



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

JULY 2018

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

As my first year as commander comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone that helped make this post as successful as it is and supported my efforts. Thank you to the Board of Directors, Officers and



Members. I truly appreciated all your help. I am looking forward to an even more successful upcoming year. We had a great State Convention up state in New Castle. We were lucky to have Keith Harman, our Commander in Chief present at convention. Our post

received many awards; one that I am especially proud of is that our post made All State status. We did this with the help of everyone.

I was invited to two Change of Command ceremonies. One was at the National Guard Post on Rt. 1 and the other at the Indian River Coast Guard Station. Both of these were a privilege for me to attend. The Veterans outreach seminar that was held at the post was successful, helping veterans with their claims or help getting them signed up for health care. We are looking to have another in the fall, so watch the Bulletin Board for updates on dates and times. We also had an event this past month for paralyzed veterans which was well attended.

All members, please remember when bringing guests into our post, they must sign the Visitors Book and you must sign as their sponsor. Also, you are responsible for their behavior while they are here and they must leave when you do.

Let's have a great summer!

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 Auxiliary Members, I am Carol Weber, your President for the next year. I graduated from Penn State University and retired from the Social Security



Administration, after a 35-year career. In 2009, upon retirement, I moved from Pennsylvania to Delaware, at which time I became a member of the auxiliary of Post 7234. My five children and six grandchildren still reside in Pennsylvania. I have

served the auxiliary as guard, conductress, Jr. Vice-President, Senior Vice-President, and now as President. I am honored by your faith in me to continue to guide the auxiliary and its 'wonderful work helping our veterans, active military and their families. I follow a long list of exceptional Presidents and will do my best to attain the same level of excellence. Being a member of the auxiliary of Post 7234 comes with a lot of privileges, but also many responsibilities. We have a beautiful Post where we get to enjoy the bay front location with magnificent sunsets, unending dinner events, music, friends and great camaraderie. Our reason for joining, however is to unite Americans from all walks of life with a

common purpose to improve the lives of veterans, active duty members and their families and our communities. We have a lot to be proud of, for we have achieved much; however, can we achieve more, can we do more, can we identify additional needs in our community? I would like to invite all of our 800 plus members to attend a meeting, volunteer a few hours, bring us your ideas and let's together to make our achievements even greater. I am fortunate to have a great group of volunteers who agreed to serve as officers. However, each of the many programs we participate in need a chairperson and a committee and, I am hoping each and every one of you join us this upcoming year and make a small contribution of your time and ideas to support these programs. We are a group of individuals working together toward a common goal. I had the opportunity to attend the VFW/Auxiliary Delaware State Convention this past week. I observed and felt the passion that those present shared toward our veterans and military families and my own passion peaked to a level I had not felt before. If you want to share in this passion and be part of our team please join us and give us a few hours of your time. I hope you can join us at our next meeting on July 2nd.

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

Loyally yours,
Carol Weber
Auxiliary President

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.

Honor Guard



The ranks of our Honor Guard are diminishing and our current members are aging. The Honor Guard is the pride of Our Organization. The service they provide at Ceremonies and Funerals gives great respect to our veterans and our country. Please consider joining this great organization. We provide all uniforms, transportation to functions, etc. There are usually about 20 functions a year; you are only asked to attend as many as you can. Please call Paul if you are interested. Thank You

SERVICE OFFICER OUTREACH

All VFW members & AUX

New Burial Space at Arlington Cemetery

After four years of extensive changes, Arlington National Cemetery has finished the expansion project that started in 2014 and will open the



space for use in upcoming weeks. The expansion, officially known as the Millennium Project, added 27 acres of land, 6,000 pre-dug graves and 16,000 niche wall burial spaces to the 154-year-old cemetery, which is slowly running

out of room to honor and inter America's military veterans. The new section has room for traditional in-ground burials and also in-ground burials of veterans' cremated remains. The Millennium Project, the first expansion of the cemetery space in nearly 40 years, cost around \$81.7 million. The expansion space was taken out of a recreation spot for a nearby military base, a construction staging area for the cemetery and National Park Service woodland, according to The Washington Post. The expansion features a new system for saving space and efficiency, Army Col. Mike Peloquin, the cemetery's director of engineering, said in the Post report. Concrete boxes used for burials will

be double stacked, with space for two caskets. The concrete containers will be about 18 inches under the ground surface, and spaced closely together. According to Renea Yates, the deputy superintendent for cemetery administration, the expansion will add decades onto the life of the cemetery. However, continued expansion will still be needed as the cemetery continues to delay the inevitable day when there is no more room left for burials in the military cemetery. Even with the new 27-acre expansion, the future of the cemetery is uncertain. "Most veterans from the recent wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and the war on terror will not have the option to be buried" there, the cemetery wrote in a report in 2017, according to the Post. Following the expansion, Arlington has about 100,000 spaces remaining.

