



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234 NOVEMBER 2025

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Comrades and Members,



As we enter what is traditionally known as the "Holiday Season", I want to wish all Members and their Families a healthy and safe next few months as you gather here or elsewhere. Keep our military members who are forward deployed and won't be home for the Holidays in your thoughts and prayers. Please remember to check on each other. This can also be a lonely and sad time of the year for some. If you or a battle buddy feel down, come to the Post. Our Post can and should be a location for Comradeship, a beacon of hope and a welcoming environment for all Members. Especially on Thanksgiving Day, come to the Post where you and your guests can enjoy a free traditional meal with all the trimmings. As we approach Thanksgiving, I would like to list some of the things for which I am thankful (and I believe you may be as well). I am thankful . . .

- For those who have approached me with suggestions and comments, good or bad, about how to improve your Post. I want you to feel comfortable talking to me.
- For our many talented Volunteers who, day in and day out, keep your Post open, operating efficiently and providing unparalleled selfless service to our Veterans, Members and Guests. I have repeatedly said: "If not for our Volunteers, we would have to close our doors." Volunteers are a valued Group of unselfish Team Members.
- For our Bartenders who make our Members feel welcomed and go out of their way to contribute to our friendly environment while offering top-notch service.
- For our Kitchen Crews, who prepare, serve and clean up after some of the most delicious and inexpensive meals in this area. All with a great attitude.
- For our many Members who continue to bring in canned and dry goods and prepare Pasta Casseroles for our Community Outreach efforts to help feed locals in need.

- For our Post Decorating Committee who continue to make our Post look wonderful and coincide with the various seasons and festive occasions throughout the year.
- For our Building and Grounds Crew who do so many things behind the scenes and anonymously to repair, replace and make our Post safe and operationally sound.
- For your Post Officers and Board Members who help make the decisions that continue to sustain this Post as it approaches its 80th Anniversary of existence.
- For our Post Auxiliary and their valuable and continuous support of our Veterans.
- For our Post Quartermaster, Chuck Guido and his wife Nancy for their day in and day out dedicated, selfless service to keep our Post fiscally and financially sound.
- For our current Active Military Forces, Military Veterans and their Families all over the world who put their lives on hold and swore an oath to defend our Nation and the Constitution we treasure.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL.

Mark your calendars for upcoming important events in November and early December:

- November General **Membership Meeting** is on **Monday, Nov 3**. Come have a say.
- The ever-popular **Night at the Races** returns for a fall engagement on **Friday, Nov 7**. Buy a Horse or two and bring your good luck charm!
- On **Tuesday, November 11** the Post will host our annual **Veterans Day and Quilt of Valor (QOV) Presentation Ceremony** as we Honor ALL of our Veterans.
- Monthly **Board of Directors Meeting** on **Tuesday, Nov 25**, 6 PM, Downstairs.
- Our **Annual Thanksgiving Meal** with all the trimmings on **Thursday, Nov 27**. This meal is **free and open to the public**. Bring your appetite and bring a friend.
- December General **Membership Meeting** is on **Monday, Dec 1**. Come have a say.
- **Wreaths Across America** Wreath Laying on **Sat, Dec 13**, Veterans Cemetery.
- **Army – Navy Football Game** Party at the Post on **Sat, Dec 13**.

** Our Members approved a new Lifetime Membership recruiting incentive. Our Post will match the \$100 offered by the DE VFW Department. New Lifetime Membership applicants will receive **\$200 toward the cost of their Lifetime Membership**. Quite a deal for current Annual Members to convert to Lifetime Members, so your Membership won't expire. **

At your Post, there truly is something for everyone. We are open 7 days a week, offering lunch and dinner (Mon – Sat), with entertainment sprinkled in. If there is ANY Member that has an idea for improving our Post, or suggestion on how to do things differently or better – I am all ears. I am

encouraged by the increased numbers of attendees at our monthly Membership Meetings. Keep coming. Bring a fellow Comrade. Have a say in how your Post operates.

