



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234 OCTOBER 2025

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Comrades and Members,



As we enter the local "off season," I was hopeful that the pace of your Post activities would slow. However, that is not the case. October promises to be packed with events for you to get involved in at your Post. Looking long range, November and December also hold the promise of welcoming opportunities for family gatherings and Comradeship amongst our Members. Before looking forward, let us look back to review. September was an impressive month for VFW Post 7234.

- This summer's Sunday Breakfast and Saturday Chicken Shack reported results. It was a banner year for both. We are blessed and truly indebted to the Breakfast and Chicken Shack Crews led by Mike Tuckman and Ken Weber, respectively. Done for this year, we eagerly await their return in 2026. Volunteers needed.
- We hosted the Operation Seas the Day Luncheon for 16 Veterans and their Families.
- Our Community Outreach efforts prospered because you continued to bring in canned and dry goods, and prepared 100+ Casseroles to help feed those in need.
- We hosted the Woman Ade Game Day Fundraiser for local Charitable Organizations.
- Assisted the Rotary to set up Flags for Heroes at LBES.
- Participated with local Community and Environmental Groups to help clean up the beach areas in the surrounding communities.
- Our VFW Post 7234 Golf Association hosted its annual Fund Raising Event, raising a tremendous amount for local Veteran - related charities.

- A Post Treasure, WWII Veteran, 4-time Past Post Commander, and still active Post Member Irv Hudson celebrated his 100th Birthday with Family and Comrades.



- Veterans and Auxiliary partnered at an information booth on the Bethany Beach Boardwalk to hand out Poppies and Membership information and answer questions.



- Participated along with the Honor Guard in VJ Day Ceremony at Ft Miles.



- Conducted 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony with Volley and Taps for over 100 attendees. We Honored those lost that day. It still hurts. We will never forget.



- Our Auxiliary conducted the annual POW/MIA Ceremony to render proper Honors, Respect and Remembrance – You are never forgotten.



- Participated, at the Owner's invitation, in the Grand Opening of the local McDonald's Restaurant along with other community officials and dignitaries.
- We hired Bartender Paula Odendahl as Assistant for Canteen Operations.
- Lastly, we said THANK YOU and showed our APPRECIATION to the Volunteers who, day in and day out, keep your Post open, operating efficiently and provide unparalleled selfless service to our Veterans, Members and Guests. I have repeatedly said: "If not for our Volunteers, we would have to close our doors." You deserve to attend one of the two Volunteer Recognition / Appreciation Dinners in your honor (September 26th, or October 3rd).

Looking forward to October and beyond, things do not slow down much at your Post.

- The Fall Bull & Oyster Roast is Saturday, October 4th and is a great time for all. The \$50 ticket includes: AYCE pit beef, shrimp, oysters, oyster stew, sausage and peppers, baked beans, potato salad (with domestic draft beer - Miller & Coors Lite).
- October VFW General Membership Meeting is on Monday, Oct 6th. Come have a say.
- Free Flu Shots by Beebe Healthcare at the Post on Thursday, Oct 9th, 3 – 5 PM.
- Line Dancing on Friday, Oct 10th, 1 – 3 PM.
- The Canteen Manager takes a well-deserved vacation from 15 – 22 October.
- Annual Operation Seas the Day Thank You Dinner on Thursday, Oct 23rd.
- Host an AI-ANON Breakfast on Saturday, Oct 25th.
- Monthly Board of Directors Meeting on Tuesday, Oct 28th, 6 PM, Downstairs.

- Lastly for October, get your Costumes ready for the 2nd Annual VFW Post 7234 Halloween Party on Friday, October 31st. More details to follow.
- November General Membership Meeting is on Monday, Nov 3rd. Come have a say.
- * Mark your Calendars: the ever-popular Night at the Races return for a fall engagement on Friday, Nov 7th. Buy a Horse or two and bring your good luck charm!
- Of course, on Tuesday, November 11th the Post will host our annual Veterans Day and Quilt of Valor (QOV) Presentation Ceremony and Honor ALL of our Veterans.
- Monthly Board of Directors Meeting on Tuesday, Nov 25th, 6 PM, Downstairs.
- Lastly, our Annual Thanksgiving Meal with all the trimmings on Thursday, Nov 27th. This meal is free and open to the public. Bring your appetite and bring a friend.

