



# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

## NOVEMBER 2017

### COMMANDERS COMMENTS

October was a great month with mild temperatures outside and lots of events at the post. Our annual Bull and Oyster Roast was, as usual, a great success. The food was plentiful and delicious. Mark and his staff outdid themselves for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The entertainment was a well kept secret and great surprise. Many thanks to the Delmarvelous Dolls and the band. They were an excellent choice for the occasion. The Children's Halloween Party was



fun for all the children that attended. Representatives from Delaware Hospice came to the post of the 18<sup>th</sup>. They did an excellent job giving insight on what Hospice is capable of doing. If you missed this seminar, I encourage you to attend the next one which we are planning to have in the

early next year. Hospice is not just for the dying. They offer so much more. Many questions were raised by those in attendance and answers were a wealth of invaluable information. Beebe hospital was here on October 16<sup>th</sup> giving free flu shots. Many people came and got their shots and stayed to enjoy our chef's delicious Italian food. The annual Red, White and Blue Gala was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> in Dover. Thank you all who purchased Cash Bonanza Raffle Tickets. The post and other veterans' organizations offer so many opportunities to help our veterans along with having some fun and good times. Please consider taking advantage of these events and supporting the continuing efforts to give back to our veterans. We are still in need for people to step up and take over the V.O.D. And Patriots Pen Programs. I encourage you to take an active role in these activities. Please remember the sick from our post. Again a reminder that Thanksgiving is only a few weeks away. Let's remember those less fortunate

than ourselves. Our Thanksgiving dinner at the post is free for all.

**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,



Autumn leaves are falling, crisp temperatures have replaced the warm days of Indian summer and I am looking forward to gaining that extra hour of sleep that I lost last spring. Soon your

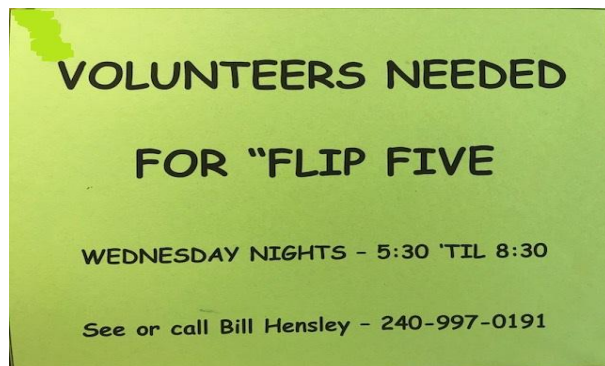


daily routines will be pushed into high gear with shopping, visiting friends, and other seasonal commitments. I ask that you take a deep breath and consider what you can do to help "**Catch the Dream for Our Veterans**".

When planning those holiday events, DO NOT overlook the many possibilities to combine supporting our goals to assist veterans and their families with your traditional ones. The holidays may be a depressing time for many veterans. We need to educate ourselves and others to recognize the signs of depression and what actions we can take to offer support. I always carry the Veterans Crisis Line business card to give to anyone interested. Remember that neighbor or friend that would

appreciate being remembered by a visit, phone call, or greeting card. EVERY day should be a special Veterans Day for someone, not just one day a year in November! Connie Weber and her helpers hosted a fantastic fun Halloween party for children. Thanks to all of those who baked cupcakes or volunteered to help. Auxiliary membership is now 102.3%; however, there are many annual members who have not paid their 2018 dues. Remember, if not paid by 12/31/2017, membership will be dropped and members in arrears will have to reapply. Here's a special reminder to join us for our post Veterans Day service on Saturday, 11/11/17. Show that your heart beats for the red, white, and blue by flying the American flag and attending a special Veterans' service. Encourage your family members and neighbors to honor this special day. Due to our treasurer's resignation, we will be holding an election for that office at our November meeting. This past year and the dramatic increase in memberships has been a very busy and trying one for all of us, especially for our treasurer. Renee, we sincerely thank you for your hard work! In closing, I want to pay tribute and love to a very special Auxiliary sister that we recently lost, Ms. Edna Steele. Edna was a Past Auxiliary President for many years. She was very compassionate, giving, and dedicated to our veterans' causes. We will never forget working with her in the kitchen, buying a 50/50 chance, enjoying a slice of her coconut cake, or receiving one of her many phone calls to check on how we were feeling. Edna was not only an Auxiliary sister to me; she was my very dear friend and mentor. Edna and Albert Steele are now both Heaven volunteers! Condolences to their family. Please join us for the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. We have many future events to plan and need YOUR ideas and suggestions. May you enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving!

