



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

MAY 2025

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Comrades, Auxiliary, & Friends,

My 2 yr. term as your Post Commander is soon coming to an end. This will be my next to last newsletter you will be receiving from me. My beautiful wife Debbie and I have looked upon my term as a wonderful journey with an amazing adventure that neither of us would trade. Along the way we've made many friends and enjoyed so many joyful moments; enough to fill our lifetime. It has truly been a most gratifying experience for both of us, especially for me to serve the post and to have the privilege o help guide it to its greatness it deserves. I've had the opportunity to choose and to work with a wonderful group of Officers. A group who has worked hard to seize the time to further the Post's glorious future to come. I'm very proud of what our Team, as Commander and Fellow Officers have achieved. We've worked together as a team. There was no (I) in our team. Over these two years the Post has surpassed and added so many new accomplishments. To improve our post was our first and utmost priority. As Members of post 7234 you've shown us your satisfaction and approvals. Its created an excitement thats been long over due.The newly elected soon to be Commander Chad Myer and his Officers will continue to strive in improving the day to day functions of our wonderful post As the saying goes, "I'm leaving it in good hands". Its set up for more greatness. Everything is In place to succeed: John Frye's canteen Management success, The Reilly brothers maintenance, The patronage of our source of volunteers. The future is here and set. As for me, well , "old commanders never really disappear, we just fade away."

**Your Commander,
Jim Jensen**

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

May is a month of preparation and transition, just as the world around us transitions to the warmer season, so does our Auxiliary. We begin to wrap up our 2024-2025 year and prepare to



continue our work and support for the 2025-2026 year. At our April meeting nominations and elections of Officers for the 2025-2026 Auxiliary year were held. I was honored to have been nominated to serve as President for a fourth term as President but humbly declined and accept a nomination to continue to serve as Sr. Vice. I believe that changes in leadership are essential in the continued growth of our organization. Your elected Officers for the 2025-2026 year are: **President** – Kevin Conlon, **Sr. Vice President**- Dale Weese Jr, **Jr. Vice President** –Sandra Magera, **Treasurer** -Roberta Walter, **Conductor**- Connie Weber, **Chaplain** – Annie Berger, **Guard**- Katherine (Kitty) Cole, and **3yr Trustee**- Connie Weber. All new Officers will be installed at the May monthly meeting and will officially take office after the State President is installed at the Department convention in June. Congratulations to all elected officers and I look forward to continuing

our success during the upcoming 2025-2026 Auxiliary year. Our Department Convention will be held at the Double Tree (Concord Pike) Wilmington, DE June 13-14, 2025.

During the month of April our Auxiliary continued to be busy in the community, celebrated Easter with local children, taught Patriotism classes and honored our local youth, and hosted a visit from the National Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant. April was also the month that we celebrated the **Month of the Military Child**. The Defense Department celebrates military children during the month of April. There are more than 1.6 million military children who face many challenges and unique experiences as a result of their parents' service. While military members serve around the world, we often forget the challenges faced by their children. Military families move on average every two to three years, impacting military children through changing schools and support networks. Each year, the DOD joins national, state and local government, schools, military serving organizations, companies and private citizens in celebrating military children and the sacrifices they make.

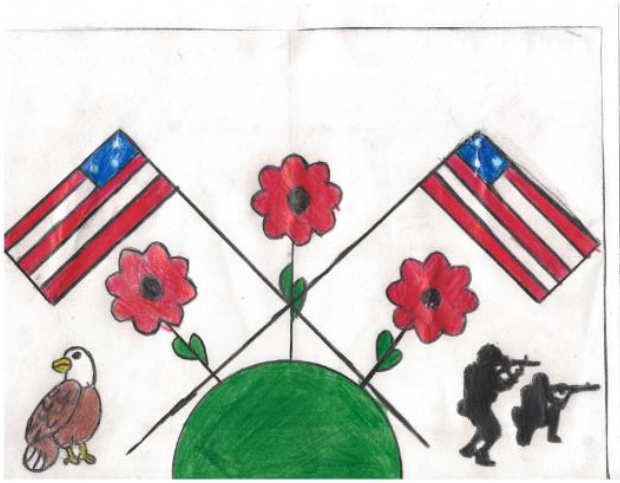
Youth and Americanism Program chairs, Cindy Weese and Susan Clark, teamed up and had a busy month in April. Patriotic Youth Awards and Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans citation were given to the Director and students of the Lord Baltimore After School Program and to Girl Scout Troop #376 of Ocean View. A Flag lesson on the Do's and Don'ts and a Patriotic craft class was also conducted with Girl Scout Troop #376 at the Ocean View Town Hall.



