



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

MARCH 2026

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Comrades, Members and Guests; I trust that you and your Families survived the recent snowstorm. Many of you were without power and took several days to dig out. If a Veteran is in true need or in financial straits, there are Post Relief Funds available to help make ends meet. Reach out if necessary.

We have completed the annual **Voice of Democracy (VOD), Patriot's Pen (PP), and Teacher of the Year (TOTY) Competition**. Several of our Post winners advanced to both District and Department levels. Congratulations to all who entered, and congratulations and thanks to our Chairperson, Junior Vice Commander Phyllis Scully, who made the competition a great success.

Speaking of Phyllis, she is also organizing the return of our Sunday Speaker Series. The first one was held at the beginning of the snowstorm on February 22. An informative briefing was given on **PGA H.O.P.E.** (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) – an opportunity to take up the game of golf at minimal expense to all Veterans. More information to follow on this.

Nominations for 2026–2027 Post Officers occurs during the March and April General Membership Meetings. Voting occurs during the April Meeting. The positions of: Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Post Quartermaster and one (1) Trustee require nominations. Several vacancies on the Board of Directors will also open up. If interested in serving the Post and our Members as an Officer, see me or another currently serving Officer. Thanks!

Our **Membership** numbers continue to grow. The new \$200 incentive toward the cost of a Life Membership has been a big hit! Many annual members have converted, and new Members are choosing the Life Membership incentive to defer costs. Every one of our Members is also a Recruiter.

Save the Date: March 29. We hold our annual Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony and Quilt of Valor Presentation. The Ceremony allows us to give a big Welcome Home to all Vietnam War Veterans.

80th Anniversary of Mason-Dixon VFW Post 7234 (1946 – 2026) Celebration. During the weekend of April 24 – 26, 2026, the Post celebrates its 80th year of existence. This is quite an accomplishment for the largest Post in Delaware. Many Past Post Commanders, current Post Officers and Board Members, and the Post Auxiliary are pitching in to make this three day event the celebration it deserves. We encourage and solicit input from all our Members. We will need many Volunteers to canvas individuals and local businesses seeking sponsorships, donations, and advertising space in the Commemorative Booklet. Underway is an Essay Contest, T-Shirt Design Contest, 80th Anniversary Commemorative Coin, with a Lapel Pin and Hats to follow. Other ideas in the works are a Time Capsule, Golf Outing, Sock Hop, and a specially brewed 80th Anniversary Beer from Bethany Brewing.

The Spring 2026 **Bull & Oyster Roast** will be held on Saturday, April 11 and is open to the Public. Tickets are on sale at the bar.

Help-A-Vet Committee. This Committee is looking for Volunteer Members (VFW, Auxiliary, Mason-Dixon) to serve. This is one of our most important and rewarding Committees and offers instant gratification. It meets monthly. Their mission is simple: Help our Veterans. They arrange visits, phone calls, loan medical equipment, provide ramps at homes, and many other worthwhile endeavors. The Help-A-Vet Committee is putting together a tremendous **Veterans Outreach Town Hall Event** with dignitaries and expert Benefit counselors on **Friday, April 10, 2026**. See Past Post Commander Jim Jensen, Committee Chair, or Board Member Mike Tuckman for more information. They need you to show up.

Memorial Bricks. Yes, you may still order bricks. It is a beautiful way to remember and honor a loved one who served our nation. Their name and other information you choose can be engraved with precision. The cost is \$100 per brick. Please consider completing an order form (located on the bulletin board, or on our website) or see Fulton Loppatto. New bricks will be placed in our Memorial Garden after the ground thaws.

Volunteer Orientation Session. In last month's Newsletter, I highlighted many opportunities for Volunteers to step forward and offer their talents and skills to help our Post continue to thrive. Later this spring, the Post Officers and Staff will conduct a "Volunteer Orientation" Session for attendees to ask questions, find out what opportunities are available, and have a chance to meet the leaders of our activities requiring Volunteers. Please attend. Still a little hesitant to step forward? That is ok. I was too. But we have the remedy. The Orientation Session will last about an hour and go over responsibilities and areas needing help. In the end, you will be able to choose the right fit for you. Keep an eye on our Website, Facebook Page, Newsletter and Calendar for the Orientation date.

