



# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

## JULY 2024

### COMMANDER'S CORNER

Fellow Members,

#### "FULL STEAM AHEAD"

We are now in our busy Summer months. Steamed crabs have shown up on our weekly



menu.

Cheese steak nights are hitting record highs in sales; Flip Five nights are having near sell out attendance; Friday night buffet is back. Chef Dave Gary has created an AYCE Italian night with several different entrées.

Sunday breakfast,

AYCE is still going strong every Sunday from 8 am til noon and Burgers and dogs every Sunday afternoon with live Music on the deck.

What more can be said about Ken's crew at the shack; They're back serving the best Barbecued Chicken in Bethany Beach every Saturday morning starting at the crack of dawn. The post is the place for fun!! Join in for Trivia, Mingo nights on Mondays, if you like to show off you singing talents, well we have Friday evening open and waiting for you.

Rather dance to the oldies; Well don't let your heels cool off we have top local bands every Saturday night.

On top of all that we still find time to be diligent in our veterans and our community needs. First and foremost !!

We are always looking to add more members to our family of veterans and along with the help and partnership of the Auxiliary we look forward to helping the veterans in many ways every month.

Hope to see you around the post  
Stop and say " HEY".

Jim Jensen,  
Commander Post 7234



## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Our Department Convention held June 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> in Claymont, Delaware was an exciting time as 2024-2025



Department of Delaware Officers, VFW Post Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents were sworn in and officially began their terms. I am honored and excited to begin my third term and thank my fellow Auxiliary members

for their confidence and support and look towards building on the acronym F.I.R.S.T. – Family, Involvement, Respect, Service, Teamwork. Our Post leadership continues under Commander Jim Jensen who has been elected to his second term. I wish him success in his second term. The Department of Delaware Auxiliary installed a new Department President, Sherri Leslie, and I wish her well. I look forward to working with and supporting her in her endeavors and her motto of “Clear the Way……. Between Our Veterans and their Benefits”. I have been asked by Department President Sherri Leslie to serve as Department of Delaware Membership Chairman for the 2024-2025 year. I look forward to this role and serving on the Department of Delaware Team.

Our Auxiliary was recognized for all their hard work throughout the year with awards for their programs. We received awards for all 11 of our programs, 9 first place awards and 3 second place awards. I thank our Program Chairman and our members for all their efforts as this is a true reflection of the efforts and time that our Auxiliary dedicates throughout the year. Our Auxiliary was also awarded the Circle of Excellence award as a whole for their achievements and performance during the 2023-2024 year. This was a great accomplishment and I thank everyone for their efforts in reaching this achievement. It was truly a team effort. This is the highest award an Auxiliary can achieve. We also received a second place award for our entry in the Buddy Poppy display for category

two, Memorial Display. This display was created by various Auxiliary members who had a part. I would like to thank Kathi Gluck, Kathy Impallomeni, Susan Clark, Keith Hnlicka, Theo Loppatto, Connie Weber, and Janet Kerstanski for their efforts.



Our display reflected the 2023-2024 Department President Alice Burrell's motto of "Be Bold in God and Serve Our Veterans".

On June 9<sup>th</sup> our Auxiliary Youth program held a Patriotic themed craft event in recognition of Flag Day and the Upcoming Fourth of July Holiday. This was a day of various Red, White and Blue themed crafts and trivia. Both kids and adults alike enjoyed the day. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this happen.





*"May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right." — Peter Marshall*



*God Bless and protect our Veterans and our Military*



Dale A. Weese, Jr.  
President, Auxiliary 7234  
(302) 616-6298  
[Aux7234.de@gmail.com](mailto:Aux7234.de@gmail.com)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES**

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,  
Your Board was busy in June. We participated



in two Memorial and Honors Services at the Veterans Cemetery in Millsboro; Help-A-Vet Committee Meeting; Events Planning Committee Meeting; Canteen, Kitchen, and Bar Management Meetings; Mingo Game Nights; VFW Chicken Shack activities; Calling Members whose annual Memberships were set

to expire; AER and CPR Training; and the Monthly General Membership Meeting. Most importantly, for our Members and their Guests, Post Officers and Board Members continued to be present, on site each day at the Post. We plan to continue our daily presence in the future. We will also continue Door Monitoring on selected nights to ensure that those entering are Members

**FUNDRAISER** The Auxiliary is holding a fundraiser raffle "Christmas in July". This is for a handmade ceramic Christmas tree, made by Auxiliary member Shirley Stong, and over \$500 in Gift Cards to local restaurants. Drawing will be held July 25<sup>th</sup> at the post. Tickets are \$5.00 ea. / 3 for \$10.00. Look for tickets being sold Tuesday night Cheese steak and various times at the post.

