



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

JULY 2025

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

First, let me congratulate Past Commander Jensen on his leadership, dedication and service to Mason-Dixon VFW Post 7234 and our Members. He was instrumental in leading our Post through tough times, personnel turnover, and innovative growth to new heights in Membership and financial stability. Past Commander Jensen always did what he believed to be in the best interest of our Veterans and should feel justifiably proud of his many accomplishments. Well done, Jim. Mission accomplished!



As a way of introducing myself, let me start by stating that I am honored to be your Post Commander. This Post will be a Veteran-centric organization in all we think, plan, and execute. To those who believe we are a “Club” or a “Business,” that may be true in thought; but primarily, our Business, and the reason we (including Auxiliary Members, Mason-Dixon Members and Guests of the Post) exist at all is to:

- a. Serve Our Veterans*
- b. Help Our Veterans*
- c. Honor Our Veterans*

These three things are the theme, focus and vision for my tenure. To that end, I have established Committees and delegated responsibilities to Committee Chairs.

Generally, usually, normally – I am an optimist. I try to see the good in people and in situations. I attempt to think first, before I speak or act. Some people may take this as being slow to act. I will attempt to make informed decisions – keeping utmost in mind what is best for our Veterans, and for our Post. My decisions will not please everyone. In fact, I believe in the old adage that: You can please some of the people some of the time, some of the people all the time, and all the people some of the time, but **you can't please all the people all the time**. I only have one vote, just like every other one of our 1,200+ VFW Members. I am approachable. However, do not expect me to accurately remember each and every impromptu conversation. I prefer email exchanges as the best way to recall and follow-up on our conversation. I have established a Post Commander's email address: vfw7234commander@gmail.com. Please use it.

If you have a problem with the Post, or a Post Member, do not let it fester. I prefer you to approach me or email me directly if you expect action to be taken. I cannot and will not be at the Post every day. But I am reachable every day (as I said, I prefer email).

Finally, I take this position seriously. I love this Post. I believe even better days are ahead for the Post and our Members. I am the latest in a long line of dedicated, hardworking, and volunteer Post Commanders – I will try not to interrupt that long, proud lineage.

**Your Post Commander,
Chad Myers**



Delivering food to the needy

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

As the newly elected Mason-Dixon VFW Post 7234 Auxiliary President, please allow me to introduce myself.



I am Kevin Conlon, a 44-year resident of Delaware. My wife, Camilla, also an Auxiliary member, and I have raised four children here in Sussex County, and are now grandparents of nine. I retired from ILC Dover in Frederica, Delaware, after 40 years in Manufacturing Operations.

Since joining the VFW Auxiliary in October 2022, I have been the Chair of the Auxiliary Community Outreach Program and a member of the Investigative Committee. Saturday mornings, throughout the summers, I have been busy volunteering at the VFW Chicken Shack in Bethany Beach , **THE BEST**

CHICKEN IN DELAWARE! I have been known to play the ice cream truck jingle while selling ice cream for the Auxiliary at the Post remember: “ LIFE IS SHORT, EAT DESSERT FIRST”

I am looking forward to serving the Auxiliary and the Post as Auxiliary President for the coming year. The current slate of officers for the Auxiliary team are Dale Weese, Senior Vice President; Sandra Magera, Junior Vice President; Roberta Walter, Treasurer; Theo Loppatto, Secretary; Anna Berger, Chaplain; and Kitty Cole, Guard. Please join me in welcoming them as the 2025-2026 Officers for the Post Auxiliary.

Special thanks to the 2024-2025 Officers that did an outstanding job leading the Auxiliary. Dale Weese, President; Karen Ware, Senior Vice President; Susan Clark, Junior Vice President, Roberta Walter, Treasurer; Ty Magliola, Secretary; Eileen Healy, Chaplain; and Shirley Stong, Guard.

If you see them at the Post, or in the community, extend a well-earned congratulations.