- Our non-negotiable edict continues to be to **Serve Veterans, Help Veterans and Honor Veterans**. I see this every time I visit the Post, and it is our north star.
- Monthly General Membership Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7 PM. Put them on your calendar. Attend and have a say in how your Post operates. Enjoy comradeship with other Veterans, along with a free meal and beverage. Bring a fellow Member with you.
- The Post has a fairly extensive inventory of medical assistance equipment (including ramps) to loan out for those in need. Contact Tom St. Clair or Jeff Ringel for access.
- We visit our shut-in Veterans on a regular basis. Join us – the visits to Brandywine Assisted Living Facility are worth it. Continue to check on Members you have not seen for a while. Every one of us is going through something. Let us offer our support, our time and our caring.
- **Note: Inclement Weather Post Closure, and subsequent re-opening notifications will be made as early as possible and distributed on social media (Website, Facebook Page, and through mass email blast notifications to our Members).**

Your VFW Family wants to see you at the Post. We continue to ask for your patience in dealing with Post employees, volunteers, and staff members. We want you and your guests to have an enjoyable experience at the Post. Keep in mind that we are operated primarily by a small paid staff and augmented by many Volunteers. Each one is devoted to doing their best. Feel free to respectfully complain when it is warranted, but better yet, fill out a Volunteer Interest Form and pitch in to make our Post, your Post, the best that it can be.

Please check in on our fellow Comrades who may be spending the cold winter months alone, or who may have recently lost a loved one. It can be a sad time for many. Let us lift their spirits with a phone call or an in-person visit. It puts into practice our edict to **Serve Our Veterans, Help Our Veterans and Honor Our Veterans – first, last, and always.**

- Post Commander Chad Myers.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER! Thanks to Punxsutawney Phil's prediction, we are going to remain cold for a while! **That's truly MARCH MADNESS!!**

February was very busy planning for the 80th Anniversary Celebration. Work is well underway. If you would like to sponsor yourself, your business, your family, or honor someone please consider donating as a Sponsor, contributor, advertiser, or patron. Forms will be available throughout the post and must be submitted by March 31, to be included in the 80th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet.

The March Post calendar is quite full. Keep a copy handy so you can stay current with the activities and meals each day. March will see a lot of people "Being Irish"! Wearing of the Green and talking lots of Blarney, what else is new at the Post? Do you have a favorite Irish saying or a great Irish brogue? Let's hear it while at the Post.

The Auxiliary is sponsoring a Ceramic Painting Fundraiser on Thursday, March 5 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Join in to paint themed ceramics for St. Patrick's Day and Easter. Donation is \$30, the ceramic and paints will be provided. Come early and enjoy lunch at the Post with your friends at noon.

Bar Olympics will be on Sunday March 8 starting at 1 PM. Two-person teams (Male/Female) will be competing. Sign your team up from noon to 12:45 that day. It will be great fun!

March 29 is Vietnam War Veterans' Day. It is also Palm Sunday. The Post will be holding its Ceremony at 2 PM. Plan to attend to honor those who served during the Vietnam War. This is another great opportunity for all Auxiliary members to show support and honor those Veterans.

April will be extra busy so here is an advanced look. The Auxiliary will be holding elections at the **April 6 General Membership** meeting at 7:00 p.m. Plan to attend and participate in the nominating and election process. Your vote counts! If you are interested in running for a position, please have someone submit your nomination at the meeting. You must be there to accept or have a letter stating that you will accept the nomination. President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Treasurer, Chaplain, Conductor, Guard, and a three-year trustee.

The **Red, White and Blue Gala**, an annual VFW Veterans' Programs & Auxiliary Fundraiser is Saturday, April 4, 2026, from 5PM to 9PM. This VFW event is the most important fundraiser for our Department of Delaware Veterans' Programs. Some of these programs include Patriots Pen, Voice of

Democracy, Teacher of the Year, and JROTC. The Gala will be at the Cheswold Fire Company, 371 Main Street, Cheswold, Delaware 19936. If interested in purchasing Fundraiser Raffle Tickets, the Post Commander has them. A Winning Ticket will be drawn once every 15 minutes. There is 5 each \$300 Winners, and 5 each \$500 Winners. Each ticket is \$10 each, or 3 tickets for \$25. See the Post Commander to purchase them. You need not be present to win. Dress Attire: Business Casual, no Jeans or T-Shirts, Cash Bar cocktails and appetizers will be available. Buffet Style dinner with: Roast Beef, Chicken Marsala, Garlic mashed red skins, Vegetable medley, Pasta salad, Rolls & Butter, and Apple crisp for dessert. Water, Iced Tea, & Coffee are included. Tickets are \$40 each and must be purchased by March 20. Make checks payable to Department of Delaware VFW and mail payment to Mark Newman, 348 David Hall Road, Dover, DE 19904.