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.



*Charles E. Grimes, Sr.  
Donald T. Vaughan  
Robert C. Glass, Sr.  
Warren G. Sody*

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

All VFW members & AUX

(TAKE IT FROM A DINOSAUR by Sam LaCorte, PVA Chapter President)

Over the last seventeen years I've dealt with the VA system, as all of you have had to do. In the beginning I heard some blood-curdling, spine chilling stories that all of you have heard; some true, and some just someone's mind roaming away with them. I've dealt with the medication issues, equipment issues, supply



issues, hospital stays issues, etc. We are dealing with a system that changes personnel like you change your socks. Some days it's good and some days it really stinks. I believe the majority of the personnel really care about the veterans they care for and will when needed, bend over backward to get

the job done. Lest we forget, every bushel has some bad apples. That's a given. I've had my challenges with the system, but knowledge is the tool that conquers almost everything. I find that most veterans I get to talk to have very little knowledge of the VA system. They are happy to be able to sit and bend any ear that will listen to their tale about what the VA fails to do for them. Some have real tall tales, and some have very real stories. If you listen close enough you'll be able to tell which is which. As the Colonial Chapter President, I've come to realize that many veterans have never taken the time to get to know the system that drives this archaic healthcare system. Sometimes during your "timely appointment" you'll find your question will get you an "I/we will check into that for you and get back to

you.” Sometimes the equipment that was sent to your home to make your life better is not at all what you were told it was supposed to be, or doesn’t look like it was described to you before it was ordered. I’ve had equipment show u at my door that was not what I ordered, and when you call the VA they don’t have a clue. They say “well this is what we ordered, but the supplier switched the item because what you need is not in stock, so rather than lose the money they sent you a substitute item.” The VA doesn’t want it back, the supplier doesn’t want it back.....now what? Don’t ever forget, the VA runs on paperwork, from that little appointment card, to the many sheets of paper it takes to remind you of an appointment you have scheduled. Then there’s the paperwork generated by the appointment you keep, the after reports, and the specialist paperwork. Need X-rays? More paperwork. Nothing moves or happens without it. Some of you may remember back I the 70’s the government put the word out that “we are reducing the amount of paperwork we generate to save trees and improve our system through technology.” What really happened was we generated ten sheets of paper to report on the one sheet of paperwork we saved. Automation is a great thing if you know how to worm your way around its use and how to make it do your bidding. Most people are afraid of it, some only know how to plug it in and turn it on, others can wiz through it with blazing speed and make it look real easy, The VA works the same way. It moves at blazing speed in some instances and a worm’s crawl in the rest. The gist of all this is: get to know the VA you’re working with, get to know and establish rapport with your team members, take the time to acquaint yourself with the people in your specialty clinics, Keep in mind that not everybody that works at the VA can solve the problem you’re having, only those with that purpose can and if the can’t solve it themselves they’ll refer you to someone who can. One more important thing: be courteous and considerate when you talk to the people you have to deal with. Being a roaring ogre will get you nowhere. Please don’t misunderstand me, I am not saying that I haven’t had my issues with the V, and I am not politicizing the VA’s problems. Nor am I saying that they are faultless. Not by any means. But educate yourself on how to negotiate through and around the system.