Continue to bring in your BJ's coupons for ice cream. They can be dropped in the envelope at the register. The Auxiliary sells Ice Cream at the post during dinners and events.

Reminder that our monthly meetings are the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. I wish everyone a Happy and Safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday. Come to the post, celebrate at home with family and friends, and enjoy the Holiday by celebrating our freedom. But always remember those Veterans who fought and continue to stand guard to protect and defend those freedoms.

or their Guests. This demonstrates the Board's commitment to the success of our Post and continuity of operations for our Members and their Guests.

Three long-standing Board Members completed their service in June. It is with sincere appreciation and gratitude that we say Thank You for a job well done to John Mitchell and John Hickman (Voting Members) and John Gossart (Non-Voting Member). Our Post is in their debt for the knowledge, wisdom and experience they brought to the Board. We wish them well in their future endeavors as they continue to serve the VFW and our Post in various capacities. We welcome Jeff Ringel as our newest Board Member, and welcome back Andrew Artemchuk to a full three-year term. Your VFW Post hosts some of the best entertainment and activities in town each day of the week during the summer. These include Sunday morning AYCE Breakfasts; the Chicken Shack open every Saturday on Coastal Hwy; Monday Game Nights; the staples of Cheese Steak Subs on Tuesdays and Flip Five on Wednesdays; Steamed Crabs on Thursdays; AYCE Buffet Meals and DJ on Friday Nights; Live Music on Saturday nights; and we've added Live Music out on our Deck on Sunday evenings. Add to this our Darts and Shuffleboard Crews, and we even held our annual Corn Hole Tournament in June. There truly is something for everyone. I invite all Members to visit, and bring their Guests to the bright new atmosphere that helps make your Post all that it can be. Canteen Manager, John Frye, is committed to serving those who served our country. Likewise, our Kitchen Crews, Bartenders, and an outstanding complement of Volunteers continue to step up. We could not keep our doors open without these dedicated Employees and Volunteers. Having said that, we are in constant need of Volunteers as Kitchen Helpers, Servers, etc. We hope to see some new, fresh faces soon. We can work around your schedule. It only involves a few hours per week. In July, our Nation celebrates its Independence. Many who walk through our doors took an Oath to preserve the freedoms our Independence promises for all its citizens. I continue to ask for your patience in dealing with Post employees, volunteers, and staff members. We all want you and your guests to have an enjoyable experience

at the Post. Keep in mind that we are an organization operated by Volunteers, and each is devoted to doing their best. Feel free to respectfully complain when it is warranted, but better yet, fill out a Volunteer Application Form and pitch in to make our Post, your Post, the best that it can be.

*We continue to Honor all Veterans— first, last, and always.*

Chad Myers  
Chairman  
Board of Directors

## 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**

*Vincent "Vinny" George*

Please call Phyllis Scully at 30-381-539-9981 for the VFW or Eileen Healy at 302-539-9981 for the Auxiliary, if a member is sick or has passed away.

*M* The Muha  
Family Foundation

Presents  
the

MASON  
DIXON  
VFW  
POST 7234

OCEAN VIEW  
DELAWARE, USA

Golf Association

**Golf Outing**  
To Support

**HOME OF THE BRAVE**  
Foundation

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

To be played at

THE SALT POND GOLF CLUB  
Bethany Beach, DE 19930

For details: [www.vfw7234.com/golftournament\\_0001.pdf](http://www.vfw7234.com/golftournament_0001.pdf)

## SERVICE OFFICER OUTREACH

VA extends presumptions of service connection for three new cancer types  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 14, 2024

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is including three new cancer



types in the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposure under the [PACT Act](#). This announcement marks the continued commitment under the [Biden-Harris administration's Unity](#)

[Agenda](#) and the [Biden Cancer Moonshot](#) to support the nation's Veterans.

Through a sub-regulatory policy letter published to the [Federal Register](#), the following three cancer types have been included in the list of presumptive diseases:

Male breast cancer.

Urethral cancer.

Cancer of the paraurethral glands.

This policy establishes presumptions of service connection for eligible Gulf War and post-9/11 Veterans who deployed to Afghanistan, Somalia, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, and the entire [Southwest Asia theater of operations](#), which includes Iraq.

Presumptive service connection means VA automatically assumes service connection for the disease and provides benefits to eligible Veterans who have submitted claims with evidence of a diagnosis.

“We are working with urgency to deliver on the promise of the PACT Act to provide health care and benefits to as many toxic-exposed Veterans as possible — we’re leaning in wherever we can,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “VA is working with one goal in mind: getting today and tomorrow’s Veterans and their families the benefits they deserve as fast as possible.”