VFW Post Auxiliary 7234 has been consistently growing in members under the Presidency of Dale Weese. The new officers intend to keep that growth going. In addition, we will work to increase our Auxiliary volunteering throughout the community to serve, honor and assist all veterans and their families.

The State VFW and VFW Auxiliary Convention was held June 13 and 14 during which the Mason-Dixon Post 7234 Auxiliary was selected for several awards. The Auxiliary received six First Place Awards for committees involved in Buddy Poppy/National Home, Historian/Media, Hospital, Membership, Scholarship and Youth. The Auxiliary also received three Second Place Awards. The Americanism Committee, chaired by Susan Clark, received the Past Department President Award Americanism Award. Congratulations to the entire Auxiliary for the outstanding efforts throughout the year!

Summertime is here! Bringing with it hot temperatures and the influx of beachgoers and vacationers. Keep safety in mind, as more and more people are hiking and biking on the roadways, as you make your way around the beautiful communities we call home.

Be sure to show your patriotism and love for our country in all aspects of your daily life, as we celebrate the 249th birthday of the Declaration of Independence on July 4.
The newly installed officers and I look forward to serving the Post and supporting the Veterans in the coming year.

Kevin Conlon
President #7234 Auxiliary
302-614-6298
Aux7234.de@gmail.com

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

I want to thank everybody for supporting me and electing me to senior vice commander.

The commander and I have had a conversation and we feel it's best that I continue with the community outreach program.

This consist of donations, and acquiring grants to be use for veterans. Right now, waiting on state grants to come out, watching for them every day.

Next, I'm looking for federal grants for service organizations.

VFW national grants drop in September.

We will continue delivering food that is collected in the vestibule to Helping Hands the food bank we support. As we receive the spaghetti casseroles, will continue to deliver them to Saint Paul's and Mariners Bethel Church's.

In the fall we will start up our program "COATS AND SWEATS FOR VETS" which we did a great job with last year.

Andy Artemchuk
Chairperson
Board of Directors

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

Hello Everyone,

Friendships, old and new, are on my mind as we roll into summer. The next couple of months involve vacations, family visits, friends gathering, picnics, beach time, pool time, “chillaxing”, and crab pickin’ time 😊. In June, Shawn and I drove to Michigan to reunite with my Army Reserve ladies from 30 years ago, when we worked at the U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR) Group in Heidelberg.* It was a wonderful reunion and a reminder how important old friends are to us, and how we need to make time to keep connected to our cherished friendships.

Member News

With deepest condolences, sympathy cards were sent to the families of Jack Gordon and Steve Mumford. They are our VFW family and friends. Life is full of joy and sorrow, including the profound loss of a loved one. During these times, the support of friends is invaluable. Being there for a grieving friend means offering a listening ear and a shoulder to lean on, allowing them to express their emotions without judgment. Friendship also involves celebrating the memories of the loved one, sharing stories, and honoring their legacy to bring comfort and healing. Let us all be good friends.

Something to Ponder

“New friends may be poems but old friends are alphabets. Don't forget the alphabets because you will need them to read the poems.”-William Shakespeare

* In 2020, *USAREUR* merged with *U.S. Army Africa* and is now *USAREUR-AF*, located in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Jeannette Twigg
Post Chaplain

DECEASED MEMBERS



John “Jack” Gordon
Steve Mumford
Bobby Malatz

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

SEVICE OFFICER OUTREACH

A lot of Veterans seemed confused by the difference between **Emergency and Urgent care**. Urgent care is for non-life-threatening illnesses or injuries, such as strep throat, pink eye or a strained



muscle. Emergency care is for an injury, illness, or symptom so severe that a sensible layperson reasonably believes that delay in seeking immediate medical attention would be hazardous to life or health. Such life-threatening major illnesses or injuries could include severe chest pain, seizures, loss of awareness, heavy uncontrollable breathing, or severe burns. For emergency care, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away. Please note that VA can only pay for a Veteran's emergency care under certain conditions. First and foremost, the veteran must be registered with the VA medical system. You can register online but

the easiest and fastest way to go to the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Georgetown off 404. Call first to make sure there's someone working who can help you register. The number is **1-800-4618262 Ext. 32300**

Emergency care Call 911 if necessary or go to the closest Emergency facility. Once you are there, call (Not before) the **VA Emergency number (844) 724-7842**. The reason you can't call before you are there is because you will probably be talking to someone in another State who doesn't have a clue where you are. They will need the exact address and a contact number for the hospital. The VA must be notified within 72 hours, or they might not cover the cost. You can ask the Physician at intake to call the VA or if you have a spouse or significant other, make sure they have the number.

