



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

JANUARY 2025

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Happy Holidays Comrades, & Friends,

The year 2024 is about the end. With the new year approaching we look forward to another prosperous year. As the saying goes, "everything is coming up roses". That is not that far from the truth. 2024 has been a year to Remember. Out of every good year, there has to be some unwanted and Sad times.



This past year is no different etched in our minds and with sorrows in our heart, we have endured the passing of many beloved Veterans, Auxiliary and Mason Dixon members of our Post. They are not forgotten and will be remembered at our Memorial Day Ceremonies.

Looking around the post you can see some of the wonderful improvements, floors, seating, new fans, lighting, new deck and furniture. These have all been made possible with the help of our most gracious benefactors. (THANK YOU).

Along with the changing times, we've hired new people who we feel can be a perfect addition to our kitchen and Bar staff. We've changed our way of dealing with the everyday functions of bar and kitchen. We are now more businesslike. We have a canteen manager who oversees both the Bar and kitchen. He has a staff reporting directly to him, along with chairman of the kitchen and bar. Thus, the canteen manager keeps the post running in a very profitable way. There is the most important aspect to running the post. The VOLUNTEERS (you the Members). This is also one of the duties of the canteen manager. We have, cheese steak, FF, Mingo, Trivia, lunch, and dinner Volunteers throughout the week. Not counting the four breakfast crews during the Summer months. Also special events; like line dancing classes, Thanksgiving, special rentals, weddings, or celebrations of life. This is all done almost on a daily basis since we are open every day at noon; but the manager and his crews has been on the job for a few hours preparing the days lunch and dinner meals.

With all of that being said, I want to congratulate all who contributed to making 2024 a wonderful year!!!!

JOHN FRYE, canteen manager

Kitchen Chef Dave, assistants John, Steve and Chairman Mike Tuckman.

Bar Chairman Chuck Guido and Bartenders: Paula, Sharon C., Debbie, Beverly, Jenna, Mary, and Sharon D.

Flip Five night: Rick Delaney and his crew.

FF bingo: Bill Healy and the many members of his crew and callers: John Reilly, Dale Weese

Cheese Steak Night: John Frye, Barbara Frye and their crew.

Monday night Mingo, Trivia: Commander, Sr. Vice, Jr vice and OD and servers

A GREATFUL THANK YOU To all of you (Members); Without you none of this Would be attainable. To all of you I wish you a Wonderful and prosperous new year. Thank you!!!

The post would like to thank also the following volunteers for a special Community event.

John Frye, John Fowler, Mark Hudson, Bill Healy, Mike Tuckman, Andrew Artemchuk, Jim Jensen and all who participated in the cooking, the carving, and delivery to St. Paul's by Sea to help with their feeding the Homeless and those in need of a hot meal on Christmas day.

Pastor Jill sends her thanks to all the members of VFW 7234!

Last year St. Paul's served 123 people, this year the church served 142 people Including 27 children.

HAPPY HOLIDAY

Commander

Jim Jensen

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



Welcome to 2025!!! May the dawn of 2025 bring you peace, prosperity and endless moments of joy. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. As we celebrated the holidays with our family and friends, I hope all took time to pause and remember those Veterans who were unable to share the holidays with theirs. December was a busy month with activities for our Auxiliary. Although everyone was quite busy with their personal lives, we were still able to make time to serve our community and to remember and honor our Veterans.

Members of our Auxiliary took time out to participate in Wreaths across America on December 14th at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Millsboro. Our Auxiliary annually purchases 30 Wreaths for the graves of our Veterans laid to rest at this location. This event



ensured that every Veteran had a Wreath for the Holidays. It was heartwarming to see the turn out for this event and an honor to participate. If you haven't had the chance to do this, make a point of it. It is well worth the effort.



Veterans and Family Support

Our Veterans and Family Support program donated \$300 to the food bank in Milford. They also prepared and donated 50 Christmas stockings for the Stockings for Soldiers program to be distributed over Christmas to let our soldiers know they are not forgotten. We also collected a large amount of canned goods and non-perishable food items during our Breakfast with Santa Event . Goods were donated to our local food pantry and Warriors helping Warriors, to support our Veterans in transitional housing while they get back on their feet.



