



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

OCTOBER 2026

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Comrades, Auxiliary and Friends,



With summer behind us and days getting shorter, we have time to slow down and reflect. We have just commemorated the 25th Anniversary of 9/11, and will be celebrating Veterans Day in November. Thanksgiving is coming, and we will once again invite you to join us for our annual Thanksgiving dinner. I am personally thankful for all of you and everything you do to keep this the Post the best. You are all here to comfort and support your fellow Veterans by providing a welcoming place to share a meal, a memory or a friendly game. You show kindness to newcomers and regular members alike.

With the shorter days and longer hours of darkness, many people experience isolation, sadness and depression. Please let's all take the time to reach out to our comrades, friends and neighbors. And if you are feeling lonely, sad or hopeless, please reach out.

Burdens shared are easier to bear, and your friends here at Post

7234 and the Auxiliary are here for you.

In Comradeship,

Phyllis Scully
Post Commander



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Get the cobwebs out! Volunteer and make being a VFW Auxiliary Member memorable! It is a beautiful time at the beach and on the water as Fall kicks in. The Post held a very moving ceremony at the Gazebo in remembrance of 9/11 despite a steady rain. Jeff Ringel, Post Junior Vice Commander, was the guest speaker. Thank you all for taking the time to come out and remember all those impacted by 9/11. September 12 was a gorgeous day for the Bethany Arts Festival. Post 7234 and the Auxiliary had a successful day handing out over 400 mini-US flags with poppies attached and over 250 additional poppies.



Junior Vice Commander Jeff Ringel, Board of Director Member Sharon Ruest, Commander Phyllis Scully and Auxiliary President Kevin Conlon man the VFW Post 7234 table at the Bethany arts Festival on the boardwalk, September 12, 2026.

The Auxiliary celebrated the 112th birthday of the VFW Auxiliary on September 14 at our general membership meeting with cake shared with the VFW!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

National President Donna Mills paid a visit to Post 7234 on September 20, 2026. VFW Auxiliary and VFW members attended a catered dinner in the Atrium. The weather cooperated and provided a stunning sunset to highlight Post 7234 for President Mills' visit.



Receiving Line at the Post on September 20, 2026



President Mills Addresses Aux. 7234



President Mills with VFW Officers Post



National President Mills with
Auxiliary President Conlon



National President Mills with
State President Weese

The Post held the first of two Volunteer Appreciation Dinners on September 25. The second one is October 2. Thanks to all the Post volunteers, both VFW and Auxiliary. Without your hard work and efforts, the Post could not function as it does! Thank You!

Get ready for Ocean View Police Department's Cops and Goblins on October 24, 2026 from 1 to 4 at John West Park in Ocean View! The Auxiliary is participating just like in previous years. Come out and support this great Halloween Festival!

Post 7234 is hosting a Help-a-Vet Women's Veteran Day, October 23 from 9:00 to 3:00. If you know a Woman Veteran, please pass this information on to her in case she would like to attend.

Post 7234 Auxiliary has surpassed 2800 total members! We are the largest VFW Auxiliary in the World! Congratulations, it is thanks to all our members!

The membership committee, with the guidance of Chuck Bologna, Sandra Magera and Barabara Peterson are starting a new member orientation luncheon. The first luncheon of this initiative will be held in October, date to be determined. Invitations will be sent to new members.

Interested in knowing more about our 7234 Auxiliary? Come to our general membership meetings on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. to find out what is going on and meet other Auxiliary members and get INVOLVED!

To obtain pertinent information, please submit your email address to one of the current officers. Your email will be added to the list for receiving information about the happenings at the Post. You can also check the Auxiliary Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/VFWAUX7234>.

SPAGHETTI CASSEROLE MISSION Donating casseroles to homeless shelters has been a VFW mission for many years. There is much appreciation for all the hundreds and hundreds of casseroles made by VFW and Auxiliary Members to contribute to this cause. Donating to the many local homeless shelters will continue at the same pace as it has for a long time. **But a new mission has been undertaken!** Post 7234 is now donating casseroles to a local food pantry! The commitment is for fifty to sixty casseroles on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. This is an amazing pledge, and the food pantry is very excited! You provide the ingredients and make the casserole. The Post provides the aluminum pans with lids, directions for the casseroles and freezer space for all donations as they are delivered to the Post. You can stop by the Post to pick up all the pans, lids and directions you can handle! Thank you to all who already make casseroles and thank you in advance for all the additional casseroles contributed to this new Post initiative to help Vets and others in our community.

The National President is all about teamwork and football. Wear your favorite football jersey to the October 5 meeting! State President Dale Weese will be in attendance with several of his state officers for their annual visit. He will be especially impressed if there are Ravens fans wearing their purple!

Enjoy the Fall foliage and the crisp weather that comes with the Fall!

