



# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

## FEBRUARY 2020

### COMMANDERS COMMENT

January 2020 has come and gone. We continue to have a packed house on several nights of the week. This is a great sign that members want to participate through the winter months. Despite having to close the upstairs area starting February 16<sup>th</sup> immediately



following the Valentines Dance. Please continue to support the post. It is a temporary situation needed to do some much needed maintenance to be ready for the spring and summer months ahead and all the events that will take place. Your patience is appreciated and remember

to check the bulletin board and calendar to see any changes and what's happening. We are allowing a month for these improvements but hopefully it will take only two weeks. Many of our members have been on an exciting trip to Hawaii. From what I've seen, they had a great time. To keep our members informed as to what happens to our money that comes into our post through food, bar and fund raisers, we are pleased to share with you, we donated over \$60,000 to various charities and organizations. There is a list of these charities on the bulletin board for you to see exactly where this money goes. This is what our post does to help others. We should all be proud we are able to donate this much. I would also like to mention Bethany florist. They donate flowers for our services for deceased members and help us in so many ways when we need flowers for other events. Please remember to support them as they do for us. In the near future the entire front row in the parking lot will be designated as handicap spaces. Please don't abuse these spaces and save them for those in real need. Thank you to Frank Mathers for his efforts to get this done.

*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, January has been a relatively quiet month for us. It was a month to reflect on all the great things both the Post and the Auxiliary did for our Veterans, active military, their families and the community during the Christmas holidays. The troops were extremely happy to receive the Christmas cookies, and based on pictures received, they arrived unbroken. Many



members are now vacationing or spending months in warmer states, but activities have not stopped. We awarded and recognized the youth with cash awards for their entries in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Voice of Democracy winners visited the Post and we recognized them in a ceremony, immediately preceding our monthly meeting, in January. John Mitchell and I traveled to the Lighthouse Christian School to award and recognize the students who submitted entries for the Patriot's Pen. We are proud of all the students who took the time to speak about patriotism and to spread the word with family and fellow students, and it is our responsibility, as members, to continue to foster

patriotism in our youth. There is another



opportunity for our youth to participate and qualify for cash awards and that is the Patriotic Art contest. It is open to all students in grades 9 through 12 who are enrolled in public or private schools or home school programs. Applications are available from Auxiliary members or the National VFW Auxiliary website, and entries are due by March 31st. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Auxiliary will repeat our Spring Fling Fundraiser with Bryan Clark. Tickets will be \$25.00, and will include a delicious buffet and entertainment from Bryan Clark on April 26. There will also be a Chinese and Silent Auction and all funds raised will be used to meet the needs of our Veterans, active military and their families. Ticket sales will begin in early March so watch for further updates on the exact sale date, as tickets for this event sell out quickly. All of our Presidents, past and current will be honored in February as we celebrate President's Day on February 17<sup>th</sup>. We continue to hear and see the turmoil amongst our leaders at the National level. We feel helpless in solving these problems, but we can make a difference by being a good citizen. Being a good citizen means being a good neighbor and caring about others. Share your time and skills with the community to make it better, cleaner and safer. Keep informed on the issues and voice your opinion by voting. Always make sure your actions reflect the

traits of a good citizen. The men and women in the military who serve or served our country to protect our freedom truly exemplify the meaning of a good citizen, and that is why we honor and thank them at every event we attend at our VFW. Spread the love on Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Let us always remember those who served and always try harder to serve them better.

Loyally yours,  
Carol Weber  
Auxiliary President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

Our Annual Chili Cook Off will be on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Our Valentine's Dinner Dance will be on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. The upstairs of the Post will then be closed for cleaning and the major work in the kitchen. We will be replacing the stoves as well as the floor in the kitchen. It was decided by the Board to hold off this year on the replacing of the floors within the Post. We will be discussing and fine tuning that proposal during the coming year with the thoughts of doing something in 2021. We will be replacing the floor behind the bar during our closing. We are still debating on fixing and/or replacing our van, and hopefully will finalize that next month. It was also decided to replace the roof on the shed in the front of the Post as well as to do aluminum siding on the shed. A Reminder....No outside food is to be brought into the Post. Don't forget that the Auxiliary will hold the Ryan Clark Spring Fling and Chinese Auction on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Our next Board of Directors Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

VFW Ritual: General Rules: page3 section 13(a)(c)  
Official Caps will not be worn during any meals.