Illustrating America and Patriotic Art

Our Illustrating America and Patriotic Art contest was a success again this year. Illustrating America is an art contest for K-8 graders, and Patriotic Art is for 9-12. We had six entries across various age groups. Art submissions were judged on the post level and one winner from each age group was selected and forwarded to the Department of Delaware for judging against other entries throughout the State of Delaware. Submissions not selected as winners from our post were submitted to other Auxiliaries for judging and possible selection as a winner at their Auxiliary and submission to Department for State judging. All winning Art entries to be displayed and judged at the Gilbert W. Perry Center for the Arts, (The Gibby), in Middletown, Delaware. Congratulations to our three winning entries from the Post level.





Easter Party and Craft Event

On April 13, 2025 the Post was filled with kids and their families for a morning filled with crafts, raffles and most important a visit Mr. Bunny. Throughout the kids had to make their own Easter baskets and then candy land. There was painting crafts, putting together Easter ear bands while our volunteers served treats and drinks for the crafters to enjoy. The kids put their name in a basket to win numerous stuffed bunnies (thank you Kevin for the donation of them)

2 Easter gift baskets full of treats and crafts. A great time was had by all. Once Mr. Bunny arrived, pictures were taken. When time to leave, the kids got an Easter gift bag and an Easter Bunny balloon done by Lori (AKA Balloon Lady). Again, a great success and to all the volunteers: A BIG THANK YOU!!! (See our Facebook page for more pictures)



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Legislative update

The House passed six bipartisan bills for veterans and their families. The VFW recently testified in support of H.R. 1039, Clear Communication Veterans Claims Act, would simplify VA letters to make them understandable to recipients; and H.R. Prioritizing Veterans' Survivors Act, that move the Office of Survivors Assistance Office of the Secretary

ensure prioritization of all survivor benefits. The VFW has supported the other bills in the previous Congress, and we continue to monitor their progress.

In accordance with a presidential executive order, DOD is offering reinstatement with back pay and benefits to over former active and reserve service members who were discharged solely for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine, and to return. The military services are directly contacting these individuals to ensure they are informed of the opportunity available through April 1, 2026.

National Auxiliary President Visit



The National Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant visited the State of Delaware on April 12th and 13th. On the evening of the 12th, National President Brenda Bryant along with Department of Delaware Officers visited our Post for dinner and a night of fellowship. Madam President was accompanied by State Auxiliary President Sherri Leslie, State Senior Vice President Roger Leslie, State Secretary Tina Lucas, State Treasurer and National District Council Member #4 Millie Hayes, and State Historian Lisa McCarley. Several members attended this meet and greet and represented our Auxiliary well. I had the honor of being presented with a personalized VFW Auxiliary Challenge Coin by National President Brenda Bryant.



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Media Citation –Coastal Point



Auxiliary 7234 presented Darin McCann, executive editor of Coastal Point a media citation in appreciation for the Coastal Point's media coverage, postings, and advertising of events for the VFW Auxiliary throughout the year. Their partnership is essential and greatly appreciated.

We have started selling Ice cream again at the post. Please bring in your BJ's ice cream coupons and leave them in the envelope at the cash register.

As we look towards May and warmer weather the crowds will be returning to enjoy our area for the summer and the post will be quite busy. Be mindful to be courteous and respectful of our door monitors as they are members just like you and have generously volunteered their time to monitor the door to ensure the integrity of our organization. They follow and enforce the rules established by our organization and the Post Board of Directors.

As we progress towards the end of the month join us on the 24th for a Memorial Day Service at the Post and on the 26th at the Bethany Beach Bandstand for a Memorial Day Ceremony. For most, Memorial Day is celebrated with cookouts, parties, and time at the beach. But as we celebrate Memorial Day with our family and friends, let us not lose focus on the true meaning behind the holiday. Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, began during the American Civil War when citizens placed flowers on the graves of those who had been **killed in battle**. After World War I, it came to be observed in honor of those who had died in all U.S. wars, and its name changed to



Memorial Day. Of the two official United States holidays recognizing the commitment of members of America's military services, Memorial Day **honors those who lost their lives while defending their country.**

I look forward to seeing everyone sometime at the post, and **don't forget to get your ice cream.** Remember our Veterans past and present, those currently serving, and those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy.

