



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

OCTOBER 2024

COMMANDER'S CORNER

As the setting sun goes down, so goes our summer. Crowds, are getting smaller, Sunday breakfast ends, the Chicken shack packs it in until next summer. Our fun in the sun has come to an end. So what do we do next? Well, we take a deserved deep breath and then begin making our plans for next year, only making them better. In the meantime, we still have a few plans in place that will finish out our year. For instance, our oyster and bull Roast, corn hole tournament.

"Paint an sip." Day. The Big one, ARMY NAVY, Game in December. But, first the post wants to show our volunteers just how much we appreciate them. On October 11 we are planning a catered dinner. This event is for volunteers only, no guests. In the mean time we still have Mingo, Trivia, cheese steak, Flip Five , chicken dinners, Family pizza and wing night, and the last Friday of the month will be Italian buffet AYCE along with music on Saturdays. Oh, don't forget Sunday football bring a covered dish to share at half time. Watch for upcoming events, like a in-house tailgate party for RAVENS - EAGLE game. And more, (anyone for line dance classes) Come on fellas its a long winter. More to print, watch for my blasts.

P.S. thanks to all who helped with our casseroles. We wanted to achieve #500 delivered casseroles before summers end. Pat yourselves on the back. Last week Andy delivered our 508th

Just because summer has ended it doesn't mean the hungry has stopped eating; We will continue to help feed The less fortunate.

Thank you.

Jim Jensen Commander

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

October.... a time to embrace fall and settle in to the "second season" as the rush of summer is



officially behind us. It is a time when we should appreciate all that we have accomplished over the summer and plan for the Auxiliary year ahead. Our Auxiliary continues to excel and our membership continues to grow, adding 113 new

members since the beginning of the Auxiliary year on July 1st.

Although this is the October Newsletter, it is being written in mid September. Therefore some events have occurred and some still to occur, thus explaining the change in language from past to present tense.

September was a month of remembrance and honor. We remember 9/11 and those that lost

their lives on that day, how it has changed our country and what the day means to us as Americans. We recognize POW/MIA Day and Gold Star Mothers and Families Day. We remember Mark Daughaday, Auxiliary Life Member and long time fixture at the post, as well as Andy Kominiak, Post and Honor Guard Member. Gentlemen, you will be missed, R.I.P

SEAS the Day

During the first week of September our area hosted several veteran families for Operation Seas the Day. Our Post held a welcome ceremony on the 3rd of September to welcome the families to their week of enjoyment at the beach. I had the honor of being present to welcome the veterans and their families and distribute special gift bags made by the Auxiliary to the children. September 11th

"We the People"-----Our Auxiliary joined a group of individuals,

"We the People", who gather on the Bethany Beach Boardwalk every Wednesday morning at 8:30 am promptly, to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, sing God Bless America, and say the Our Father prayer. Today as we



remembered those lost in the terrorist attacks on this day 23 years ago, our Auxiliary led the remembrance by distributing 911 ribbons and American Flags w/ Poppies. Our Americanism Chairman, Susan Clark, led a tribute by reciting a timeline of events from 1st attack to President Bush addressing the Nation that evening and explanation of the 911 Ribbon. In addition to the First responders, military, and civilians lost that day, 41 Veterans were among them. A moment of silence was had with the ringing of a Bell by the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Department. Fire fighter Ken Nittoly, who was present on ground Zero, joined us as well as Bethany Beach Police.



Heroes Day

On September 14, 2024 the Town of Millville held a HEROES DAY to recognize the heroic men and women who take immediate action when disaster strikes; our first responders. The Auxiliary had the honor of having a table to promote the children's contests sponsored by the Post and Auxiliary. Youth Chair Cindy Weese, Co-Chair Kathy I. and Auxiliary member Marlene Juba gave out Patriotic Gift bags to the kids and talked to the parents and kids about the contests. We even had the new way of obtaining info on becoming an Auxiliary member by using the QR Code. Our first user: Officer Molly from Bethany Beach Police as well as others. Fun was had by all!!!



POW / MIA

We remember this every year on the third Friday of September, this year on September 20th. Our Auxiliary Americanism Chair Susan Clark, Youth Chair Cindy Weese and co-chair Kathy Impallomeni, will hold an instructional ceremony for the youth at the C.R.A.S.H



program at Mariner Bethel Hope Center in Ocean View. During this Ceremony they along with the youth will assemble a POW / MIA table, instructing them on the meaning and significance of each piece. The ending of the ceremony will be a moment of silence and a prayer led by Tiffany Kelley, family and youth ministry director. No matter where they are held, these National POW / MIA Ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those that were held captive and returned, as well as those that remain missing.

