



# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

## MAY 2018

### COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Spring is finally here (we hope) and we are heading into our busiest season at the post. Warmer weather brings back the snow birds and everyone else who has been hibernating in the cold. We will be starting our Sunday breakfasts on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the Chicken Shack will be open for business once again on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed for both events. For those who asked, the auxiliary will be selling Chicken Shack T-shirts on sight at the Chicken Shack. As I



have said before, volunteering is a great way to get to know other post members and give back to our great VFW. Signup sheets for Sunday brunch are on the bulletin board. See Ken Weber for chicken shack volunteering. We also have a new supply of long sleeve T-shirts, (\$18.00)

and hooded, zippered sweat shirts (\$25.00). Don't miss out on your chance to win our Kayak raffle package. Chances are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00 . Drawing will be July 4<sup>th</sup>. We had a great Bull and Oyster Roast which gave us over \$2,000 to put in our post relief fund. Some of us also enjoyed a bus trip to Don's Seafood in Chincoteague for a great meal and some camaraderie In an effort to recognize our military and give the Post a refreshed look, we are looking for any military patches you may be willing to donate. They will be put on display along with the military plaques we have in the bar area. We will be having a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Post on Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. Our speaker will be LTC Phil Croall. Also, a service will be held on Bethany Beach Bandstand on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00. Our speaker will be Councilman George Cole.

I am looking forward to a great summer season here at the post. Thanks to all who make this possible!!

The positive feedback we hear from visitors and members makes it all worthwhile.

We had our election of officers in April:

Commander: Arthur (Dean) Levering  
Sr. Vice Commander: John Hickman  
Jr. Vice Commander: Hal Dietrich  
Quartermaster: Bill Hensley  
Chaplain: John Mitchell

Installation will be in May.

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,



CONGRATULATIONS to the newly elected Auxiliary officers: Carol Weber - President, Ellen Reilly - Sr. Vice Pres, Chuck Bologna - Jr. Vice Pres, Laurie Corsa - Treasurer, Karen Vitsorek - Conductress, Theo Loppatto -

Chaplain, Shirley Stong - Guard, and Larry Hamby - Trustee. It will be refreshing to join our new team in helping to create and implement new ideas and suggestions to assist our veterans and their families. The VFW began distributing Buddy Poppies in 1922. Since that time, this program has grown to help fund VFW and Auxiliary Relief funds.

Volunteers are needed to help collect donations for this program close to Memorial Day. We are on the "last lap" of the 2017-2018 program year. We still have time to make a difference in the lives of veterans and their families. This month we will celebrate our heritage by honoring several patriotic days: Loyalty Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day. Please show your passion for our country by flying your American flag proudly and attending one of the many special services in observance of Memorial Day. Your VFW and Auxiliary will be presenting a service on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Bethany Beach bandstand and at our Post home on Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> (both at 11:00am). Ready to raise some serious \$\$\$ (?) Auxiliary members are gearing up to begin their new spring fundraiser. In case you missed our last meeting, the Auxiliary is going to be selling CHICKEN SHACK T-shirts at the Chicken Shack every Saturday morning. If you have a few hours to spare on a Saturday morning, consider signing up on the Volunteer Board located at the Post. Our fundraising efforts are only as successful as all of us make them! I encourage you to attend our May meeting (5/7) in support of your newly elected officers who will be installed on that evening. We offer you Food, Fellowship, and Fun at our monthly meetings; however, in return we ask for your support for our VETERANS and their families!

Hope to see **YOU** at our May meeting.....

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**

*Bobby B. Cook*

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

Department of Veterans Affairs Fact Sheet on Spinal Cord Injury:

[https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/factsheets/fs\\_spinal\\_cord\\_injury.pdf](https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/factsheets/fs_spinal_cord_injury.pdf)2018 Please go to this website for more information if this pertains to you.

### NVLSP Persuade Federal Court to award disability benefits for pain related to military service



In a sweeping legal victory for veterans, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit overturned a 19-year lower court precedent which prohibited the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from awarding disability benefits to a veteran for disabling pain if it was not linked to a medical diagnosis. "What this ruling means is that if a physician cannot diagnose the cause of the pain the veteran is experiencing, but the pain is related to an event, injury, or disease that occurred during the veteran's military service, the veteran should now win disability benefits," said Bart Stichman, executive director and co-founder of the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) and one of the attorneys who represented the veteran in the case. The Federal Circuit's decision in Saunders v. Wilkie overturned the 1999 precedential decision issued by the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims that said VA had no authority to award benefits for

pain alone, if the pain was untethered to a medical diagnosis explaining its cause. NVLSP partnered with pro-bono counsel, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP, on the case. They won the case on behalf of Gulf war veteran Melba Saunders, who served in the Army from November 1987 until October 1994.

