



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234 SEPTEMBER 2026

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Comrades, Auxiliary and Friends,



As we head into the waning days of Summer, we pause to remember that horrific day 25 years ago when our Nation faced one of the most despicable assaults in our history. 9/11/01 changed the course of the lives of a generation, I know it changed mine. It strikes me that many of this current generation have little understanding of the events of that day, the days, weeks, the decades to follow. We will remember, we will never forget, and we will honor Patriots Day on September 11, 2026 at VFW Post 7234. Please join us.

In Comradeship,

**Phyllis Scully
Post Commander**

WE WILL NEVER FORGET
9/11 MEMORIAL CEREMONY

25 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

Friday, September 11, 2026

VFW POST 7234

Outside by the Gazebo

Please Arrive by 8:00 A.M.

Ceremony: 8:30–9:30 A.M.

GUEST SPEAKER: JEFF RINGEL

In New York City on September 11, he witnessed the attacks
and later served with the FBI in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Commemorative Bell Tolling • Honor Guard Rifle Volley • Taps

*Honoring the lives lost, the heroes who answered the call,
and all those forever changed.*



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Note: This article contains excerpts, indicated by *bold italics*, taken from the Lyrics of Alan Jackson's song, *Where were you (when the world Stopped Turning)*?



September used to be the time to look forward to Labor Day, the unofficial end of summer and children starting school. It still carries those thoughts; however, the events of 9/11 have forever marred our September anticipations.

9/11/2021, twenty-five years ago. *Where were you when the world stopped turning on that September day?* a song written and performed by Alan Jackson presented us with poignant thoughts.

*Did you stand there in shock
At the sight of that black smoke
Risin' against that blue sky?*

*Did you shout out in anger
In Fear for your neighbor
Or did you just sit down and cry?*

It is a day that will be ever in our minds and hearts for those who lived through it.

*Did you look up to heaven for some kind of answer
And look at yourself and what really matters?*

We were all asking questions as to how this could happen, those that could, hugged their loved ones and prayed for those that couldn't.

I was in Israel for work, when I returned to my hotel, I saw live on television, the second plane hit the south tower. Israeli time is 6 hours ahead from the Eastern U.S. Everything I knew came closing in around me in a foreign land. There was no way to get a flight home due to the closing of air spaces in both the United States and Israel. I remember the Israeli personnel at the hotel telling us that they would help us in any way possible since we were Americans. Eventually, after a few days, we were able to get a flight to Frankfurt, Germany and then a flight to Cincinnati, Ohio. We then drove to Delaware. We were grateful to be home.

*Did you burst out with pride
For the red, white and blue
And The heroes who died
Just doing' what they do?*

It was a time for reflection about life and death, living, and cherishing those close to us.

We must never forget! Let us always show our pride and love for our families, friends, and strangers.

Let's take this moment to thank all the First Responders who sacrificed on that day and for those who continue to sacrifice every day for the freedoms we enjoy.

Make sure to stand tall and silent at 8:46 a.m. when the first plane hit the North Tower and continue to remember the others when their planes crashed at 9:03 a.m., 9:37 a.m. and 10:03 a.m.

On the morning of 9/11, the Post will hold a memorial ceremony starting at 8:30 a.m.

Monday, September 7 is Labor Day. The traditional end to summer. Living in the beach area, it is a date on which many of us look forward. The school children in our area will be going back to school after Labor Day. Let's watch out for them and their yellow limousines.

VFW Auxiliary Post 7234 will host Auxiliary National President Donna Mills on Sunday, September 20 for dinner. Invitations will be sent out to meet and greet President Mills and show her why Post 7234 is the largest Auxiliary. The Delaware Department Auxiliary Officers will accompany the National President on her visit to Post 7234.

As I write this, another summer of chicken shack barbecuing comes to an end. I volunteer for this along with numerous other volunteers. This is a dedicated group of Veterans and Auxiliary members, known as Smoke Eaters, who ensure the chicken is top notch and ready for all our customers. To all the Smoke Eaters – Thank You! If you haven't stopped by, you have one more chance left this year, Saturday, September 5! Chicken Shack 2027 begins at the end of May 2027!

I leave you with this one last thought.

Where were you when the world stopped turning on that September day?

Kevin Conlon
Auxiliary 7234 President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary,

. I hope everyone is having a wonderful end of summer! Please find below several important updates regarding our Post:

Maintenance News

John, Marty Rielly, and Jeff have been hard at work maintaining the landscaping around the Memorial Garden and the front of our building. This is done weekly during the summer season. They also have weekly maintenance checkups on our water system and syrup system.

John, Marty, Jeff, and Steve Corrado's brother repaired the wall by the dart machines from water damage and repaired the area where the water came in.

Canteen and Equipment Updates

The new POS system is working fine with no crashes or shutdowns.

