



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

NOVEMBER 2019

COMMANDERS COMMENT

There is no other way to start this month's newsletter comments than to talk about the wall that heals at our post. The "Wall" has left us but I hope the knowledge and healing will always leave a lasting impression on everyone who volunteered or visited.



From the procession from Dover to Ocean View to the closing ceremonies and deconstruction and all the activities in between, it was truly a monumental experience. The weather had its extremes with excessive heat and then major winds but it did not deter those who helped

and attended. I would like to thank everyone again who volunteered their time and labor for this great event. Without you, it could not have happened. We are going to try to put together a scrapbook with pictures, news articles etc. from the days the wall was here. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please see myself for Ellen. We would love to include any personal handwritten moments that you would be willing to share. Fall finally arrived so activities at the post have slowed down some. Let's all work together getting new VFW members signed up. We have 4,950 members statewide. We need at least 5,000 to keep from being consolidated with another state. The department of Delaware is having a gun raffle. There will be 3 guns given away. See bulletin board for information. See me for tickets. They are \$10 each or three for \$25. Drawing is November 9th at our council meeting. We will be having a Veterans Day service at 11:00am on November 11th. If you know of any World War II veterans please help to get them to the ceremony. Other upcoming events are the auxiliary paint party. I will be attempting another "dean masterpiece". It's a fun event and proceeds go to a good cause. Also,

there will be a thanksgiving celebration at the post. The cookie drive will also be coming up. We send a lot of cookies to the troops before Christmas. Check for more information.

Please remember to pray for the sick of post and if you know of any member of our Post, who may need extra prayers or help, please let us know.

Rich Fales, our Post Acting Service Officer will try to be at the post on Mondays from 12- 2 to help our veterans with benefits they may be entitled to. He can also be reached at 301-325-3813.

**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, The Wall That Heals received a great reception from the community during its' visit to our VFW from October 2nd through October 6th.



It is estimated that 8,500 people visited during those 5 days. All the months of planning and preparation paid off, for the event took place flawlessly. Thanks again to all the Auxiliary members who volunteered many hours, along with the Post. We all gave a warm welcome home to

all of our Vietnam Veterans and openly displayed what a great VFW we are. The children's Halloween party was held on October 27th, with 17 children and

21 adults in attendance. Thanks to Debbie Vischer-Jensen, who coordinated the party in Connie Weber's absence, and to all the volunteers who helped Debbie. November 10th is our 2nd annual paint event and at last count, only 5 tickets remain. Thanks to everyone who is supporting this event, as we raise money for our Veterans, their families and the Active Military. We are looking forward to a fun afternoon with friends, and creating a work of art. Thanks to Carol Flood for again arranging this fundraiser. Several events will take place over the Veterans 'Day weekend. Our officers, along with the Post, will attend the luncheon dedication for the Blue Star Memorial Marker, which will be placed at the Bethany Beach Park at the corner of Route 26 and Kent Ave. This Marker was made possible by Gardeners by the Sea, the Town of Bethany Beach and the generous contributions from the Auxiliary and Post. We will be having Buddy Poppy Drives at the New Hocker's Grocery Store and Weis Markets on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 8th through November 10th. During our Buddy Poppy Drive, over Memorial Day, we received \$625.00 in contributions from the Community, with the money being used for our Veterans. Thanks to all who have and will participate in the Buddy Poppy Drives. The Veterans 'Day ceremony will take place on Monday, November 11th, at the Post at 11:00 am. Plan on attending to show your appreciation for all of our Veterans who served to preserve our freedom. Take the time to thank them or do an act of kindness, for it won't go unnoticed. Dues reminder notices have been sent to all annual members and dues must be paid by 12/31/19 to remain a member in good standing. Don't jeopardize admittance to the Post by not renewing your membership. Annual renewal dues are \$35.00. If you didn't receive a renewal reminder or can't find it, don't fret, just place \$35.00, cash or check in an envelope with your name and membership number, if you have it, and put my name on the envelope and drop it off at the Post. I will make sure your renewal is processed. Don't miss being part of our membership, which is currently at 1,136 members. We had such a successful fundraiser last year with entertainer Bryan Clark, that we are bringing Bryan back on April 26th. If you attended last year, I know you will be back. If you missed it, don't let it happen again. Tickets are limited, so keep watching for the sale date, for tickets sell out quickly. I never want to miss an opportunity to thank all the hard working, dedicated members of the Auxiliary. You understand our mission, of serving our Veterans, and readily respond to all my requests, for volunteering to carry out this mission. Our Department officers will visit our Auxiliary at our next meeting on November 4th. Please try to attend

and show them what a great Auxiliary we are. I am proud of all of you. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you. If you can, gather with family and friends, and remember the Post is open to all that day.