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

## CANTEEN CORNER

Summer is right around the corner and the Post is starting to heat up. People are coming to the beach for the summer and our crowds are getting bigger. Just to remind everyone we have lunch Monday – Saturday from 12pm – 3pm. Beside our normal menu items Steve and Rodger have daily specials. What a great place to bring your friends and family to enjoy lunch and show off your Post. We are planning to start Thursday Night Crabs on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The first couple of weeks, I would call early in the week to see if our crab supplier can supply that week. With the unusual cool weather in April, the crab season has started off slow. As of this writing we are planning for the crabs being \$37 a dozen, but stayed tuned for any updates. We will also offer a full menu items on Thursday for those of you that do not eat crabs. At the end of the month we will be celebrating Memorial Day at the Post. This is a very important time, as we remember all who have given the ultimate sacrifice in defending our country. On Sunday 5/27 at 4pm we will be having our Memorial Day Family Picnic. Chicken, Hamburgers, and Hot Dogs with all the fixings will be on the menu that Day. Then on Monday 5/28 at 11am, the Post Officers and Honor Guard will take part in the Memorial Day program on the boardwalk in Bethany. On 5/30, the real Memorial Day, we will have a program at 11am where we read the names of all our members who have passed in the last year. This is what our Post is all about, and I hope to see you at one of the programs. Unfortunately I must remind you of some housekeeping items that some people are forgetting. First, without permission, no food items may be brought in to the Post. This includes snacks for you to share at your table. Because we serve food we come under the same rules as restaurants and must make sure we are in compliance. Cakes for Birthdays are allowed, all I ask is that you let me know. It is just a few people that believe they do not have to obey the rules. Second I want to remind you that we are a volunteer organization and we need your help

in busing your tables when you are finished. We have trash cans spread around the post to make it easier.

If you have any suggestions, please let me know.  
See you at the Post, Mark

## VFW GOLF ASSOCIATION

VFW Golf Association members continue enjoying golf each Tuesday at the Salt Pond Golf Course. Weather permitting, VFW Golf Association members will golf each Tuesday throughout the Winter at the Salt Pond Golf Course. You do not need to sign up in advance. Show-up at 8:30 a.m. for the 9:00 tee time. Remember all are welcome

## MEMORIALS TO AMERICANS IN FRANCE

Bonjour, mes amis (my friends). In April, four of us, Fulton, Theo, Rosemary and I went to France for a



trip down the Seine River from Paris to Normandy. Our objective at the end of the journey was Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer. It was an extraordinary trip, touching on a small part of the over 2000-year history of that country and visiting places I had only seen in movies or National Geographic,

or read about in history books and novels. I know a lot of you have been to France, in uniform or as tourists, and saw and experienced a lot more than we did. But with Memorial Day in mind, I wanted to share a few observations from our trip.



Americans In Paris. We spent about two full days in Paris visiting the tourist highlights: the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Louvre Museum. We even saw the Disney Store. Some of the sights that stood out, at least to us, were the monuments and memorials honoring Americans, including statues of Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Lafayette (an honorary American). And there was the surprising sight of three or four

smaller replicas of the Statue of Liberty, France's gift to the United States in New York harbor A sense of home in Paris. One monument that is not on the typical list is a memorial honoring Americans who died fighting for France in World War I. The bronze figure on top of the monument is that of the American poet, Alan Seeger, a volunteer in the French Foreign Legion who was killed in the Battle of the Somme in 1916. In all this you have a sense of the shared history and friendship between our two countries.

**On the Way to Normandy.** Every town along the Seine we docked at had memorials to those who died in World Wars I and II. There were special memorials to American units, some included other allied countries, honoring those who gave their lives to liberate France from the Nazis in World War II. Beyond those reminders, we were somewhat surprised to learn that the lessons of World War II, what France endured in defeat under the brutal Nazi occupation from 1940 into 1944, and the debt of gratitude to the United States and the Allied forces is emphasized in history classes in French schools. One point emphasized was that France would not be free without the sacrifices of the United States. It is considered a "duty of remembrance," a moral responsibility to learn and not forget the lessons of the past.