We have to purchase a new 34-inch refrigerator underneath the bar. The compressor kept going out, and it was costing us more money to have it fixed even though it was under warranty. When you see John, Marty, Jeff, and Steve, please say thank you to them.

John Gossart, Captain of the Honor Guard, is moving along with his committee in searching for a van. He will update us with information when it is received.

Community Outreach

Since receiving a notification from the state of Delaware regarding the \$20,000 grant we received, it took a little over a week to get the banking information straight. It is now correct, and we are able to receive money from the state into our VFW checking account.

Once a month, the outreach volunteers go down to St. Paul's By The Sea and serve either spaghetti casseroles, cheesesteaks, or hot dogs to those in need.

Donations Needed

We are still in need of food for our "Helping Hands" pantry. Specifically, we are looking for:

- Coffee and canned meats
- Hamburger Helper and potatoes
- Rice, pasta, and pasta sauce

Additionally, we are once again collecting "Coats and Sweats for Vets" (men's and women's).

Best regards,

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Artemchuk
Board Chairman

DECEASED MEMBERS



Frank W Cappella
Millard J Gomez

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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings from Jeannette

For our members who lost loved ones in August, we offer our deepest condolences and prayers of comfort in the knowledge that their loved ones are safe and at peace.

Something to Ponder

This school year, I'm blessed to have two granddaughters starting kindergarten—five-year-olds with oversized backpacks, clinging to their parents' hands, wide-eyed with fear and wonder. September brings a big shift: new rooms, new faces, new rules, and unfamiliar ground. Sometimes adults wear that same wide-eyed look when life changes—through health concerns, loss, moving, children leaving home, or rediscovering who we are in a new decade. We stand at the doorway of something unfamiliar, holding tightly to what once felt safe. In those moments, offer yourself the same grace you would give a child on the first day of school: expect fatigue, trust the process, and hold onto small routines that keep you grounded. No one enters a new season with all the answers. Take a breath, lace up your shoes, and step through the door. You've conquered hard ground before—and you will again. Enjoy the journey.



All I really need to know I learned in kindergarten. By Robert Fulghum

Put things back where you found them.
Clean up your own mess.
Don't take things that aren't yours.
Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
Wash your hands before you eat.
Flush.
Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
Live a balanced life - learn some and think some
and draw and paint and sing and dance and play
and work every day some.
Take a nap every afternoon.
When you go out into the world, watch out for
traffic,
hold hands, and stick together.

BENEFITS ADVISOR OUTREACH

While I normally concentrate on Veteran and VA services, there are many Federal agencies



that have County-level Aging Agencies Services available that shouldn't be overlooked. Some may even offer preference to veterans. They are often free or at a low cost. To get started, access the Administration for Community Living at acl.gov. This website offers links to Aging and Disability networks. The following step by step guide is from the August 2026 National Association Retired Federal Employee magazine article by Herb Casey.

STEP 1: CONTACT A SINGLE-ENTRY POINT

You can begin by contacting your local office. Call the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 or search online at Elder Care Locator (eldercare.acl.gov/home) by zip code or city or reach out to your state or county helpline for assistance.

STEP 2: SPEAK WITH A SPECIALIST

A specialist will ask about your age, location and needs, and whether you're seeking information or assistance with enrollment. You don't have to be in a crisis or know all your options – these offices are there to help you navigate available services.

STEP 3: LEARN ABOUT PROGRAMS

The specialist will outline the programs you may qualify for and can connect you with resources such as nutrition, transportation, in-home support or caregiver services. Some options are available right away, while others might require you to complete an application or go through a screening process, depending on program availability.

STEP 4: COMPLETE APPLICATION(S)

You might be asked to show proof of your age, address or income. Staff members are available to assist with completing forms, so it's helpful to keep your important documents organized and within reach.

STEP 5: ASSESSMENTS AND WAITLISTS

Some services may require an assessment, and if there is a waitlist, it's important to ask about expect timelines, explore temporary or alternative options, and keep in regular contact since openings can change.

STEP 6: FOLLOW UP

If your needs change or if you need addition clarification, be sure to contact the office again and request a reassessment if needed. County offices are there to provide ongoing support, not just one-time assistance. As a helpful tip, keep a record of whom you spoke with and the date for future reference.

ABOUT COMMUNITY LIVING

All people, regardless of age or disability, should be able to live independently and participate fully in their communities. Every person should have the right to make choices and to control the decisions in and about their lives. This right to self-determination includes decisions about their homes and work, as well as all the other daily choices most adults make without a second thought.

Why Community Living

In survey after survey, when older adults and people with disabilities are asked where they would prefer to live, they say they want to live in their communities, not in institutions. People also are happier and healthier when they live in community settings.