The Post will host a **HELP-A-VET Town Hall Event on Friday, April 10 from 9-3**. This is a great time for Auxiliary members to provide support to Veterans and the Post. If you are or know a Veteran or Veteran's Spouse who can benefit from finding out about the benefits available to them, get them to the Post that day. Brigadier General (Retired) Karen Berry, Delaware Secretary of Veterans Affairs will be attending.

On April 25, 1 pm - 5 pm, a Luau themed testimonial dinner honoring Department President Buttercup Baker and Department Commander Mark Stayton will be held at Cheswold Fire House, 371 Main St. Cheswold, DE. **Dress is Luau casual. Shorts and flip flops are welcome.** Cash Bar cocktails will be available. Buffet meal consisting of ham w/pineapple, baked ziti, scalloped potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, rolls, coffee, tea & cake for dessert. There will be a DJ with dancing. Tickets are \$40 each and must be paid for by April 10. Checks payable to VFW Auxiliary Department of Delaware. Send payment to Rebecca Pernol, 2643 DuPont Pkwy, Middletown, DE 19709 **ALOHA!**

Plan to participate in **celebrating Mason – Dixon VFW Post 7234's 80th Anniversary, the weekend of April 24-26, 2026**. There will be more information coming. 80th Anniversary shirts, coins and lapel pins will soon be on sale. Keep an eye out for them. Festivities include a golf outing, opening ceremonies, Sock Hop Dance, a Saturday Night Dinner Dance featuring the Hall of Fame Band "On the Edge", and closing ceremonies with a Sunday morning breakfast and a Time Capsule install.

Let's take some time to reflect on what the Post Lobby Book Borrow/Exchange is all about. It is a location that allows members to grab a book for some pleasure reading and to replace it with another book. The Lobby only has two bookcases and cannot handle the large number of books being dropped off. The Auxiliary is working to improve the Book location. Bear with us as we go through changes to improve the Lobby and the book exchange. Alphabetizing is critical, books are currently arranged by author, however, large books do not stand upright on some shelves. Currently they are on their sides, but this will change over time, putting larger books by author on the larger shelves. Placing color dots on the books will assist the Post in knowing if books have been there too long. These can be replaced by more recent drop-offs. Think about how you would want the entrance to your home to look when arbitrarily dropping a book. The Post is striving to make entry to the Post more alluring through enhancement. In the interest of cleaning up the Lobby and coordinating the availability of reading materials, please help us by doing/not doing the following:

- **Do bring one book and take one book.**
- **Do Not** drop off another copy of a book that already exists on the shelves.
- **Do Not** bring in bags or stacks of books, these clutter up the Lobby.
- **Do Not** bring coffee table books, they are too large for the shelves and should not be brought in.
- **Do Not** bring in magazines, reference materials, or damaged materials.

Puzzles are a big hit at the Post, and many people enjoy dropping off a puzzle and selecting one to take home. There will be plans to better accommodate the puzzle drop off. Look for this in the future. On February 6, six donated Lap Blankets were dropped off to Brandywine Residents for a pre-**Valentine's Day** gift from our Hospital Chair Shirley Stong, with attached Valentine notes.



THE POST AUXILIARY IS HERE TO SUPPORT, HONOR AND SERVE OUR VETERANS

Kevin Conlon
President, VFW Post 7234 Auxiliary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Comrades and Members; Our building is aging. At times, not so gracefully. The Board has addressed several maintenance issues at the Post. First, one of the two coolers behind the bar ceased to operate. At 35+ years old, we believe we got our money's worth out of it, and it will be replaced by purchasing a new one. Second, a leak formed in our entry way from the roof/ ceiling area. Several volunteers investigated and the source was determined to be in the roof and duct work area. Thanks go to John and Marty Reilly, John Hickman, and Russell Paulus and his Crew. More likely than not, these issues with our aging infrastructure will continue – and the Board will continue addressing them in a preventative measure, or as they occur.

The issues we had with the audio system have been addressed and it is working fine. The snow that we had was managed professionally by the contractor we have on call, John and Marty Reilly were overseeing the snow removal and salting of the parking lot.