Let us always remember those who served and always try harder 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.



Hugh Kreamer

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

Our Post will be holding Thanksgiving dinner, the Post will open at 2pm and the Buffet will be from 3pm to 7pm. New Year's Eve tickets will go on sale the Monday after Thanksgiving for members starting at 4pm....First come, First served. We had discussion on replacing both stoves in the kitchen and further discussion will be forth coming. With thanks to our Building and Grounds Chairmen Frank Mather, we approved replacing the roof on the Gazebo and a portion of the roof of the Post. We approved adding 4 more handicap spaces. The bartender and Canteen Manager reviews have been completed and discussed. Approval was made for the Auxiliary to hold the Ryan Clark Spring Fling and Chinese Auction on April 26th. Our next Board of Directors Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 26th at 6pm.

VFW Ritual: General Rules: page3 section 13(a)(c)
Official Caps will not be worn during any meals.

Chairman Hal Dietrich

SERVICE OFFICER OUTREACH

All VFW members & AUX

Many veterans are receiving the following letter from the VA with VA Form 21-0538. Mandatory Status of Dependents. **DO NOT DISREGARD THIS LETTER!**

The compensation you receive for your service-connected disability includes an additional amount for your spouse and/or children. You are responsible for reporting any change in the number of your dependents. To show continued entitlement to this additional amount, you must complete and return the form starting on page 2 of this letter. You can also provide the information by calling the VA, at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the federal number is 711. If the number of your dependents has not changed, we will continue your benefits at their present rate. If the number of your dependents has changed due to either the loss or addition of a dependent, we will adjust your payments accordingly. If you do not notify us of the status of your dependents within 60 days from the date of this letter, we will reduce your award by the amount of benefits you are receiving for your dependents.

Once your benefits are reduced, the VA will seek to recoup the additional compensation you received from your dependent allowance in the past. In other words, you will receive a bill from the VA.

Anyone needing Service Officer Assistance can contact me at (301)325-3813 or email me at Smokey1st@netzero.net

Rich Fales, Acting Service Officer

CANTEEN CORNER

Wow what an October, the Post had more visitors than I ever remember and everyone joined in to make sure all were welcome. It is the members that make our Post the best. With the Winter months approaching our weekly activities will continue. November will be a busy month, so make sure you refer to the calendar so you do not miss any of the events. On Saturday 11/9 we will be having our Veterans Day Dinner Dance. We will be featuring a Buffet Dinner for \$15 and Overtime with their Full Band will be playing. This will not be a ticketed event, but arrive early to secure a seat. Food will be served from 5-7pm and the music from 6-10pm. On Monday 11/11 at 11am we will be honoring our Veterans with the Veterans Day Ceremony. This is the time that we all should stop to honor all the

People that gave so much. Again this year we will be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner for our Members and their Guests. Like last year I will need your help in purchasing the Turkeys. Giant Food will have Turkeys on sale in November (when you buy \$25 worth of groceries). Please stop by and get a turkey and drop it off at the Post. Please help us make this a great Thanksgiving Dinner. On Saturday 11/30 the popular band On the Edge will perform at the Post from 6-10pm. For those of you who have never seen them, you are missing a great night of music. This will not be a ticketed event and seats will go fast. We will serve our normal Saturday Menu from 5-8pm. Please remember you will need to show your membership card at the door and sign any of your guests in. Come early so you can secure a seat. 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.

Please show-up at 8:30 a.m. for 9:00 a.m. Tee time.

Remember all are welcome!!!

If you are thinking about joining the Golf Association, please contact our President, Ken Smith, 267-228-7285 or madriverken1946@gmail.com for more information.

Ed Pike

FINAL THOUGHTS ON THE WALL THAT HEALS

Everyone probably has a highlight reel of memories of The Wall That Heals. Here are a few personal observations.

Volunteer Spirit. I don't know exactly how many



volunteers were involved in this event. One estimate is 8500. But it wasn't just the number that's impressive. It was everyone working together in a good cause. Tim Tetz, who was in charge of the travelling Wall exhibit, said this was the largest and most enthusiastic group of volunteers he had worked with. He seemed surprised, but I don't think anyone else was. This spirit is

evident in every Post activity and event.

