



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

MAY 2020

COMMANDERS COMMENT

HELLO EVERYONE!

I don't think I need to remind anyone of the difficult time our country is going thru right now. I'm sure many of you, as I am, are reflecting about some of the battles our great country has experienced and survived; the great depression, wars, 911 and many others. Not knowing how long this current tragic situation will continue, I hope we will band together and do whatever we can to help our fellow citizens,



friends and family and each other. Our hope is that this will pass quickly and we can reopen our post and enjoy the social interaction with our comrades and friends.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our weekend food collections for the food bank at Bethel Tabernacle Church. Thank you Bonnie and Mark for your time organizing the collections and delivering the food. I am sure during this extraordinary time of lost jobs and illnesses, the families they help out are extremely grateful. I hope everyone is feeling well and using our quarantine time to the best advantage. I have been doing a lot of house repairs that are always in the back of my mind but never seem to have the time to do. Ellen has been busy sewing masks, many of which were donated to the Veterans hospital in Elsmere. I have been busy staying out of her way. I miss everyone and am looking forward to the day we can get back together and enjoy the benefits of our great post

and each other. Special thanks go out to our board members and officers for the way they have coped with the situation and kept things running. Thank you Fulton for getting us set up on zoom so that we can have the best meetings possible under difficult circumstances. Fulton has enlightened our day with his daily e-mail messages. Thanks to Bill Hensley who has also helped keep our members informed and kept our post and employees going.

Cookie has been out working on the garden at our front entrance. Thank you to her for making it an attractive approach to our post. Please stay healthy and pray we can someday soon we can look at this as in the past. As I am winding down to the end of my third term as commander, I would like to inform every one of the new officers who were elected in our online meeting.

Commander: Hal Dietrich

Sr. Vice Commander: Tony Adams

Jr. Vice Commander: John Gossart

I hope you will give them the same support as I received and so much appreciated.

If you know of anyone who especially needs help right now, let one of the officer s know and we can try to help out.

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, I had hoped that I would be greeting all of you face to face at our regular meeting on May 4th, however, the meeting has to be cancelled, for the Post is still closed and we are still required to stay at



home. Changes are occurring daily, and we continue to follow the guidance of our Governor. I am still holding on to the possibility of being able to meet in the later part of May, following the guidelines of keeping everyone safe and continuing to practice social distancing. I will keep

you informed of any scheduled meeting date. With the mandate to wear masks everywhere when social distancing isn't possible, several Auxiliary members have been busy making masks. I delivered 75 masks to our Department President, which she delivered to the staff at the VA Hospital in Elsmere, DE. Ellen Reilly, Theo Loppatto and I made the masks. Ellen and Theo are quite talented at mask making, but for me it was a little challenging. I was the student who barely passed Home Economics in junior high school. Ellen continues to make masks and has them at the Post, in the lobby, for anyone to take, if dropping off food for the food bank. There are probably other members testing their seamstress skills, so thank you for your efforts, during this crisis, in helping others. Thank you also to all who continue to generously contribute to the food bank and a big thank you to Mark and Bonnie Daughaday for delivering the food. Many of our planned activities scheduled for this time of the year are not taking place. We do, however, have an entry for the Patriotic Art Scholarship from a senior at Sussex Central. I delivered her entry to the Department Scholarship Chair yesterday and the judging will take place tomorrow. If her entry wins at the State level, it will advance to the National level. I have my fingers crossed for her, for the value of the scholarships at that level is quite high. When we can meet, I will invite her to the Post so we can award our cash payment to her for her entry. We are continuing to solicit applications from seniors at the Indian River High School for our \$1500.00 scholarship. The entry deadline was extended to May 18th. If any of you know of a senior at the Indian River High School who would like to submit an entry, have them contact Karen Ware, our Scholarship Chair, at scaux@aol.com, to obtain the entry information. The Post joins us in this Scholarship contest, so two \$1500.00 scholarships will be awarded. In anticipation of being able to resume visits to the Post,

I am planning on a visit to the gazebo to do some landscaping cleanup work. The weeds are taking over and some of the bushes are in desperate need of a trim, like some of us, since we can't visit our salons or barbers. The past 6 weeks have been full of many home projects and many men hope it ends soon. We have all probably tried new recipes and ate too much. We have found new TV shows to watch and books to read. We have had video chats with family members; we have planted flowers and even started vegetable gardens. We even found time to exercise or take long walks. Hopefully we have all found new things to do that have brought us pleasure. As we move forward to the new normal, be thankful, be kind, help others, smile and be safe. 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 monthly Board of Directors Meeting was held via Zoom. Thank you to Fulton for setting that up and for all of the Board Members for attending. Marks report was short with nothing going on at the Post. Mark did say that the Food Bank is going over Very Well. Thank you to all who are contributing. Until our Governor relaxes the restrictions and gives us some direction and guidance, everything unfortunately is at a standstill. Once he does we will have a Special Meeting to do whatever needs to be done to get back up and running. Frank Mathers reported that the Post roof is completed as well as the Gazebo roof. The Chicken Shack shed is being worked on and should be completed soon. The Post awning should be put back up in the middle of May. 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.