Stay safe, be healthy and Happy Mother's Day to all our Mothers!

Dale Weese, Jr.
President Auxiliary 7234
(302) 614-6298
Aux7234.de@gmail.com



BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Your Board is happy to report that actions taken to lessen the impact of the upcoming departure of our current Post Quartermaster (QM), albeit a work in progress, are showing encouraging signs. As you recall, a four-member Task Force was appointed to:



1) Define present QM duties, responsibilities, tasks, and actions performed. **(Done)**

2) Categorize these as being performed Daily / Weekly / Bi-Weekly / Monthly / Quarterly / Semi-Annually / Annually / Periodically / Seasonally. **(Done)**

3) Recommend if any task can or should be delegated to others in-house, and to whom. **(On-going)**

4) Recommend which, if any, can and should be outsourced to others, and to whom. **(Not needed at this time)**

5) Report on progress toward resolution at each monthly Board of Directors Meeting. **(On-going)**

6) Report on a final resolution with implementation plan at an upcoming Board Meeting.

7) Everything is on the table and should be considered. **(Done)**

8) Keep the Commander and Board Chairperson informed of progress and impediments. **(On-going)**

A new Post Quartermaster has been elected by our Membership. Duties and responsibilities are being reviewed to determine the most efficient way to accomplish them, moving forward. A couple of members have volunteered to help perform some of these functions. It is envisioned that some duties can and will be delegated in order to spread the wealth. **We could use several more members to help out the Post. Contact the QM.** More to follow as things progress.

In addition to the QM position, your Membership has also taken action to replace other outgoing Board Members whose terms are expiring. Thus far, five members have been nominated to fill five soon-to-be-vacated positions. This is great news. If you are interested in becoming a Member of the Board of Directors, notify the Commander or Chad Myers, Board Chairperson. Nominations and Elections conclude at our upcoming May General Membership Meeting.

During April, your Post Officers and Board Members participated in many activities. Several deserve to be singled out. 1) On April 4th and 21st we helped lay to rest two of our Comrade Heroes. 2) On April 5th our Annual Spring Bull & Oyster Roast Event was a success. 3) On April 6th, 11th and 25th Line Dancing filled the dance floor. 4) On April 10th we visited Veterans and Surviving Family Members at Brandywine Assisted Living Facility. 5) We attended the Quarterly VFW District #4 and Delaware VFW Department COA Meetings. 6) On Sunday, April 27th, our second in a series of Guest Speakers made a presentation on the subject of the Real Women Nurses of the Vietnam War. We hope you were able to attend and participate in some of these events. 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 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.

In May, several upcoming events are worthy of special mention. 1) On May 2nd we are excited to host our first Horse Racing Night at the Post. Come out, place your bet and root your favorite horse on to victory. 2) On May 4th we start serving the first of many Sunday Breakfast Buffets throughout the summer. 3) Also, on May 4th in the afternoon, we host the third in our series of Guest Speakers when our own Ty Magliola and a fellow enthusiast speak on the life of Soldiers during the Civil War. 4) On the evening of May 8th, we attend our initial JROTC Award Ceremony at Sussex Central High School to present our Scholarship Grant and Certificates to deserving Cadets. 5) For the Best Grilled Chicken in the area be sure to stop by the VFW's Chicken Shack on Coastal Hwy in Bethany beginning May 17th and continuing every Saturday (rain or shine) through Labor Day. 6) On May 23rd, we are joining forces with Salted Vines Winery to host a Wine Tasting at the Post complete with a Charcuterie selection. 7) Finally, on May 24th (at the Post) and May 26th (at the Bethany Beach Bandstand) we pause to conduct Memorial Day Ceremonies to honor our fellow Comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending our country. We hope you can attend and participate in some, or 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; Poker games on Thursday afternoons; Line Dancing on Friday afternoons; either Pizza and Wings or AYCE Buffet Meals on Friday Nights; Prime Rib with Live Music on Saturday nights, and Music on the Deck with Grilled Hamburgers and Hot Dogs return each Sunday. **There truly is something for everyone, each day of the week.** We invite each VFW Member to visit and bring up to three Guests to the bright new atmosphere that helps make your Post all that it can be.

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 asks 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. Your Board of Directors join all Members as we continue to Honor and Serve our Veterans – first, last, and always.