Ornaments to be given to



Youth Program On the 30th of November a “Make One, Give One” craft event was held with the kids. Kids made Christmas Ornaments for themselves and also made



residents of the Veterans Home as well as other Veterans. One particular boy was so proud of the decoration he made and what it is for, that he went around to everyone at the event showing off his masterpiece. Loads of ornaments and personal artwork were made.

On December 15th the Auxiliary held our 4th annual Breakfast with Santa. This started with the shopping for gifts, volunteers coming together to wrap them, planning of event and set up the day of the event. This again was a huge success and has grown year after year. This year we hosted 27 families with 48 children. It was great to see our own Post Veterans attending with their children or grandchildren. A wonderful pancake, egg and sausage breakfast was prepared by Santa's top chefs and served by our jolly volunteers. Thanks to Santa's top chefs of John Frye, Pops, Doc, and John Reilly, who selflessly volunteered their time to cook breakfast. Thank You very much guys. After breakfast the children were read Twas the Night Before Christmas by Theo Loppatto and Sue Clark before a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Santa and Mrs. Claus, our own Ty Magliola and his wife Anne, had pictures taken with the children and their family and presented a gift to each and every child. As each child left, they were given a Christmas mug with hot cocoa powder, a chocolate kiss, candy cane, marshmallow and the recipe for making what is called "Snowman Soup". An American flag with a

Poppy was added to add some Red, White, and Blue to their Christmas. As you can tell numerous people provided their time to make this event happen. The list is too large to name all of them, just take a look at the group picture....and this is not everyone who had a part in this, but we sincerely thank everyone for their contribution. Whether it was planning, shopping, wrapping, set up, event day execution, or cleanup; it is appreciated. A thank you also goes out to those individual Post and Auxiliary members, for their financial contribution for this event.





To see more pictures of this event see our facebook page at facebook.com/VFWAUX7234

Hospital Program

Our Hospital program continues to be active serving our Veterans. Members of our Auxiliary Hospital program, Shirley Stong, Theo Loppatto, and Eileen Healy, treated our Veterans at the Delaware Veterans Home to a Holiday luncheon. They also delivered the Holiday ornaments made at our youth craft event to the Veterans. You can follow the Delaware Veterans Home and see more of our involvement on their facebook page.

Community Outreach Four members of our Auxiliary participated in the Cheers Meals on Wheels program on Christmas Day. Members delivered Holiday meals and gifts from the Cheers Center in Georgetown to individuals and families in the Sussex County area.

Scholarship Program Our Auxiliary partnered with the Post in the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen competition for our youth. Entries were judged and winners of our Post were selected and forwarded to the District level. Winners at our Post level will receive monetary awards from the Post and our Auxiliary. Next up will be Auxiliary sponsored Art contest for youth from K-12. Contests include Illustrating America K-8th graders, and Patriotic Art 2D & 3D for 9th -12th graders. Entries and more information can be found at the Post or on the National Auxiliary website at VFWAuxiliary.org. As we enter the New Year we look to continue moving forward, improving on our success and identifying any areas we may have as an organization that will make us stronger and continue to serve our Veterans in an efficient manner. A New Year provides us with a chance for a new verse, a new chapter.

I would like to thank our Auxiliary Officers, the Chairs of our committees and our Auxiliary members for their hard work this past year. As we will be approaching our end of year for committees in the next couple of months, I remind our chairs to please submit their reports to respective Department Chairs. Please keep totals for your end of year report. I remind everyone that our monthly meetings are the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at the post. Come out, see what is going on and get involved. It is this blend of our experienced members with our new members and the free flow of ideas blended together that makes our Auxiliary great and will keep it moving forward. Remember we are all here for one common purpose, to serve our Veterans. No one does more.

May the dawn of a New Year bring you warmth, love and light to guide your path to a positive destination.

Dale Weese, Jr, President
Auxiliary VFW #7234
(302) 614-6298
aux7234.de@gmail.co

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

your Board of Directors trust that your Holiday Season was joyous, memorable, and spent with Family and Friends. We also hope that you have a healthy and prosperous 2025.