Inclusion of older adults and people with disabilities also offers many benefits to communities themselves. Communities miss out on valuable voices and perspectives when people with disabilities and older adults are left out. They are deprived of co-workers, volunteers, mentors, and friends who offer new ways of thinking about, and navigating, the world. When older adults are excluded, communities lose wisdom collected over many decades and their connection to history.

Community living also happens to be less expensive than other options for most people. Skilled nursing facilities can cost an average of \$75,000 a year and public residential facilities for people with disabilities average \$225,000 a year. In most cases, these costs are not covered by Medicare or private health insurance.

Finally, a series of laws, court decisions, and administrative rules have established community living as a legal right. Most notably, in 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in **Olmstead v. L.C.** that people with disabilities must receive services in the most integrated settings possible. This landmark decision has been a critical tool in protecting the rights of people with disabilities and older adults alike.

Supporting People in the Community

Many older adults and people with disabilities need help with the daily tasks of life. For some people, this is physical help, such as help with dressing and eating. For others, it is help with making decisions and planning. Still, others require a blend of supports. Each person is unique, and the help they may need is unique as well.

At ACL, we believe that the preferences and needs of older adults and people with disabilities who need assistance belong at the center of the system of services and supports that enable them to live the lives they want to live. We further believe that those needs and preferences should be defined by the individual receiving services and supports.

At the same time, ACL recognizes that some people with disabilities and some older adults experience challenges in understanding and communicating their preferences and needs, and family members and caregivers often play a critical role in ensuring that those preferences are honored and needs are met. We also recognize that the preferences of the individual are not the only factor in determining how to best support that person. The availability of services and supports in a variety of settings, the resources and availability of family caregivers, and other factors also must be considered.

Making Community Living Work for You and Your Family

Finding services or supports to live in the community can feel overwhelming, especially when the need arises unexpectedly, such as after a fall or an accident. Many people do not know what services are available, whom to ask for help, or where to start.

The [Disability Information and Access Locator \(DIAL\)](#) helps people with disabilities get connected to information about local community resources that support independent living. Connect with a DIAL information specialist from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday by calling 888-677-1199 or emailing DIAL@usaginganddisability.org. To

connect directly to an agent in American Sign Language, call 888-677-1199 from your videophone. You can also [chat live with an information specialist](#) from DIAL.

For older adults, ACL's Eldercare Locator is a great place to start.

Visit www.eldercare.acl.gov or call 800-677-1116 to be connected with your local Area Agency on Aging or Aging and Disability Resource Center. Those organizations can help you understand what services are available in your community and help you sign up.

In many states, [Aging and Disability Resource Centers](#) can act as a gateway to a broad range of services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities.

For disabled people of all ages, [Centers for Independent Living](#) are a great first stop. These community-based centers are run by and for people with disabilities and offer a broad range of services to empower and enable people to stay in the community.

People with disabilities of all ages may also benefit from assistive technology (AT) devices and services. AT includes everything from “low tech” helping tools, like utensils with big handles, to high tech solutions, like talking computers. Every state and territory has an [Assistive Technology Act program](#) that can help people find, try, and obtain AT.

A number of other resources are available to help you find and access services in your area. Our [Find Help](#) page can point you in the right direction

In Comradeship,

H “Rich” Fales-Post Benefits Advisor

Cell# 301-325-3813

Email: richfales@gmail.com (NEW!)



HONOR GUARD NEWS

The Honor Guard participated in two funeral services and one Celebration of Life during the month of August.



On August 10th at the Veterans Cemetery in Millsboro, 12 members of the Honor Guard rendered Volley and Taps for deceased Comrade Joe Martinez (93), a Coast Guard Korean veteran and life member of Post 7234. Rest in Peace Comrade Martinez.

On August 11th at the Veterans Cemetery in Millsboro, 10 members of the Honor Guard rendered Volley and Taps for deceased Comrade Frank Carpella (94), a United States Marine Corps Korean veteran and life member of Post 7234. Rest in Peace Comrade Carpella.

On August 24th at VFW Post 7234, Ocean View, 13 members of the Honor Guard participated in the Celebration of Life for Past Post Commander and Post life member Willie Ventro. The Honor Guard rendered Volley and Taps. Willie was heavily involved in Post activities and building our Post membership and veteran programs. Willie was a submariner in the Navy during WWII. Rest in Peace Comrade Ventro.

7PM

As has been reported, the Post needs a new van for the transportation of our Honor Guard and its officers. A committee has been formed to move forward in this endeavor. The committee is investigating and reviewing all possibilities to include funding. Donations are accepted! I am working with Congresswoman Sarah McBride and her office looking at federal grants. A report will be presented to our members at our membership Meeting of September 14th at 7PM. Come out and support us.

Honor guard members John and Marty Reilly (our Drum Corps) received their new official VFW kilts. Please let them know how nice they look in their new uniform.