The closest in-network **Community Care** appears to be **BEEBE PHYSICIAN NETWORK** 28538 DUPONT BLVD UNIT 1 MILLSBORO, DE 19966-4791 It's important to note that urgent care facilities change from time to time so the place you used yesterday might be out of the system today. Ask if they accept VA Urgent Care. You should only provide your VA Card and driver's license. If you have private insurance, don't provide them that information. The VA will bill your insurance company, and they won't pay anything if the facility has already billed your insurance. Below is a link to the Community Care Provider Resources & Reference Library. The **VA Urgent Care number is 1-833-483-8669**.

[Provider Resources & Reference Library - Community Care](#)

VA Caregiver Support Program — A lot of the questions I receive are about Caregiver Support. Unfortunately, this is not a Yes or No question. Yes, there is support available, but who qualifies is another question all together. Cost and availability are the major deciding factors. Other factors include length of service, nature of disability and of course, is the veteran even in the VA Health Administration system? Probably something like 20% of all veterans never registered or were dropped from the VA Health Care system for non-use. Often, the best I can do is refer them to an accredited Veteran Service Officer in their area. Also, no

VSO can discuss a case with another person without that person have a power of attorney from the veteran. There is a **Caregiver Support line at 1-855-260-3274** which should help you get started. Unfortunately, this is not a 24/7 operation and only available 8:00 a.m. -8:00 p.m. M-F. EST. They can connect you with Caregiver Support Teams at your local VA Medical Center. **The number for the Wilmington Caregiver Support team is 302-994-2511 ext. 34764.**

Program of General Caregiver Support Services the

Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS) is one of two programs within the Caregiver Support Program. PGCSS provides peer support mentoring, skills training, coaching, telephone support, online programs, and referrals to available resources to caregivers of Veterans. The Veteran must be enrolled in Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and be receiving care from a caregiver in order for the caregiver to participate. Caregivers who participate in PGCSS are called General Caregivers. General Caregivers do not need to be a relative or live with the Veteran.

Is PGCSS Right for You?

If you are a caregiver of a Veteran enrolled in VA health care who is interested in connecting with other caregivers, receiving additional support from a professional care team, or looking to enhance your skills as a caregiver, PGCSS may be right for you.

Am I a General Caregiver?

A General Caregiver is a person who provides personal care services to a Veteran enrolled in VA health care who: needs assistance with one or more activities of daily living or needs supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological care or other impairment or injury.

Steps for Enrollment –

Every Veterans Affairs Facility is staffed with a [CSP Team/Caregiver Support Coordinator](#). This team can help assist you with determining the resources and services available for you and assist you with enrolling in CSP programs.

There is no formal application required to enroll in PGCSS. To enroll, complete the following steps:

1. Reach out to the facility [CSP Team/Caregiver Support Coordinator](#) or request a referral from the Veteran's provider.
2. Complete an intake with the facility [CSP Team/Caregiver Support Coordinator](#). The Veteran will need to agree to receive care from you as their caregiver, as you will be listed in

their healthcare record.

3. Enroll and begin to utilize the supports and services offered.

- [PGCSS Fact Sheet](#) - English (PDF)
- [PGCSS FAQs Flyer](#) - English (PDF)

PGCSS - Services/Support

- **Skills Training**
- **Online & Mobile Support**
- **One-to-One Coaching & Individual Support**
- **Group Support & Coaching**
- **Peer Support Mentoring**
- **Resources & Referrals**

In Comradeship,
H. Rich Fales, Post Service Officer
Cell: (301) 325-3813
Email: richfales@gmail.com (NEW)



HONOR GUARD NEWS

During the month of June, the Honor Guard participated in 1 ceremony and service and 2 funeral services for deceased comrades. In addition, in June, Honor Guard members and Post officers visited veterans and widows at Brandywine Assisted Living. This is always a special and fun community event. See photos.