Please if I can assist in any way let me know
302 933 0119
Respectfully,
Robert P. Corsa, Service Officer

CANTEEN CORNER

Summer is in full swing and the the Post has been busy with activities. We will start July with our 4th of July Picnic on Sunday 7/1 at 4pm. The buffet menu will include Pit Ham and Beef, Chicken, Hot Dogs with all the fixings. Food will be served from 4-7pm with music from 6-10pm. The cost for this AYCE buffet will be \$10. We will be having our next Bus Trip on Sunday 7/15. We will be going to The Red Roost Crab House in Quantico, Md. This was a crowd favorite last year and the Bus is filling up fast. People on this trip will be given the first opportunity to sign up for the next trip , which is to the Assateague Crab House with a stop at Ocean Downs with sometime in the Casino. At the casino each person will receive \$30 in Slot Dollars. Cost for the bus is \$18 and you can sign up with the bartenders. Do not miss out on these fun trips. With everyone's busy schedules in the summer, it is good to put some important dates on your calendar. The 1st date is August 12th which will be our Beach Day Pig Roast and Clam Bake. Come start the day hanging out on the beach or Sitting under the tents on the lower parking lot. We will be Roasting a Pig and have a Clam Bake. Food will be served from 4-7pm and we will have music filling the air. We will be having a Corn Hole Tournament during the afternoon. This will be a ticketed event and tickets can be bought at the bar. The cost is \$25 per person. The second important date is Sunday 9/9. This is will be our annual Crab Feast. Tickets for this event go on sale on 8/1, and tickets always go fast. Get your groups

together and purchase your tickets when they go on sale. As we get busier and busier is important that you help us in keeping the place clean. Please help us bus your tables when you are finished eating, so the next person has a clean table to sit at. 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. Come join us, reunite with everyone, and welcome our new members. To sign up, please send an email to vfwgolf7234@gmail.com by noon Sunday for the following Tuesday's golf. Show-up at 7:30 a.m. for 8:00a.m.tee time. Remember all are welcome!!! Thanks to all who helped to make our June 24 breakfast very successful. Mark your calendars for our next breakfast on July 22. Please call our Breakfast Coordinator, Phil Dulk at 973-722-5124 to offer your help. If you are thinking about joining the Golf Association, please call our President, Ken Smith, at 267-228-7285 or email him at madriverven1946@gmail.com for more information.

WHY WE CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY ON JULY 4TH

Every year we celebrate America's birthday on July 4, with parades, cookouts, parties, ball games and fireworks. That's what John Adams predicted would happen way back in 1776, in a letter to his wife Abigail, that future generations of Americans would celebrate Independence Day "with Pomp and Parade, with Shows, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations, from one end of this Continent to the other, from this time forward forever more." Then I learned that John Adams' letter was dated July 3, 1776, and the day for national celebration he referred to



was July 2. So I wondered why we celebrate on July 4. Here's what I found. On July 2, 1776, a brief but momentous resolution declaring independence from Great Britain was approved by the delegations of twelve of the thirteen colonies represented in the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. The New York delegation, awaiting instructions, had to abstain at that time. (New York joined the vote for independence on July 9.) On July 4, the more comprehensive Declaration of Independence that we're familiar with, which was drafted primarily by Thomas Jefferson, was

adopted by representatives of the same twelve colonies. It was dated July 4, 1776, and signed by John Hancock, as President of the Continental Congress, and Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Congress, and sent to a printer. About 200 copies of the dated document were printed and distributed throughout the newly declared states. So it's easy to see how July 4 became the widely accepted day for celebrating our independence. On July 19, Congress directed that the Declaration should be "engrossed" (written with a particular style lettering) on parchment; and when engrossed, it should be signed by the members of Congress. With New York joining the vote for independence, the title of the document was changed to read: "In Congress, July 4, 1776. . . the unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America." (That's not a typo. The engrosser did not capitalize "united.") When it came to the signing of the Declaration by the members of the Continental Congress, I always pictured them as portrayed in John Trumbull's famous painting, gathered together in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, to sign on the same day. However, written accounts indicate that the signing was more gradual and spread out. By August 6, 1776, most of the 56 delegates whose names are on the document had signed, but at least six signatures were added later. One individual, Thomas McKean of Delaware, did not sign until 1781, although he claimed he had signed earlier. Two other delegates from Delaware signed the July 4 Declaration. One was George Reed, who had voted against declaring independence on July 2 because he thought it was a premature step, but then accepted the will of the majority. The other delegate was Caesar Rodney, who reportedly rode all night from Dover to Philadelphia on July 1 to vote for independence on July 2 and ensure a 2-1 vote in favor for Delaware. The signed Declaration of Independence is now preserved and protected in the National Archives in Washington, DC. Tracking those historical events in the summer of 1776 helps us understand why the Declaration of Independence is considered "America's birth certificate" and why July 4 is celebrated as Independence Day. But most meaningful are the principles, faith, commitment and courage embodied in the language of the Declaration, words that continue to inspire today. On July 4 this year, as in previous years, some newspapers will print the entire Declaration of Independence, as a patriotic public service. . . a reminder for all readers. Our attention is always drawn to that powerful moral statement in the opening passage.