During December, your Post Officers and Board Members participated in many activities,



including the Post's Holiday Ceremonies and Gatherings; New Year's Eve Gala Festivities; Line Dancing Events; our Annual Army-Navy Game Tailgate Party; Bar and Canteen Management Meetings; Events Planning Committee Meeting, Mingo and Trivia Game Nights, the monthly Board of Directors Meeting, and the monthly General Membership Meeting. We thank all of you who brought toys to support our Toys for Tots Drive, and to those who brought food items to support our Community Outreach endeavors. You truly made a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Most importantly, for our Members and their Guests, Post Officers and Board Members continue to be present, on site at the Post on a regular basis. The purpose is to be accessible to our Members and Guests to greet them, make them feel welcome, and answer questions

they may have. This demonstrates your Board's commitment to the success of our Post and to the seamless continuity of operations for our Members and their Guests.

Important Announcement for all Mason-Dixon Members whose current membership expires on December 31, 2024: It is imperative that you renew your membership (\$150 for 2 years, good until December 2026). You WILL NOT be granted access to the Post without this renewal. Thank You from your BOD.

Looking ahead to January, the Post takes somewhat of a break from the hectic pace of recent months. Several events are worthy of special mention. Prior to the start of our January 6th Monthly General Membership Meeting (about 6:30 PM), we will recognize this year's student entries for our Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Competition with a monetary award and Certificate Presentation. Please show up early for the Meeting so you do not miss it. Also, Line Dancing continues two Friday afternoons (January 10th and 24th) from 1 – 3 PM. We hope you can attend and participate in some, if not all, of these events. Of course, we will continue to have Monday Game Nights alternating between Mingo and Trivia; the staples of Cheese Steak Subs on Tuesdays and Flip Five on Wednesdays; Line Dancing on Friday afternoons; either Pizza and Wings or AYCE Buffet Meals on Friday Nights; and Prime Rib with Live Music on Saturday nights. There truly is something for everyone. We invite each Member to visit and bring up to three Guests to the bright new atmosphere that helps make your Post all that it can be.

Important opportunities for you to serve our Veterans in crucial Post 7234 positions become vacant in 2025. These include the position of Post Quartermaster and Treasurer, as well as other Post Officers and Board of Director Members. There are several opportunities to step forward and serve your Post and our Veterans. Please consider this opportunity as your opportunity. If you are interested, I urge you to talk with the present Quartermaster, Bill Healy, or any Post Officer or Board Member to answer questions you may have. Our Post needs YOU. Our Veterans need YOU.

Our Canteen Manager, Kitchen Crews, Bartenders, and an outstanding array of Volunteers are committed to serving those who served our country. We could not keep our doors open without these dedicated Employees and Volunteers. Having said that, we are in constant need of Volunteers as Kitchen Helpers, Servers, Clean Up Crews, etc. We hope to see new, fresh faces soon. We can work around your schedule. It only involves a few hours per week.

Your VFW Family wants to see you at the Post and continues to ask for your patience in dealing with Post employees, volunteers, and staff members. We all want you and your guests to have an enjoyable experience at the Post. Keep in mind that we are an organization 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 Application Form and pitch in to make our Post, your Post, the best that it can be.

In January, temperatures remain blustery, but your Post offers a friendly atmosphere that brings warmth. Your Board of Directors wish you a Happy New Year and a Healthy and Prosperous 2025. We continue to Honor and Serve all Veterans – first, last, and always.