On June 6th at Fort Miles, Lewes, The Honor Guard posted colors for the D Day Ceremony on the overlook to the Ocean. Eleven Honor Guard members, including our Drum Corps (John and Marty Reilly) and our rifle and bugle corps participated. Volley and Taps were rendered in recognition of the Delaware soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice on D Day. Their names were read and the bell on honor rung for each.



On June 17th at St Peter Cemetery in Lewes, DE 5 members of the Honor Guard participated in the burial services for Comrade John “Jack” Gordon. Jack was a life member of our Post and served as a naval officer. He was the former mayor of Bethany Beach. Rest in Peace, Comrade Jack Gordon!

On June 21st at the Millsboro Cemetery, 11 members of the Honor Guard participated in the burial services for comrade Stephen Mumford. Steve was a life member of our Post and a Vietnam veteran. Volley and Taps and a final salute were rendered. Rest in Peace, Comrade Stephen Mumford!

Each month the Post recognizes and honors a member of the Honor Guard for his dedicated service to our Post and Comrades in their Honor Guard service. This month we recognize Honor Guard Warren Eastburn. (see photo)

Warren is a life member of VFW Post 7234 Auxiliary. Warren originally joined the Post as a Mason Dixon veteran member in 2015 having served in the United States Army from 1968 to 1970 serving in Texas and Germany. He then joined the Auxiliary through his father who served during WWII in the US Navy (1941- 1945) on a Navy supply ship in Italy.

Warren learned about the Honor Guard through 5-time Post Commander Irv Hudson, our Post’s WWII hero. Warren joined our ranks in 2018.



Warren states:

“Being a member of the Honor Guard, it is important to me to acknowledge those who served...honor and respect those who are serving...remind the public of the veterans who have served... show love of the veterans to the family of the deceased...honor my father Warren C. Eastburn, Sr. whose name is engraved on a plaque as you enter the Post.

Warren also states that participating in Honor Guard services helps to diminish the hateful treatment veterans of Vietnam endured.

Warren notes with a smile that while he and fellow member Mike Schiffer were in uniform as members of the Honor Guard, they were given free drinks at Cedar Land and Sea Kitchen !!

VFW Post 7234 recognizes and salutes Honor Guard Member Warren Eastburn!

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.

Brandywine photos:



Fort Miles:



**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.”**

CANTEEN CORNER

July promises to be a very busy month and with July 4th fast approaching it is a time to reflect on the meaning of Independence Day. The sacrifices made by our veterans to secure the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans, and to honor the ideals of liberty and service. It's a day to celebrate the nation's founding and the continued dedication of those who serve to protect those freedoms. For some it also serves as a reminder of the battles they fought and the camaraderie they shared with fellow service members.

Friday July 4th promises to be a fun filled day. Our Red White and Blue BBQ, served buffet style from 5 - 7. King or Queen of the Hill dart tournament, music on the deck with Dave Crites from 6 - 9 pm. Prizes for the most patriotic man and woman. Spectacular sunset and surrounding fireworks display.

Many fun activities are held here at the Post. Monday is either trivia or Mingo from 6 - 8 pm with darts being held downstairs starting at 6pm. Tuesday we have shuffleboard from 12 - 2, and our famous cheesesteak nite from 5 - 7 pm. Wednesday is the ever popular Flip 5, games start 6pm. Thursday is becoming a very popular day. Texas Hold-em Tournament 1 - 4, Mahjong from 12 - 2 and Steamed Crabs from 5 - 7. Friday nites feature music on the deck from 6- 8 and our Friday nite menu from 5- 7. Saturday Nite is our Prime Rib Dinner 5 - 7 pm and bands playing from 6 - 10 pm. Please check our calendar and websites for more specific information.