Long Range: On the last weekend of April 2026 (24 – 26 April 2026) the Post celebrates its 80th Anniversary. Initial plans are underway to celebrate this momentous occasion with a weekend of events. We plan to have the newly – elected Hall of Fame Band “On the Edge” to help us celebrate. Your Post is thriving. It is alive and well. Well done, Comrades!

- Your Post Commander, Chad Myers.

Veterans Day



CEREMONY AT POST

NOV 11 11AM

QUILTS OF VALOR
PRESENTATION
CEREMONY



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

October was a busy month. The month started out with the Department President, Buttercup Baker, and five of the Department officers visiting Auxiliary Post 7234 during the October General Membership meeting. They were certainly given a warm welcome, thanks to all of you! Our leadership provided insight into what they are working on in the State level and were very congratulatory towards Auxiliary Post 7234 for the great strides and efforts made by all members of the Post. She praised our Committee Chairs and Committees for all the work they have done and encouraged all members to explore and use **MALTA** and all its available resources and information. Reference August Newsletter with how to join **MALTA**, by going online to



<https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org> . Roger Leslie, Department

Membership Chair reported that Auxiliary 7234 leads the state and probably the country in having achieved 102% of the 2025-2026 membership goal well ahead of the deadline.

Because of the enormous number of great volunteers at the Post, TWO well-attended Volunteer Appreciation Dinners were hosted by the Post to thank all the volunteers.

Auxiliary National President Lois Callahan will have visited Post 7234 on October 30 to “meet the largest auxiliary”. Post and Auxiliary officers and members were scheduled to attend for a meet & greet with light refreshments. During the afternoon, a check was presented to President Callahan for her special project **VFW National Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarships** which assists members and immediate family who wish to further their education in college or in vocational/technical school. It has been said that “November is the month to remind ourselves to be thankful for the many positive things happening in our life”.

The auxiliary is hosting a “make one give one” Christmas Ornament activity on Saturday, November 1st from noon to 3 in the Post Atrium. The Auxiliary is partnering with **Operation We Care** to send packages to active Military units overseas

Veteran’s Day is observed on November 11th, and the Post will be holding a luncheon with a ceremony honoring our Veterans starting at 11:00 a.m.

The Hospital Committee is sponsoring a ceramic painting event on November 12th from 1:00 to 3:00. Plan to come and paint a ceramic item just in time for the holidays. The cost is \$30 with proceeds going toward luncheon visitations to Veterans, their spouses and family.

Let’s all remember what Thanksgiving Day is about! It is a time to be thankful and share thanks with family, friends and our Veterans. The Post shows thanks by hosting a free Thanksgiving Dinner. If possible, join-in by donating a turkey between 16-20 lbs. Please drop your turkey at the Post.

Our Legislative Chair, Frank Cruice, is urging everyone to sign up for **VFW Action Corps Weekly**. You can text VFW to 50457 or visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps. Make yourselves aware of current Legislation regarding Veterans and Veteran issues and how you can act on this information

The investigative committee reviews anywhere from 10 to 35 applications per month to determine if each applicant meets the eligibility requirements. If you would like to serve on the investigative

committee, I encourage you to contact me about joining. It is a great way to understand the eligibility requirements, and to be able to provide accurate information to prospective applicants.

Kevin Conlon
President
VFW Auxiliary Post #7234



JR VICE NOTE

It is official, Fall has fallen. With it come shorter days, but no shortage of activity here at Post 7234. With Thanksgiving closely on the heels of our Veterans Day commemoration, we have the perfect opportunity to both celebrate and remember our fellow Veterans, and give thanks for our freedoms, secured through eternal vigil.

I, personally, will be giving thanks for all of my Comrades here at the Post. Your dedication to your support for your fellow Veterans and the community at large are a constant reminder of why we are, without a doubt, the best Post and Auxiliary around. Thank you for all you do, and for being a beacon of hope and warmth in what can feel for some of our Comrades and neighbors as a cold and lonely world.