Hospitality. This is another hallmark of the Post. Opening the doors and feeding the hungry visitors

added a special welcoming quality to the event. It brought people together who might never have met and gave everyone an opportunity to talk about the exhibit and why they were there. The place was sometimes packed. Major credit to Mark; Steve and the kitchen and service crew; and the bartenders; Bob, Debbie, Sharon, Karen, Bev and Marie. Somehow they managed, cheerfully and efficiently, just like they do all year.

(Marie was especially happy, but I think that was partly because the Packers had a good week.)

Best Story: Bridge Jumper Rescued. When professional photographer, Michael Orhelein, walked out on the Indian River Bridge on Wednesday, October 2, to get a picture of the caravan carrying the Wall over the bridge, some drivers passing by called 911 to report a “jumper”. As Michael was getting set up for his shot, a number of police vehicles arrived to rescue him. One of the police cruisers stayed to protect him. I don’t even know if he got the picture.

Best Photo. The most dramatic and beautiful picture I saw was one Carol Weber took of the Wall at sunset on October 2, shortly after the orientation of volunteers. In the picture, the sunset looks like a huge American flag unfurled over the Wall, red, white, and blue. You could surely say: “America, God shed His grace on thee.” You can’t plan for a moment like that.

Best Idea. Battery-powered candles at the outdoor Candlelight Ceremony on Friday, October 4, with a close to gale-force Quillen’s Point “breeze”. John Mitchell commented that he had prayed that there would be no rain that night (prayer answered), but forgot to ask the Lord to calm the wind. There had to be a lot of laughter in Heaven during that ceremony.

Program Presentations. Here are a few in my notes.

- **Frank Bolen’s poem, “All I Did Was Fight a War,”** with his focus on World War II POWs and Gold Star mothers and what they must have gone through. You could hear the compassion, empathy and humility in his account of a Veterans Day ceremony.
 - **Fulton’s poem, “Proud to be a Vietnam Veteran,”** with its vivid memories of when veterans were kids playing games and how life changed dramatically, and then changed again. I especially liked the part where he mentioned that many vets later became lawyers. Now there’s a happy outcome.
 - **Robert the Bruce “Bougie” Criswell,** looking sharp as the bugler with the Honor Guard and playing “Taps” perfectly. I could easily see Bougie with his Scot ancestors’ bagpipes. But the bugle was a surprise. And I never heard that beautiful Taps melody played better.
- Visitors.** Meeting and maybe helping a few of the estimated 8500 visitors was in some way the most

meaningful part of the week for me. Rosemary and I volunteered to help visitors on Saturday evening. I had the easier assignment on solid ground in the “phone book section, offering to help people find names and the corresponding Wall panel numbers in the books. There was a surprisingly steady stream of visitors during our three-hour tour, even after dark. Here are two that I remember.

- One woman came to find the name of a chaplain her uncle had known in Vietnam and who had been killed in action in 1967. Her uncle, a Marine Corps veteran, frequently talked about a heroic chaplain in his unit in the 1st Marine Division. She wanted to get a tracing of the name as a gift for her uncle, but wasn’t quite sure of the name. The chaplain was Father Vincent Capodanno, a Catholic chaplain assigned to the 1st Marine Division. We were able to locate his name and corresponding Wall panel in the book. She left, with tracing paper and pencil, grateful to be able to do this for her uncle. I would have waited the whole time to be able to help that one visitor. (As a historical note, Father Capodanno was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroism in action on September 4, 1967.)
- The other memorable visitor was Thien Nguyen, a woman from Pleiku, in the Central Highlands region of Vietnam. Surprise is putting it mildly. How wide was Fulton’s publicity area? It turned out that Thien was visiting Jerry Harlowe and his wife, Patti, in Maryland and accompanied them to see the Wall. Jerry is the author of *Vietnam Without a Dream*, and was stationed in Pleiku with the Air Force from November 1968 to July 1970. He has returned to Vietnam a number of times since 2001, working with a charity organization providing humanitarian assistance in the Central Highlands region.

In my brief conversation with Thien, I learned that she was born in 1962, so she was a baby and a little girl during the war years. Whatever her education and life under the current government has been since then, there was an easy friendship in our conversation. There wasn’t time or language fluency (on my part) to learn very much about her life or the humanitarian work Jerry Harlowe mentioned. I hope to follow-up on that. But however brief the conversation with Thien, Jerry and Patti, it was a remarkable experience. And I believe Thien left Quillen’s Point feeling welcome at our Post.