At your Post, there truly is something for everyone. We are open 7 days a week, offering lunch and dinner, with entertainment sprinkled in. After four months as your Post Commander, people ask me how am I doing? My response: "Ask the Members." If the Members believe that I am doing what they elected me to do – then I am doing great. If there is ANY Member that has an idea for improving our Post, or suggestion on how to do things differently or better – I am all ears. I do not have all the answers, but together, you and I – WE do. I am encouraged by the increasing numbers of attendees at our monthly Membership Meetings. Keep coming. Bring a fellow Comrade. Have a say in your Post operations.

Long Range: 2026 marks the 80th Anniversary of our Post. Initial plans are underway to celebrate this momentous occasion with a weekend of events in late April 2026. We plan to have the newly – elected Hall of Fame Band "On the Edge" to help us celebrate. Many Posts, unfortunately, do not get to see their 80th anniversary. But your Post is thriving. It is alive and well. If you want to know the reason, all you have to do is look in the mirror. When you are at the Post, look to your left, and look to your right. Well done, Comrades!

Your Post Commander, Chad Myers.

Veterans Day



CEREMONY AT POST

NOV 11 11AM

**QUILTS OF VALOR
PRESENTATION
CEREMONY**

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Celebrating Irv Hudson's 100th Birthday at the Post was a grand party! A large crowd of family and



friends gathered to honor Irv, WWII Veteran, four-time Past Post Commander, and now Honorary Post Commander for Life.

Immediately following the birthday celebration, Auxiliary members Susan Clark and Cindy Weese with the assistance of Commander Chad Myers, Dale Weese, Theo and Fulton Loppatto, Eileen Healy, Annie Berger and three Scouts from Ocean View conducted a solemn ceremony honoring our POW/MIA heroes. The meaning of each of the symbols of the POW/MIA Missing Man Table, located in the Post lobby, were read and placed on the display.

September was a busy month. The Auxiliary participated in Buddy Poppy drives at Hockers Hardware, Hockers Grocery and at the Bethany Arts Festival. The Post held a very moving ceremony at the

Gazebo in remembrance of 9/11. Pro Works provided a large garrison flag and the Bethany Beach Fire Department arrived in a vintage firetruck. Thank you all for taking the time to come out and remember all those impacted by 9/11.

With September in the rear-view mirror, autumn is upon us! Gone are the extreme summer heat waves and scorching temperatures. Now comes Pumpkin Spice everything! If you love pumpkins, this is your time to enjoy!

Welcome crisp evenings with low humidity and color-enhanced leaves. Shorts and tank tops turn into jeans and sweatshirts.

October is a busy month as we prepare for Auxiliary visits from the Department President, Buttercup Baker, on October 6 for our general meeting, and then a visit from National President Lois Callahan on October 30. It is our time to shine and show what Ocean View 7234 is all about! The National President has said that she is visiting the First State and wants to make it a priority to visit the largest Auxiliary Post. Let's all come out to celebrate and spend some time with Lois on October 30 between 3 and 5 in the afternoon enjoying some light snacks and drinks. Wear your auxiliary gear as we put Auxiliary 7234's best foot forward.

Preparations are underway for the Bull and Oyster Roast on October 4, "Cops and Goblins" in Ocean View on October 25, and the Halloween Post party on October 31.

The Auxiliary is planning a ceramic painting session at the Post on November 12. This is being planned by, and the proceeds will support, the Hospital Visitation Committee.

Have a great October and Spooky Halloween!

Kevin Conlon

President

VFW Auxiliary Post #7234

JR VICE NOTE

As we leave the VERY busy Summer season, and shift gears into “Second Season” and beyond, we can enjoy our accomplishments, and look forward to a productive and unifying winter and spring ahead. How blessed we are to have such an amazing, talented and cohesive group of Comrades here at the Post, and Auxiliary. As the days become shorter, and some of our Comrades are staying closer to home, let’s not forget to check in on one another. A call, a text, a pop-by visit can all mean the world. So, let’s keep doing what we do: support each other, support our fellow Veterans and our community, and Git ‘Er Done!

