



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

JUNE 2020

COMMANDERS COMMENT

As I leave my position of commander of this post for the last 3 years, I have so many people to thank. I don't want to leave anyone out so I will just thank everyone that has played a part in helping me as commander. This includes the



officers, past and present, elected or appointed, our membership, volunteers, Board of Directors, Auxiliary without our very special volunteers, none of the things we do would be possible. So thank you to everyone and I pray that

you will I continue to support with enthusiasm, our new officers with the respect and dignity you have given me. I hope we will continue to come together as one and keep our post as special as it is. Thank you and God bless all.

The last couple months have created a situation most of us have never been through before and we certainly hope will never have to deal with again. However, once again, our post has come thru for the people of our community. Every week we have had massive donations of food for the food bank that we often help out. Thank you all for these donations. We sometimes forget that there are people out there that have a tough time putting food on the table for their families. If you drop off food there is a basket with colorful masks to help protect you when out in public. Please feel free to help yourself to a mask or two. On another good note, we have achieved over 100% membership this year which along with other requirements to qualify us for as an "all

American post". As other posts around us are closing, this is a great accomplishment. We have not been able to celebrate and remember our past comrades as we usually do. Make no mistake, this was not our decision. We had to comply with the rules that the state mandated. However, we hope you will hold them in your thoughts and prayers. Watch the newsletter and when we open back up, the bulletin board for future events.

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, As you all know we have been unable to meet since March, due to the coronavirus, however, since our Governor recently allowed outdoor gatherings of up to 250 people, I have decided to schedule an Auxiliary meeting for June 8th at 6:00p.m. outside at the Post. We will meet at the lower level entrance near the picnic tables. We will follow



all safety protocol and social distancing guidelines. Please bring a folding chair and a mask. I am encouraging all members to attend for we will be

holding nominations, elections and installation of officers for the new year beginning in July. Upon completion of the meeting and the installation of the new President by the Department on June 20th, my second term as your President will end. As it is ending, I want to take this opportunity to let you know I was honored to serve as your President the past two years. Thank you to all the officers, committee chairs and members for all your hard work and dedication to the Auxiliary. You made my job easy for you were all eager to carry out our mission of serving our Veterans and spreading Patriotism. There was never a time when I needed volunteers that you didn't rise to the occasion and put forth your best effort. We as an Auxiliary have met and exceeded all of the Program requirements of our Department and National Office and our efforts have resulted in the receipt of many acclamations from both components. Our fundraisers have been very successful allowing us to generously support National Programs and our local Veterans and the community. You all have worked hand and hand with the Post, volunteering at the dinners and all social activities, resulting in cooperation and respect between the Auxiliary and the Post. Our membership has grown by over 400 during the past two years due to your tireless recruiting and true representation of the Auxiliary's mission. I am proud of all of you for all you do and for the respect you show to each and every member of our Auxiliary. With the shutdown, there are several items left undone, however I want to assure you I will bring all of them to a successful conclusion. I am not saying good bye, I am just stepping down. I will continue to support the Auxiliary and provide whatever guidance I can to continue to make our Auxiliary the best it can be.

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

Since our last Zoom, Board of Directors Meeting we had an emergency meeting to discuss what we're going to do for our Memorial Day Service. We will have a service on the traditional Memorial Day which is May 30th. However this will be done via Zoom, You Tube, and I believe Facebook. Fulton will be sending out an email to everyone informing them of how it will work. Even though we're closed our Liquor license

came due, thank you Bill Hensley for taking care of that. John Mitchell reported that the shields to separate the stoves should be in this week. John is also working with Mark on Guidelines for the kitchen and bar. Frank Mathers reported that the shed in front of the Post is almost complete. It was reported that there still is a small leak in a membrane on the main Post roof; we will be addressing that problem when funds again become available. We are looking hopefully to opening the Chicken Shack on June 30th. Stay tuned. New Board of Director Officers were elected. Tony Adams, Chairman, Hal Dietrich, President, John Gossart, Vice President, Treasurer, Bill Hensley, Secretary, Ken Weber. We also welcome Jim Jensen to the Board. On a personal note I want to thank Rick Delaney and Mike Grabowski whose terms have ended. I want to thank them for their dedication and all they done to make our Post as successful as it is.....**THANK YOU**...Other than that Please Stay Safe.....Check on your neighbors and fellow Post Family. Together we will get through these difficult times and come out of it Better and Stronger.