Chad Myers
Chairperson
Board of Directors

CHAPLAINS' CORNER



*William Gay
Ernest Marvel Sr.
Warren Rice Jr.*

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

About VA DIC for spouses, dependents, and parents



If you're the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a service member who died in the line of duty, or the survivor of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness, you may be able to get a tax-free monetary benefit called VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Find out if you can get VA benefits or compensation.

Information for survivors with PACT Act-related claims

If you think you're eligible for VA DIC under the PACT Act, you can submit a new application.

If we denied your claim in the past and we think you may be eligible now, we'll try to contact you. We may be able to reevaluate your claim. But you don't need to wait for us to contact you before you re-apply.

[Learn more about what the PACT Act means for you as a survivor](#)

Am I eligible for VA DIC as a surviving spouse or dependent?

Eligibility

You may be eligible for VA benefits or compensation if you meet these requirements.

One of these must be true:

- You lived with the Veteran or service member without a break until their death, **or**
- If you're separated, you weren't at fault for the separation.

And one of these must be true:

- You married the Veteran or service member within 15 years of their discharge from the period of military service during which the qualifying illness or injury started or got worse, **or**
- You were married to the Veteran or service member for at least 1 year, **or**
- You had a child with the Veteran or service member.

Note: If you remarried, you can receive or continue to receive compensation if one of these describes you:

- You remarried on or after December 16, 2003, and you were 57 years of age or older at the time you remarried, **or**
- You remarried on or after January 5, 2021, and you were 55 years of age or older at the time you remarried.

Evidence

You'll need to provide evidence with your claim showing that one of these descriptions is true for the Veteran or service member. Evidence may include documents like military service records, doctor's reports, and medical test results.

Provide evidence showing that one of these is true:

- The service member died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive-duty training, **or**
- The Veteran died from a service-connected illness or injury, **or**
- The Veteran didn't die from a service-connected illness or injury but was eligible to receive VA compensation for a service-connected disability rated as totally disabling for a certain period of time.

If the Veteran's eligibility was due to a rating of totally disabling, they must have had this rating:

- For at least 10 years before their death, **or**
- Since their release from active duty and for at least 5 years immediately before their death, **or**
- For at least 1 year before their death if they were a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999

Note: “Totally disabling” means the Veteran’s injuries made it impossible for them to work.

[Learn more about the evidence you’ll need to support your claim](#)

There are a host of benefits available to surviving members of a veteran’s family, however the evidence required differs and changes constantly. It is crucial that you utilize an accredited Veteran Service Officer with access to the VA system. The VFW State Service Officer (David Hilliard) visits the Post once a month and you can schedule an appointment with him at (302) 994-3511 ext. 7586. You can also schedule an appointment with the Delaware State VA Service Officer Daniel Hensel at (302) 648-3068. He and Ken Hockensmith work out of the State of Delaware Office of Veterans Services located at the Veterans Cemetery Office located at 26669 Patriots Way, Millsboro, DE 19966.

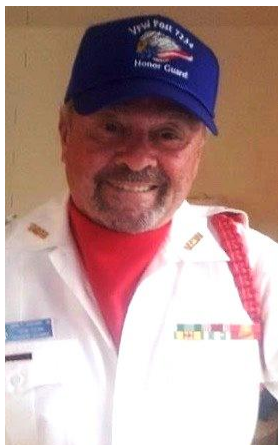
In Comradeship,
H. Rich Fales, Post Service Officer
Cell: (301) 325-3813
Email: richfales@gmail.com (NEW)



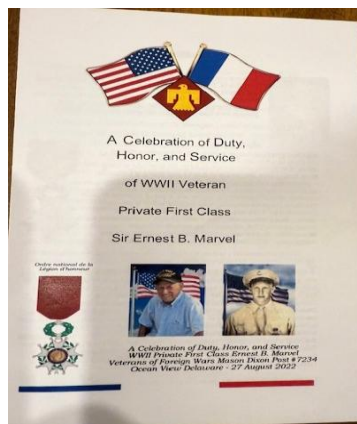
HONOR GUARD NEWS

During the month of April, the Honor Guard participated in 3 funerals for our deceased comrades.

On April 4th 10 members of the Honor Guard, along with Post officers, participated in the funeral services for Comrade Warren Rice, Jr., a Post member and Navy Vietnam veteran (1965-69) at the Veterans Cemetery.