October 2024

On October 7th our Department President Sherri Leslie and staff will be visiting at our monthly meeting. This is their yearly check to observe and address our Auxiliary. President Leslie's special project is Warriors Helping Warriors. Show your support for our Auxiliary and come out and join us.

In October our Youth Chairperson and volunteers will again be participating in the Cops and Goblins Event at John West Park on October 26th starting at 1:00 pm. We will be having a table at this event handing out candy to the children and providing information about our Auxiliary and National contests to the parents. See VFWAUXILIARY.ORG for more information about Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Patriotic Art contests. New this year..... Patriots Pen / VOD can also be accessed via QR code that is on the flyer. We are looking for donations of bagged candy for this event and there will be a container at the post for



donations. We thank you in advance for your generosity. If past years are any indication, we should be well supplied.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness month which is an annual campaign to increase awareness and to promote regular screening and early detection. Although this is the most common cancer affecting women, with 1 in 8 receiving the diagnosis during one's lifetime, breast cancer is a disease that affects both men and women. Early detection provides the best chance of successful treatment. Support the fighters, Admire the survivors, and Honor the taken.

Our monthly meetings are the 1st Monday of the month at the post. Come out and get involved. Everyone's opinion is valued. Our Auxiliary is only as successful as its members make it. Success is all about action in the right direction. We are all here for one common purpose, to support our veterans. Follow us on facebook at [vfwauxiliary7234](https://www.facebook.com/vfwauxiliary7234).

Until next month,

Dale Weese, Jr
President #7234 Auxiliary
(443) 324-1244
Aux7234.de@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

Greetings Comrades, Auxiliary, Post Members,

your Board of Directors wish you a great start to the Fall season. During September, Board Members participated in the somber 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Post; the Annual Operation Seas the Day Welcome Luncheon; Help-A-Vet Meeting; Annual Bethany Beach Boardwalk Arts Festival; VFW District 4 Meeting in Rehoboth; Bar and Canteen Management Meetings, Events Planning Committee Meeting; Mingo Game Nights; the monthly Board of Directors Meeting; and the monthly General Membership Meeting. Most importantly, for our Members and their Guests,

Post Officers and Board Members continue to be present, on site each evening at the Post. We plan to continue this daily presence in the future. This demonstrates the Board's commitment to the success of our Post and continuity of operations for our Members and their Guests.

Looking ahead to October, two events are worthy of special mention. On October 5th, the Bull & Oyster Roast is being held at the Post. This is an AYCE ticketed event and those can be purchased at the Bar for \$50 per person. Also, on October 11th is one of our most favorite events all year – the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner / Dance. This is also a ticketed event (no cost to attendees) where we get to honor and say “Thanks” to the many, many Volunteers that allow us to keep our doors open. Looking ahead to the fall, the Post will be hosting Sunday afternoon NFL Football Games where you will bring your favorite Covered Dish to share with other Patrons. 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; either Pizza and Wings or AYCE Buffet Meals on Friday Nights; and Live Music on Saturday nights. There truly is something for everyone. We invite all Members to visit and bring their 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 positions will become available in 2025. Vacancies will exist for the position of Post Quartermaster, as well as Post Officers and Board of Director Members. There are many 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 any 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 some new,

fresh faces soon. We can work around your schedule. It only involves a few hours per week. In October, our summer crowds dwindle, and temperatures moderate. We continue 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 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. We continue to Honor and Serve all Veterans – first, last, and always.

Chad Myers
Chairperson
Board of Directors

CHAPLAINS' CORNER



Andy Kominaik

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

Interested in Burial at Sea?

Contact MyNavy Career Center at 1-833-330-6622 to receive the Burial at Sea packet.

Burial at Sea is a means of final disposition of



remains that is performed on United States Navy vessels. The committal ceremony is performed while the ship is deployed. Therefore, family members are not allowed to be present. The commanding officer of the ship assigned to perform the ceremony will notify the family of the date, time, and

longitude and latitude once the committal service has been completed. The average amount of time, for burial at sea, is 12 to 18 months, once the remains/cremains are received at the port of embarkation.