Chairman Hal Dietrich

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

Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam or Korea

Did you serve in Vietnam, including aboard a vessel on the inland waterways or within the 12-mile territorial seas? Did you serve in or near the Korean



Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) during the Vietnam Era? If you served in either of these locations, you may have had contact with Agent Orange, an herbicide the U.S. military used to clear plants and trees during the war. We refer to this as

having a presumption of contact. Find out if you can get disability compensation and other benefits for illnesses, we believe are caused by Agent Orange.

Can I get disability benefits from VA?

You may be able to get disability benefits if the below descriptions are true for you.

This must be true:

You have an illness we believe is caused by Agent Orange (called a presumptive disease)

And at least one of these must also be true. You:

Came into contact with Agent Orange while serving in the military, or

Served in or near the DMZ for any length of time between September 1, 1967, and August 31, 1971, or served in the Republic of Vietnam for any length of time between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. This may include serving aboard a vessel on the inland waterways, or on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia (as detailed in Public Law 116-23, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019).

Review our list of diseases related to Agent Orange

Who's covered?

Veterans

Qualified dependents

What kind of benefits can I get?

Health care

Compensation (payments)

An Agent Orange Registry health exam

How do I get these benefits?

You will need to file a claim for disability compensation.

If you have an illness we believe is caused by Agent Orange

You won't need to show that the problem started during—or got worse because of—your military service. This is because we believe that certain illnesses are the result of exposure to herbicides. We refer to these as presumptive diseases.

Review our list of diseases related to Agent Orange
View the evidence requirements

If you have an illness that's not on the list of Agent Orange-related diseases, but you believe was caused by Agent Orange

You'll need to:

Provide scientific and medical evidence that the condition is related to exposure to Agent Orange, or Show that the problem started during—or got worse because of—your military service
Scientific proof may include an article from a medical journal or a published research study.
View the evidence requirements

What if I need help filing my claim?

You can get help in one of these ways:

Call to set up an appointment with the State of Delaware Veterans Service Officer Laurie Corsa at (302) 648-3068 or David Hilliard Department of Delaware VFW Service Officer at (302) 993-7260.

Agent Orange exposure in Guam

The National Veterans Legal Service Program (NVLSP) and Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School (VLSC) provide this white paper and detailed appendix for veterans who served in Guam from 1962 to 1975 to submit to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as evidence in support of their service-connected disability claims for Agent Orange-related diseases. The appendix provides selections from relevant sources to support the conclusions of the white paper.

NVLSP partnered with VLSC to determine whether the available evidence of herbicide usage in Guam from 1962 to 1975 satisfies the VA standard for service-connected injuries based on exposure to Agent Orange and other dioxin-containing herbicide agents. After a nearly two-year review of government, private, archival, and oral history accounts, including a site visit to Guam, NVLSP and VLSC concluded that existing evidence does establish that it is, at the very least, "as likely as not" that veterans who served in Guam from 1962 to 1975 were exposed to Agent Orange and other dioxin-containing herbicides. Accordingly, the VA should grant presumptive service-connected compensation to these veterans for any diseases that the Secretary has associated with exposure based on findings from the

Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The white paper: "NVLSP And VLSC White Paper Confirming That Veterans Who Served in Guam from 1962-1975 Were Likely Exposed to Dioxin-Containing Herbicide Agents Including Agent Orange"

Next month exposure to Agent Orange inside the United States and outside of Vietnam.

In Comradeship,

H. Rich Fales, Post Service Officer
(301) 325-3813
Smokey1st@netzero.net

CANTEEN CORNER

Sorry to say, but as of this writing the Post will not be able to open. The officers and I are constantly reviewing all guidelines to determine when and how we can open. Guidelines are sometimes changing daily, and as soon as we all able, we will open and a calendar for the month will be sent out.

Be assured we will follow all guidelines that are issued and open the Canteen complying with The Governors Declarations, the Delaware Health Department, and the Delaware Alcohol Commission.

I have been asked many times in the last couple months, will we be able to have all of our normal activities. The answer is easy, I do not know. It would be safe to say that we will have to change how we operate. The biggest challenge will be satisfying everyone's expectations of how we should operate the Canteen. We do respect everyone's opinion, but there is no way we will be able to satisfy everyone. Be assured that the operation of the Canteen will be with the safety of our members in mind. Please help us, when we open, by following all guidelines established to make sure everyone has an enjoyable experience at the Post.

When we open if you have any operational concerns remember the Bartenders, Kitchen Staff, and Volunteers are following the guidelines set forth by the Board and myself.