The Board and Post Officers have been busy planning the 80th Anniversary Celebration which will be 24 – 26 April. Many Volunteers have stepped forward to assist. We especially thank the Post Auxiliary for their participation.

Also, we eagerly anticipate a large crowd attending the Help-A-Vet Town Hall event being put together by Past Post Commander Jim Jensen and Board Member Mike Tuckman. They have assembled a vast array of Veterans Advocates, Leaders and Speakers. The ranks of the Help-A-Vet Committee have dwindled over the years. Anyone interested in volunteering to be a member of the Committee, please see Past Post Commander Jim Jensen.

The VFW National Grant applications were submitted. We should know shortly what we were able to get. **#StillServing Grant** — \$1,500 was received for community service projects. It involved direct engagement by Post members with the community. Examples included: coats and sweats for Vets, providing holiday meals, or visiting Veteran facilities with food and gifts.

Our food donations have slowed down over the winter months. We need food for our food bank that supports area distributors, so please help out. Casseroles are doing wonderful and we are still handing them out to our churches that we SUPPORT. Once again, as in past years, we are collecting COATS AND SWEATS FOR VETS, men, or women's clothing. Please drop them off in the plastic container in the Lobby at the Post.

Finally, the Board will have several vacancies to fill in the coming year, beginning this June. We encourage all VFW Members to consider joining the Board and help make the crucial decisions necessary to keep our Post vibrant and meaningful.

Respectfully Submitted,
Board Chair,
Andrew Artemchuk

NEWS FROM THE JR VICE COMMANDER

Happy Winter Doldrums Everyone! An update on our VFW Post 7234 first place Patriot's Pen Winner, Matthew Johnson. Matthew also won first place at District 4 Level and won second place at the Delaware Department Level. Congratulations, Matthew! That is quite an accomplishment. Matthew moves up to Voice of Democracy next year.

Our Sunday Speaker Series has begun. Our first presentation was on February 22 at 2 pm, with PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere). It was an exciting presentation about a great program aimed at helping Veterans, including those with disabilities, rehabilitate and reintegrate through golf.

In March, we will again be hosting the amazing journalist and author, Nancy Lynch; this time with her Vietnam Mailbag presentation. She will be accompanied by one of "her guys", Rick Lovekin, from whom she received frequent correspondence during his 1969-1970 Vietnam tour. Rick will share some combat experiences and a media presentation of images set to music of the era. Both Nancy and Rick will be available for questions after the program. Their presentation will be on March 15 at 1 pm.

On another note, nominations and elections for Officer and Board of Director positions are coming up. Take a look at your talents and abilities and think about how you can help VFW Post 7234 to continue being the best of the best. If you have considered holding an office, this is the time. There are so many of us, but few are stepping forward to keep the momentum going. Even if it is only for one term, you can make a big difference.

I know Summer still taunts us in the distance, but we can get through this together!

Yours in Comradeship,
Phyllis Ryan Scully
Jr. Vice Commander

DECEASED MEMBERS



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.

Rudy Drummond John Barrett George Bunting

Herman Oberg Gabriel Sarate

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

March Chaplain's Corner

Greetings from Jeannette

Well, we all survived frigid February, and now we're looking forward to an early spring.

Member News

Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of Rudy Drummond, John Barrett, George Bunting, Herman Oberg, and Gabriel Sarate.

Something to Ponder

When March arrives, it carries a sense of possibility and renewal. The seasons begin to shift, inviting us to breathe a little deeper and welcome fresh beginnings. I've always felt a special fondness for March; it's my birthday month, and it was also my grandmother's. She was the first person who truly permitted me to be adaptable. She once told my parents, "*She's a March child, and like the March winds, she's allowed to be changeable.*" That wisdom has stayed with me, a gentle reminder that growth often comes through movement and change.

March is rich with spiritual meaning, symbolizing renewal, growth, and transformation. It encourages us to reconnect with ourselves, nurture our intentions, and step forward with hope. By embracing the energy of this month, we open the door to personal renewal and new possibilities, making March a beautiful time for reflection, healing, and inspired beginnings. A few inspiring facts about this vibrant, windy month:

- The Spring Equinox usually falls on March 20, marking the return of balance, light, and new life in the Northern Hemisphere.
- March's famously unpredictable weather gave rise to the saying, "*In like a lion, out like a lamb,*" reminding us that change often softens with time.
- The Northern Lights are often more visible around the Spring Equinox, a stunning reminder of nature's quiet magic.
- March's full moon is known as the Worm Moon, to some native Americans, symbolizing awakening, renewal, and the earth coming back to life.