Chad Myers
Chairperson
Board of Directors

CHAPLAINS' CORNER



Patricia Golis

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 Phyllis Scully at 30-381-539-9981 for the VFW or Eileen Healy at 302-539-9981 for the Auxiliary, if a member is sick or has passed away

SERVICE OFFICER OUTREACH

There's Still Time to Get a Head Start on Tax Season Tax season will be here before you know it



and we want to make sure you are prepared. This is the perfect time to double-check that everything is correct with your tax documents, so you have them when you are ready to file. Start with myPay the best tool DFAS offers for ensuring a smooth tax season is a myPay account (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>). myPay is a convenient online system for managing your tax season needs. myPay offers a way to download and print tax statements for your retired pay. You will also find all of your important retired pay information, including your IRS 1099-R, which is already available in myPay. As a reminder, the 1099-R is the retiree tax statement, like the W-2 provided to wage earners. The 1099-R documents the amount of taxable retired income earned and how much was

withheld in taxes – and must be filed with your tax return. You can download and print your current tax statement as well as prior year 1099-Rs (up to four years) if you want to compare or need to file an amended return. If you have not logged into myPay recently, this is a good time to log in and make sure we have your correct mailing address and email address. You don't want any important correspondence or paperwork going to the wrong location. Additional Ways To Get a Duplicate 1099-R If you are not using myPay, we offer other convenient options to request a replacement IRS Form 1099-R. Beginning February 10, 2025, you can get your 1099-Rs sent to your address on file with DFAS or to a one-time temporary mailing address by submitting a request online. Our online request also accepts international addresses. It's easy to find on our Quick Tools webpage:

(<https://www.dfas.mil/raquicktools>). To use telephone self-service for retirees: • Call 800-321-1080 or 317-212-0551 • Select option "1" for self-service • Select option "1" for 1099-R • Select option "1" to request copies of your tax documents • Enter your social security number when prompted Your 1099-R should be in the mail within 7-10 business days to the address we have on record. -more- 12 If you prefer traditional mail, you can send us a written request by fax or mail, but please make sure you leave time for processing. It can take up to 30 days to process requests received by fax or mail. Find instructions here: <https://www.dfas.mil/rettaxes>. Members with unique situations can speak directly to one of our customer care representatives. Depending on the call volume, you may have to wait on hold while we assist other customers. For more information, go to:

<https://www.dfas.mil/racustomers>. Changing Your Federal Tax Withholding If you need to change your withholding, you can do it easily in myPay. You can also fill out and mail an IRS Form W-4. The form is available on the IRS website (<https://www.irs.gov>) and is also linked from the DFAS Forms webpage: <https://www.dfas.mil/raforms>. Please note: you are not required to file a new Form W-4 each year unless you claim exemption from federal tax withholding. If you claim exemption, the IRS requires you to file a new W-4 each year. Use the IRS Tax Withholding Estimator The IRS has an online Tax Withholding Estimator to help you determine how much tax you need to have withheld. It helps taxpayers estimate if the right amount is withheld from their income to cover their tax liability. The estimator uses a simple, six step question-and-answer format using information like marital or filing status, income, withholding, adjustments, deductions, and credits.

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/tax-withholding-estimator>. DFAS customer service representatives cannot provide tax advice or recommendations about withholding. Please consult a tax professional

if you have questions about your taxes. Reminder - Federal Taxability of Retired Pay Military retired pay is paid for many different reasons under many different laws. There are differences in the types of pay a military retiree might receive and the tax laws that apply to them. Whether a portion or all of an individual's military retired pay is subject to federal income taxes depends on his/her individual circumstances. A military retiree can either use myPay or send an IRS Form W-4 to alter the amount DFAS withholds for federal income taxes from their military retired pay. An individual's choice to have no withholding for federal taxes does not impact whether the individual's military retired pay is actually subject to federal income taxes. Ultimately, the IRS will determine the amount of taxes owed on military retired pay. Please note: the IRS requires any individual claiming exemption from federal withholding to provide a new IRS Form W-4 at the beginning of each tax year certifying their exemption from withholding. Please see our webpage regarding taxation of retired pay: <https://www.dfas.mil/retpaytax>.

2025 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index, there is a 2.5 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for most retired pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities, effective December 1, 2024. Retirees will see the change in their December 31, 2024, payment and annuitants in their January 2, 2025, payment. For details, see the Fiscal Year 2025 COLA Memorandum: <https://militarypay.defense.gov/Pay/Retirement/cola>.