Yours in service and solidarity,

Phyllis Ryan Scully
Jr Vice Commander

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

Greetings from Jeannette

Hello Everyone,

As of November 2nd, this year, we will gain an extra hour, giving us more daylight during the winter mornings. This annual event is commonly referred to as “falling back” in time. It’s an opportunity to enjoy a little more light as we start our days.

MEMBER NEWS

We offer our deepest condolences to the families of two of our long-time members, George Price of NY and Daniel Hall, as they navigate this difficult time.

Also, we would like to extend our sincere get-well wishes to Ed Nazarian, Mike Tuckman, Kathy Kramp, Winkie Albertson, and all our members who are recovering from an illness, surgery, or a tough time. Our thoughts are with them.

SOMETHING TO PONDER

Often, we greet the end of daylight-saving time with a sigh of relief, grateful for an extra hour of sleep. But what if that bonus hour is more than just a chance to rest? Imagine if, instead of letting it slip quietly into routine, we treated it as a rare gift—a blank space in our morning, waiting to be filled with intention.

How might your life shift if you dedicated those sixty minutes to something that truly nourishes you? Would you choose movement, reflection, or connection? Could you use it to listen to the world waking up, savor a slow cup of coffee, or sit in stillness and greet the day with gratitude?

This autumn, as the clocks fall back, consider “falling forward” into possibility. What could you discover about yourself, your priorities, or your sense of balance if you made space for something new in the quiet of the morning? The time is yours—how will you use it?

Jeannette Twigg
Post Chaplain



“All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us.”

-J.R.R. Tolkien

DECEASED MEMBERS



*Harlen Holcomb
Dr. Herbert J. Mueller
Frank Slahetka*

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.

Please call Jeannette Twigg at 30-381-539-9981 for the VFW or Annie Berger at 302-539-9981 for the Auxiliary, if a member is sick or has passed away

BENEFITS ADVISOR OUTREACH

Well, it's happened again. Another veteran has passed away without taking the necessary steps to ensure his loved ones had access to his DD214 (military discharge). What makes this worse is that it happened during a government shutdown. I didn't get a chance to describe what could be done before his spouse hung up on me. I always seem to get calls like this when I am driving. I was going to say in situations like this, you should fill out Standard form 180 and hand carry it to your local Congressional representative's office. While this would not be the normal route, the VA is not processing requests for records at this time. I did this years ago during another shutdown and got the DD214 for the spouse within a week. Congressional representatives have leverage that the public doesn't have. Better yet, make sure you loved ones know where important forms are being kept! Veteran Service Officers, accredited or not, don't have access to the VA systems during a shutdown. 60% of Americans die without a will. Are you one of them? If you retire from the military, you can get a will done free at Dover airbase regardless of service. One of easiest things you can get done before you die is to get your pre-need eligibility for military burial determined. Of course you need DD214 to do this. Below is the link to the VA's pre-need eligibility page. While they won't process it during the shutdown, at least you'll be in the pipeline.

[Pre-Need Eligibility for Burial In A VA Cemetery | Veterans Affairs](#)

Approximately 60% of adults die without a will. This statistic varies by region and demographic factors. In the U.S., for example, many people, particularly younger adults, often neglect to create a will, leading to potential complications in estate distribution. While Dover AFB will process Wills free for military retirees, it is not clear whether they are operational during the shutdown.

Consequences of Dying Without a Will

- Intestate Succession: Assets are distributed according to state laws, which may not reflect the deceased's wishes.
- Family Disputes: Lack of a clear directive can lead to conflicts among surviving family members.
- Increased Costs: Legal fees and court costs may rise due to the need for probate proceedings.

Importance of Having a Will

- Control Over Assets: A will allows individuals to specify how their assets should be distributed.
- Guardianship Decisions: Parents can designate guardians for their minor children.
- Peace of Mind: Having a will can reduce stress for loved ones during a difficult time.

Sussex County has a pretty good informational website on wills and estates. Did you know that after the maker of the will dies, it is the legal duty of any person in possession of any original document that might be a Will to deliver it to the Register of Wills Office within ten (10) days after receiving notice of the death of the maker. While I have a will, I have not yet filed it with the Sussex County Register of Wills Office.