On April 21st Post officers and 10 members of the Honor Guard participated in the moving services for our friend and Comrade Ernie Marvel at the Veterans Cemetery. Ernie was 1 month shy of 101 years old. He was a lifelong member of our Post and the oldest WWII veteran. Ernie was a war hero and was highly decorated. (Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Bronze Star with "V" device for valor and the Legion of Honor, France's highest decoration). We will miss Ernie's warm smile!



On April 27th Post officers and 8 members of the Honor Guard participated in the funeral services of veteran Ira Wilkerson at the Veterans Cemetery. Ira served 8 years in the Marines, 8 years in the Navy and 2 years in the Army. He did two tours in Vietnam. He was a life member of the VFW Seaford Post and former chaplain.

At all the funerals Volley and Taps were rendered.

On April 16th, VFW member Will Short, a board member of the National Historic Society for Ft Miles gave us a private tour of the Fort. It was outstanding and a history lesson. We even got to load and fire the largest gun! Simulated of course!!



Each month the Honor Guard recognizes and honors a member of the Honor Guard for their dedicated service to our Post and Comrades. This month we recognize Charles Plis.

Charlie is a life member of our Post. He joined the VFW in 1974 and became a life member in 1996. Charlie served in the Air Force from 1966-1972 and in the Army National Guard from 1974 to 1976. Charlie is a Vietnam veteran and a Quilt of Valor recipient.

Charlie stated:

“My Dad was the Honor Guard Captain at the VFW Post 5107 in Franklin Boro, Johnston, PA in 1940 and 1950. Post 5107 was also known as the SGT Michael Strank Post. SGT Strank was one of the flag raisers at Iwo Jima and was killed later in battle on Iwo Jima. He was born in Czechoslovakia and immigrated to Franklin Boro at a young age and considered Franklin Boro his hometown.

I learned about the Honor Guard originally from my Dad. Once I joined the VFW Post 7234 Golf League, Fulton Loppatto and John Gossart provided me with more information about the Honor Guard.

I joined the Honor Guard to honor the service of veterans especially the Vietnam veterans who never received a proper welcome home. Participating in military honors at funerals brings closure and shows my gratitude to veterans for their service to our country. The most important reason I became a member of the Honor Guard was to honor my Dad and his memory.

My Dad was a POW in WWII for 7 months and survived to live to 87 years old. My uncle was killed in action in WWII at 22 years old. He was a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. Being a member of the Honor Guard is important to me because every time I participate in a Volley and Taps, it reminds me of my love and respect I have for my Dad and Uncle. A Vietnam memory was Thanksgiving 1970. I was stationed in Saigon and my brother, a marine, was stationed on Monkey Mountain, DaNang. Our tours overlapped by about 3 months. I was able to catch a flight on a C-130 cargo transport to DaNang and celebrate Thanksgiving with him. A cherished memory.”



VFW Post 7234 recognizes and salutes Honor Guard Member Charles Plis!

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 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

. It has been a little over a year since I became Canteen Manager. I would like to thank those who have greatly helped me along the way. Our Post is blessed with amazing volunteers. With deepest gratitude for your commitment to serve, I thank you on behalf of VFW Post 7234 and the people we serve. Thank you for your amazing generosity. I also want to thank our kitchen and bar staff for the wonderful job they do for our veterans. They are an extremely hard working group of people.

I would also like to thank the Board of directors for generously giving their time to make tough decisions and act in the best interests of the Post. Thank you for your timeless efforts and unwavering commitment. Last but not least I would like to thank our outgoing Commander Jim Jensen for your dedication and leadership as our Commander. It's been a pleasure working with you and I'll cherish the memories. Thank you for your friendship and the opportunities I've had to learn from you. Best of luck in the future to you and Debbie.

May promises to usher in the summer with many exciting events. We will kick it off on Friday May 2 with our first ever Nite at the Races. It promises to be a fun event, with a derby hat contest included for the ladies. Tickets will sold at the door. Upstairs open at 4, kitchen opens at 5pm and first race is 6pm. Our annual Sunday breakfast buffet will begin on May 4, new hours are 8:30 - 12:30. Come out and enjoy the best breakfast in Sussex County. Sunday music on the deck will begin on May 18th, with Paul Morris from 5 - 8, with burgers and dogs served from 5 - 7. Sunday the 25th will feature Ingrid and Sax on the deck. Tickets are on sale for a Wine Tasting to be held on May 23. See your bartender for Tickets. Our Friday nite menu continues to amaze. Our popular Seafood Boil will be on May 16th with music from Dave Crites. Friday the 30th will be a ham buffett, with music by Paul Morris. Our Memorial Day service will be held on May 24th followed by a Luncheon held at the Post. Our Saturday nite prime rib dinner continues to amaze. We welcome a new band this Saturday May 3, 'Pompeii Project Band.'" Check out our calander for the Saturday nite entertainment schedule. As you can see May will be an exciting month so come out and enjoy the fun!!!