Any Veteran who currently has or previously had one of the listed cancers at any time during

military service or after separation may be entitled to disability compensation benefits dated back to Aug. 10, 2022, the date the [PACT Act was signed into law](#). VA will review all claims from impacted Veterans and survivors who previously filed and were denied for these three conditions on or after Aug. 10, 2022, to determine if benefits can now be granted.

Veterans enrolled in VA health care can obtain cancer screening and treatment at VA, which recently announced [expansion of cancer care services](#) closer to where Veterans are.

VA has granted its [1 millionth PACT Act-related disability compensation claim](#) and awarded over \$5.7 billion to Veterans and survivors since President Biden signed the bill into law. Veterans and survivors can apply or learn more about the PACT Act by visiting [VA.gov/PACT](#) or by calling 1-800-MYVA411.

There is no charge to file a claim with VA. For further assistance with the disability claims process, Veterans are encouraged to work with a [VA-accredited representative](#) or contact their [state Veterans affairs office](#).

For more information about VA cancer care, visit [cancer.va.gov](#).

VA Caregiver Support Program Caregiver Support Program Teams are available at each VA Medical Center (VAMC) to help caregivers find the right support to meet their needs and to enroll in caregiver programs and services.

Delaware

[Wilmington VA Medical Center](#)

1601 Kirkwood Hwy.

Wilmington, DE 1980

302-994-2511 ext. 4764

RESCUE Stroke Caregiving

Resources and Education

for Stroke Caregivers' Understanding

and Empowerment, or RESCUE for short, is a lifeline to help caregivers “keep their head above water.” Stroke onset is very sudden and new caregivers are not always prepared for this new role. The caregiver may be overwhelmed and feel like the person who needs to be rescued.

Navigating RESCUE Website

The RESCUE team has prepared a comprehensive website that contains information for caregivers of Veterans recovering from stroke. This website provides stroke caregivers

with information and resources to help them better care for themselves and their loved ones. There are over 45 easy-to-read "fact sheets" about stroke and stroke caregiving on this website, which can be downloaded and printed, also available in [Spanish](#).

The Web site can be accessed below [Welcome to the RESCUE English Homepage - RESCUE Stroke Caregiving \(va.gov\)](#)

Caregivers Library/Site Map

The Caregiver site map is designed to help users navigate the website. This site map is list of webpages (with links) organized by sections, identifying content

[Caregivers Library/Site Map - VA Caregiver Support Program](#)

House bill would amend pre-existing registration law

The House of Representatives [passed HR 8070](#), also known as the "Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act," on June 14. The bill, which has not yet been signed into law, would automatically register all male U.S. citizens and men residing in the U.S. who are at least 18 and not yet 26 in the Selective Service. The automatic registration wouldn't apply to "lawful nonimmigrants" described in [the Immigration and Nationality Act](#), such as foreign ambassadors and aliens visiting the country temporarily for business, according to the bill. This registration isn't a new requirement, however.

The bill's text says it aims to amend [the Military Selective Service Act](#), which [already requires men](#) in this age group to register for the Selective Service.

Fact check: [Video of Biden calling for a military draft is AI-generated, not real](#)

[Justine Tripathi](#), a spokesperson for [the House Armed Services Committee](#), which is chaired by the bill's sponsor [Rep. Mike Rogers](#), told USA TODAY the Facebook post misrepresents the contents of the bill.

"Under current law, men who are U.S. citizens between the ages of 18 and 25 are required to register for the Selective Service," she said in an email. "A provision in the House-passed NDAA would automatically register all men, who are U.S. citizens (or are residing in the U.S.) and between the ages of 18 and 25, for the Selective

Service. Failure to register for the Selective Service can impact employment and the ability to receive government assistance but sometimes young men are unaware they need to register for the Selective Service until it's too late. This provision would eliminate those future headaches."

It is currently [a federal felony to not register](#) for the Selective Service if you're part of the aforementioned group of men. The crime is "punishable by fines or a prison sentence" and may affect eligibility for federal jobs, citizenship or state-funded student financial aid.

Tripathi also noted there hasn't been an active draft [in over 50 years](#), and establishing one would require a separate act.

In Comradeship,  
H. Rich Fales, Post Service Officer  
Cell: (301) 325-3813  
Email: [Smokey1st@netzero.net](mailto:Smokey1st@netzero.net)



## HONOR GUARD NEWS

During the month of June, the Honor Guard participated in two Veteran Funeral Services and two Veteran Ceremonies.