[Wills and Estates | Sussex County](#)

If you do not know a lawyer experienced in drafting Wills, please call the Delaware State Bar Association at (302) 658-5279.

MEMORANDUM OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY In Delaware, if you have personal belongings but are not sure to whom they should go when you draft your Will, you may distribute them by a separate memorandum. This saves the expense of having to redraft your Will or make a Codicil each time you change your mind about certain items of personal property.

This document cannot include transfers of:

1. Money; 2. Mortgages; or, 3. Notes; 4. Bonds; business. 5. Certificates of Title; 6. Securities; 7. Property use in trade or business.

OTHER IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

1. Power of Attorney: This allows someone else to act on your behalf, generally concerning financial matters, while you are living. This is useful in case you cannot be present or can no longer sign your name on important bank, legal or real estate documents.

2. Advance Health Care Directive/"Medical Power of Attorney"/Living Will: This specifies to what extent you would like to be kept alive if you are terminally ill or become incapacitated. It also appoints your health care agent, who will make health care decisions on your behalf. It is important to specify your wishes in writing so your entire family can be certain when making important decisions about your health care. The Delaware Attorney General office has created a pamphlet about end-of-life decisions. A copy of a living Will can be downloaded at www.state.de.us/attgen/.

3. Emergency Medical Instructions: This should list whether you are taking medications (including dosages) and whether you have any allergies. A convenient place to keep this is on your refrigerator. Emergency medical personnel are trained to look there first for these potentially life-saving instructions. For further information, contact Emergency Medical Services at (302) 395-8184 to obtain a "Vial of Life" kit.

In Comradeship,

H "Rich" Fales-Post Benefits Advisor

Cell# 301-325-3813

Email: richfales@gmail.com (NEW!)



Lois Callahan National Auxiliary President Visit





HONOR GUARD NEWS



During the month of October, the Honor Guard and Post and Auxiliary officers visited our friends (veterans and widows) at the Brandywine Assisted Living community in Selbyville. The residents are always happy to see us and spend time with us.

The Honor Guard was not called upon to participate in any funerals for October.



FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW:

There is a distinct difference between an Honor Guard and a Color Guard. Every Honor Guard is also a Color Guard. Color Guards are NOT Honor Guards as their duties and responsibilities are limited. Generally, a Color Guard will carry the colors, post the colors and march in parades.

Our Post is an Honor Guard!

Honor Guards are known for their precision and attention to detail. They perform a variety of ceremonial duties, including:

- *Presenting and guarding the colors (national, state and organizational flags)
- *Rendering honors, such as presenting arms, saluting, volley and taps at funerals or memorial services
- *Providing escort services for dignitaries or fallen comrades
- *Participating in parades, change of command ceremonies, and other official events
- *Posting and retiring colors

Each month our Post recognizes a member of our Honor Guard for his dedicated service to VFW Post 7234 and commitment to honor our deceased comrades. This month we recognize and honor Dale Weese.



Although Dale did not serve in the military, he spent a career 23 years as a Detective with the Baltimore City Police Department. He is also a three term Past President of VFW Post 7234 Auxiliary. Dale is very active in most auxiliary programs at the Post and in our community. He is the “Chief” installer of memorial bricks at our Memorial Park and helps maintain the park with the Reilly brothers.

Dale joined the Auxiliary in 2017 and was President from 2022-2025. Dale had the privilege to join under the service of his grandfather, James K, Surgut, Sr., a Navy veteran who served during WWII on the USS Santee in the Asiatic Pacific (New Guinea Campaign, Battle of Leyte Gulf, Invasion of Okinawa Jima, and the Philippines).

Dale learned about the Honor Guard through the Auxiliary and is involvement at the Post, and from his brother-in-law, former Commander Jim Jensen.

When asked why he joined our Post Honor Guard, Dale stated:

“Joining the Auxiliary is not a right but rather a privilege. A privilege that has been afforded me by the service and sacrifice of my grandfather. I joined the Honor Guard as a way to pay tribute to my grandfather and to honor and serve all our veterans, past and present”.