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.

Having read and heard this passage many times, we know the words almost by heart, or most of them, and how smoothly they flow. But imagine the emotional impact when they were first read or heard in 1776. They have the ring of truth and had to sound. . . well, revolutionary. And we will read again the words of faith and commitment at the end:

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiances to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved. . . And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Those closing words remind us of the enormous personal risks faced by everyone who voted for independence and signed the Declaration, not just for themselves but for their families as well. Think about it. They were clearly fomenting rebellion against King George III and facing the military power of Great Britain. Definitely a dangerous decision in 1776. Yet despite the life-threatening risks, they boldly defied tyranny, proclaimed our God-given rights and the right of the colonies to be free and independent states. Courageous and confident, "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence." So, while we enjoy the parade, cookouts and fireworks on July 4, we should pause for a moment to remember those patriots in 1776, with gratitude for their faith, resolve and courage. They gave us the gift we cherish and celebrate every July 4, a free and independent United States of America.

Happy Independence Day
Jerry Hardiman

VFW FRIDAY BUFFET
 JULY 6th, 2018
 5:00-8:00 pm

BAKED CHICKEN
 MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY
 GREEN BEANS
 FRIED FISH
 TOSSED SALAD
 ROLLS & BUTTER
 Donation: \$12 AYCE

MUSIC – DJ ROCKIN RAY
 6:00-10:00 pm

VFW FRIDAY BUFFET
 JULY 27th, 2018
 5:00-8:00 pm

CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS
 MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY
 BUTTERED CARROTS
 FRIED FISH
 TOSSED SALAD
 ROLLS & BUTTER
 Donation: \$12 AYCE

MUSIC – THE JONES BOYS
 6:00-10:00 PM

BUS TRIP

**SUNDAY JULY 15
 RED ROOST CRAB HOUSE**

**\$18 PER PERSON FOR BUS
 FOOD ON YOUR OWN
 SIGN UP WITH BARTENDER**

VFW FRIDAY BUFFET
 JULY 13th, 2018
 5:00-8:00 pm

POT ROAST
 RED ROASTED POTATOES
 ROASTED VEGETABLES
 FRIED FISH
 TOSSED SALAD
 ROLLS & BUTTER
 Donation: \$12 AYCE

MUSIC – DJ PAT
 6:00-10:00 pm

VFW FRIDAY BUFFET
 JULY 20th, 2018
 5:00-8:00 pm

BAKED HAM
 MAC & CHEESE
 BUTTERED CORN
 STEWED TOMATOES
 FRIED FISH
 TOSSED SALAD
 ROLLS & BUTTER
 Donation: \$12 AYCE

MUSIC – JT CRUISE
 6:00-10:00 PM



**4TH
of JULY
PICNIC**

**VFW HOLIDAY
CELEBRATION**

SUNDAY, JULY 1st, 2018
FOOD 4-7 pm
MUSIC 6-10 pm

**PIT BEEF & PIT HAM
 FRIED CHICKEN
 HOT DOGS
 POTATO SALAD
 COLE SLAW
 CORN ON THE COB**

DONATION: \$10 AYCE

**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS
 TO JOIN YOU!**

VFW LEADERSHIP TEAM

Commander	Dean Levering
Sr. Vice Cmdr	John Hickman
Jr. Vice Cmdr	Hal Dietrich
Quartermaster	Bill Hensley
Adjutant	Fulton Loppatto
Chaplain	John Mitchell
Judge Advocate	John Gossart Jr.
Surgeon	George Hickman
Officer of the Day	Bob 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	John Hickman
Board Member	Rick Smith
Board Member	Hal Dietrich
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
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**