



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

DECEMBER 2018

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Ho Ho Ho! Turkey day is gone but I'm sure the leftovers linger on! Christmas is closing in on us and so too, the end of another year. I hope your year was as good as mine. I sometimes forget just how much I am blessed. Let's all look



forward to another great year. We have been reviewing our records (Rich Fales) and have found out that we are missing some member's paperwork (DD214). We will be notifying those members that need to furnish these so we can be compliant with

National rules. Again I ask; if you are a member and have a key card, please use it, as this helps our bartenders do their jobs. Also, if you are a member and you know people who are not members that are using our post, please ask them to become members. Remember, people cannot sign in under your name unless you are with them. Being a member of this post is a privilege and it should not be abused. This month will be a busy one so make sure you read the calendar for upcoming events. Ellen and I surprised our cruisers by showing up on the ship for the November cruise. We kept our secret for 8 months but it was fun to see the reaction. I do believe a great time was had by all. While aboard, there was a moment of silence on November 11th for Veterans Day, a meet and greet get together for veterans which was so well attended it was held in the theatre. They also had a tea with hor d'oeuvres and pastries for the veterans on board. Our group had a special

dinner at David's Steak House. We had a WWII veterans wife (he wasn't able to attend due to not feeling well) a Korea veteran, 3 Vietnam veterans, and a Desert Storm veteran. It was a special evening with a bonding of all attending. As the holiday season is now upon us, please take the time to say a prayer for those who are ill or in need of some special attention. Random acts of kindness will reward you more than you can imagine and you just might make someone's day a little brighter!

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

Hello Members, it is hard to believe that this month marks six months that I have served as the Auxiliary President. I have been very encouraged by the enthusiasm of all members in helping to carry out the mission of the Auxiliary, which for more than 100 years has been fulfilled. The objectives of supporting the Veterans of Foreign Wars, serving veterans, active duty members and their families, and



spreading patriotism nationwide has remained the same. Many of you have stepped up to take on the role of officers and committee chairs and are doing a great job. Many more have stepped up to volunteer at our fundraisers, to participate in Patriotic Holiday Services, to raise money through the distribution of Poppies, to educate our young and encourage them to participate in our scholarship programs. We have contributed to the National Home for Children, raised money for the Cancer Fund, contributed to the USO, contributed to the Veteran's Stand Down, the VA Hospital, Wreaths Across American, Operation Cookie Drop off for our troops, visited members in nursing facilities, and most importantly Thanked Our Veterans' for their Service. In December we will be making our annual contributions to many charities, including the Salvation Army, Alzheimer's Research, Special Olympics, Ronald McDonald House and St. Jude's Children's Hospital, to name a few. Thank you for all you have done to continue the important job of the Auxiliary and all you have done for the Post through volunteering at many of their events. We are here to assist them in all ways. I look forward to the next year and I am sure we, as a team, working together with the Post, will continue to serve our Veterans in an exemplary fashion. We currently have 930 members, the fourth largest Auxiliary in the Nation. As we celebrate the holidays with our family and friends, please remember the Veterans' and reach out to them in their times of need. If anyone knows of any members, Veterans' or active Military and their families who may need help with tasks or financial help, please let me know, or any member of the Auxiliary, so we can provide some assistance. May all of you have a wonderful Christmas and begin the New Year with enthusiasm and the desire to serve.

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

Loyally yours,
 Carol Weber
 Auxiliary President

THANK YOU AUXILIARY MEMBERS FOR HONORING VETERANS ON VETERANS DAY



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 A. Fitzgerald
 C. Elwood Johnson
 John S. Salovich
 William K. Scott Jr.*

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.

**We would like to thank
 Donna Hardy of
 Keller/Williams, Beach
 Real Estate Professional
 Group, for donating – once
 again – the beautiful
 poinsettias decorating our
 Post this Holiday.**

SERVICE OFFICER OUTREACH

All VFW members & AUX

With the holidays approaching there are any ways we can help and honor Veterans and active Military.