Dale Weese is the Honor Guard procurement officer where he does an “outstanding job”. This past year he was promoted to the rank of Sargent in the Honor Guard.

Mason Dixon VFW Post 7234 thanks and salutes Honor Guard member Dale Weese!

We are grateful to our Post Honor Guard for their dedication and service, and “salute” you for your representation
of Mason Dixon VFW Post 7234.

REMEMBER NOT EVERY COLOR GUARD IS AN HONOR GUARD
BUT EVERY HONOR GUARD IS A COLOR GUARD!

To learn more about Mason Dixon VFW Post 7234 Honor Guard and our duties and responsibilities,
please contact me.

John F. Gossart, Jr.
Captain of the Honor Guard
240-304-8183

Judge800@yahoo.com

Or:

Mike Schiffer
Assistant Captain of the Honor Guard
302-448-1877

Rschiffer0@gmail.com

*The purpose of the Honor Guard is to provide funeral honors for our fallen comrades and guard national monuments. An Honor Guard may also serve as the ‘guardians of the colors’ “by displacing and escorting the national flag on ceremonial occasions at official functions.”

Honor Guard Brandywine Visit with Veterans





MASON DIXON VFW POST 7234 FLAG DUTY PROTOCOL

The following information, protocol and duties are provided for those who have Post Flag duties. Pursuant to the Post Commander, the following individuals who are physically able will be assigned Post Flag duties.

- ...all Post officers elected and appointed
- ...all Board of Director members elected and appointed.
- ...Post Honor Guard.

Flag duties include:

monitoring, service, and maintenance of all Flags located in the Post Memorial Park. This includes the US Flag, DE Flag, POW Flag and all Service Branch Flags; and

monitoring, service, and maintenance of the US Flag and POW Flag on the Point.

Specific duties include:*

- ... inspection of ALL Flags twice a week (at a minimum).
- ...replacement of any Flags tattered or torn.
- ...replacement of Flag clips as required.
- ...lowering US Flag to half-staff and raising to full staff as may be directed by POTUS or DE G.

...weekly inspection of Memorial Park for cleanliness

*During heavy storms and winds please use your judgement in temporally removing the Memorial Park Flags and Point Flags. The absence of displayed Flags should be kept to a minimum. If uncertain, contact the Post Commander or the Honor Guard Captain for guidance.

Additional information.

Memorial Park Flags size.

US Flag shall be 4x6

DE Flag, POW Flag, all branch service Flags shall be 3x5

Point Flags size.

US Flag shall be 5x8

POW Flag shall be 3x5

All Flags and clips can be secured through the Post Quartermaster who maintains inventory and order responsibilities.

For training contact the Captain of the Honor Guard.

FOR THE COMMANDER

John F. Gossart, Jr.

Captain of the Honor Guard

judge800@yahoo.com

240-304-8183

MASON DIXON VFW POST 7234 FLAG DUTY ROSTER 2025-2026

JUNE:	Chad Myers - Dale Weese
JULY:	Jay MacDonald - Richard Wagner
AUGUST	Phyllis Scully – Rob Gill
SEPTEMBER	Honor Guard – John Gossart
OCTOBER	Andrew Artemchuk – Jeanette Twigg
NOVEMBER	Fulton Loppatto – Jeff Ringel
DECEMBER	Paul Kerstanski – Chuck Guido
JANUARY	Mike Tuckman – Ken Weber
FEBRUARY	Thomas St Clare – Steve Kern
MARCH	Sharon Ruest - Kevin Conlon
APRIL	Chad Myers – Greg Albertson
MAY	John Gossart – Honor Guard

- Service Officer Rich Fales is exempt.
- If this schedule does not fit your schedule, you may find and trade with another Post Officer, Trustee, or Board Member. Please advise the Commander and the Honor Guard Captain of any trade.