Eligibility: Individuals eligible for this program are:

- (1) active-duty members of the uniformed services;
- (2) retirees and veterans who were honorably discharged.
- (3) U.S. civilian marine personnel of the Military Sealift Command; and
- (4) dependent family members of active-duty personnel, retirees, and veterans of the uniformed services.

How to get started: After the death of the individual for whom the request for Burial at Sea is being made, the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD) should contact MyNavy Career Center 1-833-330-6622 to request a packet and for additional information.

Supporting documents which must accompany this request are:

- (1) a photocopy of the death certificate
- (2) the burial transit permit or the cremation certificate
- (3) a copy of the DD Form 214, discharge certificate, or retirement order.

The Burial at Sea Request Form and the three supporting documents listed above make up the Burial at Sea Request package.

Burial Flag: A Burial Flag is required for all committal services performed aboard United States Naval vessels, except family members, who are not authorized a burial flag. Following the services at sea, the flag that accompanied the cremains/remains will

be returned to the PADD. If the PADD does not wish to send a burial flag for the service, a flag will be provided by the Navy for the committal service, but will not be sent to the PADD.

Cremated Remains (Cremains): Cremains must be in an urn or temporary container (preferably Bio-degradable) to prevent spillage in shipping. Recent changes in law prohibit the discharge of plastics at sea. Families are encouraged to have the cremains inurned directly or transferred to a sturdy biodegradable urn at their local funeral home to facilitate burial at sea. Burial at Sea Coordinators at the ports of embarkation are available to field any questions regarding the urns. The cremains, along with the completed Burial at Sea Request package should be forwarded to the Burial at Sea Coordinator at the desired port of embarkation (listed below). Prior to shipment, it is recommended that a phone call be made informing the coordinator of the pending request. ONLY Priority Mail Express Service is authorized when shipping cremains and it is recommended that that Tracking and Signature on Delivery is used to ensure the package is delivered to the correct individual in a timely manner.

Intact Remains (Casketed): Specific guidelines are required for the preparation of casketed remains. All expenses incurred in this process are the responsibility of the PADD, who will select a funeral home in the area of the port of embarkation. After this selection has been made and notification has been provided to the coordinator, the casketed remains, the request form, supporting documents, and the burial flag are to be forwarded to the receiving funeral home. The coordinator will make the inspection and complete the checklist for the preparation of casketed remains. It is recommended that funeral homes responsible for preparing and shipping intact remains contact the Mortuary Services office at Navy Casualty in Millington, TN to receive the preparation requirements.

PORTS OF EMBARKATION / COORDINATORS

Norfolk, VA

Commander, Naval Medical Center
ATTN: Code 090A00
620 John Paul Jones Cir.
Portsmouth, VA 23708-5100
Phone: (757) 953-2777/2774
Officer in Charge
Naval Hospital Branch Clinic
P. O. Box 280148
Naval Station
Mayport, FL 32228-0148
Phone: (904) 270-4285

Jacksonville, FL

San Diego, CA

Bremerton, WA

Honolulu, HI

Commanding Officer
Naval Medical Center
Decedent Affairs Code: 090A
San Diego, CA 92134-5000
(800) 290-7410
Commanding Officer
Naval Hospital Bremerton
Code 015-BAS/HPO1 Boone Road
Bremerton, WA 98312-1898
Phone: (360) 475-4777
Navy Liaison Unit
Tripler Army Medical Center
Tripler AMC, HI 96859-5000
Phone: 808-433-4709/(808)
577-7590

[Everything You Need to Know About Guard/Reserve Retirement Pay](#)

Retiring from the Guard/Reserve: Becoming retirement eligible isn't the same for members of the Guard and Reserve as it is for active-duty troops. The process is quite different in some ways.

The basics: Most people qualify for military retirement as members of a Reserve Component once they have reached 20 creditable years of service. There are specific ways to calculate the years of service required to become retirement eligible.

What to know: The only type of service that counts toward Guard and Reserve retirement is known as "uniformed service," which means you must be an officer or enlisted member of a Reserve Component like the Air Force Reserve, state National Guard, Army Reserve, etc. Working in any civilian capacity does not count toward military retirement.