Thank you,

John Frye

Canteen Manager

SOME THOUGHTS ON MAY AND MEMORIAL DAY

Looking at the busy calendar for May brought back memories of the most important dates in the month, especially Memorial Day.



Growing up, I never thought of Memorial Day as the beginning of summer, although I understand why that's said in beach communities. Tourists. To me and my friends, summer began when school ended with the excitement of a new baseball season. And I never thought about special Memorial Day sales events. Good for business I know, but that's a different world for kids.

Mother's Day. In my family, Mother's Day was perhaps the most significant day in May, finding some ways to say thank you to my Mother as I should have done every day. Her loving mercy (and my Dad's) is the only reason I survived.

V-E Day. Then there was May 8, V-E Day, the anniversary of victory in Europe in World War II, with the formal surrender of the murderous Nazi regime in Germany in 1945. With my Uncle Jack's service as a WWII veteran, it was always a day to be celebrated with gratitude to God and all the WWII veterans. Those were also times when I began to learn something about the enormous cost of that victory and the meaning of the promise "Never Again."

Memorial Day. As May came to an end in those early years, Memorial Day was always a day for special attention to honoring those who died for our freedom. There were public speeches in national and local ceremonies and other lessons learned in articles and stories about those who sacrificed their lives so we could also enjoy the day later with a cookout, a ball game and other times with families and friends.

2025. Which brings me to this year and Memorial Day on Monday, May 26. It is now our time and responsibility to continue and pass on the tradition to always remember and honor those who gave their lives for our country and freedom, and the freedom of millions of others around the world. We will remember those we knew and honor and salute them all. We will also remember the sacrifice and courage of the families of the fallen and try to ensure that the family members living today realize with a sense of pride that their loved ones will not be forgotten. In doing so, we hope that the example of those we honor will encourage and maybe even inspire others, especially younger generations, to lives of service to others and make a difference for good.

General Mattis' comments. I close with excerpts from a 2020 article by retired 4-star Marine Corps general, James Mattis, regarding the debt we owe to the fallen.

Those who died to protect our Constitution and our way of life . . . can never be fully repaid, but we can begin to do so by respecting one another (including those with whom we sometimes disagree), in this land of boundless possibilities, because those who faced down danger and paid the price on our behalf deserve no less. . . That is how we meet our ultimate responsibility to turn over to the next generation a republic in better shape than we received it.

Words of wisdom to think about. Looking at the calendar again, here are the dates to keep in mind, in addition to all the events on the Post calendar.

May 1. National Day of Prayer.

May 5. Cinco de Mayo

May 6. Nurses Day

May 8. V-E Day (declared in 1945)

May 9. Military Spouses Day

May 11. Mother's Day

May 15. Peace Officers Memorial Day and the Anniversary of the establishment of the Women's Army Corps in 1942.

May 17. Armed Forces Day

May 26. Memorial Day

Hope you enjoy every day in May.

Jerry Hardiman



**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE
MEMORIAL PARK
MAY 24 1 pm AT POST**



**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE
MAY 26 11 am
BETHANY BEACH BANDSTAND**

NEW PHONE SYSTEM

RECENTLY AN UPGRADE HAS BEEN ADDED TO OUR PHONE SYSTEM. NOW, WHEN CALLING THE POST AND NO ONE IS AVAILABLE TO ANSWER OR THE PHONE RINGS MORE THAN 3 TIMES, THE CALLER WILL HEAR A MESSAGE PROVIDING THE POST HOURS, LUNCH AND DINNER HOURS AND THEN A MENU FOR THE CALLER TO LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR MEMBERSHIP, HALL RENTAL AND CANTEEN INFORMATION, VETERAN BENEFITS, CHAPLAIN, HONOR GUARD, AUXILIARY, COMMANDER AND INFORMATION ON SEASONAL BREAKFAST. INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH OF THESE INQUIRIES CAN RETRIEVE THEIR MESSAGES FROM ANY PHONE WITH INDIVIDUAL ACCESS CODES.