Kevin Conlon

Auxiliary 7234 President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

Greetings, comrades and friends,

Please find below several notes and updates regarding our Post:

Maintenance News:

John, Marty Reilly, and Jeff Smith have been hard at work maintaining the landscaping around the Memorial Garden and the front of our building. This is done weekly along with other jobs around the Post. They have also completed several painting projects on the exterior of the building.

Additionally, we put a new cooler behind the bar. The old one kept malfunctioning due to the compressor; even though the compressor was under warranty, we had to pay to have it replaced.

Canteen:

The canteen had one of its best summers to date. Music on the deck during the summer with burgers and hot dogs, along with our other summer events, drew a great crowd. This summer, the chicken shack and the Sunday breakfast had the best sales since we've been running them.

Honor Guard:

John Gossart, Captain of the Honor Guard, is making progress on the research for a new van for the

Post. The committee is working very diligently gathering information.

Community Outreach:

We have received our first installment of the \$20,000 grant, and \$5,000 was used toward a new split unit for our Quartermaster's office downstairs.

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
- Condiments, including mayonnaise
- Rice, pasta, and pasta sauce

Please keep bringing in the spaghetti casseroles. To date, we have given out 3,537 of them—thank you to all our volunteers who make them!

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

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Artemchuk
Board Chairman

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings from Jeannette

September has brought losses, illness, and surgery to several members. Please know that our prayers surround each of you as you walk through sadness or healing. May God grant you strength, courage, and a deep sense of His comforting presence.

Something to Ponder

October rushed in with change, from temperatures to transitions. Just as our coastline was battered by the relentless Nor'easter—stripping the sands and reshaping the shore—we are reminded that devastation is never the final word. The quiet, sacred work of rebuilding our beaches mirrors the healing of our own spirits, as earth and soul align to restore what was lost. This resilience to continue is a steady, quiet pulse within us. We can take our time, breathe deeply, and trust that there is a Divine plan at work. The same is true of the transitions in our lives: we move forward slowly, surely, and in faith. Grounding ourselves, choosing to drop anchor into the present moment even when storms rage around us, becomes a holy practice. When we breathe in the sacred stillness of now, we build an invisible fortress of unshakable faith. And as October unfolds, may our beaches be restored and our steps carry us forth renewed strength.



*"The cure for
anything is salt
water – sweat,
tears or the sea."
Isak Dinesen (Karen
Blixen)*

DECEASED MEMBERS



Llyod E Linton

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

Claims process streamlined for Veterans affected by 1973 NPRC records fire

August 24, 2026

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is making the claims process easier for Veterans whose [records were damaged or destroyed in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center \(NPRC\)](#).



VA Deputy Secretary Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D., and VA's Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits Margarita Devlin, sat down to discuss the problem, noted how VA is fixing it, and then explained what affected Veterans should know and do moving forward.

1973 National Personnel Records Center fire

In July 1973, a massive fire broke out at the [NPRC near St. Louis, Missouri](#), destroying an estimated 16 to 18 million military personnel records. The fire mainly impacted Army Veterans discharged between 1912 and 1960, and Air Force Veterans discharged between 1947 and 1964 with last names starting with Hubbard through Z.

For many of these Veterans, the records that burned may have contained crucial details about their military service and medical treatment—the kind of evidence often needed to support a disability claim decades later.

The problem VA is fixing.

Even though it's been over 50 years, the effects of that fire are still being felt today. When a Veteran's records are missing due to the fire, VA seeks alternate sources—things like morning reports, hospital admission cards, and old Surgeon General's Office extracts—to help reconstruct what happened during their service.

To do that, VA typically asks Veterans to fill out two forms: one about their medical treatment (NA Form 13055) and one about their military service history (NA Form 13075). Historically, VA has asked Veterans to fill out these same forms more than once—even when the information was already on file—because it wasn't always easy for different claims processors to see what information had already been submitted. This contributed to delays for Veterans trying to get the benefits they've earned.

What's changing for Veterans.

VA began using a more consistent, Veteran-friendly process last month. That process includes:

- One packet, not repeated requests. Veterans will now receive a single, comprehensive packet at the start of the process containing both forms, so they only provide this information once. That packet will be saved and reused for all future development on their claim.
- No more duplicate paperwork. If a Veteran has already submitted the required forms, claims processors won't ask again—unless NPRC specifically says it needs new or different information that isn't already on file.
- Better visibility for VA staff. VA is improving how this information is organized and displayed internally, so all fire-related records and forms are easier to find in one place. Greater visibility reduces the chance of Veterans being asked to repeat themselves.

What this means for Veterans.