Read more: **[Everything You Need to Know About Guard/Reserve Retirement Pay](#)**

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



HONOR GUARD NEWS

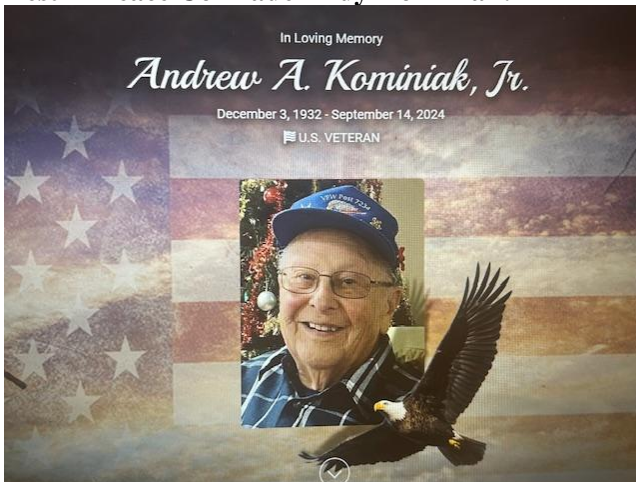
Sadly, I begin my September Honor Guard article by informing you that the Honor Guard and our Post lost our dear comrade and friend Andy Kominiak (91) on Saturday September 14th. Andy was a life



member of our Post. He was a member of our Honor Guard for 26 years, a Post volunteer, and was the Sunday breakfast toast maker. He was affectionately known as the "Toastmaster"! Andy and his wife Rose, who died earlier this year, were interred at the Veterans Cemetery on September 24th. The Honor Guard and Post Officers participated in the military service. A solemn Volley and Taps was

rendered and the family was presented with the United States flag on behalf of the President of the United States of America.

Rest in Peace Comrade Andy Kominiak!



And as you know, sadly, we said goodbye to our dear friend, auxiliary member, and retired Canteen Manager Mark Daughaday last month. Mark honorable worked under five Commanders, to include our current Commander Jim Jensen, and Past Commanders John Gossart, Hal Detrich, Dean Levering John Hickman and Fulton Loppatto. Mark was our Post Canteen Manager for more the a decade. The Post, along with Honor Guard members, will participate in the celebration of life for Mark at the Post on October 10th at 12 noon. We hope to see Mark's friends and post members at this celebration.

O September 3rd the Honor Guard and Post Officers assisted the Rotary and installed US flags at the Lord Baltimore School to honorand recognize the victims of 9/11.

Our scheduled Brandywine Assisted Living visit scheduled for 9/11 was cancelled due to COVID. We will be rescheduling.

Our Basket of Cheer fundraiser to help fund new Honor Guard uniforms (thank you Commander Jim Jensen and First Lady Debbie Jensen) was a great success! And thank you for the generous donations made by Dave and Mary Beth McDaniel and Quartermaster Bill and Auxiliary Chaplain Eileen Healy to help fund our uniforms. Special thanks to Honor Guard member Hugh Spafford (Mr. Salesman) who was responsible for the sale of over \$2600 of tickets. And of course, thanks to all our donors who have participated in this effort. Look for our new winter uniforms soon! The winner of the basket was Tom Eastburn. Warren's Dad

If you have noticed the new look of our Honor Guard, it is our added tenor drums...John and Marty Reilly who lead us in our solemn duties. (see pictures)

Finally, get well Honor Guard member David Holden who recently had surgery and is on injured reserve. Hurry back, Dave.

The Honor Guard is also seeking donations from our members and friends to assist us in purchasing of our new uniforms. Please make your contributions to VFW Post 7234 Honor Guard. Currently our Honor Guard has 19 members. Thank you for your support.

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.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Honor Guard, especially our younger members, 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
Rschiffer0@gmail.com

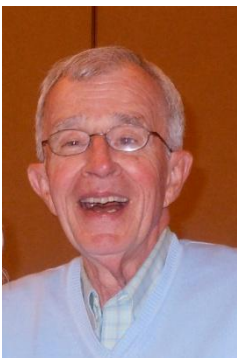
*The purpose of the Honor Guard is to provide funeral honors for our fallen comrades and guard national monuments. An Honor Guard may also serve as the ‘guardians of the colors’ “by displacing and escorting the national flag on ceremonial occasions at official functions.”

Mark Daughaday Celebration of Life

Celebration of Life for our long serving Canteen Manager, Auxiliary Member and Volunteer will be on October 10 from 12 to 4. Please come and share your favorite memory of Mark.



Jerry Hardiman is on Sabbatical



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

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**