At the end of that memorable week, all I can say to sum it up is that if the Wall event was a movie, it would have been a great success. Thanks again to all involved.

Looking forward to November and Veterans Day here are a few other dates to keep in mind, in addition to all the events on the Post calendar.

Nov. 3. Daylight Savings Time ends. Have to set the clocks back one hour.

Nov. 10. U.S. Marine Corps established in 1775. (Why am I not surprised that the first recruiting drive was in a tavern in Philadelphia?) Happy 244th Birthday!

Nov. 11. You know the time and place for Veterans Day—11:00 am at the Post.

Nov. 28. Thanksgiving Day. . .with so much to be grateful for.

Hope you enjoy every day in November.

Jerry Hardiman

THE WALL THAT HEALS THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS



The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7234 was honored to host “The Wall That Heals” for the local communities in Delaware and Maryland. We could not have accomplished this successful and memorable event without the hard working Volunteers and all out generous Sponsors.

First and foremost let me begin by thanking the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for bringing The Wall That Heals to our Post....and in particular to Tim and Heidi for doing an incredible job in making those 4 days a time of healing. We thank the many organizations, businesses, communities, that contributed your support; our Gold, Silver, and

Bronze sponsors, and our many patrons. Your names are listed in our Program. Website, and in our hearts; we thank you! To all our Ambassadors who helped our visitors find names at the Wall, provide rubbings, and someone to listen. They spent countless hours here around the clock and made those 4 days a lasting tribute to the heroes on The Wall. We are so grateful to all of you. We Thank our Post Auxiliary for volunteering, fund raising, setting up the Vietnam memorabilia display, working with the Garden Club, and so much more..thank you Carol Weber and her team. A special, special thank you to our Post staff, our bartenders, cooks, servers..all of you. As busy as you were, you made everyone feel special and welcome. We salute you! We thank Cpt. Paul Burbank and our Post Honor Guard for the outstanding job you did; Posting Colors, volley and taps. Thank you to the VFW Delaware State Honor Guard led by Cpt. John Morrow for watching The Wall each night and participating with our Honor Guard. Thank you to our Bagpipers from the Delaware State Police and the Dover Fire Department. Thank you to Dana and Marguerite from the Quilts of Valor organization for your special presentations to our Vietnam War veterans and all the quilters who made the beautiful and healing quilts. Thank you to our singers Jennifer Carter, Liz Bolen, and Bernie Busby and the Remnants and your music, especially “We gotta get out of this place”! Well done! Thank you to those who read the names on The Wall, our Bell Ringers and to our Gold Star family members and surviving spouses in attendance. Thank you to our speakers, especially our Guest Speaker General Blanck for your tribute to those who served in Vietnam and for the presentation of challenge coins! Thank you to the Veterans Organizations and the Local Town Mayors who presented wreathes at the Wall in “Honor of ALL who Served” especially our local heroes. Thank you to all The Wall assemblers who reverently carried the panels and placed them with care. We especially thank Dale Weese and Jim Jensen, who were working constantly on construction projects and to Past Commander John Hickman for his construction and behind the scenes good work. A BIG Thanks to Frank Mathers and his parking crew, who managed record crowds with a smile, finding parking for everyone and helping those with disabilities, make it to the Wall. Thanks to the fundraisers, publicity coordinators, Ride Escorts, and the Program Committee (The McDonald’s five) who worked hard for 5 months to pull it all together with moving and emotional ceremonies.

For anyone we have overlooked, we thank you. Our thank you cannot equal the Thank You of the 8500 visitors who touched the name of a loved one, a

friend, a buddy; placed a flower or flag, shed a tear and received some healing. You paid honor and respect to the 58,276 heroes on the Wall.

Mark, Dean, Fulton

Bunting thankful for Wall, honor

I want to thank you for bringing the “Healing Wall” to our post. It allowed so many Vietnam veterans and our families to have the opportunity to pay their respects to fallen friends and loved ones. I’m very grateful to my boyhood friend, John Mitchell, and so many other friends who have done so much for Post 7234 over the years. I really appreciate your thinking of me.

It was truly a humbling experience for me to be given the honor of receiving a “quilt of valor,” of which all its recipients are deserving. It just goes to show how one mother from Seaford, who made a quilt to send to her son in Iraq, started what has become a national movement in which more than 200,000 quilts have been given to veterans, including many in hospitals.