**Omaha Beach.** I wasn't able to make the trip to the beach and cemetery on the day scheduled. But Rosemary's pictures, descriptions and impressions and those of Fulton and Theo, made the areas as vivid for me as if I was there. Seeing the actual terrain, the expanse of beach that had to be crossed and the height of the steep bluff that had to be climbed gives you an idea of the physical task of the troops in the assault on June 6, 1944. The ruins of the German fortifications, steel reinforced bunkers, casements and gun emplacements, gives you an idea of the formidable opposition the troops had to overcome. The scars of shell holes and bomb craters gives you an idea of the ferocity of the battle and the courage it took to overcome all the obstacles and opposition and take the high ground. President Ronald Reagan recognized and honored the D-Day veterans in a speech on June 6, 1984, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day at Pointe du Hoc, the site where the US Army Rangers climbed a sheer 100-foot cliff to seize German gun emplacements. His words resonate today for many conflicts. To the veterans and others assembled on that day, he said: "The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or the next. It was a deep knowledge—and pray God we have not lost it—that

there is a profound, moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. You were here to liberate, not conquer, and so you and others did not doubt your cause."



**The American Cemetery and Memorial.** Where Omaha Beach is a major historic place, this is a profoundly sacred place of reverence. Located about 8 miles east of Pointe du Hoc, the 172.5 acre site contains the graves of our 9,387 U.S. military dead, including 45 sets of brothers, and the names of 1557 who were then considered missing in action. Not all of the dead fell on D-Day. Some lost their lives later in the campaign to liberate France and were interred in this cemetery. Beautifully landscaped and immaculately maintained, the headstones of white marble crosses and Stars of David are so precisely aligned it's hard to see one behind another when you look down a row. Truly a beautiful and fitting resting place for those who gave their lives to defeat the Nazis. Rosemary and Theo placed roses at the memorial in the Garden of the Missing, so they wouldn't be forgotten. Fulton placed a rose on the grave of a soldier who served in the same unit as Fulton's Uncle Casimir, who was killed in action later in the year and is buried in an American military cemetery in northern France. The Memorial overlooking the cemetery features a graceful 22-foot sculpture, "The Spirit of America Youth Rising from the Waves." The inscription at the base of the statue reads: "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord." It evokes a sense of resurrection: that this was not the end and that their spirit lives on. They gave their lives so that literally millions of others in France and here at home could thereafter live in freedom. Here too, as in France, we are resolved that they will not be forgotten. President Reagan closed his speech at Pointe du Hoc with these

words: “Strengthened by their courage, heartened by their valor, and borne by their memory, let us continue to stand for the ideals for which they lived and died.” Amen to that on Memorial Day and every day.

Enjoy each day in May. We are truly blessed.  
Jerry Hardiman



**MASON DIXON  
VFW POST 7234**

# KAYAK RAFFLE

**WHEN:** Drawing July 4th  
**COST:** Tickets \$5 each, 3 for \$10  
**HOW:** See bartender for tickets

**WHAT'S INCLUDED:**

- ★ **KAYAK**
  - Sentinel 100x Sit-On-Top Kayak
  - 10 feet long, 30 inches wide
  - Weighs 45 lbs.
  - Color shown at left
- ★ **KAYAK SEAT** Upgraded to Outfitter Adjustable Kayak Seat
- ★ **KAYAK PADDLE** Upgraded to 200-230cm Adjustable Aluminum Kayak Paddle
- ★ **LIFE JACKET** Dynamic Move Paddle Sports Life Jacket
- ★ **TURBOMITE KAYAK CART**
- ★ **BASEBALL HAT** West Marine Tech Fast-Dry Baseball Hat
- ★ **4 DRY BAGS** to keep valuables dry

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE MASON DIXON VFW POST 7234 CHARITABLE AND FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES.

**VFW FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET**  
**MAY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**5:00 – 7:00 pm**

**CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS**  
**MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY**  
**BUTTERED CARROTS**  
**FRIED FISH**  
**TOSSED SALAD**  
**ROLLS & BUTTER**

**Donation: \$10 AYCE**  
**MUSIC 6-10 pm**

**VFW FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET**  
**MAY 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**5:00 – 8:00 pm**

**THANKSGIVING IN MAY**  
**TURKEY & STUFFING**  
**MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY**  
**GREEN BEANS -- CRANBERRIES**  
**SAUERKRAUT**  
**FRIED FISH**  
**TOSSED SALAD**  
**ROLLS & BUTTER**

**Donation: \$10 AYCE**  
**MUSIC: THE JONES BOYS**

**VFW FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET**  
**MAY 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**5:00 – 7:00 pm**

**SHRIMP SCAMPI**  
**SAUSAGE CACCIATORE**  
**SAUTEED VEGETABLES**  
**FRIED FISH**  
**CAESAR SALAD**  
**GARLIC BREAD**

**Donation: \$10 AYCE**  
**MUSIC 6-10 pm**

## **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](mailto:vfwpost7234@vfw7234.com)**