What Retirees Can Expect in the Year-End Mail from DFAS For retirees who request their tax statements sent by postal mail from DFAS each January, we will mail your IRS Form 1099-R along with a special print edition of the DFAS Retiree Newsletter which includes important news for the coming year. We will also include a Retiree Account Statement (RAS), which shows the change in your gross and net payment that occurs when there is a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) to your pay. It's important to note that the effective date for this RAS is the first of December, so its year-to-date summary figures are only for 11 months (the December payment is not included). Therefore, the year-to-date summary figures on this RAS will not match your 1099-R. If you opted out of receiving mailed delivery of statements, you will not receive this notice in the mail. Your 1099-R and RAS documents are conveniently available to print or download from myPay. If you are not yet using myPay, it's easy to get started. Learn how to create a myPay account at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

In Comradeship,
H. Rich Fales, Post Service Officer
Cell: (301) 325-3813
Email: Smokey1st@netzero



HONOR GUARD NEWS



During the month of December, the Honor Guard was called upon to participate in the funeral services of our friend and comrade Bob Corsa with Volley & Taps. Eleven (11) Honor Guard members participated. The service was held at the Melson Funeral Home Chapel in Ocean View on December 10th and a Celebration of Life followed at our Post. Many of you knew Bob. He was a life member of VFW 7234 and our former Service Officer. He was the founder and former President of Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 1105. Bob's wife Laurie was the DE State Service Officer and worked out of the Georgetown Veterans Cemetery until her retirement earlier this year. Bob will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Rest In Peace Comrade Bob Corsa!

Honor Guard, Post and Auxiliary members participated in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Georgetown Veterans Cemetery on December 14th. A wreath was placed on recently deceased Honor Guard member, comrade, and friend Andy Kominiak. (See photo)

The Honor Guard has now purchased and distributed our new winter uniforms. We were individually measured by and purchased our new uniforms through our friends at Graves Uniforms in Lewes. Many thanks to Jennifer for all her help!! Look for us wearing our new uniforms next year. (see photo)

The rumor is our Honor Guard member and friend Ed Krusey is "snowed in" in Denver, CO. We look forward to his return in April. Also, Honor Guard member Warren Eastburn is on R&R at his Florida home and will be back in April.

Honor Guard member Rob Gill and spouse Thea hosted members John Gossart, (with grandson Marine Captain John Gossart), Ron Ruest (with spouse Sharon, retired Navy Captain) and Marty Striefler (with spouse Donna) at the Army Navy Game at Norwest Stadium...a bit chilly but lots of fun. (see photos)

Honor Guard member David Holden continues the IR recovering from hip surgery. Hurry back, Dave!

We are planning a visit to our Veteran friends and Military widows at Brandywine next month.

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

**REMEMBER NOT EVERY COLOR GUARD IS AN HONOR GUARD
BUT EVERY HONOR GUARD IS ALSO 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."**



CANTEEN CORNER

I hope everyone had a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. As we head into the New Year we are pleased to announce some exciting changes to our Post. Happy Hour will begin Monday Jan.6. Happy Hour will be Monday- Friday from 3 - 5. Come out and enjoy great drink specials. Mingo and Trivia will continue every Monday nite hosted by DJ Tommy D. Tuesday will continue with our famous cheesesteak Nite and Wednesday will be the ever popular Flip 5. Thursday nite dinners will feature the following:

Jan. 9 - Steak Dinner

Jan. 16 - Fried Chicken

Jan. 23 - Twin Crabcakes

Jan. 30 - Fried Chicken

Come out and enjoy Chef Dave's mouthwatering creations.

Friday nite will now have a new addition twice a month to our dinner menu.

Seafood Boil! For \$20 you will get:

Steamed Clams, Mussels, shrimp, sausage, potato and coleslaw.

WOW! What a deal.

Our Friday Nite lineup for dinners is as follows:

Jan. 3 - Pizza and Wings / Open Jukebox

Jan. 9 - Seafood Boil / DJ Denny - Music and Karaoke

Jan. 17 - Pizza and Wings / Open Jukebox

Jan. 24 - Seafood Boil / DJ Denny-Music and Karaoke

Jan. 31- Italian Buffet / DJ Denny -Music and Karaoke.

Saturdays Nite dinners will continue with our famous Prime Rib and music from our popular local bands.