The wall bears the names of fellow veterans whom I knew, including my cousin, William Joseph Bunting of Frankford, and friend, Lt. Thomas B. Adams of Selbyville.

As we age, the sleeping on the ground, slogging through the rice paddies, dealing with the leaches, drinking iodine-treated water from our canteens, and Agent Orange — not to mention the rigors of combat itself — takes a toll physically and mentally. But it was simply our duty to serve, and so that is what we did.

Thank you again for honoring me in this wonderful way.

George H. Bunting
Bethany Beach

Thanksgiving Dinner

As the holidays are approaching, we at the Post. Have a lot to be thankful for. We would like our members, and their quests to join us for Thanksgiving Dinner. Our goal is that no member spend the day alone. The Dinner will be open to all Members and Their Guests. We would hope that as a member, you will reach out to your communities, church groups , and organizations to bring as your guest any individuals who will spend this day alone or cannot afford to eat. Also as a member , if cooking is just not your thing, bring your family to share dinner with us. All guests must be accompanied by a member. There will be no charge for this dinner, but a donation jar will be available. Donations will be accepted , but not expected. If you would like to donate a dessert, please feel free.

Please help us show our Members and our Community how much we care.

Mark, Post VFW and Aux. Officers

New Years Eve

I know it’s seems early to be thinking about New Years Eve , but people are already wanting to buy Tickets. This Night has become very popular and we sell out as soon as tickets go on sale. The system for tickets sales that we used last year made it very smooth and fair to all. We will use the same system this year, and it is as follows.

Tickets will go on Sale Monday 12/2

4 pm-6pm VFW, Mason Dixon ,and AUX members only(Must show Card)

6 pm-8pm Guests of the Post

Each Person may purchase:

- 2 Bar seats
- 1 Bar table
- 1 Hall or Atrium Table (6 or 8 seats)

Tickets Must be paid for at the time of reservation.

We will have 2 options for your dining that evening.
Option 1: Dinner and Hors D’oeuvres Buffet \$35 per ticket

Option 2 : Hors D’oeuvres Buffet \$25 per ticket

Come join us on the 2nd for our Fried Chicken Dinner and buy your tickets for New Years.

VFW FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET
 NOVEMBER 1st 2019
 5:00 – 7:00 pm

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS
 SAUSAGE CACCIATORE
 FRIED FISH
 CAESAR SALAD
 GARLIC BREAD

Donation: \$12 AYCE

MUSIC 6-10 pm
 DJ ROCKIN RAY

VFW FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET
 NOVEMBER 8th 2019
 5:00 – 7:00 pm

BAKED HAM
 MAC & CHEESE - STEWED TOMATOES
 VEGETABLE OF THE DAY
 FRIED FISH TOSSED SALAD
 ROLLS & BUTTER

Donation: \$12 AYCE
 MUSIC 6-10 pm
 THE JONES BOYS

VFW FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET
 NOVEMBER 15th 2019
 5:00 – 7:00 pm

MEATLOAF
 MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY
 VEGETABLE OF THE DAY
 FRIED FISH TOSSED SALAD
 ROLLS & BUTTER

Donation: \$12 AYCE

MUSIC 6-10 pm
 JT CRUISE

VFW FRIDAY NIGHT BUFFET
 NOVEMBER 29th 2019
 5:00 – 7:00 pm

TACO BAR (BEEF & CHICKEN)
 MEXICAN RICE
 CHIPS & SALSA
 FRIED FISH TOSSED SALAD
 ROLLS & BUTTER

Donation: \$12 AYCE
 MUSIC 6-10 pm
 DJ: ROCKIN RAY

VETERANS' DAY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9 2019

DINNER DANCE HONORING VETERANS

DINNER SERVED 5 - 8 PM

MUSIC BY
 OVER TIME
 (FULL BAND)



Music 6-10 pm

Donation: \$15 per person

Veterans Day Service
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7234



VFW POST 7234
 Ocean View, Delaware
 Monday November 11, 2019

11:00 AM

We will salute and honor All Veterans who served this
 country and their spouses and families.

Everyone is welcome.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Commander	Dean Levering
Sr. Vice Cmdr	Hal Dietrich
Jr. Vice Cmdr	Rich Fales
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	Bob Corsa
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	Rich Fales
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	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**

**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**