Chairman Hal Dietrich

Reminder (to respect the traditions of our organization and its members; Please observe the following – Thank You):

VFW Ritual: General Rules; Page 3 Section 13(c)  
Official VFW Caps will not be worn during any meals. Section 13(d) Official VFW caps will be the only head covering allowed to be worn at regular meetings. see (M.O.P. Sec 803)

## 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.



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

The National Resource Directory (NRD) is a United States Government inter-agency web portal for Wounded Warriors, Service Members, Veterans, their families and caregivers. It provides information and links to thousands of national, state and local resources. The NRD was established to support the reintegration, recovery and rehabilitation of our members of the United States Armed Forces. According to Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, Kathleen Martinez, "the National Resource Directory is part of our commitment to ensuring they have access to the resources they need to recover and successfully return to work and civilian life. Visitors to the web portal can find information about Veterans' benefits, including disability and pension benefits, VA health care and educational opportunities, homeless assistance and employment resources. The site also provides information for those who care for Veterans, such as access to emotional, financial and community assistance. The links include federal, state and local government agencies, Veterans service organizations, non-profit and community-based organizations, and academic institutions and professional associations. The National Resource Directory is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It can be located at NRD.gov.

America The Beautiful – The National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Access Pass(also valid for all Delaware State Parks). The Access Pass is a free, lifetime pass available to United States citizens or permanent residents, regardless of age, that have a permanent disability. The pass can be used at over 2000 Federal recreation centers across the nation, including National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and many National Forest and other recreation

lands. The Access Pass admits the Pass owner and any passengers traveling with him/her in a single non-commercial at per-vehicle fee areas or the Pass owner and three additional adults where per-person fees are charged. The Access Pass may also offer a discount on some expanded amenity fees, such as camping. Discounts vary across sites. Anytime a pass is used, photo identification will be requested to verify Pass ownership. A Veterans Administration disability letter is one of the documents that qualifies for the Pass. The Pass is free but there is a \$10 processing fee if you order it through the mail. In Delaware you should be able to get one free from either Bombay Hook or Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. In Virginia, the closest place to obtain a Pass is Assateague Island National Seashore. It is recommended that you call first to determine if they have the Passes in stock or issue them. The Pass cannot be obtained at Delaware State Parks, but it is valid for entrance to all Delaware State Parks but not in most other State parks. Along with the Access Pass you will receive a parking hangtag. If traveling in an open vehicle or motorcycle you can request a free decal. *Current Reservists and National Guard can qualify for a free annual Military Pass.* For more information on the types of Federal Passes available. Click on the link below.

<https://store.usgs.gov/recreational-passes>

### Delaware State Park Admission

– Any veteran who honorably served or is honorably serving, including members of the Delaware National Guard, resides in the State of Delaware and owns a motor vehicle registered in Delaware shall receive a 50% discount on the annual fee for vehicle entrance to state parks and recreational areas. For questions call 302-739-9220

### Hunting, Trapping and Fishing License

– Any member of the Armed Forces while stationed within the State shall be deemed a resident of the State for the purpose of obtaining a license. Veterans with a disability rating of 60 percent or more by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may obtain a no-fee license. For questions call 302-739-9918

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, Service Officer

## CANTEEN CORNER

One more month in winter is done and we head into February. This will be a busy month at the Post and it is important that you consult the calendar to see if we are upstairs or down. As you know we shut upstairs down for a couple of weeks so we can do some general maintenance. This year most of the work will be done in the kitchen area as we are repairing areas of the floor and replacing the stoves and griddle. We also have some other plans which I believe you will like when completed. We start off February on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with Super Bowl Sunday. We have Super Flip 5 at 3pm, our covered dish meal at 5:15, and then the Game at 6:30. With the Ravens & Eagles eliminated, I am not sure who the crowd will be rooting for, but I am sure a few wagers will be made. Come and get out your favorite recipe to share with the group. On the 9<sup>th</sup> we will be having our Corn Bread and Chili Cook-off. The tasting will begin at 3pm and it will cost \$3 to taste all and help pick the winner. Last year we had 12 entries of all styles of chili. Practice your recipe and bring it to see if you can be crowned champion. Valentine's Day is the 14<sup>th</sup>, but we will have our Dinner/Dance on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be having a AYCE \$15 buffet from 5-7pm and Overtime with their full band will entertain us from 6-10pm. Ticket are not necessary, but seating is first come first serve.

Some advanced dates to put on your calendars are:

- 3/9 Bar Olympics
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day Party
- 3/21 On The Edge Band to perform
- 4/4 Bull & Oyster Roast ( Tickets on Sale 3/1)

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,  
[madriverken1946@gmail.com](mailto:madriverken1946@gmail.com)  
for more information. Ed Pike

## GEORGE HICKMAN: "FREEZIN' FOR A REASON" FOR 20 YEARS

This year, 2020, will mark a significant milestone for our friend, George Hickman. On Super Bowl Sunday, George will participate for the 20<sup>th</sup> time in the annual Polar Bear