These changes are intended to reduce the burden on Veterans who've already faced an uphill battle proving their service information due to circumstances entirely outside their control. Veterans can expect:

- Fewer repeat requests for the same information
- Clearer expectations about what's needed and when
- Faster, more consistent claims processing

VA already applies a sympathetic evidentiary standard when a Veteran's records are confirmed or reasonably believed to have been lost in the fire. VA can accept credible statements from the Veteran, fellow service members or others with knowledge of the event. This means Veterans are not penalized simply because their official paperwork no longer exists.

What Veterans should do.

If you believe your records were affected by the 1973 NPRC fire—including if you were previously denied benefits because your records couldn't be located—please don't wait to file a claim.

1. File or reopen a claim at va.gov.

2. Get help if you need it. Call VA at 1-800-827-1000 or work with an accredited representative.

Veterans whose records were lost in the fire should not assume they're ineligible for benefits, and you don't have to rebuild your records alone. VA is here to help.

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 3 ceremonies and services and 1 visit during September.



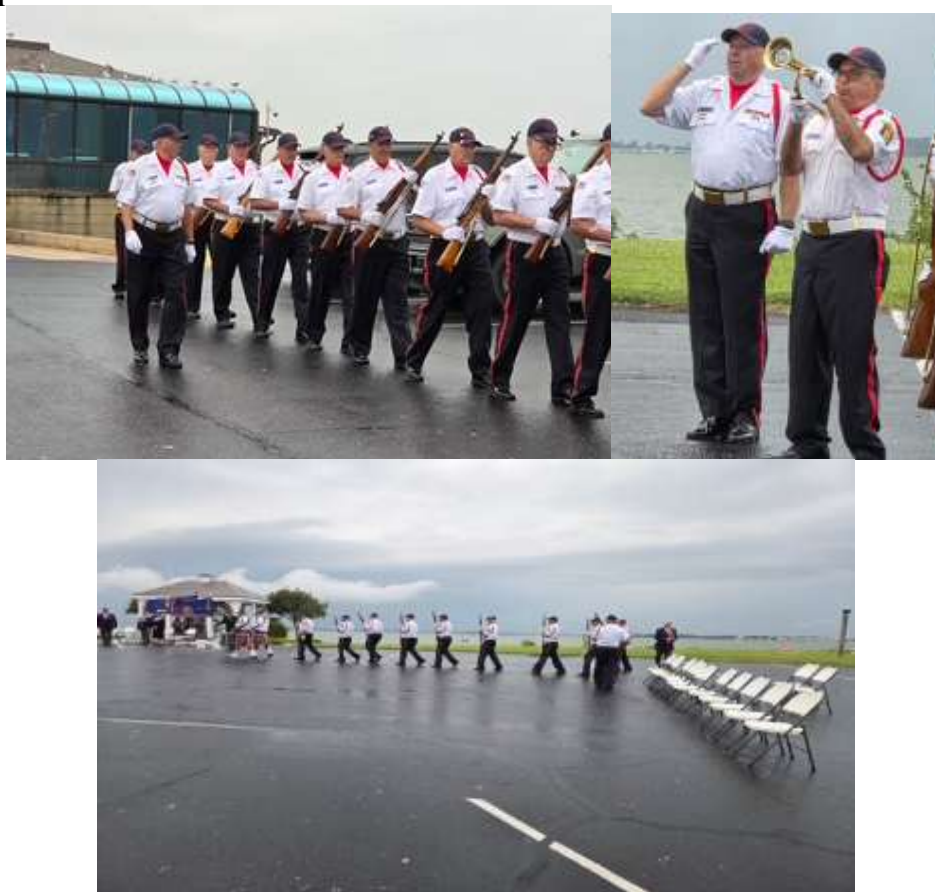
On September 2nd thirteen members of the Honor Guard posted colors, rendered volley and taps and saluted WWII KIA veterans at the VJ Ceremony held at Ft Miles. The ceremony was televised on local media and featured in the Cape Gazette.





On September 4th members of the Honor Guard along with Post Officers, Auxiliary officers and members visited our veterans and widows at the Brandywine Assisted Living Residence. A good time was enjoyed by all!

On September 11th fourteen members of the Honor Guard participated in the 9/11 Service at our Post. Notwithstanding the weather, the service was attended by many. The honor Guard rendered Volley and Taps.





On September 20th seven members of the Honor Guard participated in the Welcome Ceremony and Luncheon at Post 7234 for National Auxiliary President Donna Mills who visited DE.



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. On September 30th members of the committee (Frank Mathers, John Rywelski and Fulton Loppatto) and Honor Guard members visited Pittsville Ford in Salisbury to look at, exam and discuss van options. An updated report will be presented to our members at our membership Meeting on October 5th at 7PM. Come out and support us.

The Honor Guard installed 14 new bricks at the Memorial Park. Bricks continue to be available for purchase.