As March unfolds, let's take a moment to set an intention for the season ahead. Welcome change with an open heart, trust the gentle momentum of growth, and allow yourself to begin again, one hopeful step at a time.



"Renewal doesn't ask for leaps—only the courage to take the next step."

-Author Unknown

BENEFITS ADVISOR OUTREACH



Caregiver Support Line (CSL)

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Caregiver Support Line (CSL) is a toll-free number 1-855-260-3274 for caregivers, family members, friends, Veterans, and community partners to contact for information related to Caregiving and available support services. Our dedicated CSL team provides information on caregiver support services, counseling, educational services, and referrals (electronic notification) to local Caregiver Support Program (CSP) staff at VA medical centers (VAMC).

CSL HOURS: Call VA's CSL Monday-Friday 8:00am-8:00pm at 1-855-260-3274 to learn more about the support that is available to you and for assistance connecting with the Caregiver Support Team at your local VA Medical Center. The VA is finally realizing that oral health affects the whole body. Currently, you have to be 100% disabled or have a service-connected oral injury to receive dental care and usually only at a VA facility which is understaffed and overbooked.

VA moves to improve Dental Care access for eligible Veterans.

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has released a request for proposals for a new dental care administrator to operate the department's next generation network of community care dental providers. The goal is to contract with a vendor that will support the department in building and maintaining a robust national network of licensed dental providers and practitioners. The network will include general and specialty dental care, preventive dental services, and pharmacy support.

Through this new contract, VA aims to improve and standardize dental care delivery, Veterans receive the preventive and restorative dental services they need to maintain their health. VA's Community Care Program enables Veterans to access health care from non-VA medical providers at the department's expense. Community care has been an integral part of caring for Veterans since the World War II era. In 2018, President Trump enshrined this right for Veterans by signing the bipartisan MISSION Act. Today, about 40% of all VA care is provided through community care.

Of the nine million Veterans enrolled in VA health care, approximately 26% are eligible for dental care. In fiscal year 2025 alone, 888,051 Veterans received dental care through VA, with more than 3.5 million dental procedures delivered through community care. “Dental health is a critical component of overall well-being,” said VA Secretary Doug Collins. “This RFP will result in a contract that dramatically improves our ability to provide quality dental care to eligible Veterans while ensuring they can choose the provider that’s best for them.”

“This RFP will result in a contract that dramatically improves our ability to provide quality dental care to eligible Veterans while ensuring they can choose the provider that’s best for them.”

VA moves to speed delivery of survivors’ benefits.

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs today announced a new regulation that will lead to faster decisions and quicker payments for certain types of survivors’ claims. Previously, VA was required to address claims for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and Survivors Pension separately, resulting in a longer claims process, as a formal decision was required for both benefits. With this change, effective Feb. 23, VA will pay the higher of the two benefits, which is generally, DIC — without delaying the process to develop the lesser benefit.

“This commonsense change streamlines the survivors claims process, reduces administrative burdens, and delivers quick decisions to beneficiaries during challenging times,” said Secretary Doug Collins.

DIC is a tax-free monthly monetary benefit paid to eligible surviving spouses, children and parents of a service member who died in the line of duty or Veterans who died from service-connected injuries or illnesses. Survivors Pension offers tax-free monthly payments to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime Veterans who meet certain income and net worth limits set by Congress. In most instances, DIC provides a greater economic benefit than Survivors Pension. This is not the case if all the following conditions are met:

- The claimant is the Veteran’s surviving spouse
- Has no dependents
- Is residing in a nursing home
- Has applied for, or is currently receiving Medicaid

If all these criteria are met, Survivors Pension — rather than DIC — will be awarded, and the DIC claim will not be further developed. For more information, contact the VA benefits hotline on 800-827-1000.

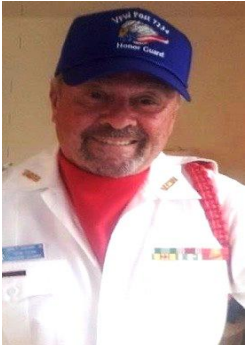
In Comradeship,

H “Rich” Fales, VFW Post 7234 Benefits Advisor

Cell: (301) 325-3813 Email: richfales@gmail.com



HONOR GUARD NEWS



The Honor Guard participated in 3 funerals in February rendering Volley and Taps and paying our respects to our deceased comrades. All three of our comrades were Vietnam Veterans and Life Members of VFW Post 7234.

