



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

JUNE 2018

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

As we are getting into our summer season, after what seemed like a never ending winter, please remember that more people will be around which gives us an



excellent chance to recruit new members. Lets all try to get one new member, especially our newer veterans. Sunday Breakfast is off to a slow start, but I am sure things will pick up as the season progresses. The Chicken Shack is up and running and seems to off to a good start. Everyone is sure

ready to celebrate summer and picking up that chicken on Saturday morning seems to be a tradition with many people. Memorial Day Ceremonies were held here at the post and also on the Bethany Beach Bandstand. We now have new officers for the Post and the Auxiliary. Get to know our new officers so we can all work together to keep our post strong. On Sunday June 10th we will be having a bus trip to the Old Mill Crab House. See Mark for tickets. I had the privilege of going to the Indian River High School Wednesday May 23rd and presenting a \$1500 scholarship to Calvin James to use in furthering his studies. Our VFW State convention is June 21st to June 23rd. Some of our officers will be attending the convention. On Thursday June 14th we will be hosting a Veterans Outreach Seminar here at the post from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Stop by to see if you qualify for benefits or to get help with those you have. Once again, I would like to thank our volunteers. This post would not be what it is without you. A special shout out to Cookie for brightening up our entrance way by planting red, white and blue flowers.

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

VFW Post and Auxiliary Members,



It must be June; the days are filled with sunshine and Mother Nature's beauty is all around us—joined by the sound of children anxious to be out of school! I am excited to inform you that our Auxiliary Patriotic Art Scholarship winner, Chloe Loppatto has been selected to represent the state of Delaware in the National scholarship contest. Granddaughter of Theo & Fulton Loppatto, Chloe will receive her state award at the State Convention later this month. I know everyone joins me in wishing Chloe "Good Luck" in the National competition. Special THANKS to the



Loppattos for encouraging their talented granddaughter to enter this contest. Karen Ware presented our high school scholarship (in the amount of \$1500) to Mckenzie Johnson at the Indian River High School awards ceremony last month. Our Chicken Shack T-shirts fundraiser is up and running!

Special thanks to Ken Weber and the VFW Chicken

Shack team members for their assistance in the launch of this project. Thanks to our Auxiliary volunteers! State convention marks the end of one year and the beginning of a new one. Your newly elected Auxiliary officers for 2018-19 will be sworn in and officially begin their tenure at the close of convention.

Now comes the most difficult part of this newsletter:

SAYING GOOD-BYE!

Fellow Auxiliary members, I have been so very honored to have served as your Auxiliary President for many years. I loved working for an organization that was founded on the principles of honoring our military and teaching our youth about their American heritage. I am thankful and appreciative to the VFW officers and members for their support over the years. Thank you, Mark Daughaday, for everything you have done to help the Auxiliary be successful. Good Luck to Carol Weber and her officers; I know she will find serving both rewarding & challenging. Please support her as you have me. My last request is to ask ALL of you to remember the obligation you swore to uphold when joining the Auxiliary. We committed to a life of volunteering for our veterans, current military, and their families. Final thanks to Mason Dixon #7234 VFW and Auxiliary members. You have provided me with twenty years of comradeship and challenges; the rewards have been priceless! I cherish the friendships made and our accomplishments.

As Bob Hope would say:

"THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES"

Loyally yours,
Roberta Walter
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.



**With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember**

*Charles J. Jezek
Edward P. Matushik
Thomas A. Gamble*

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

Military Base Toxic Exposures

“While we are deeply disturbed to learn that the water at over 100 military installations might have potentially harmful levels of perfluorinated



compounds, which have been linked to cancers and development delays for fetuses and infants, we are not surprised,” said John Rowan, Vietnam Veterans of America National President. “It has long been VVA’s contention that many of the bases in the United States are polluted, causing serious health risks for those who have lived there.” “We applaud Secretary of Defense Mattis for his initiative in releasing the March 2018 report, ‘Addressing Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA),’ which outlines the full magnitude of the presence of PFOS and PFOA in drinking water and groundwater on our military bases and identifies 401 active and Base Closure and Realignment installations in the United States with at least one area where there was a known or suspected release of perfluorinated compounds.” “We strongly urge the President and his advisors to consider the effects of these toxic exposures on military service members and their families, and we ask them to hasten the safety changes being made at affected

bases and to fully fund and support the research being conducted between DoD and Centers for Disease Control on the long-term effects of these exposures. To do otherwise would undermine those promises made in good faith to our troops and stain the integrity of our great nation,” said Rowan. “For Vietnam veterans, it’s déjà vu all over again. We are thankful for the support of the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), which has allowed VVA and Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) to come together in partnership to ensure that our Post-9/11 veterans don’t have to wait a lifetime for government to make good on its promise to care for those injured in defense of our Constitution and their families. This partnership with WWP and TAPS allows VVA to share lessons learned and advocate for our younger veterans and their families,” said Rowan.