Lunch is served daily, come out enjoy lunch and the gorgeous view.

Line Dancing class will be held on Friday Jan.10 and Jan. 24 from 1 - 3. Come out and enjoy lunch and dancing. Class is only \$5.

Looking forward the 8th Annual Bar Olympics will be held on Sunday Feb. 2. This event consists of shuffleboard, darts and cornhole. 2 person teams each consisting of one man and one woman. It's double elimination with cash prizes awarded to the top three places. \$10 entrance fee. Covered dishes are encourage and shared at intermission.

Also stay tuned for updates on a special Valentines Evening we are currently planning.

Thank you,
John Frye
Canteen Manager

2024 MASON DIXON MEMBER RENEWALS

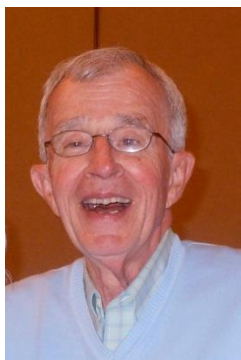
It is that time of year when Mason Dixon members whose membership expires on December 31, 2024 will begin the process of renewing their memberships. **Beginning November 01, 2024**, the Post will begin accepting renewal dues for Mason Dixon members whose cards show an expiration date of 12/31/2024. All dues for 2024 expiring Mason Dixon memberships must be received by December 31, 2024. **Please check your card and make payment, if necessary. You will not receive any further notice of your need to renew.**

Effective January 1, 2023, membership renewals and new memberships were changed to a two-year term. So, please remit \$150.00 before December 31, 2024 and your new card will expire on December 31, 2026. New membership cards will be available the middle of November. Dues payments may be mailed, placed in the Mason Dixon box at the membership station, or dropped off at the bar. If you wish to receive your card by mail, you will need to submit a self-addressed stamped envelope with your renewal payment. Otherwise, new cards will be available for pick up at the bar once your payment has been received.

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

Canteen Board of Directors

WINTER TRAVEL TIPS



For those braving air travel to warmer climates instead of sticking around in our winter wonderland, here are a few updated and new rules of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in response to multiple questions.

Peanut Butter

TSA has classified peanut butter as a liquid. I don't know how they arrived at that conclusion, but now it can only be carried on a plane in small amounts like lotion. So, we can't take that 28-ounce jar of Skippy to eat on the plane.

Blenders and Bread Machines

For all those who want to take their kitchen blenders or bread machines on vacation, you can bring the blender in your carry-on bag to keep it safe. But the blade must be removed and kept in your checked bags. Bread machines and your hookah are also ok in your carry-on bags.

Happy Bowlers

You can bring your bowling ball in your carry-on, but bowling pins are only allowed in checked bags because they could be used as a bludgeon against the annoying passenger in the next seat.

Happy Deer Hunters

You can bring those trophy antlers with you in your carry on. But they must be able to fit in the overhead bin or under the seat. Look out when they open the bin.

Artificial Skeleton Bones

It's such a regular question, TSA has a rule. They're allowed in both carry-on and checked bags. No mention of how TSA knows the bones are artificial.

Formaldehyde

Closely related to the question about bones, you can bring formaldehyde solutions of less than 10% strength in your carry-on, in a quantity less than 3.4 ounces. Leak-proof packaging with absorbent material is recommended, or be prepared to sleep through the flight. This one is going to delay security clearance because of testing and resting.

Handcuffs

Here's another common question (makes you wonder about vacation plans). TSA says they're OK in either carry-on or checked bags.

Axes, Hatchets and Martial Arts Stuff

Sorry, but you can only bring these favorite vacation fun items in your checked bags. Same restrictions with swords and bows and arrows. Light sabers are OK in carry on so The Force will be with you and quickly available, if needed.

Cattle Prods

See axes and hatchets above. Checked bags only. Hopefully, it's a short flight and you can be reunited at the baggage carousel.

Biological Experiments

Back to Dr. Frankenstein's questions. TSA allows passengers to bring non-infectious specimens (how do they know?) in preservative solutions in both carry-on and checked bags, if TSA instructions are followed. Be prepared for delays in security checks.