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

Respectfully Robert P Corsa, Service Officer

## **CANTEEN CORNER**

It is hard to believe that we are already in November. What a great year we had at the Post. Everything that we do is not possible without our Great Volunteers, and it was great to see so many of you at the Dinner. This is the one night we can get everybody together to say Thank You on my favorite evening. For those of you that volunteered, but could not make the dinner I want to say Thank You. We held another Successful Bull & Oyster Roast in October and thanks to Pat Maney and his kitchen staff we were able to raise over \$2500 for our Veterans Relief Fund. November will be a busy month. As we will honor our Veterans on 11/11 with a ceremony at 11am followed by a luncheon. Later in the evening we will continue the celebration by having our Veterans Day Dinner Dance. This year there will be no tickets, but the buffet starts at 5pm and when the seats are full; We will close the doors. Admission is \$15pp. 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. Starting Friday 11/3 Giant Foods will have Turkeys on sale for \$.47 a lb. when you buy \$25 worth of groceries. Please stop by and get a turkey and drop off at the Post. Please help us Feed all our members As always if you have any suggestions please let me know.

See you at the Post Mark

## **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 11/27

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 27<sup>th</sup> for our Italian Night Menu Items and buy your tickets for New Years.

## 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 guests to join us for Thanksgiving Dinner. Our goal is that no member spend this 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, a signup sheet will be at the bar. Please help us show our Members and our Community how much we care.

Mark, Post VFW and Aux Officers

## 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 signup in advance. Show-up at 8:30 a.m. for the 9:00 tee time. Remember all are welcome!!!

Ed (Albert) Pike

## HONORING AMERICA: OUR FLAG AND ANTHEM

This is something I was thinking about before the controversy over NFL players not standing during the National Anthem. It's something I've noticed at patriotic ceremonies like those on Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day, as well as sports events and public programs.

During the Presentation of the Colors, Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem, veterans in civilian clothes demonstrate their respect with different forms of salute. Some will render the military hand salute as then did when they were in uniform, while others will salute with the right hand over the heart. Since putting away the uniform, I have always stood comfortably with hand-over-the-heart group. Several years ago I heard that either form was correct, but wasn't sure why.

Here's what I found with a little quick research.

In 2008 and 2009, Congress included language in Section 302(b)(1) of Title 36 of the U.S. Code, which authorized all



veterans in civilian clothes to render a proper military hand salute during the Pledge of Allegiance, the raising and lowering of the flag, when the Colors are presented, and during the National Anthem. So it's a matter of personal preference for veterans. Just something to consider. Let me add a few thoughts about honoring our flag.

Last month, in connection with a fund raiser for disabled veterans, I received a little holiday and patriotic song booklet. As you'd expect, it included: the "Star-Spangled Banner" (by Francis Scott Key, 1814); "America", the song that starts "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;" (by Rev. Samuel Francis Smith, 1832); "America the Beautiful (by Catherine Lee Bates, 1895); and the "Grand Old Flag" (by George M. Cohan, 1906). You're familiar with most of the stirring lyrics, I'm sure, but probably not all. Here are a couple of stanzas from that "Grand Old Flag" that resonate today, one well known and one I'll bet you never heard or don't remember.

You're a grand old flag,  
You're a high-flying flag,  
And forever in peace may you wave.  
You're the emblem of the land I love,  
The home of the free and the brave.  
Ev'ry heart beats true  
'Neath the Red, White and Blue,  
Where there's never a boast or a brag.  
But should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
Keep your eyes on the grand old flag.

I'm no cranky hanky panky,  
I'm a dead square, honest Yankee.  
And I'm mighty proud of that old  
Flag that flies for Uncle Sam.  
Though I don't believe in raving,  
Ev'ry time I see it waving,  
There's a chill runs up my back,  
That makes me glad I'm what I am.

[An American.]

So don't let the "cranky hanky pankies" get you down. We'll always honor our "grand old flag," the emblem of this land we love. . .the land of the free because of the brave. I know we'll all be thinking about that, especially on Veterans Day this year, and praying for national unity. Speaking of unity, here's something else to consider.