See you when we open

Mark

VFW GOLF ASSOCIATION

VFW Golf Association members play golf each Tuesday at the Salt Pond Golf Course. Sign up for play by sending an email to vfwgolf7234@gmail.com NLT noon on the Monday before the date of play. To minimize the risk of crowding, we will start with staggered tee times between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. We will send each golfer an email on Monday nights informing you of your scheduled tee time on Tuesday. We will notify everyone by email of any changes to this process. Remember all are welcome!!!

In response to the coronavirus pandemic the Salt Pond Golf Course is taking precautionary measures, such as "solo" golf carts, to prevent or minimize exposure. Please check with the pro shop about protocols in place on the day you play golf.

If you are thinking about joining the Golf Association, please contact our President, Ken Smith, at 267-228-7285 or madrivervenken1946@gmail.com for more information.

Ed Pike

FLAG DAY 2020

On June 14, we will celebrate Flag Day. You may remember parts of the story of the creation of the



American Flag in 1776. How George Washington visited Betsy Ross in her shop in Philadelphia with a sketch of a new flag to represent the 13 colonies, then in revolt against England. The sketch presented 13 alternating red and white stripes and a blue field with a constellation of 13 white stars. General Washington wanted

one flag as a symbol of national unity that all could serve under, rather than their 13 separate colonial flags. It became that and much more. In 1776, Betsy Ross was a 24-year old recently widowed seamstress. Although young, she was already highly skilled and experienced, having worked in her craft since she was a teenager. She had done work for some of the most prominent citizens of Philadelphia and for others, including George Washington for his home in Mount Vernon. She was also known for her commitment to the American cause of liberty and independence. Washington commissioned the creation of what

would become the first flag of our nation, with some design improvements suggested by Mrs. Ross, and she began its manufacture in her shop. More about Betsy Ross later. On June 14, 1777, 244 years ago, the Second Continental Congress formally adopted it as the Flag of the United States. Over the years, that day was celebrated in some towns, cities and states, but not all. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that established June 14 as Flag Day. Later, in 1949, June 14 was established as National Flag Day by an Act of Congress and so we all celebrate it today because of what the flag has come to mean. To paraphrase a quote from Henry Ward Beecher, a clergyman and abolitionist in the 1800's: "If anyone asks me the meaning of our flag, I say it means just what Concord and Lexington meant; what Bunker Hill meant; which was, in short, the rising up of a valiant young people against an old tyranny to establish the most momentous doctrine that the world has ever known—the right of people to their own lives and to their liberties." The flag indeed represents our history, principles and values.

We think about what the flag means when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance; when we saw it in military formations; see it passing by in parades or flying over public buildings; when it's the center of ceremonies honoring the millions who have served our country and displayed the flag in thousands of places well known and barely recorded. Maybe not consciously think about it, as much as feel it. But on June 14, we might also think about George Washington's inspiration and Betsy Ross' creative collaboration. Here's a little more about the patriotic Betsy Ross to give you a better picture of her life. After creation of the flag with George Washington, she went on to a long and successful career as a flag maker for the United States, for ships, military units and garrisons and diplomatic posts. She eventually remarried and continued her business into her 70s. So Betsy Ross also can be admired for her accomplishments and the example she set as an independent businesswoman, which could not have been easy at that time. However, she will be remembered and admired most of all for her part in creation of the first flag of the United States. We revere the flag every day, expanded now with a constellation of 50 stars, and fly it proudly as the symbol of our nation. In the words of George M. Cohan's song: "You're the emblem of the land I love. The home of the free and the brave." May God continue to bless America and all of us, united under one flag.

Here are some noteworthy dates on the June calendar.

June 6. D-Day (1944)

- June 14. Not only Flag Day. The 245th birthday of the U.S. Army founded in 1775. Another great reason to celebrate.
- June 20. Summer begins. It doesn't wait for permission.
- June 21. Father's Day
- June 22. The Pledge of Allegiance approved by Congress (1944)
- June 24. Flying Saucer Day. Don't laugh. Have you seen the declassified and publicized videos taken by Navy F-18 pilots of what has been designated as "unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP)"? Corroborated by military detection systems, the UAP or UFOs demonstrated amazing aeronautical capabilities far beyond our current scientific knowledge. The subject of these extraterrestrial probes or visitors is now getting some serious military, scientific and Congressional attention. Stay tuned.

Hope you and yours stay well and enjoy every day in June.

Jerry Hardiman



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Commander	Dean Levering
Sr. Vice Cmdr	Hal Dietrich
Jr. Vice Cmdr	Tony Adams
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	Tony Adams
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**

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