I would like to bid a fond farewell to one of our dearest bartenders and friends Beverly Farrelly. Bev has been with the Post for 20 years and she will be deeply missed. Best of luck and enjoy your retirement. Bevs friends are invited to stop in and visit on her last day which is Friday July 11.

Thank you,
John Frye
Canteen Manager

BEV RETIREMENT



I would like to thank everyone of you for all your support for the last 20 years. It has been a great journey. I have met a lot of great people and also we have lost a lot of great people. I want everyone to know that the most important thing about Post 7234 are our veterans. If it was not for them we would not have this great country.

Please say a prayer for the MIAS

Bev

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 4, Independence Day, is fast approaching. This year marks the 249th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the original 13 states from Great Britain, so July 4th is sometimes called the birthday of the United States. A great reason to celebrate.

The first celebration took place on July 8, 1776, in Philadelphia. It featured a public reading of the Declaration, which some say was announced by the ringing of the Liberty Bell. Appropriately, the bell is inscribed with a timeless message from the Bible: “Proclaim Liberty throughout the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof.”



We can only imagine the impact of the surprising and inspiring words of the Declaration when read or heard for the first time in 1776 by the former subjects of King George III. Just imagine the powerful effect of the fundamental principles in the opening statement:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights; that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness [and] that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

The 56 representatives of the new states in the Continental Congress who voted for the Declaration knew that it was not a self-fulfilling document. Independence had to be fought for and won with limited military resources against the powerful professional army and navy of Great Britain. John Adams predicted a cost in “toil, blood and treasure.” There was also a sizable part of the population of the new states that was still loyal to King George III.

Despite all this and the enormous personal risk involved, the representatives of the 13 new United States proclaimed: “[A]ppealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do in the Name, and by the Authority of the good people of these Colonies, solemnly declare our independence.” And then, in unified commitment, they provided “for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.” There are 56 profiles-in-courage stories in this historic event, including the stories of Delaware’s three representatives: Caesar Rodney, George Read and Thomas McKean. For example, McKean led Delaware and Pennsylvania troops during the Revolution. Hunted by the British as a traitor, he reportedly had to move his wife and eleven children to safety five times in 1779. That alone deserves a medal.

Casualties were high in the war to win our independence. The exact number from 1775 to the surrender of the British army in Yorktown, VA in 1781 is unknown. However, it has been estimated that approximately 6,800 Americans were killed in battle and at least 17,000 died from diseases such as smallpox, and from other causes. Estimates of the number of wounded run as high as 25,000. To put that sacrifice in perspective, the population of the new United States in 1776 was only about 2.5 million. Our population today is over 340 million. I leave it to better math minds than mine to figure out what a comparable loss would be today.

We live in freedom today because of those early patriots, as well as all those who have protected our nation since then. And we continue to be inspired and guided by the aspirational principles in the Declaration of Independence. It’s in our national DNA. So, while we enjoy the parades, cookouts, fireworks, music events and other fun activities with family and friends on the July 4th weekend, we will also remember those who declared and won our independence, grateful for their faith, perseverance and courage. Because of them and the blessings of Divine Providence, we can celebrate July 4 and every day in a free and independent United States of America. In the words of the old hymn:

**Faith of our fathers, faith and prayer
Shall keep our country brave and free.
And through the truth that comes from God,
Our land shall indeed be free.**

**Happy Independence Day to all. I hope you enjoy every day in July.
Jerry Hardiman**



LEADERSHIP TEAM

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

AUXILIARY TEAM

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

Veteran Claims Assistance

Our state Veterans 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 – Jeannette Twigg 302-539-9981

For Aux – Annie Berger 302-539-9981

Assistance with VA claims or benefits

Please call:

**Rich Fales (301)325-3813 or email me
richfales@gmail.com**

For the Latest Updates and News

**Please send your email to
vfwpost7234@gmail.com**