Plunge in Rehoboth Beach, raising money for Special Olympics Delaware. I don't know how much George has raised over the years, and I don't think he does either, but it has to be a considerable amount. The Post, many individual friends and others have contributed to his extraordinary efforts for this worthy cause. George certainly has my admiration. I have never participated

in any of the annual winter events as one of the hundreds of people who run into the ocean in freezing weather. Several winters ago, Rosemary asked me if I wanted to join a group that planned to do just that in Bethany Beach. I thought it was a sanity test question. The outside temperature was hovering around 20 degrees, while the ocean temp was about 30. It was described as "something fun to do." My suspicion about the question was confirmed when I was told that I would have to "pay to play"! The "prize", if you will, was a T-shirt that said "I'm crazy". Oh, and there was something called "bragging rights." So, thanks, but no thanks. However, in the interest of domestic tranquility I volunteered to serve as Rosemary's Cabana Boy, holding a warm robe to wrap around her when she emerged from the icy water. And a flask. It was like that scene from the movie "10", but with the star moving a lot faster, with blue lips and shivering uncontrollably. But it was all for a good charitable cause and the active participants did seem happy at the end. Survival will have that effect. Amazingly, George has been doing the Polar Bear Plunge in Rehoboth for 20 years. It's an impressive record. He sets up early on the beach with a large Marine Corps flag, talking to kids and encouraging everyone. He and his Marine Corps station have become part of the history and tradition of the event. A few years ago, he told a reporter that when one of the Special Olympic kids ran up to give him a hug and thank him for helping, it made it all worthwhile. I think it was that reporter who described George as "freezin' for a reason."

So, many thanks to George for all he's done for the Special Olympics Delaware. He's a credit to the Post and the Marine Corps.

Looking forward to other dates in February, here are a few to keep in mind in addition to the events on the Post calendar.

Feb. 2. Ground Hog Day.

**Feb. 10. National Umbrella Day.**

Normally, I wouldn't have mentioned this except that it may become a special day for the Marine Corps. Last November, the USMC Uniform Board approved a new regulation that now permits Marines to carry an "all black, plain, standard or collapsible umbrella at their option during inclement weather with the service and dress uniform." This is a significant about-face for the Corps, and reportedly, the change is not uniformly welcomed by all Marines. But regs are regs and the "personal option" leaves it to individual choice. It should be noted that the Army, Navy and Air Force have long authorized the use of umbrellas with certain uniforms.

**Feb. 14. Valentine's Day.**

Hope everyone enjoys every day in February.

Jerry Hardiman

## **POST POSITIONS**

In March we will begin nominations for Post Positions for the next year. The process starts with nominations for Post Positions in March (Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain. Three Year Trustee (ED Wolfe term ends); in April we ask for any other nominations for Post Positions and then Elect the Post Officers for the next year, also in April we ask for Nominations for the Board of Directors (2 positions open for next year (Hal Barber and Rick Delaney Terms end); in May we ask for any other nominations for Board Members and then Elect members to the Board; Finally in May we have the installation of Post Officers for the Next Year. Please consider running for a Position or asking to be appointed to a Position. Appointed Positions are appointed by the Commander Elect in April (Adjutant, Service Officer, Officer of the Day, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Guard). Please consider being an active member of your Organization. We guarantee you will find it a rewarding experience. With the support of your fellow officers you will find that assuming a position is easier than you think; it is truly a team effort. Please talk to our Senior Vice Commander Hal Dietrich if you are interested in serving in a position. Remember our meetings are on the First Monday of each Month at 7PM.

## **SALUTE THE TROOPS – WGMD**

As Part of "The Wall That Heals", Ray Wockley, Life member of our Post created a document listing all those who died in Vietnam listed on the Wall from Delaware. It included relevant details about their

service and home town. Some of you may have seen it at our display during the event. After the event Ray was listening to Jake Smith on WGMD who does a Salute The Troops during his broadcast with Veterans and Veteran organizations on Wednesdays and thought why not include local heroes. So he mailed the book to Jake Scott asking if he could include them in his Salute The Troops. Ray and Fulton appeared on his program last week and talked about the Wall at our VFW and this book. Jake Smith said that each week he would mention a deceased local hero from our area starting with the beginning of the alphabet. So if you listen to his show on Wednesdays you can hear his tribute. We heard the first tribute while we were there, truly moving and honorable. Hopefully this will continue the healing process that the Wall represents. A big Thank You to Ray for all his hard work and Thank You to Jake Smith and WGMD for honoring those who died in Vietnam.

We are trying to link this to our website.

## **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

## 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

**VFW FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET**  
**FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**5:00 – 7:00 pm**

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS**  
**CHEESE RAVIOLI**  
**MAC & CHEESE**  
**FRIED FISH CAESAR SALAD**  
**GARLIC BREAD & BUTTER**

**Donation: \$12 AYCE**  
**JUKEBOX MUSIC 6-10 pm**

**VFW FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET**  
**FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**5:00 – 7:00 pm**

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

**Donation: \$12 AYCE**  
**MUSIC 6-10 pm**  
**DJ: JT CRUISE**



## VALENTINE'S DAY

### DINNER DANCE

**FEB 15**

**\$15 PER PERSON**

**MUSIC BY**

**OVER TIME**



## ANNUAL CHILI & CORNBREAD CONTEST

**SUNDAY FEB 9 AT 3PM**

**\$3 TO TASTE ENTRIES**

## 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	Rich Fales
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)**