*James Roberson
Clifford Beiermester*

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

This may seem a little morbid given what's going on but death is a part of life. Most of us know about having a DD214 accessible to our loved ones in case the inevitable happens. But how many of you know you can get pre-determined eligibility in a National Veterans Cemetery? While everyone is worried about COVID-19 they seemed to forget that more people are dying of natural causes than the virus every day. While having a Will prepared helps, it is only one step in the journey your survivors will have to take. The VA has a Survivors and Burial Benefit Kit and the link is below. Also, I have included a link to the pre-need eligibility form. When you are pre-approved, they will send you the necessary documentation along with a blue envelope with a gold seal that you can keep with your important documents. Don't forget to tell your loved one where you store these documents! Once you are approved, you are entered in the National Veterans Cemetery database and they will instantly know your eligibility. Please note: The pre-need eligibility determination is only for VA national cemeteries. If you want to be buried in a [state or tribal Veterans cemetery](#), check the site you want ahead of time, since some state Veterans cemeteries require that you live in that state or have other rules around eligibility. Millsboro Veterans Cemetery is part of the National Veterans Cemetery system. Pre-approved eligibility of the veteran can ensure interment of the spouses as well, even if the spouse dies first.

https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/Planning_Legacy_Booklet.pdf

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/>

Another consideration that most people overlook is to keep a spreadsheet of all your accounts and passwords. With electronic banking this can be

essential however I would not advise keeping the spreadsheet on a computer due to hacking. My father died at home after a long battle with cancer and we thought we had all the information we needed. We were wrong! I highly recommend reading a short book entitled "When Someone Dies" by Scott Taylor Smith available on Amazon for \$11.34 in paperback. I sleep better knowing that if I died tonight my wife would know how to pay the mortgage, keep the lights on and where I've been hiding assets! You will need multiple copies of a death certificate to process even the simplest estate. Delaware charges \$25 a copy for death certificates. There are things you can do to minimize these costs like putting vehicles, boats, etc., in yours and your spouse's names and signing the titles ahead of time. Lock up the titles in case of vehicle theft. I could go on and on, but you get the idea. As we used to say in the Army "Proper prior planning prevents poor performance". Your death is the one thing people can prepare for, but few do.

In Comradeship,

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

CANTEEN CORNER

Every one of my articles talks about what will be happening at the Post for the upcoming Month. Well this will be very short, because the Post will be closed until it is deemed safe to reopen. We are all doing what we are supposed to do during these unbelievable times. The fun, the laughter, the music and the good times will return to the Post. We will need your support more than ever when this is over. We will try to find dates so every event that we had to cancel. Our job right now is to make sure we are doing the right thing by staying home and checking on other members to make sure everyone is safe. A simple phone call means a lot to someone who is alone.

Remember we as a country will beat this and when Safe return to The Post for our normal activities.

Hope everyone is Safe
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. Just a heads-up that effective June 2 we will change to our Summer hours: show at 7:30 for an 8:00 tee time. 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 madriviken1946@gmail.com for more information.

Ed Pike

ALL THE GENERATIONS: WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

Here's a recent headline that caught my attention: "Gen Z Aims to Shake Up the Status Quo." Like me,



you might wonder: who are these ambitious people? The photo with the headline just showed a group of unhappy looking young people protesting something. But I had no clue as to how many there are or who's included in Gen Z.

We've heard and read a lot more about the influence and habits of another category known as "Millennials". I didn't know exactly who they are either. The only groups I know something about are "the Greatest Generation" and the "Baby Boomer Generation". Curious about this whole generational scheme of things, here's what I found out with a little helpful research.

The Greatest Generation (1910-1924)

The Silent Generation (1925-1945)

Rosemary would probably disagree, but this is where I fit in.

Baby Boomer Generation (1946-1964)

Generation X (1965-1979)

Xennials (1975-1985)

I never heard of this group before. It includes those who are 35 to 45 years old today. I wonder if they're confused about their identity.

Millennials (1980-1994) (aka Generation Y)

Generation Z (1995-2012) (aka the "iGen" and "Gen Z")

This group includes those who are 8 to 25 years old today. I'm sure they'll go on to do some good, even amazing, things in their lives, just like those in earlier generations. Hopefully, they'll look happier then.

Generation Alpha (2013-2025)

Now we start through the alphabet again. I hope to get to Delta. With Rosemary and a self-driving car, that would be fun.

Apparently, the yearly divisions indicated are approximate and there are some overlaps (see Xennials), because there are no precise standard definitions for when the generations begin and end.

I'm planning to attend a Zoom meeting with my generation of friends at the Post. Silent participation, of course, so there's no need for a mute button. See you there, if I can do it with my flip phone.

Looking forward to May, here are some special dates to remember, with gratitude.

May 6. National Nurses Day

May 8. V-E Day. Victory in Europe in World War II officially declared on this day in 1945.

May 10. Mother's Day

May 15. Women's Army Corps established in WWII (1942)

May 25. Memorial Day (observed holiday)

I know we'll all remember and observe Memorial Day to honor all those who gave their lives for our freedom and the freedom of so many others around the world. Maybe we'll even think about it together at 11:00 a.m., the time of ceremonies in normal circumstances.

Hope everyone is well and that you enjoy every day in May.

Jerry Hardiman

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

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Thank You



Doctors



Hospital Staff



Nurses



First Responders



Pharmacists



Police



Fire Fighters



EMTs



Delivery Drivers



Restaurant Workers



Grocery Store Employees



Truck Drivers

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

You can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses with these actions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
- Wash hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds.



www.cdc.gov/COVID19

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I know this. When this ends—
AND IT WILL—every game will
sell out, every restaurant will have
a 2-hour wait, every kid will be
glad to be in school, everyone will
love their job, the stock market
will skyrocket, every other house
will get TP'd, and we'll all embrace
and shake hands. That's gonna be
a pretty good day.

Hang in there, World.

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