On June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans Cemetery, Post Officers and the Honor Guard participated in the services for Roger Supernaw, a Vietnam Army veteran rendering Volley and Taps in his honor.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Post Officers and the Honor Guard participated in the services for Navy veteran Herbert Humphries rendering Volley and Taps in his honor.

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Honor Guard participated in the D-day Ceremony at Fort Miles honoring the Delaware soldiers who lost their lives at the Normandy invasion. The Honor Guard posted colors, rendered Volley and Taps, and retired the colors.

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, the Honor Guard led the celebration parade with new Honor Guard members John and Marty Reilly on tenor drums commemorating the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town of Ocean View. OV Mayor John Reddington, a Vietnam veteran and life member of our Post, introduced the Honor Guard for a Volley and Taps in honor of our deceased community veterans.



The Honor Guard is seeking donations from our members and friends to assist us in purchasing new uniforms. Please make your contributions to VFW Post 7234 Honor Guard. Thank you for your support.

We are grateful to our Post Honor Guard for their dedication and service and “salute” you for your representation of VW Post 7234

John F. Gossart, Jr.  
 Captain of the Honor Guard  
 240-304-8183

[Judge800@yahoo.com](mailto:Judge800@yahoo.com)

Or:

Mike Schiffer

Assistant Captain of the Honor Guard

[Rschiffer0@gmail.com](mailto:Rschiffer0@gmail.com)

\*The purpose of the Honor Guard is to provide funeral honors for our fallen comrades and guard national monuments. An Honor Guard may also serve as the ‘guardians of the colors’ “by displacing and escorting the national flag on ceremonial occasions at official functions.”



**HONOR GUARD  
 BASKET OF CHEER FUND RAISER  
 (TICKETS AVAILABLE AT POST)**

## VFW GOLF ASSOCIATION

VFW Golf Association members play golf each Tuesday at the Salt Pond Golf Course. If you are thinking about joining the Golf Association, please contact our President, Ken Smith, at 267-228-7285 or [madriverven1946@gmail.com](mailto:madriverven1946@gmail.com) for more information.

### VFW Golf Weekly Signup Process

- All signups are via email to [vfwgolf7234@gmail.com](mailto:vfwgolf7234@gmail.com)
- In the email, put your name and play date in the subject line. Send to the above email address. Any information in the body of the email will not be read unless the phrase “see below” is in the subject line. If you are bringing guests or have special requests. That would be examples of “see below” information.
- Signups are required to be sent prior to noon, the Monday before play.
- Since groups are created based on the fact that each group’s total handicap, to assure fairness, should be generally equal.
- Cancellations are the same process as signup. Just send another email with the subject line stating “Cancel” then your name and the play date.

## THE JOY AND COST OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 4, Independence Day this year will mark the 248<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence



of the original 13 states from Great Britain in 1776. It is often called the birthday of the United States. A wonderful reason to celebrate. And so, it has been ever since that hot summer in Philadelphia.

The fundamental principles in the opening statement of the Declaration provided inspiration

then and continues to do so today.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights; that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness [and] that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Philadelphia. Despite the enormous personal risk involved, the 56 representatives of the 13 former British colonies who assembled in Philadelphia then solemnly declared the independence of the new United States of America, thereby dissolving all allegiance to the “British Crown” and severing all political connection with Great Britain. They knew it was not a self-fulfilling document. Independence had to be won with limited military resources against the powerful professional army and navy of Great Britain sent to crush the revolution. The cost of freedom would be high. Another reality was that part of the population in some of the states was still loyal to the king and wanted to remain in the British Empire.

British reaction. King George III called it treason. One British officer wrote of “the madness of these deluded people.” Another that it was incomprehensible that a people who had so much to lose would “choose to rebel against the ruler God had put over them.” British soldiers talked about a “sporting season,” hunting in which “all rebels were fair game.” American soldiers were viewed with contempt: “We soon shall have done with these scoundrels.” Some officers worried that the Americans would not fight. Well, fight they did and victory was indeed costly.

The cost of war. The exact number of American casualties in the Revolutionary War from 1775 to the

surrender of the British army in Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781 is not clear. However, it has been estimated that approximately 6,800 Americans were killed in battle and at least 17,000 others died from diseases such as smallpox, infections and other causes. Estimates of the number of wounded are as high as 25,000. To put those numbers in perspective, the population of the United States in 1776 was about 2.5 million. Our population today is over 320 million. These numbers do not include all the civilian casualties. For more information about those momentous times in our history, two good sources are: “1776” by David McCullough and “The Glorious Cause,” by Robert Middlekauff.