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 October 2026

Trustee Greg Albertson

Trustee John Rywelski

CANTEEN CORNER

October promises to be another exciting month here at the Post with many exciting events. Please follow the Canteen on facebook at VFW Post 7234

Bar and Canteen for the latest up to date daily happenings.

We kickoff the month with our second Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Friday Oct 3. Our annual fall Bull & Oyster Roast will be held Saturday Oct.10 from 3 - 7 pm. This fundraiser benefits and supports our Veteran's Relief Fund.

A new and exciting band will make their Saturday night debut on October 24. Monday nites will also provide you with fun times as we have Friendly Feud on the 12, Mingo on the 19 and Match Game on the 26th. Kitchen opens 5 - 7 games 6 - 8 pm.

October also features our Sunday NFL specials. Come out and root for your favorite team but remember this is Eagles, Ravens, Commanders country. Happy during all games. Post will provide meatball sandwiches along with covered dishes brought in by our great fans. Bring in your favorite dish to share and enjoy.

We end the month with our Post Halloween Party on Friday Oct.30th.its always a great time. Food and drink specials, costume contest and many other exciting happenings.

Thank you and hope to see you at the Post.

Thank you
John Frye
Canteen Manager

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



VFW POST 7234

★ OCEAN VIEW, DELAWARE ★

29265 MARSHY HOPE WAY, OCEAN VIEW, DE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC — ALL ARE WELCOME

BOTH SIDES OF THE TABLE

A Vietnam MASH Surgeon and His Patient, Sixty Years On



CAPT. MAYER KATZ
VIETNAM, 1967



93RD EVACUATION HOSPITAL
LONG BINH, VIETNAM



DR. MAYER KATZ
TODAY

FEATURING DR. MAYER KATZ

In December 1967, Captain Mayer Katz operated on wounded soldier Roger Wagner and saved his leg. More than fifty years later, they reconnected. Dr. Katz shares the surgeon's perspective alongside Roger's account as the soldier.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026 AT 1:00 P.M.

Mason-Dixon VFW Post 7234

Ocean View, Delaware

CONTENT ADVISORY: The presentation includes some surgical images.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Mason-Dixon Post 7234

★ EVERY GENERATION SERVED. EVERY GENERATION MATTERS. ★



KOREA



VIETNAM



DESERT STORM



IRAQ / AFGHANISTAN



TODAY'S MILITARY

WOMEN VETERANS OUTREACH

HONORING HER SERVICE • CONNECTING HER TO THE BENEFITS SHE EARNED

HOSTED BY MASON DIXON VFW POST 7234



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



MASON DIXON VFW POST 7234

29265 MARSHY HOPE WAY
OCEAN VIEW, DE 19970



**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
& LUNCH PROVIDED**

FREE • NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED
FOCUSED ON WOMEN VETERANS –
ALL VETERANS, FAMILIES &
CAREGIVERS ARE WELCOME

★ FEATURED GUEST SPEAKERS ★

KAREN BERRY

Delaware Secretary
of Veterans Affairs



DAVID HILLIARD

VFW Department
Service Officer – Delaware



NANCY E. LYNCH

Author, *Vietnam Mailbag:*
Voices From the War: 1968–1972

★ WHAT YOU'LL FIND ★



BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Get help and answers about:

- VA Benefits
- Disability Claims
- Health Care Enrollment
- PACT Act



RESOURCE FAIR

Connect with:

- Veteran Service Organizations
- Delaware Office of Veterans Services
- VA Representatives
- Community Partners



RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Join us as we honor
women veterans from
every generation of
military service.



WOMEN WHO SERVED DISPLAY

Bring military photos,
uniforms, medals,
challenge coins or other
keepsakes to share your
story and celebrate
your service.

★ BENEFITS & RESOURCES ★



VA
HEALTH CARE



DISABILITY
CLAIMS



WOMEN'S
HEALTH



PACT ACT



EDUCATION
BENEFITS



EMPLOYMENT
SERVICES



HOUSING
ASSISTANCE



CAREGIVER
SUPPORT



SURVIVOR
BENEFITS



MENTAL
HEALTH
RESOURCES

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
MASON DIXON VFW POST 7234

HONORING HER COURAGE.
SUPPORTING HER TODAY.
EMPOWERING HER TOMORROW.



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

Chairman	Andy Artemchuk
President	Phyllis Scully
Vice President	Jeff Ringel
Treasurer	Chuck Guido
Secretary	Jay MacDonald
Board Member	Sharon Ruest
Board Member	Steve Kern
Board Member	Laura Johnson
Board Member	Frank Mathers
Board Member	Tom StClair
Board Member	John Reddington

AUXILIARY TEAM

President	Kevin Conlon
Sr Vice Pres	Sandra Magera
Jr Vice Pres	Mike McGill
Secretary	Eileen Healy
Treasurer	Roberta Walter
Chaplain	Annie Berger
Guard	Katherine Cole
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