Phyllis Scully, Jr Vice Commander

CHAPLAINS’ CORNER

Hello Everyone,

As of September 22nd, fall commenced. Nights will grow progressively longer than days through the last day of fall, which is December 20th this year.

Member News

Peg Atkins, Andy Artemchuk, and Jodi Reilly are recovering at home. A card, call, or positive thought can assist in their healing.

Something to Ponder

Autumn is a season of change and transition, but it also symbolizes balance and harmony. As we enjoy the cooler weather, the changing leaves, pumpkin lattes, football, second-season specials, and crisp evenings, let's take a moment to reflect on the balance in our lives. Are we truly balanced, and what can we do to maintain or achieve that sense of harmony?

I found myself pondering this question early one morning as I drove to Lewes. The sun was rising over the water as I crossed the Indian River bridge, and I was thinking about all I had to accomplish that day. I felt the urge to stop and appreciate the sunrise, but I kept driving. As I approached Dewey, I questioned whether my life was so busy that I couldn't take a moment to enjoy the beauty of the morning, the ocean, and this wonderful area.

When I reached Dewey and had to slow down to 25 mph, it was a sign to really slow down. So, I turned off to the right, parked, and took a few minutes to admire the sunrise, take a deep breath, and thank God for all the goodness in my life. I even took a picture, which I'll share below. It was just a brief moment, but it helped me find balance and reminded me to be grateful.

I'm keeping this picture on my phone as a reminder that I want to spend my autumn of 2025 in harmony with life, balanced, and grateful. Happy Fall!



**“There is harmony in autumn, and
a luster in its sky, which through
the summer is not heard or seen,
as if it could not be, as if it had not
been.”**

-Percy Bysshe Shelley

Jeannette Twigg
Post Chaplain

DECEASED MEMBERS



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

SERVICE OFFICER OUTREACH

How to get reimbursed for your VA-related travel.



This story was edited on 7/25/25 with updated information on the eligibility and filing process.

If you're traveling for a VA authorized health care appointment, VA may reimburse you for travel costs, including mileage, tolls, parking and pre-authorized meals and lodging up to 50% of the government employee rate, receipts should also be provided to allow for processing, if you're eligible. Your caregiver may be eligible for reimbursement as well.

Filing a travel claim online is easy and the fastest way to receive reimbursement. Let's look at a few specifics of the program.

Who's eligible?

VA offers travel benefits under the Beneficiary Travel Program: Mileage and Common Carrier reimbursement, and special mode transportation to any VA authorized appointment. You may be eligible if you:

- Have a service-connected rating of 30% or more.
- Are traveling for treatment of a service-connected condition.
- Receive a VA pension, or your income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension.
- Are traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension exam.
- Have vision impairment, spinal cord injury or disorder, double or multiple amputation, enrollment in VA rehabilitation programs.

Eligible Veterans and Caregivers must submit reimbursement travel claims within 30 days of their VA-Authorized appointment. Certain travel reimbursement claims may be subject to a deductible.

Caregivers are also eligible for [travel benefits](#) when they are traveling with a Veteran who qualifies for the Beneficiary Travel Program.

There are a few other eligible groups. If you have questions about your eligibility, reach out to your facility's Beneficiary Travel Department or call VA's Beneficiary Travel toll-free call center at 855-574-7292. Hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

What types of travel can VA provide or reimburse?

VA can reimburse eligible persons for mileage driven in a personal vehicle at a rate of .415 cents per mile. Transportation by a rideshare or public transportation, like a bus, taxi, or plane may also be reimbursed if pre-authorized. In addition, when medically justified by a VA health care provider, a special mode of transportation, such as an ambulance or wheelchair van, may be approved for Veterans who are eligible for beneficiary travel.

What is the best way to get paid back?

File a claim using the VA Health and Benefits App or VA.gov. Combining electronic filing with direct deposit is the fastest way to get your beneficiary travel payment. Veterans still have the ability to file for Beneficiary Travel utilizing VA Form 10-3542.

How to file a travel claim using VA.gov?

To get started, visit VA.gov and select sign in. You will be prompted to verify your identity by either login.gov or ID.me. Once you are logged in you can access your appointment through the MyHeathyVet Tab under past appointments.