Faith of our fathers. We live in freedom today because of the sacrifices of those early patriots, as well as all those who have protected our nation since then. So, while we enjoy the parades, cookouts, fireworks, music events and other fun activities with family and friends on the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, we should also remember those patriots who declared and won our independence, grateful for their faith, resolve and courage. Because of them and the blessings of Divine Providence they relied upon, we can celebrate July 4 and every day in a free and independent United States of America. In the words of the old hymn:

Faith of our fathers, faith and prayer,  
Shall keep our country brave and free.  
And through the truth that comes from God,  
Our land shall indeed be free.

Happy Independence Day to all. Hope you enjoy every day in July.  
Jerry Hardiman

### DID YOU KNOW

Our country has turned 248 yrs old. Everything in our lives is significantly traced back to what our founding Fathers put down in writing on parchment paper. As the sun will shine on that 4th day of July, a day when Americans come together to celebrate our independence from Great Britain and the creation of a greater new nation. A new birth. Beyond the festivities, the back yard barbecues, the parades and fireworks the significance of this day runs deep. We should take the time to express our appreciation for the freedoms bestowed on us. This day gives us the opportunity to celebrate these gifts of freedom of speech,

Religion, the right to pursue our happiness and choose our own destinies.

Its a day to honor our democracy, equality and Individual rights.

So, the fourth of July is not a holiday of fireworks, barbecues and parades

Its a time to reflect on our many freedoms and how to Maintain and keep them.

Jim Jensen

## ICE CREAM COUPONS

Please drop your BJ's ice cream coupons off at the Post. I will take all and any coupons and will sort which I need.

Thank you.  
Connie Weber

## CUSTOMER CARE PROGRAM

We continue to feed the hungry and homeless in our community.

Please continue to drop off food items for the Food Bank we support.

Please continue to pick up a casserole pan and prepare a meal.

You can pick up the casserole pans and lids, follow the recipe and bring it to the post kitchen frozen.

We deliver to the churches the last week of the month.

Giving out the pans every Tuesday, Wednesday, , Friday evenings.

Thank you.

Jim Jensen Commander  
Andrew Artemchuk  
Community Outreach Chairman



Delivering 30 casseroles to St. Paul's by the sea.

## POST MEMBERSHIP



We are now offering a free two year membership for our younger Combat Veterans who served in Southwest Asia campaigns. Please stop by Post or visit website [vfw7234.com](http://vfw7234.com) "Contact Us"

**"HELP A VETERAN" PROGRAM**  
**IF YOU NEED HELP OR A VISIT OR A CALL**  
**CALL OR EMAIL US**  
**539-9981**  
**VFWPOST7234@GMAIL.COM**





## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Commander	James Jensen
Sr. Vice Cmdr	Chad Myers
Jr. Vice Cmdr	Mike Tuckman
Quartermaster	Bill Healy
Adjutant	Fulton Loppatto
Chaplain	Phyllis Scully
Judge Advocate	John Gossart Jr.
Surgeon	Richard Wagner
Officer of the Day	Andy Artemchuk
Guard	Jeff Ringel
Service Officer	Rich Fales
Honor Guard Capt	John Gossart Jr.
Trustee	Greg Albertson
Trustee	Skip Coale
Trustee	Rob Gill

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	Chad Myers
President	James Jensen
Vice President	Chuck Guido
Treasurer	Bill Healy
Secretary	Ken Weber
Board Member	Andy Artemchuk
Board Member	Fulton Loppatto
Board Member	Mike Tuckman
Board Member	Jeff Ringel
Board Member	Rick Delaney
Board Member	John Hickman

## AUXILIARY TEAM

President	Dale Weese
Sr Vice Pres	Karen Ware
Jr Vice Pres	Susan Clark
Secretary	Ty Magliola
Treasurer	Roberta Walter
Chaplain	Eileen Healy
Guard	Shirley Stong
Conductress	Connie Weber
Patriotic Ins	Peg Atkins
Trustee	Connie Weber
Trustee	Carol Weber
Trustee	Chuck Bologna

### Veteran Claims Assistance

Our state Veterans Service Officer comes to our Post the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 1:30PM; to make an appointment you can contact him at [david.hilliard@va.gov](mailto:david.hilliard@va.gov) or 302-994-2511 ext 7586

### 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 JOHN GOSSART  
240-304-8183**

### HELP A VET PROGRAM

**Veterans - Need help assistance, a friendly call, a visit, etc.  
Contact our Post: 302-539-9981 or  
[Vfwpost7234@gmail.com](mailto:Vfwpost7234@gmail.com)**

### Member Sick or Deceased

**Please call:  
For VFW – Phyllis Scully 302-539-9981  
For Aux – Eileen Healy 302-539-9981**

### 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@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost7234@gmail.com)**