Additionally, members of the Honor Guard, Post Officers, Board members, and Auxiliary members visited our comrades at the Brandywine Assisted Living in Selbyville.

On February 17th eight members of the Honor Guard paid our Post final respects to Comrade John Barrett (83), US Navy, with Volley and Taps, and folded and presented the American Flag to his widow Joan. The service was held at Gates of Heaven Cemetery in Dagsboro. John and Joan, owners of our local UPS store, did all our program printing for our Post. Rest in Peace Comrade John Barrett!

On February 21st ten members of the Honor Guard paid our Post final respects to Comrade George Howard Bunting (81), US Marine Corps, at the Prince Georges Cemetery in Dagsboro rendering Volley and Taps (see photos). George was a retired member of the Delaware State Senate and House of Representatives, serving 28 years. Rest in Peace Comrade George Bunting!

On February 27th, six members of the Honor Guard paid our Post final respects to Comrade Herman Oberg (82), US Army, at the Veterans Cemetery in Millsboro, rendering Volley and Taps. (see photos). Herm was a recipient of a Quilt of Valor at our Post on Veterans Day, 2022. Herm and his wife Mary were regulars at the Post and especially enjoyed Cheesesteak Night. Rest in Peace Comrade Herman Oberg!

On February 27th members of the Honor Guard, Post Officers and Board Members enjoyed a “Happy Hour” visit with Veteran residents and widows at Brandywine Assisted Living. A good time was had by all (see photos).

FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW:

The VFW Post 7234 Honor Guard was established in the late 1950s shortly after the Mason-Dixon Post 7234 was established (see photo). It serves as a dedicated unit performing solemn precise military funeral honors and ceremonial duties.

Our Post is an Honor Guard.

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. 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 their dedicated service to VFW Post 7234 and for their commitment to honor our deceased Comrades. This month we recognize Honor Guard member Ty Magliola (see photo). Ty joined VFW Post 7234 Auxiliary 8 years ago and at the urging of his neighbor, then Captain of the Post Honor Guard, Paul Burback, signed up for Honor Guard duty.



I joined the Honor Guard in the name and memory of my Dad who served in the European Theatre. My Dad served with the 137th APO in both the First and Third armies. He earned a battle star for the Bulge, the Bronze Star, and a Good Conduct Medal. He landed on Utah Beach and served in England, France, Belgium, Czech Republic, Luxembourg, and Germany. He is in the front row of the attached photo, second from left, kneeling with his hand on the grate. (see photo)



I joined the Honor Guard, because as one who did not serve, I felt it was a way to give back to those who did. Mason Dixon VFW Post 7234 thanks and salutes Honor Guard member Ty Magliola. We are grateful to all of our Post Honor Guard members and salute them for their dedication and service, and for representing 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 duties and responsibilities, please contact:

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.”

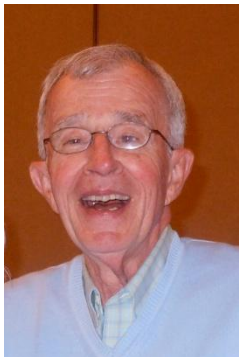
POST FLAG DUTY FOR MARCH 2026: SHARON RUEST and KEVIN CONLON

CANTEEN CORNER

As we head into Spring, March brings many exciting events to our Post.

- Monday evening is our game night. Mingo will be held on March 9 & 23, with the extremely popular Friendly Feud on March 16 & 30.
- Fridays will feature Line Dancing on March 6th & 20th, beginning at 1 PM.
- Texas Hold'em and Mahjong are played every Thursday afternoon. Come out and join the fun.
- The Annual Bar Olympics will be held on Sunday, March 8th. Two person teams, one female and one male. There is a \$10 entry fee. Sign up is 12:00 - 12:45 PM, games begin at 1 PM. Bring a covered dish to share.
- The annual St. Patrick's Day Party will be held on Sunday, March 15th, beginning at 4:30 PM. Party includes buffet, music by DJ Denny and Irish – themed Trivia.
- A Crock Pot Cookoff Competition will be held on Sunday, March 22. Bring your best chili, stew, and soup dishes. Competition begins at 3pm. A \$5 donation will be accepted to taste the various dishes. A panel of judges will award the winning prizes.
- Saturday nights continue to feature our famous Prime Rib Dinner along with an outstanding live entertainment schedule.
 - March 7 - Thin Ice
 - March 14 - Short Term Memory
 - March 21 - DJ Bump
 - March 28 - Identity Crisis
- **Tickets for the April 11th Bull & Oyster Roast go on sale at the Bar on Monday, March 2. It is open to the Public this year!**