“Using the digital claim options ensures accurate mileage calculations, faster claims processing and more log-in options,” said TaKeshia Trevino, chief of the Veterans Transportation Program at Oklahoma City VA Medical Center. “Veterans should absolutely use this system for eligible travel claims!”

Claim the benefits you earned!

Submission through VA.Gov or VA Health and Benefits App means less waiting, easier reimbursing, and more chances to say, “cha-ching!”

For more information about how to file for travel pay reimbursement, visit [VA’s beneficiary travel webpage](#).

[Simplified travel claims submissions now available on VA mobile app](#)

08/11/2025 11:45 a.m. EDT

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced that eligible Veterans can now submit and track “mileage-only” travel claims directly from a smartphone or mobile device via the [VA Health and Benefits mobile app](#).

The app, which has more [than three million downloads](#), automatically identifies when a Veteran’s appointment may be eligible for mileage reimbursement and displays a prompt on the home screen. Submissions require just a few taps to confirm details.

The new feature will potentially reduce the number of paper claim submissions, which can take longer for VA to process.

Veterans who meet [certain criteria](#), such as having a service-connected disability rating of 30% or higher, are eligible for health care travel reimbursement if they traveled in their own vehicle from their home address to their VA medical appointment.

“VA is evolving to meet the needs of today’s Veterans, and this new feature is proof of that,” said VA Secretary Doug Collins. “We look forward to rolling out many more improvements in the future as we continue to make the department work better for the Veterans, families, caregivers and survivors we serve.”

For more information about how to use the mobile app and its new features, or to download the app visit [the Mobile VA Health and Benefits page.](#)

In Comradeship,

H “Rich” Fales-Post Benefits Advisor

Cell# 301-325-3813

Email: richfales@gmail.com (NEW!)



HONOR GUARD NEWS

During the month of September, the Honor Guard participated in three ceremonies and services. On September 2nd the Honor Guard Drum Corps and 12 members participated in the VJ Day (Victory Over Japan) service and ceremony at Ft Miles in Lewes. The Honor Guard posted colors and rendered a Volley and Taps.



On September 11th the Honor Guard and Drum Corps participated in the 9/11 Remembrance at the Post on the Point where Volley and taps were rendered. (see photos)

On September 27th 11 members of the Honor Guard and Drum Corps posted colors at the DE Federation of Women’s Club (Middle District representing DE, PA, NJ, and NY) to begin their Convention.

The Honor Guard is now wearing their “new” summer uniforms.



FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW:

There is a distinct difference between an Honor Guard and a Color Guard. Every Honor Guard is also a Color Guard. Color Guards are NOT Honor Guards as their duties and responsibilities are limited. Generally, a Color Guard will carry the colors, post the colors and march in parades.

Our Post is an Honor Guard!

Honor Guards are known for their precision and attention to detail. They perform a variety of ceremonial duties, including:

- *Presenting and guarding the colors (national, state and organizational flags)**
- *Rendering honors, such as presenting arms, saluting, volley and taps at funerals or memorial services**
- *Providing escort services for dignitaries or fallen comrades**
- *Participating in parades, change of command ceremonies, and other official events**
- *Posting and retiring colors**

Each month our Post recognizes a member of our Honor Guard for his dedicated service and commitment to honor our deceased comrades and to VFW Post 7234. This month we recognize and honor Ed Krusey.



Ed is a life member of our Post. He originally joined VFW Post 8240 in PA in 2003 and transferred to Post 7234 in 2013. “Captain” Ed served in the US Army from 1965 to 1970. Ed is a Vietnam veteran and served in country as a 2nd and 1st Lieutenant. He was discharged as a Captain. Ed’s dad served in the Army in WWII in Europe.

Ed joined the Honor Guard in PA in 2003 at the request of a friend. Ed joined our Post honor Guard when he moved here in 2013. Ed is also a member of the All Veterans Honor Guard in Denver, CO and serves there at his “winter” home. The AVHG functions as a volunteer group for the Veterans Administration at Ft Logan National Cemetery. They are also affiliated with the American Legion Post 1 in Denver, CO.

