistance: "Thank you and God's blessings on you and all. . .involved." Amen to that.

Moving into December, here are some dates to keep in mind, together with all the events on the Post calendar:

Dec. 5. Prohibition repealed, 1933.
Dec. 7. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Dec. 12. Hanukkah (sometimes spelled Chanukah) begins at sundown.
Dec. 16. National Wreaths Across America Day (See following article.)
Dec. 21. Winter begins
Dec. 25. Christmas Day
Dec. 31. Time to renew those resolutions.

Hope you enjoy every day in December.
Jerry Hardiman

It all started as an act of kindness and patriotism by one individual, Morrill Worcester, the owner of a company in Harrington, Maine that makes wreaths. Here's one account of the story. When he was a paperboy with the Bangor Daily News, Mr. Worcester won a trip to Washington, DC, where he visited Arlington National Cemetery. Apparently, that experience had a lasting impact on him. Years later, in 1992, when his company had a surplus of Christmas wreaths, Mr. Worcester remembered his boyhood visit to Arlington. In an inspired moment, he decided to take the wreaths to Arlington and lay them on the graves in an older, less-visited section of the cemetery. As news of his plan spread, other businesses, VFW and American Legion posts, and individuals volunteered to help with transportation and wreath laying. That initial act of patriotism has now grown into an annual nationwide tradition. Wreaths Across America, a non-profit organization established in 2007, coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington and veterans cemeteries in all fifty states. The Worcester Wreath Company continues to donate thousands of wreaths every year for the mission. The motto or mission statement of Wreaths Across America, which I believe was Merrill Worcester's, is: "Remember. Honor. Teach." Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach our children and others about the sacrifices veterans and their families have made to preserve our freedoms. And to think it all started with one individual out of kindness and patriotism. The local Ceremony for Wreaths Across America will be held on Saturday, December 16 at 11:30am at the Millsboro Veterans Cemetery. Everyone is welcome to attend. Much Thanks to Sally Kubicki, who has organized this important program for the past several years to honor our deceased Veterans who have served this country.

Jerry Hardiman



**VFW
FRIDAY FAMILY
BUFFET**

DECEMBER 8th, 2017
5:00 pm 'til 7:00 pm

CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS
MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY
BUTTERED CARROTS
FRIED FISH
TOSSED SALAD
ROLLS & BUTTER

Donation: \$10 AYCE

Music by
THE JONES BOYS

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

COME JOIN
THE FOOD,
FUN, &
FRIENDSHIP

COMMUNITY WELCOME

**VFW
FRIDAY FAMILY
BUFFET**

DECEMBER 29th 2017
5:00 pm 'til 7:00 pm

FRIED CHICKEN
MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY
-STUFFING
GREEN BEANS
FRIED FISH
TOSSED SALAD
ROLLS & BUTTER

Donation: \$10 AYCE

Music 6pm - 10pm

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

COMMUNITY WELCOME



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

DECEMBER 22, 2017

BAKED HAM
MAC & CHEESE
STEWED TOMATOES
BUTTERED CORN
FRIED FISH
TOSSED SALAD
ROLLS & BUTTER

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

Serving 5 pm 'til 8 pm
DONATION: \$10.00 AYCE

MUSIC by: DJ CONRAD
6-10 pm

COMMUNITY WELCOME

**NEW YEARS
EVE GALA**

**MASON DIXON VFW
POST #7234**

7:30pm 'til 12:30am

DINNER MENU
Beef Burgundy
Chicken Marsala
Lobster Tail
Roasted Potatoes
Glazed Carrots
Rolls & Butter

**HORS D'OEUVRES
BUFFET**
Crab Soup
Meatballs
Steamed Shrimp
Ceasar Salad
Cheese & Veggie
Trays
Chips & Salsa

Option #1 DINNER COMBO (8-10pm)
\$35 --Dinner & Hors d'oeuvres Buffet

Option #2 BUFFET ONLY(8-11pm)
\$25--Hors d'oeuvres Buffet ONLY

**TICKETS & RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED**

Music by: **THIN ICE**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

ALMOST SOLD OUT

**HOLIDAY
OPERATION COOKIE
DROP OFF**

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

VFW DROP OFF TIMES:

DEC 5th	Noon 'til close
DEC 6th	Noon 'til close
DEC 7th	Noon 'til close
DEC 8th	Noon 'til close
DEC 9th	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**

**CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY
PARTY**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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	Connie Weber
Secretary	Susan Wallace
Treasurer	Laurie Corsa
Chaplain	Theo Loppatto
Guard	Shirley Stong
Conductress	Ellen Reilly
Patriotic Ins	Jackie Umstetter
Trustee	Connie Weber
Trustee	Debbie Vischer-Jensen
Trustee	Larry Hamby

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**