John Frye, Canteen Manager



GUARDING AGAINST SCAMS

Scammers are smarter than I am. A lot smarter. That is the first thing I have to remember when I see or hear a solicitation from a nice-sounding cause, like “Help for Vets” and why I’m grateful to the VFW, the American Legion, and other veteran organizations as well as government agencies and consumer organizations for alerts and advice on guarding against scams.

Scammers are knowledgeable, skillful, creative, convincing, and relentless. Catch and knock down one and they change their identity and pop up elsewhere with a new, refined scam. It’s whack-a-mole. You have to stay alert.

The Federal Trade Commission has reported that Americans lose BILLIONS of dollars to fraud and scams every year. For example, the Delaware News Journal reported that late last year scammers convinced a woman to send over \$2 million to a phony company. It was money she intended for closing costs for the purchase of property in Dewey Beach. I didn’t understand how the scammers were able to assemble the records and information to convince her to do that.

The Washington Post recently reported that scammers are using Artificial Intelligence “deepfake” data to steal money from taxpayers. I have no idea what that means and how that works.

Veteran causes are very popular subjects for scammers. One reformed thief said his play book called for using phony fire fighters and police causes first, then veterans and sick kids for sympathy in his scams. In one example, a scammer solicited car, truck, boat, and real estate donations for “Veterans of America.” The donated vehicles and property were then sold, and the proceeds went to the scammer. Nothing to the veteran.

Some Scam Warnings

- You receive a text message allegedly from a government agency, like the DMV or IRS, claiming you have unpaid tickets, tolls, taxes or other obligations and demanding immediate payment or suffer canceled benefits or law enforcement consequences.
- A related cause for suspicion is a demand or request for payment by gift card or crypto currency.
- A claim you won a lottery or contest you did not enter and requesting personal information to transfer the prize.
- Pressure to make an immediate decision.

Some Advice for Protection (from various sources).

- The IRS, Delaware DMV and other government agencies do not demand payment for alleged violations by text message. The IRS will not text or email you without your prior permission.
- If you have caller ID and message recording features on your phone and you do not recognize an incoming call, do not answer. If callers want to reach you, they can leave a message.
- IRS advises that if you receive a text or email like the one described above, DO NOT click on any links or open any attachments. Forward the communication to “phishing@irs.gov and then delete it. Also report the text of the message to your carrier. If a caller leaves a message claiming to be from the IRS, do not call back, unless you initiated the contact.
- The safest response to these solicitations seems to be do not respond or engage in any conversation with the caller.
- If someone you do not know contacts you by email, phone call, text or regular mail asking for a donation, or any personal information, press the mental pause button, and do not respond until you check it out.
- Resources for checking claims include Charity Navigator, give.org, and Charity Watch. They can provide information on many charitable organizations, including their fundraising practices and records, administrative expenses and how much of money donated actually gets to those in need.

I hope this will be helpful. It is sad, but this is the reality of the world in which we live now. Vigilance and caution are the key words. Personally, when it comes to donations for veteran causes, Rosemary and I do what we are able to do and limit donations to those organizations we know: The VFW, American Legion charities, and Disabled American Veterans. I have to add the Army Emergency Relief fund to help active- duty personnel and their families in need. You may have others.

Looking forward to March and Springlike no-snow weather, here are some days to keep in mind in addition to all the dates on the Post calendar. Hope you enjoy every day in March.

- March 8.** Daylight Savings Time begins. Set clocks ahead one hour.
- March 17.** St. Patrick's Day
- March 20.** Spring begins
- March 29.** National Vietnam War Veterans Day

Jerry Hardiman

COMMUNITY OUTREACH and HELP-A-VET COMMITTEE

Past Post Commander Jim Jensen along with former Jr. Vice Mike Tuckman are hosting an informative Town Hall at the Post on Friday, April 10. Stop by and bring your spouse/caregiver. See the flyer at the end of this Newsletter for more details.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR LOAN

Our Post maintains a large inventory of Medical items for loan. Items such as canes, walkers, wheelchairs, toilet seats, etc. Please contact Tom StClair for availability at: Tomst48@aol.com.