The Post will soon be involved in helping local families at Christmas, Marines Toys for Tots, Wreaths Across America, our Post Food collection for Food Bank, etc. The membership dues for joining the Vietnam Veterans of America have been reduced. During the Oct Board of

Director's meeting, the Membership Affairs Committee submitted a motion to the National BOD to have only one paid-class of membership: \$50.00 LIFE. Most of us our members of VVA 1105. You should be able to use the membership form on VVA1105.org site. Just send \$50 for life.

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

Respectfully, Robert P. Corsa, Service Officer

CANTEEN CORNER

As we head into the final month of the year I must thank everyone for the great year that we had. Both the volunteers and the customers came out to support the Post in record numbers. As the Post continues to grow, it allows our officers to support our veterans and the community when there is a need. Please continue with your support to make Our Post the best it can be. During this Holiday season remember that there are other less fortunate in our community. George Hickman is again collecting for needy families and the Marine Corp. 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 12/7 at 5pm. Dinner & Music will be provided , and a fun time will be had by all. Again this year we will open the Post at 2pm on Xmas Day. Please bring a covered dish to share for our Xmas Dinner at 3pm. Please bring a neighbor who will be alone so they may have Dinner with friends. Some dates to put on your calendar are 1/26 Saturday Night Dance featuring " On The Edge " , Sunday 2/3 Super bowl Sunday, and Saturday

2/16 Valentine's Day Dinner Dance. See you there. 30 of us just returned from our 4th VFW Cruise. What a great time had by all. During a Veterans Appreciation Ceremony we met a WW 2 and a Desert Storm Veteran. We invited them to have dinner with us one night and at the same table sat Veterans representing WW 2, Korea , Vietnam , and Dessert Storm. It was good to see everyone wearing their VFW 7234 shirts proudly around the ship. Plans are currently being made for the next Cruise and details will be out shortly. Come aboard and enjoy the fun. 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

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. Signup is not required, however please show-up at 8:30 a.m. for 9:00 a.m. tee time. Remember all are welcome!!! Membership dues are currently being collected for this year \$6. If you are thinking about joining the Golf Association, please call our President, Ken Smith, at 267-228-7285 or email him at madriverken1946@gmail.com for more information.

VETERANS DAY HIGHLIGHTS

Veterans Day is always a special occasion at the Post. This year was no exception and in some ways it was even more memorable. For one thing, the ceremony marked the 100th anniversary of the Armistice in World War I, when the guns went silent on the



western front in Europe at 11:00 am, on November 11, 1918.

People everywhere thanked God that peace had come at last after four years of war (1917-1918 for the United States). That historic day of gratitude, Armistice Day, is now Veterans Day in America, a day set aside to honor all veterans for their service and sacrifice. In some places, the significance and purpose of the day may be unknown, forgotten or ignored. For some, it may just be another holiday, a day of special sales events. But not

here. The Post puts a bright shining light on the day for the entire community. This is not something to take for granted. It does not happen everywhere and, surprisingly, not even at all VFW and American Legion posts. The Post's inclusive and expansive public program not only recognizes and thanks veterans, but also their spouses and families, as well as local community representatives and citizens for their loyalty and support. Like you, I'm always moved by the familiar, solemn aspects of the Post's traditional Veterans Day ceremony, and we appreciate individual contributions in the program every year.

This year, Hal Dietrich, Sr Vice Commander, conducted the program. Here are a few highlights from my notes:

- Post Chaplain, John Mitchell's thoughtful Invocation and Closing Prayer, appropriately bracketing the presentations;
- The Honor Guard members looking extra sharp this year with new red berets in posting and retiring the Colors;
- Richard Fales reading of "The Soldier's Poem";
- Fulton Loppatto reading of "I Am A Veteran" that evokes many memories; and
- Bernie Busby leading us all through the "National Anthem" and "God Bless America", and adding a moving solo performance of Sailor Jeri's "Veterans Hallelujah".