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

Respectfully,

Robert P. Corsa, Service Officer

CANTEEN CORNER

What a start of summer was Memorial Day weekend. The crowds were large as members came in with their families to enjoy the activities at the Post. With all the events planned for the summer, make sure you have a copy of the calendar so you can plan ahead. In June our Friday night Dinners will feature an International Theme. We will start the 1st Friday in June with a Mexican Menu followed by St Patrick's Day, then a Polish Buffet, Oriental and German in the weeks following. With the increases in Fish prices our Friday night buffets will increase to \$12 starting June 1st. I still believe this is the best bargain in town. For those of you that like to plan ahead we have some special activities planned thru out the summer. On July 1st we will be having our July 4th picnic. The buffet will feature Pit Beef & Ham and all the fixings. Cost for this AYCE buffet will be \$10. Then on Sunday 8/12 we will have a Pig Roast and Clam Bake outside downstairs. Come enjoy the beach starting at 1pm and enjoy the music and corn hole games till the food is served at 4pm. We will set up some tents so you can eat in the shade. The menu will include Roast Pig, Clams, Shrimp, Mussels and many sides. This will be a ticketed event and the tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the Bar. I am sure this event will sell out, so get your tickets early. As the summer comes, a lot of our members like to bring their friends and family to the Post. We are very glad to see all visitors and want to remind everyone that ALL non members must sign the book as they enter. Also, I must remind members that you are

responsible for your guests and hopefully inform them of the rules of the Post.

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 signup, please send an email to vfwgolf7234@gmail.com by noon Sunday for the following Tuesday's golf. Show-up at 8:30 a.m. for 9:00 a.m. tee time. Please note the time change starting June 19--show at 7:30 for 8:00 tee time. Remember all are welcome!!! Thanks to all who helped to make our May 26 breakfast very successful. Mark your calendars for our second breakfast on June 24. 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 madrivervenken1946@gmail.com for more information.

CHICKEN SHACK IS BACK!

The Chicken Shack is back in business for the 2018 season and it looks like it's going to be another great year. Ken Weber's team is joined this year by



members of the Auxiliary who are selling Chicken Shack T-shirts in a related fund raising effort. Looking at some recent pictures with Fulton, which I think may have been taken by Frank Silva, I see a number of well-seasoned volunteers have returned to help out. (It's especially good to see that Mike Carlin has returned from the

DL.) A number of others look like new volunteers. **Volunteer Training** I understand that there's a very rigorous selection and training process now for new volunteers. Field training includes subjects such as Essential Double Bagging (with special emphasis on opening the hermetically sealed plastic bags and mastering the twist closure); and Basic Saucing (how to squirt a "just right" amount of special sauce on the grilling chicken; squirting from various distances and angles; and advanced instruction on the more difficult behind-the-back and under-the-leg techniques). Classroom subjects for building esprit de crew include: Professor Jack Lynch's popular *Great Moments in Chicken Shack History*; and one in Chicken Shack Artifacts (learning the provenance of

the entire 3000-piece collection of chicken memorabilia in the Chicken Shack Museum building, under the tutelage of Museum Curator Roger Kramp). As a side note, if you have any chicken memorabilia you'd like to donate to the museum, please give the items to George Binnett, who has expressed an interest in arranging the display. I hear that those who successfully complete the training are exhausted by the rigorous requirements. But they're all the more proud of their T-shirts awarded on graduation day. When I first volunteered, the requirements were not as rigorous. For selection, there was only one question: "What's your name?" I got 75 percent on that, a passing grade, and a XXXL T-shirt. The training was all OJT in the various tasks. Every task has its challenges.

Inside Jobs For the jobs inside the Chicken Shack/Museum, you have to be able to count. . .and do it quickly and accurately. So right away I'm at a disadvantage. The Cashier's job requires the highest level of arithmetic. (And social skill, too. More on that later.) Not just adding, but lots of multiplication. Really have to give those old Times Tables a workout. Plus counting money and making change. (Luckily no credit cards or PayPal apps.) And, you have to do it all "in your head," without any electronic assistance. Then there's the job of keeping an accurate tally of all the chickens and beverages sold—a job sometimes also done by the Cashier. The other inside job is filling the orders. Picture this. Twenty hungry people on line who want between one and twenty (sometimes more) chicken orders and a variety of beverages, or don't know exactly what they want when they get to the window. You have to bag the orders, with the right number of rolls and chips. Don't forget the napkins. It's a fast service-with-a-smile operation. That brings up the social skills challenge with the inside jobs. You have to be friendly, but not too friendly. It's a fine line. While you're just getting to know the customers, being friendly, asking them where they're from and things like that, the line tends to back up. You have to keep it moving. But whatever happened to "winning hearts and minds." I guess the answer is: If they get their chicken, we'll win their hearts and minds.