VFW Post 7234 Receiving Check from Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce for Fire & Ice Festival Chicken Sales. Congratulations to All!



VFW Post 7234 Auxiliary President Kevin Conlon on a recent visit to Veterans at Brandywine Assisted Living



VFW Post 7234 Officers, Board Members and Honor Guard on a recent visit to Veterans at Brandywine Assisted Living



Bertie along with Mike Schiffer at Brandywine Assisted Living Facility



Jr Vice Commander Phyllis Scully at Brandywine Assisted Living Facility



VFW Post 7234's 80TH Anniversary Celebration ESSAY CONTEST

Mason-Dixon VFW Post 7234 of Ocean View, Delaware proudly celebrates its 80th Anniversary in April 2026. It honors decades of dedicated service to Veterans and our southern Delaware community neighbors. We are looking forward to a vibrant future and to our continuing mission of serving, helping and honoring Veterans while strengthening our community ties for decades to come. Every VFW Member has a story uniquely their own. We want to know yours, and we are offering a prize to hear it. The Themes:

- **What has your Membership in VFW Post 7234 meant to you?**
- **How has the Post impacted your life?**

SHARE YOUR STORY!

Entries can be a specific story, or your overall assessment of Mason-Dixon VFW Post 7234's impact on your life. It can be a few lines, or multiple pages.

HOW TO ENTER

- **OPEN TO ALL VFW POST 7234 MEMBERS (VFW, AUXILIARY, MASON-DIXON)**
- **SUBMIT ALL ENTRIES TO vfwpost7234@gmail.com BY APRIL 10, 2026**
- **WINNING ENTRY WILL BE REVEALED DURING OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND CELEBRATION (APRIL 24 – 26, 2026)**

WHAT DOES THE WINNER(S) GET?

- **\$250 CASH PRIZE**
- **YOUR SUBMISSION FEATURED IN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**
- **YOUR ENTRY SUBMITTED TO THE COASTAL POINT NEWSPAPER FOR PUBLISHING**

*** NOTE: BY SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY, YOU GIVE MASON-DIXON VFW POST 7234 PERMISSION TO USE ALL, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, FOR ANY PROFESSIONAL AND FUTURE MARKETING MATERIALS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.**

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Mason Dixon Post 7234



29265 Marshy Hope Way,
Ocean View, DE 19970

TOWN HALL

VETERAN OUTREACH EVENT

Health Care & Benefits Support



■ **Friday, April 10th, 2026**
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Continental Breakfast & Lunch Provided

■ **Mason Dixon VFW Post 7234**

29265 Marshy Hope Way
Ocean View, DE 19970

Veterans · Spouses · Children · Caregivers

VSOs · The Veterans Home · The Vet Center · DE VA Representative · Patient Advocate

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT THIS EVENT

File Claims

& Sign Up for VA Health Care

Veterans Disability

Benefits — Never Too Late to File!

Healthcare Enrollment

Veteran Access & Coverage

Widow & Spouse Pension

Benefits & Eligibility

Homeless & End of Life

Care & Support Services

Get Questions Answered

Learn About New Benefits

★ SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS ★

NAME	TITLE & ORGANIZATION
Karen Berry	Delaware Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Anthony Bourdeau	Director, Delaware Office of Veterans Affairs
Valarie Harwood	Public Affairs Officer, VA Wilmington, DE
John Richter	The Vet Center, Georgetown, DE
Edith Devore	The Veterans Home, Milford, DE

FREE EVENT · ALL ARE WELCOME · NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

POST OFFICERS TEAM

Post 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 CPT	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 OFFICERS

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 canned or dried 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 CPT JOHN GOSSART, Jr.
(240) 304-8183**

**HELP A VET PROGRAM (Jim Jensen)
Veterans - Need Assistance? A friendly
call? A visit? Transport to our Meetings?
etc. Contact our Post:
VFWpost7234@gmail.com**

**Know of a VFW Member Sick or Deceased?
Please call:
For VFW – Jeannette Twigg (302) 539-9981
For Aux – Annie Berger (302) 539-9981**

**Need Assistance with VA Questions &
Issues? Please call:
Rich Fales (301)325-3813, or
email Rich at richfales@gmail.com**

**To sign up for our email List and to get the
Latest Calendar and Newsletter, send your
email to the Post Adjutant at:
vfwpost7234@gmail.com**