The guest speaker this year was Lieutenant General (Retired) Ronald R. Blanck, former Surgeon General of the U.S. Army. General Blanck, a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, began his military career in 1968 and served as a medical officer and battalion surgeon in Vietnam. He stayed in the Army "to care for the most deserving patients in the world" and retired 32 years later.

For those who couldn't be there, here are some highlights from my notes and an outline he kindly provided:

- All veterans, whether you served 2 or 20 years or more, overseas or at home, in combat or not, in whatever capacity, you were part of a line, a bulwark, against those who would do us harm.
- All veterans and their families form an extended family.

- He loved almost every minute of his service, as did his wife, Donna, and they have a special bond with all military families.
- Things we all have in common: shared values; service and sacrifice experience; camaraderie; focus on mission; motivated by patriotism and the greater good, not profit and wealth.
- There are fewer veterans in the population today than right after World War II. We lost something valuable with the end of the draft, even with its inequities. He favors some form of a national/community service requirement for young people. Something like the draft where everyone would have to serve, not necessarily in the military, but doing something and learning about service to the country, community and others. (Spontaneous applause from those present for this comment.)
- There have been some amazing new advances in military medicine, medical technology and patient care which have much wider application and benefit: prosthetics; hemostatic agents; biomarkers for PTSD; imaging; therapeutics; regeneration of some organs (for example, new bladders created and implanted) and limb transplants.
- Most veterans are fine, thank you, and mostly blend into the civilian community. Sometimes though, some veterans may need a bit of help with jobs, housing, counseling, community programs, or just acceptance and understanding.
- Ceremonies like Post 7234's Veterans Day program are valuable because they add to public awareness and knowledge of who veterans are, what they've done and what they might need.

Everyone I spoke with after the program were full of praise and appreciation for General Blanck's remarks, as very informative, with a unifying and motivating message. We were fortunate to have him as our guest speaker this year. Thanks to Fulton for arranging it and many thanks to everyone who put the program together and participated in the ceremony. In expressing appreciation, we can't forget those who prepared and served the luncheon after the program and the volunteers who set up and cleaned up. All things considered, it was a perfect commemoration of Veterans Day and the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day.

Looking ahead to December, here are some dates to keep in mind, together with all the events in the Post calendar:

- Dec. 2. Hanukkah (sometimes spelled Chanukah) begins at sundown.
- Dec. 5. Prohibition repealed in 1933.
- Dec. 7. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec. 13. Birthday of the National Guard. On this date in 1636, the first militia regiments in North America were organized in Massachusetts.
- Dec. 15. National Wreaths Across America Day
- Dec. 21. Winter begins.
- Dec. 25. Christmas Day (It may not be too late to get on Santa's "Nice List".)
- Dec. 31. Time to renew those resolutions or make some new ones.

Hope you enjoy every day in December.

Jerry Hardiman

YOU HAVE TO LOVE THE CHILDREN

Did you get a chance to read the Veterans Day cards on the bulletin board from the kids at the Cozy Corer after-school program? If not, here's a sampling that might lift your spirits:

- You served our country and kept us safe. I love you.
- You are the best. I love all of you.
- Thank you for making America a better place.
- Thank you for risking our lives. (What!?? Maybe left the "y" off of "our".)
- You travelled all over the world for us. Thanks a lot.
- Thank you for serving so we can have day care and clothes.
- I love you. What do you do with your life now? Do you want to know what I do?

And finally, this one:

- Thank you for making the stars in our flag shine so bright.

What beautiful, funny, curious and thankful personalities. You really have to love the children.

Jerry Hardiman



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

President	Dean Levering
Vice President	Fulton Loppatto
Treasurer	Bill Hensley
Secretary	Ken Weber
Chairman	Hal Dietrich
Board Member	Rick Smith
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	Chuck Bologna
Secretary	Ty Magliola
Treasurer	Laurie Corsa
Chaplain	Theo Loppatto
Guard	Shirley Stong
Conductress	Karen Vitsorek
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:
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:
Bob Corsa 302-745-1668**

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