When asked why he joined the Honor Guard, Ed stated”

“I view serving in the Honor Guard as a way to honor my fallen veteran family members and comrades. It also affords me the opportunity to give back to my community. It gives me hope that the Honor Guard will still be there when it is my turn to need their services.” Ed also noted that being a member of the Honor Guard affords him the opportunity to meet and become friends with his colleagues.

Mason Dixon VFW Post 7234 thanks and salutes Honor Guard member Ed Krusey!

VJ PHOTOS AT FORT MILES



ATTENTION VIETNAM VETERANS

Many of us Vietnam veterans are members of a VVA Chapter. (Vietnam Veterans of America) Our post members are generally affiliated with VVA Chapter 1105.

This month's September/October 2025, The VVA, our VETERAN magazine was dedicated to the annual convention where much discussion was had on the death and legacy of our organization and the Vietnam veteran when we are all gone.

I would like to recommend that you read the Keynote Address by Bill Broyles*. His message is poignant and powerful and returns us to many memories and scary time in our lives.



To read the whole article:

[The VVA Veteran, a publication of Vietnam Veterans of America](#)

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."**

MASON DIXON VFW POST 7234 FLAG DUTY PROTOCOL

The following information, protocol and duties are provided for those who have Post Flag duties. Pursuant to the Post Commander, the following individuals who are physically able will be assigned Post Flag duties.

...all Post officers elected and appointed

...all Board of Director members elected and appointed.

...Post Honor Guard.

Flag duties include:

monitoring, service, and maintenance of all Flags located in the Post Memorial Park. This includes the US Flag, DE Flag, POW Flag and all Service Branch Flags; and

monitoring, service, and maintenance of the US Flag and POW Flag on the Point.

Specific duties include:*

... inspection of ALL Flags twice a week (at a minimum).

...replacement of any Flags tattered or torn.

...replacement of Flag clips as required.

...lowering US Flag to half-staff and raising to full staff as
may be directed by POTUS or DE G.

...weekly inspection of Memorial Park for cleanliness

*During heavy storms and winds please use your judgement in temporally removing the Memorial Park Flags and Point Flags. The absence of displayed Flags should be kept to a minimum. If uncertain, contact the Post Commander or the Honor Guard Captain for guidance.

Additional information.

Memorial Park Flags size.

US Flag shall be 4x6

DE Flag, POW Flag, all branch service Flags shall be 3x5

Point Flags size.

US Flag shall be 5x8

POW Flag shall be 3x5

All Flags and clips can be secured through the Post Quartermaster who maintains inventory and order responsibilities.

For training contact the Captain of the Honor Guard.

FOR THE COMMANDER

John F. Gossart, Jr.

Captain of the Honor Guard

judge800@yahoo.com

240-304-8183

MASON DIXON VFW POST 7234 FLAG DUTY ROSTER 2025-2026

JUNE:	Chad Myers - Dale Weese
JULY:	Jay MacDonald - Richard Wagner
AUGUST	Phyllis Scully – Rob Gill
SEPTEMBER	Honor Guard – John Gossart
OCTOBER	Andrew Artemchuk – Jeanette Twigg
NOVEMBER	Fulton Loppatto – Jeff Ringel
DECEMBER	Paul Kerstanski – Chuck Guido
JANUARY	Mike Tuckman – Ken Weber
FEBRUARY	Thomas St Clare – Steve Kern
MARCH	Sharon Ruest - Kevin Conlon
APRIL	Chad Myers – Greg Albertson
MAY	John Gossart – Honor Guard

- Service Officer Rich Fales is exempt.
- If this schedule does not fit your schedule, you may find and trade with another Post Officer, Trustee, or Board Member. Please advise the Commander and the Honor Guard Captain of any trade.

See Post Flag Duties and Responsibilities above

CANTEEN CORNER

October promises to be another exciting month here at the Post with many events taking place. Please check our monthly calendar for activities throughout the month as well as our Facebook page, VFW Post 7234 Bar and Canteen for the latest up to date daily happenings.

Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will take place on Friday Oct. 3 and Saturday Oct. 4 will feature the Bull & Oyster Roast. This fundraiser benefits and supports the Veteran's Relief Fund. Our annual Halloween Party will take place on Friday Oct. 31. It was a great event last year and promises to be a blast this year. Food and drink specials, costume contest and many other exciting happenings.