Parachutes

Some passengers want to be prepared for any situation. But wearing a parachute when boarding a plane may make other passengers nervous. TSA apparently got a lot of questions about this and there are some rules. TSA lets you bring your parachute in carry-on or checked bags. BUT it must be packed separately from other bags. Again, be prepared for extra check-in delays. TSA agent must be a fun job!

Hope this report makes your travel easier. Check the TSA website for updates and rules on other common items like these.

As we begin the New Year, Rosemary and I want to wish everyone, including our hard-working staff, a very happy and healthy 2025.

Jerry Hardiman

2025

Much happened at our Post in 2024. New floor. New paint. New staff and many new and improved activities and entertainment all of which have been mentioned in other articles in this newsletter. The Commander, officers and BOD hope you have visited and participated.

Many new activities and events are in the works for 2025 along with some improvements to our facility and continuing planning for our FAMILY PAVILION.

Attend our meetings, 1st Monday of every month. Comrades, this is your Post. To be part of the planning and process to achieve our 2025 goals we need your participation. Get involved with the business of our Post. Let us hear your ideas and input.

Volunteer. A volunteer orientation is being planned. Attend. Volunteering is a great opportunity to meet other members, make new friends, and truly enjoy being a member of 7234.

Participate. Attend our functions and activities. There is something for everyone. Another way to meet other members and make new friends with similar interests.

Meet your Officers and BOD members. Give us your input on the Post operation and activities. Get to know the comrades who actively conduct the business and operations of your Post.

Enjoy our new, expanded and improved lunch menu. Have dinner at the Post and taste the outstanding meals prepared by Chef Dave and our kitchen staff.

The Commander, Officers and BOD looks forward to continuing to improve our Post. Join us. Get involved. Be a part of what 2025 will bring to Mason Dixon VFW Post 7234.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

SEE YOU AT THE POST.

**Mike Tuckman
Jr. Vice Commander**

Community Care

As the cold weather comes don't forget our Food Bank.

This is what HELPING HANDS would like.

Can potatoes, can carrots, canned greens kale, and collard greens, coffee, can lima beans, mayo, jelly, pork & beans, and HAMBURGER HELPER.

Presenting a \$1000.00 check to Barbara, the director of helping hands from an anonymous donor.



Andy Artemchuk
Chairman

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Commander	James Jensen
Sr. Vice Cmdr	Chad Myers
Jr. Vice Cmdr	Mike Tuckman
Quartermaster	Bill Healy
Adjutant	Fulton Loppatto
Chaplain	Phyllis Scully
Judge Advocate	John Gossart Jr.
Surgeon	Richard Wagner
Officer of the Day	Andy Artemchuk
Guard	Jeff Ringel
Service Officer	Rich Fales
Honor Guard Capt	John Gossart Jr.
Trustee	Greg Albertson
Trustee	Rob Gill
Trustee	Skip Coale

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	Chad Myers
President	James Jensen
Vice President	Chuck Guido
Treasurer	Bill Healy
Secretary	Ken Weber
Board Member	Andy Artemchuk
Board Member	Fulton Loppatto
Board Member	Mike Tuckman
Board Member	Jeff Ringel
Board Member	Rick Delaney
Board Member	Paul Kerstanski
Board Member	Dale Weese (non voting)

AUXILIARY TEAM

President	Dale Weese
Sr Vice Pres	Karen Ware
Jr Vice Pres	Susan Clark
Secretary	Ty Magliola
Treasurer	Roberta Walter
Chaplain	Eileen Healy
Guard	Shirley Stong
Conductress	Connie Weber
Patriotic Ins	Peg Atkins
Trustee	Connie Weber
Trustee	Carol Weber
Trustee	Chuck Bologna

Veteran Claims Assistance

Our state Veterans Service 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 7586

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 – Phyllis Scully 302-539-9981

For Aux – Eileen Healy 302-539-9981

Assistance with VA claims or benefits

Please call:

Rich Fales (301)325-3813 or email me at

Smokey1st@netzero.net

For the Latest Updates and News

Please send your email to

vfwpost7234@gmail.com