THIS SYSTEM IS NOW ACTIVE AT OUR POST

**MIKE TUCKMAN
JR. VICE COMMANDER.**

V.F.W. POST 7234 29265 MARSHY HOPE WAY, OCEAN VIEW DE

A Y C E BREAKFAST

SUNDAYS MAY 4TH THRU AUGUST 30TH 2025

\$15. PP Children under 12 1/2 price

***EGGS**

***BISCUITS**

***HAM**

***BISCUIT**

GRAVY

***CREAMED CHIP BEEF**

***COFFEE**

***FRENCH TOAST**

***JUICE**

*** POTATOES**

***DANISH**

***SAUSAGE**

***TOAST**

*** SAUSAGE GRAVY**

*** SCRAPPLE**

*** FRUIT COCKTAIL**

BLOODY MARYS \$4.25 MIMOSAS \$4.25

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 8:30 A.M, TO 12:30 P.M.

Community Care

As Spring comes don't forget our Food Bank.

Our food pantry is hurting.

Below are our needs.

hamburger helper, baked beans,

coffee, can potatoes, fresh potatoes, sugar, spaghetti sauce, tuna, spam, potted meats, pickles, mustard, onions, pancake mix, with syrup, 1 pound bags of rice.



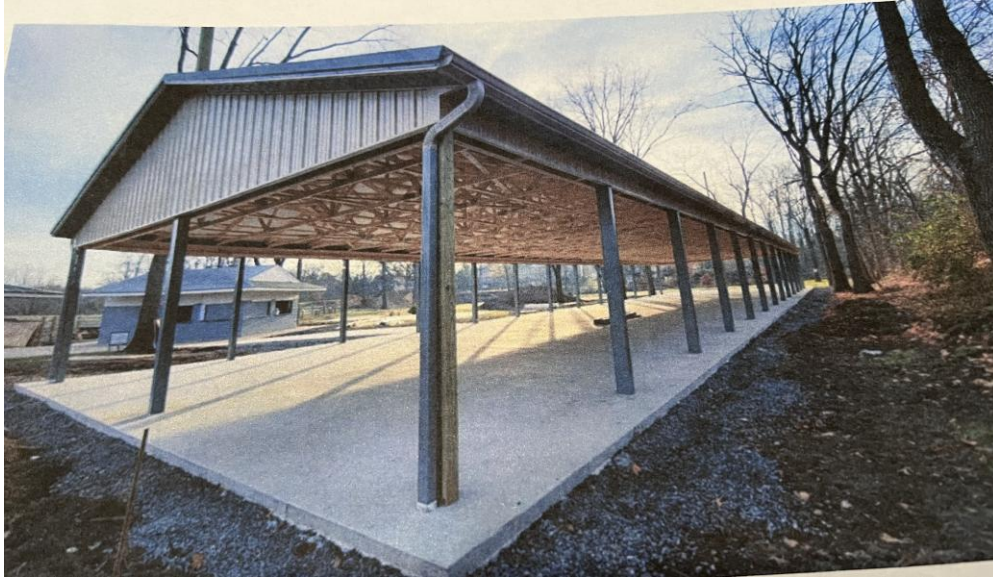
Sr Vice Mike Tuckman loading up 50 casseroles for delivery.

VFW Day of Service

This year our Post will be participating in the VFW Day of Service starting on May 3 and going through the entire month. Our Post theme will be “Feed the Needy, Feed the Hungry”. With the great need in our community, we will be doing our part. We will support our Food Bank and possibly other food banks in the area, and possibly holding our own drive-by box of food. We will of course try to set a record for casseroles. Any other ideas are welcome, please contact us at vfwpost7234@gmail.com or drop by the Post. Everyone is welcome to participate (all 4000+ members). More details will be forthcoming as we plan the event.

Thank You

PAVILION FUND RAISER



" Basket of cheer "

**Valued at over \$1000.00
including. \$120.00
Dinner gift card
Redeemable at any
SoDel restaurants**

**\$10.00 or 3 for \$25.00
Tickets sold at bar
All proceeds towards
Posts family pavilion**

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

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

richfales@gmail.com

For the Latest Updates and News

Please send your email to

vfwpost7234@gmail.com