Last but certainly not least our 2nd Annual Nite at the Races will be held Friday Nite November 7. Horses are \$25 and will go on sale beginning Saturday Oct. 4 at the Bull & Oyster Roast.

Thank you and hope to see you at the Post.

John Frye

Canteen Manager

CELEBRATING THE NAVY'S BIRTHDAY

On October 13, we will celebrate the U.S. Navy's 250th birthday, the official anniversary of its



establishment by the Continental Congress in 1775. I say “we” because all of us and the United States have benefitted from the service and sacrifice of all those who have served in the Navy defending our country since the Revolutionary War.

The early history is interesting and maybe as surprising to you as it was to me. Records disclose that earlier in 1775, before the Continental Congress acted, George Washington had already established America's first armed national fleet. When Washington commanded the army that surrounded Boston and the British garrison in 1775, he found that the British were well supplied by their merchant ships, while the Americans were short of everything: weapons, gunpowder, equipment, food and even shoes. The Americans desperately needed those supplies.

With the advice and assistance of knowledgeable sailors, Washington began to recruit and arm schooners that could sail as privateers, attack and capture British supply ships. The proceeds from the sale of a prize ship and its cargo were shared among the owner and crew of the privateer, based on a prearranged contract formula, usually with one-third going to the crew. Sailors could earn as much as \$1000 for a successful voyage. Recruitment was not a problem.

But it was going to be a difficult task. Britain had the most powerful navy in the world at that time and was said to “rule the seas.” After a slow and disappointing start, the tide turned and privateers in Washington's squadron captured a number of British ships that resupplied to American forces and deprived the British army of the cargoes. With those supplies and cannons captured by the American army from Fort Ticonderoga in New York, Washington was able to force the British to evacuate Boston. It was a meaningful victory, thanks in large part to his little navy.

It is said that Washington never forgot the lessons learned and always recognized the vital importance of a strong navy.

After Boston, Congress continued the effort. In one historical account, nearly 800 vessels of every size and type of ship and boat (there's a difference) were commissioned as privateers during the war. They are credited with capturing or sinking about 600 British ships, costing the British an estimated \$18 million, or just over \$302 million in today's dollars.

During that early time, along came John Paul Jones (1747-1792). An immigrant from Scotland, he was an experienced seaman and ship's officer. Commissioned in the new Navy by the Continental Congress, he and his Continental and later (after 1776) United States Navy crews, went on to capture or sink over 25 British ships, including warships during the Revolutionary War. He is said to have achieved the greatest naval victory record in the War. John Paul Jones is entombed on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. The inscription on the tomb reads: “He gave our navy its earliest traditions of heroism and victory.” It's a history to be proud of.

For those interested in this and later U.S. Navy history, here are a few books that have been favorably reviewed and recommended:

- [A History of American Privateers](#), by Edgar Stanton Maclay (1970)
- [Last Stand of the Tin Can Soldiers: The Extraordinary World War II Story of the U.S. Navy's Finest Hour](#), by James Hornfischer (2005), about the dramatic victory of a small American force against a large Japanese Fleet in the Battle of Samar in October 1944 during World War II. That's 81 years ago. Hard to believe.
- [Nimitz at War](#), by Craig L. Symonds (2022) an interesting and often funny biography of Admiral Chester Nimitz who led the American Navy in the Pacific during WWII.

With that, I'll close this out with the Navy's blessing and wish for everyone of "fair winds and following seas."

Looking at the calendar for October, here are days to keep in mind, in addition to all the dates on the Post calendar.

- **October 1.** The Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur begins at sundown.
- **October 13.** Columbus Day holiday, as well as the Navy's birthday.
- **October 31.** Halloween.

I hope everyone enjoys every day in October.