Back in August, Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis met



with a small group of military personnel deployed in the Middle East. His impromptu remarks were recorded and became widely known as the “Hold the Line” speech. You may have heard or read it, including this excerpt:

“You’re a great example for our country right now. It’s got some problems. You know it and I know it. It’s got problems that we don’t have in the military. And you just hold the line, my fine young soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines. You just hold the line until our country gets back to understanding and respecting each other and showing it, of being friendly to one another. That’s what Americans owe to one another. We’re so doggone lucky to be Americans.”

As Peggy Noonan commented in the *Wall Street Journal*: “This was the voice of true moral authority.” The voice of a retired four-star Marine Corps general, authority “earned through personal sacrifice.” I think General Mattis’ timely and inspirational message applies to us too. Continue to serve as a unifying example for the country; promote the discourse he described; and always hold the line.

Moving into November, here are some other dates to keep in mind, in addition to all the events on the Post calendar.

- Nov. 4. Sadie Hawkins Day (Watch out in the bar area!)
- Nov. 5. Daylight Savings Time ends. (Is it time to “Fall Back” or “Fall Forward”??)
- Nov. 10. U.S. Marine Corps established in 1775. (Semper Fi!)
- Nov. 11. Veterans Day. (Some may still call it “Armistice Day.”)
- Nov. 13. World Kindness Day (Here’s hoping.)
- Nov. 23. Thanksgiving Day (Count our many blessings.)
- Nov. 28. National French Toast Day (On our Sunday breakfast crew, we call it Mike Grabowski Day.)

Hope you enjoy every day in November.  
Jerry Hardiman

Veterans Day Service  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7234



VFW POST 7234

Ocean View, Delaware

Saturday November 11, 2018

11:00 AM

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

Everyone is welcome.

**VFW**  
**FRIDAY FAMILY**  
**BUFFET**

**NOVEMBER 17th, 2017**  
**5:00 pm 'til 7:00 pm**

**PORK TENDERLOIN**  
**SAUERKRAUT**  
**MASHED POTATOES**  
**BROCCOLI**  
**FRIED FISH**  
**TOSSED SALAD**  
**ROLLS & BUTTER**

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

Sponsored by: Mason Dixon  
VFW Post #7234  
Ocean View, DE

**COMMUNITY WELCOME**

**VFW**  
**FRIDAY FAMILY**  
**BUFFET**

**NOVEMBER 10th, 2017**  
**5:00 pm 'til 7:00 pm**

**HAM & CABBAGE**  
**BOILED POTATOES**  
**BUTTERED CARROTS**  
**FRIED FISH**  
**TOSSED SALAD**  
**ROLLS & BUTTER**

**Donation: \$10 AYCE**  
**MUSIC 6:00pm - 10:00pm**

Sponsored by: Mason Dixon VFW  
Post #7234  
Ocean View, DE

**COMMUNITY WELCOME**

**VFW**  
**FRIDAY FAMILY**  
**BUFFET**

**NOVEMBER 24th, 2017**  
**5:00 pm 'til 7:00 pm**

**HOMEMADE MEATLOAF**  
**MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY**  
**BUTTERED CORN**  
**FRIED FISH**  
**TOSSED SALAD**  
**ROLLS & BUTTER**

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

Sponsored by: Mason Dixon  
VFW Post #7234 AUXILIARY  
Ocean View, DE

**COMMUNITY**  
**WELCOME**

## **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	Donna Paddock
Secretary	Susan Wallace
Treasurer	Rene McDorman
Chaplain	Theo Loppatto
Guard	Shirley Stong
Conductress	Ellen Reilly
Patriotic Ins	Jackie Umstetter
Trustee	Connie Weber
Trustee	Debbie Vischer-Jensen
Trustee	Debbie Morlock-Wood

**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)**