Fire Pit and Grill Jobs These jobs, grilling the famous VFW chicken, is what keeps people coming back year after year and drawing new customers. It's a well-orchestrated operation with a cadre of experienced volunteers. I always enjoyed working with Jack Lynch, who keeps the chicken from burning and everyone else helping on the line. The challenge for me was as a "bagger", opening those plastic bags for the grilled chicken. They're made by the same people that make the bags in the produce

sections of grocery stores. It's all part of a psychological test and I'm not doing too well.

Grill Cleaning I found my niche and comfort zone cleaning the grills. It's just you and the high pressure hose out on the sidelines in a battle with the cooked-on residue, little pieces of chicken skin hiding in the grill intersections. Now some volunteers just go up and down with the hose. Others go side-to-side. But I learned from experts Ed Burke and Paul Brennan, that you have to do both to do a perfect job. You have to be persistent and never give up. It's you or the chicken skin. Unlike some jobs, this is one where you can see real progress. And you don't have to count or open bags, and can talk to yourself. Perfect. Thanks to Ken and all the Chicken Shack volunteers for all they do in every task in this fund-raising activity. You can see the end results of their efforts in all the veterans that are helped and all the other worthy causes that are supported by the Post. That's what it's all about, Alfie.

Finally, just a reminder. In addition to all the dates in the Post calendar, here are a few others to keep in mind.

June 6. D-Day Anniversary (God bless them all.)

June 14. U.S. Army established in 1775 (Happy Birthday, Army!) and Flag Day (Fly it proudly.)

June 21. First day of summer.

June 24. First flying saucer spotted in USA in 1947. (Get out the tin foil hats. They may be back!)

Enjoy every day in June.

Jerry Hardiman

VFW POST 7234 WILL BE HOSTING A VETERANS OUTREACH CLINIC ON THURSDAY JUNE 14 FROM 11 AM TO 2 PM

STOP IN AND SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR BENEFITS OR GET HELP WITH YOUR CLAIMS ALREADY IN PROGRESS.

VFW FRIDAY MEXICAN BUFFET
JUNE 1st, 2018
5:00 – 8:00 pm
SERVED DOWNSTAIRS
BEEF & CHICKEN TACO'S
BEEF FAJITA'S
MEXICAN RICE
FRIED FISH
TOSSED SALAD
ROLLS & BUTTER

Donation: \$12 AYCE
SERVED DOWNSTAIRS

VFW FRIDAY ORIENTAL BUFFET
JUNE 22nd, 2018
5:00 – 8:00 pm

SEASAME CHICKEN
PEPPER STEAK
FRIED RICE
VEGETABLE STIR FRY
FRIED FISH
TOSSED SALAD
ROLLS & BUTTER
Donation: \$12 AYCE
MUSIC – DJ CONRAD 6-10pm

VFW ST. PATRICK'S BUFFET
JUNE 8th, 2018
5:00 – 8:00 pm

CORNER BEEF - HAM
CABBAGE & BOILED POTATOES
GREEN BEANS
FRIED FISH
TOSSED SALAD
ROLLS & BUTTER
Donation: \$12 AYCE

MUSIC BY THE JONES BOYS 6-10 pm

VFW FRIDAY GERMAN BUFFET
JUNE 29th, 2018
5:00 – 8:00 pm

BRATWURST & SAUERKRAUT
SAUERBRATEN
BOILED POTATOES
ASPARAGUS
FRIED FISH
TOSSED SALAD
ROLLS & BUTTER
Donation: \$12 AYCE
MUSIC – DJ PAT 6-10 pm

VFW FRIDAY POLISH BUFFET
JUNE 15th, 2018
5:00 – 8:00 pm

POLISH KIELBASA – SAUERKRAUT
PIEROGES
POTATO PANCAKES
FRIED FISH
TOSSED SALAD
ROLLS & BUTTER
Donation: \$12 AYCE

MUSIC – DJ PAT 6-10 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	Robert Criswell Jr.
Jr. Vice Cmdr	John Hickman
Quartermaster	Bill Hensley
Adjutant	Fulton Loppatto
Chaplain	John Mitchell
Judge Advocate	John Mitchell
Surgeon	George Hickman
Officer of the Day	Rick Delaney
Guard	Rick Smith
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	Hal Barber
Treasurer	Bill Hensley
Secretary	Ken Weber
Chairman	Robert Criswell Jr
Board Member	Rick Smith
Board Member	John Hickman
Board Member	Fulton Loppatto
Board Member	John Mitchell
Board Member	Rick Delaney
Board Member	Mike Grabowski

AUXILIARY TEAM

President	Roberta Walter
Sr Vice Pres	Carol Weber
Jr Vice Pres	Connie Weber
Secretary	Susan Wallace
Treasurer	Laurie Corsa
Chaplain	Theo Loppatto
Guard	Shirley Stong
Conductress	Ellen Reilly
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:
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**