See Post Flag Duties and Responsibilities above

CANTEEN CORNER

As we head into November we should take time to remember our Veterans. On Monday 11/11 at 11am we will be honoring our veterans with our Veterans Day Ceremony. This is a time we stop and honor all the people that gave do much. Following the ceremony will be a luncheon.

November promises to be a very busy month. On Saturdau Nov.1 we will be introducing a new band, "Rocky Park"

Come out for our famous Prime Rib Dinner and enjoy some great music. Friday Nov. 7 is our second annual "Nite at the Races." Doors open at 4pm, first race is 5pm. Kitchen opens at 4. This is a ticketed event, so purchase a horse and enjoy an exciting evening of racing. November 14 is our next line Dancing class. Do not forget every Thursday we have a poker tournament and mahjong class. Please check out our calendar for entertainment and dinner specials.

Thanksgiving

As the holidays are approaching, we at the Post have a lot to be thankful for. We would like our MEMBERS and GUESTS to join us for Thanksgiving Dinner.

Our goal is that no member spends the day alone. All guests will be accompanied by a member. There is no charge for dinner but a donation jar will be available. Donations will be accepted but not expected.

Post Opens 2pm

Dinner 3 - 6pm

New Years Eve

I know it's early to be thinking about New Years Eve but people are already excited. This nite has become very popular. Entertainment will be provided by Thin Ice along with a fabulous dinner. Tickets will go on sale Thursday Dec. 4. More details will be forthcoming in the near future. Tickets will be \$60 apiece.

Menu

Hors d oeuvres
Maryland Crab Soup
Cocktail Meatballs
Steamed Shrimp
Cheese and Vegetable trays

Dinner

Prime Rib and Gravy
Chicken Marsala
Lobster Tail
Shrimp Mac and Cheese
Mixed Vegetables
Caesar Salad
Rolls and butter
Dessert

John Frye Canteen Manager

SPECIAL DATES IN NOVEMBER



As we put October behind us and turn the page to November, there are going to be three special dates to celebrate. In order of appearance in the calendar, we'll look forward to the Marine Corps birthday, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

Marine Corps Birthday. November 10 is the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the Marine Corps by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1775. First established as the Continental Marines, the Corps has faithfully served and protected our nation in wars, multiple armed conflicts and humanitarian missions ever since the Revolutionary War. The history, accomplishments and honors of the Corps are reflected in the 55 campaign and award streamers attached to the staff of the official Marine Corps flag (Battle Color). Here's a partial list.

- Revolutionary War streamer
- Barbary Wars streamer
- War of 1812 streamer
- Slave Trade Interdiction streamer
- Mexican War streamer
- Civil War streamer
- Spanish Campaign streamer
- Philippine Campaigns
- China Relief Expedition
- Nicaragua Campaign
- World War I Victory
- China Service
- European-Africa-Middle East Campaigns
- World War II Victory
- National Defense Service
- Korean Service
- Vietnam Service
- Kosovo Campaign
- Afghanistan Campaign
- Iraq Campaign
- Global War on Terrorism

The list does not include all the campaigns and related awards. It's a long and proud history recognized and admired by all. Although there are a few differences of opinion among the military services. For example, the second stanza of the Marine Corps hymn, which was adopted in 1929, claims that the streets of Heaven are guarded by Marines. The new Space Force claims that they have jurisdiction for heavenly security. Hopefully, we'll all find out one day.

During its first 150 years, Marines carried a variety of flags. It was not until 1925 that scarlet and gold were designated as the official colors of the Corps. However, those colors were not reflected in the

official flag of the Corps until 1939, when a new flag design with the eagle, globe and anchor emblem was approved. This is essentially the design we see today. Long may it wave, with all its streamers.



Veterans Day. On November 11, we will honor all veterans who have served our country in war and peace, at home and throughout the world, volunteers and draftees, on active duty in regular military units or in National Guard or reserve units. Whether in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard or Space Force, for one tour or a full career, all have sworn an oath or affirmed the duty to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” I don’t remember any expiration date for that solemn oath. All who have served are one family. I love the extent and unity of this special day.