The Honor Guard will be installing additional memorial bricks in our Memorial Park during the next two weeks.US

The following Post Officers have Post Flag Duty during the Month of September.

Honor Guard Captain John Gossart

BOD Member John Reddington

Our US Flag will fly at half-staff on September 1st in memory of Dolly Parton a friend to veterans. Our flag will also fly at half-staff on 9/11, and a Memorial Service will be held at the Post at 8:00AM for Patriots Day 9/11.

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. It continues in service today with eighteen* members. It serves as a dedicated unit performing solemn precise military funeral honors and ceremonial duties. Our current Honor Guard members represent the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the Air Force. The Honor Guard is currently led by Honor Guard Captain John Gossart, a US Army Vietnam veteran.

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**

We are grateful to our Post Honor Guard members for your dedication and service, and “salute” you for your sacrifice, service, and 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.”**

POST FLAG DUTY for September 2026
Honor Guard Captain John Gossart
BOD Member John Reddington

CANTEEN CORNER

Labor Day kicks off with our Labor Day weekend. Let’s not forget this special day as we honor the American worker and their contributions to the country's strength, prosperity and well-being.

We again have the honor of hosting Operation Sea's the Day on Tuesday Sept. 8th. Bethany Beach honors our wounded warriors by hosting them and their families for a well-deserved week of rest and relaxation.

Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinners will be held on Sept. 25 & Oct. 2. Doors open 5pm. Mingle and social hour 5- 6
Dinner 6- 7, dancing 7 - 10. Music provided by DJ HOOK. Please remember to pick up your tickets by Friday Sept. 18th.

Sunday entertainment on the deck will continue throughout September. Hours will slightly change from 4 - 7 pm to highlight our spectacular sunsets. Burgers and dogs will continue as well from 5 - 7pm.

Attention all Eagles, Ravens, and Commander fans, football season is upon us. Bring a covered dish to share. Post will provide snacks at the beginning of the 1pm game.



The Bull & Oyster Roast will be held on Saturday Oct 10th. Tickets go on sale Monday August 31. Each member can buy three guest tickets. Event is open to public. Tickets are \$50. All proceeds go to the Veteran's Relief Fund.

Thank you
John Frye
Canteen Manager

CHICKEN SHACK – DELMARVA FOODIE ELITIST

Congratulations!!!! Recognized as the best BBQ chicken in the state.

<https://foodieelitist.com/reviews/vfw-post-7234-chicken-shack>

VETERANS HONOR FLIGHT

I recently went on an Honor Flight bus originating from American Legion Post 28 in Millsboro. The day began with a continental breakfast supplied by the Post Auxiliary. After that we met our guardian, an escort volunteer whose assignment is to look out for the veteran during the trip. We were welcomed by General (Ret.) Karen Berry the current Delaware Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

At 7 A.M. we boarded buses and left with a police escort, lights flashing. A Maryland escort met the buses at the border and escorted us all the way into D.C. Beverages and snacks were provided during the entire trip to D. C. and back. An EMT with full gear was present on each bus. When returning a dinner was served by Post 28 volunteers.

Guardians escorted the veterans at all times to ensure their safety and comfort as many older vets needed assistance getting on and off the bus and on stairs. Wheelchairs are provided for any vet in need.

It was an outstanding experience and opportunity to visit the memorials and the honor flight staff and guardians went over and above to insure our comfort.

The next honor flight from Delaware is 17 October of this year and I highly recommend this experience for all veterans.

The link for information and to sign up is: <https://firststatehonorflight.org> .

Mike Tuckman

★ YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED ★
TO A SPECIAL DAY HONORING

Women Veterans

Dear _____,

Because of your service, strength,
and sacrifice, generations are stronger.

*We invite you to be our honored guest
at a special event created just for you.*

Join us for a day of recognition,
resources, and connection with
fellow women veterans.

You deserve to be celebrated.



★ HONORING HER SERVICE • CONNECTING HER TO THE BENEFITS SHE EARNED ★



DATE:
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



LOCATION:
MASON DIXON VFW POST 7234
29265 MARSHY HOPE WAY
OCEAN VIEW, DE 19970



CONTINENTAL
BREAKFAST &
LUNCH PROVIDED



We look forward to welcoming
you!

With gratitude,
Mason Dixon VFW Post 7234

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

*Thank you for
your service.
You inspire us
every day.*



LEADERSHIP TEAM

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board Member	Laura Johnson
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Board Member	Tom StClair
Board Member	John Reddington

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Jr Vice Pres	Mike McGill
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Chaplain	Annie Berger
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Conductress	Barbara Peterson
Patriotic Ins	Peg Atkins
3yr Trustee	Carol Weber
2yr Trustee	Connie Weber
1yr 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