So, at 11:00 AM on November 11, commemorating the Armistice in World War I (on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month), we will celebrate Veterans Day in a traditional formal ceremony to honor all those who have served and protected our nation. That’s our tradition, recognizing that Armistice Day was officially changed to Veterans Day in 1954.

Thanksgiving. In 1789, our first President, George Washington, designated November 26 that year as “a day of public thanksgiving and prayer,” calling on the people to “acknowledge with grateful hearts, the providence of Almighty God in the creation of the United States and our Constitution for their safety and happiness.” That was the first formal foundation for our Thanksgiving Day.

Another powerful unifying Proclamation of thanksgiving was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on October 3, 1863, three months after the Battle of Gettysburg, in the midst of our terrible Civil War. In it, he recounted some of the blessings the people enjoyed, described as “gracious gifts of the Most High God. . .that “should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people.”

Lincoln then invited citizens “in every part of the United States” and elsewhere “to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise. . .” The Proclamation further urged the people to “fervently implore the Almighty to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with Divine purpose, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and union.” Those words of faith and healing still resonate with us today.

Presidential proclamations continued in the years after that, but sometime designated different days in November for Thanksgiving, noting that in some years November has five Thursdays. Some States set their own dates. Finally, in 1941, Congress and President Roosevelt ended the confusion and determined that

Thanksgiving should be on the fourth Thursday in November and recognized as a national holiday. That's November 27 this year.

Because of the sacrifice of so many in our history, most of us will be able to enjoy Thanksgiving Day any way we choose. But however we spend the day, we will also be mindful and grateful for those who are on duty and serve and protect us every day, including our police officers, firefighters, all the EMS and other medical personnel caring for the sick and injured, and all those serving in the military.

Whatever your plans and duty status, Rosemary and I wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and that you enjoy every day in November.

Jerry Hardiman

2025 MASON DIXON MEMBER RENEWALS

It is that time of year when Mason Dixon members whose membership expires on December 31, 2025 will begin the process of renewing their memberships. **Beginning November 15, 2025**, the Post will begin accepting renewal dues for Mason Dixon members whose cards show an expiration date of 12/31/2025. All dues for 2025 expiring Mason Dixon memberships must be received by December 31, 2025. **Please check your card and make payment, if necessary. You will not receive any further notice of your need to renew.**

Effective January 1, 2023, membership renewals and new memberships were changed to a two-year term. So, please remit \$150.00 before December 31, 2025 and your new card will expire on December 31, 2027. New membership cards will be available the beginning of December. Dues payments may be mailed, placed in the Mason Dixon box at the membership station, or dropped off at the bar. If you wish to receive your card by mail, you will need to submit a self-addressed stamped envelope with your renewal payment. Otherwise, new cards will be available for pick up at the bar once your payment has been received.

Thank you for being a member of Mason Dixon Post No. 7234 VFW of the U.S., and we especially thank you if you volunteer!

Canteen Board of Director

NOTICE TO ALL MASON DIXON MEMBERS

(THIS NOTICE IS FOR MASON DIXON MEMBERS ONLY,
(DOES NOT APPLY TO VFW OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS)

REMINDERS AND CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PRACTICES

REMINDERS

AS YOU MAY RECALL IN AUGUST 2022 THE POLICY WAS CHANGED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT NO ADVANCED PERSONAL NOTICES TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE SENT OUT.

THE POLICY CHANGES ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE MEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THEIR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT AND IN GOOD STANDING, NOT THE POST.

THE POLICY ALSO STATES THAT MASON DIXON MEMBERSHIP CARDS WILL NOT BE MAILED. MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE TO BE PICKED UP AT THE POST (AT THE BAR).

NEW CHANGE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2025

THE MASON DIXON MEMBERSHIP POLICY STATES:

“ALL RENEWALS FOR EXPIRING MEMBERSHIP MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE POST NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS FOLLOWING THE END OF THE MEMBERSHIP TERM. NO RENEWAL WILL BE PROCESSED AFTER MARCH 1, FOLLOWING THE PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP YEAR. RENEWALS RECEIVED AFTER SUCH DATE WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT ACTION AND MEMBERSHIP WILL BE TERMINATED.” THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR! DO NOT LET YOUR MASON DIXON MEMBERSHIP LAPSE!!

SINCE THE EFFECTIVE DATE (08/01/2022) OF THE POLICY CHANGES, TOTAL POST MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN TO OVER 4,600 MEMBERS. THIS IS A 1,100 MEMBER INCREASE IN LESS THAN THREE YEARS! DESPITE THE PROVISION ABOVE REGARDING RENEWALS, THE BOARD HAS ALLOWED VETERAN MASON DIXON MEMBERS TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIPS EVEN IF SUBMITTED LATE. VETERAN MEMBERS WERE PERMITTED TO RE-APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP. THIS PRACTICE WILL CEASE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

THE BOARD RECENTLY UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO CHANGE THIS PRACTICE.

BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2025, VETERAN MASON DIXON MEMBERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO RENEW ONLY ONCE AFTER THEIR FIRST LATE RENEWAL. VETERAN MASON DIXON MEMBERS WHO HAVE ALREADY RE-APPLIED PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE WILL BE GIVEN ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY. THIS IS BEING ALLOWED ONLY BECAUSE THE BOARD VOTE JUST OCCURRED AND THE CHANGE HAD NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED UNTIL NOW.

IN ADDITION, THE LATE VETERAN (ONLY) RE-APPLICATION MUST BE ACCOMPANIED NOT ONLY BY THE \$150 DUES, BUT ALSO A \$25 PENALTY FEE (FOR BEING LATE). THEREAFTER, IF THE VETERAN MASON DIXON MEMBER DOES NOT TIMELY PAY THEIR DUES AGAIN, THE VETERAN MASON DIXON MEMBER'S MEMBERSHIP WILL BE PERMANENTLY TERMINATED.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Commander	Chad Myers
Sr. Vice Cmdr	Andy Artemchuk
Jr. Vice Cmdr	Phyllis Scully
Quartermaster	Chuck Guido
Adjutant	Fulton Loppatto
Chaplain	Jeannette Twigg
Judge Advocate	John Gossart Jr.
Surgeon	Richard Wagner
Officer of the Day	Jeff Ringel
Guard	Jay MacDonald
Benefits Advisor	Rich Fales
Honor Guard Capt	John Gossart Jr.
Trustee	Greg Albertson
Trustee	Rob Gill
Trustee	Paul Kerstanski

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	Andy Artemchuk
President	Chad Myers
Vice President	Phyllis Scully
Treasurer	Chuck Guido
Secretary	Ken Weber
Board Member	Sharon Ruest
Board Member	Steve Kern
Board Member	Mike Tuckman
Board Member	Jeff Ringel
Board Member	Tom StClair
Board Member	Jay MacDonald

AUXILIARY TEAM

President	Kevin Conlon
Sr Vice Pres	Dale Weese
Jr Vice Pres	Sandra Magera
Secretary	Theo Loppatto
Treasurer	Roberta Walter
Chaplain	Annie Berger
Guard	Katherine Cole
Conductress	Connie Weber
Patriotic Ins	Peg Atkins
Trustee	Connie Weber
Trustee	Carol Weber
Trustee	Chuck Bologna

Veteran Claims Assistance

Our state Veterans Benefits Officer comes to our Post the 2nd Thursday of every month at 1:30PM; to make an appointment you can contact him at david.hilliard@va.gov or 302-994-2511 ext 37586

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 JOHN GOSSART
240-304-8183**

HELP A VET PROGRAM

**Veterans - Need Assistance, a friendly call, a visit, etc.
Contact our Post:
VFWpost7234@gmail.com**

Member Sick or Deceased

Please call:

For VFW – Jeannette Twigg 302-539-9981

For Aux – Annie Berger 302-539-9981

Assistance with VA Questions & Issues

Please call:

Rich Fales (301)325-3813 or email me

richfales@gmail.com

To signup for our email List

For the Latest Updates and News

Please send your email to

vfwpost7234@gmail.com