Jerry Hardiman

2025 MASON DIXON MEMBER RENEWALS

It is that time of year when Mason Dixon members whose membership expires on December 31, 2025 will begin the process of renewing their memberships. **Beginning November 15, 2025**, the Post will begin accepting renewal dues for Mason Dixon members whose cards show an expiration date of 12/31/2025. All dues for 2025 expiring Mason Dixon memberships must be received by December 31, 2025. **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, 2025 and your new card will expire on December 31, 2027. New membership cards will be available the beginning of December. 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 Director

NOTICE TO ALL MASON DIXON MEMBERS

(THIS NOTICE IS FOR MASON DIXON MEMBERS ONLY,
(DOES NOT APPLY TO VFW OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS)

REMINDERS AND CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PRACTICES

REMINDERS

AS YOU MAY RECALL IN AUGUST 2022 THE POLICY WAS CHANGED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT NO ADVANCED PERSONAL NOTICES TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE SENT OUT.

THE POLICY CHANGES ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE MEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THEIR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT AND IN GOOD STANDING, NOT THE POST.

THE POLICY ALSO STATES THAT MASON DIXON MEMBERSHIP CARDS WILL NOT BE MAILED. MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE TO BE PICKED UP AT THE POST (AT THE BAR).

NEW CHANGE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2025

THE MASON DIXON MEMBERSHIP POLICY STATES:

“ALL RENEWALS FOR EXPIRING MEMBERSHIP MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE POST NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS FOLLOWING THE END OF THE MEMBERSHIP TERM. NO RENEWAL WILL BE PROCESSED AFTER MARCH 1, FOLLOWING THE PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP YEAR. RENEWALS RECEIVED AFTER SUCH DATE WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT ACTION AND MEMBERSHIP WILL BE TERMINATED.” THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR! DO NOT LET YOUR MASON DIXON MEMBERSHIP LAPSE!!

SINCE THE EFFECTIVE DATE (08/01/2022) OF THE POLICY CHANGES, TOTAL POST MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN TO OVER 4,600 MEMBERS. THIS IS A 1,100 MEMBER INCREASE IN LESS THAN THREE YEARS! DESPITE THE PROVISION ABOVE REGARDING RENEWALS, THE BOARD HAS ALLOWED VETERAN MASON DIXON MEMBERS TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIPS EVEN IF SUBMITTED LATE. VETERAN MEMBERS WERE PERMITTED TO RE-APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP. THIS PRACTICE WILL CEASE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

THE BOARD RECENTLY UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO CHANGE THIS PRACTICE.

BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2025, VETERAN MASON DIXON MEMBERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO RENEW ONLY ONCE AFTER THEIR FIRST LATE RENEWAL. VETERAN MASON DIXON MEMBERS WHO HAVE ALREADY RE-APPLIED PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE WILL BE GIVEN ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY. THIS IS BEING ALLOWED ONLY BECAUSE THE BOARD VOTE JUST OCCURRED AND THE CHANGE HAD NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED UNTIL NOW.

IN ADDITION, THE LATE VETERAN (ONLY) RE-APPLICATION MUST BE ACCOMPANIED NOT ONLY BY THE \$150 DUES, BUT ALSO A \$25 PENALTY FEE (FOR BEING LATE). THEREAFTER, IF THE VETERAN MASON DIXON MEMBER DOES NOT TIMELY PAY THEIR DUES AGAIN, THE VETERAN MASON DIXON MEMBER'S MEMBERSHIP WILL BE PERMANENTLY TERMINATED.

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
Benefits Advisor	Rich Fales
Honor Guard Capt	John Gossart Jr.
Trustee	Greg Albertson
Trustee	Rob Gill
Trustee	Paul Kerstanski

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	Andy Artemchuk
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Vice President	Phyllis Scully
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Sr Vice Pres	Dale Weese
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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 37586

FOOD BANK

Please continue to drop off food items at the entry way. We continue to support our local families in need. Thank you for your donations.

**VFW POST 7234 HONOR GUARD
TO BECOME A MEMBER, PLEASE
CONTACT JOHN GOSSART
240-304-8183**

HELP A VET PROGRAM

**Veterans - Need Assistance, a friendly call, a visit, etc.
Contact our Post:
VFWpost7234@gmail.com**

Member Sick or Deceased

Please call:

For VFW – Jeannette Twigg 302-539-9981

For Aux – Annie Berger 302-539-9981

Assistance with VA Questions & Issues

Please call:

Rich Fales (301)325-3813 or email me

richfales@gmail.com

To signup for our email List

For the Latest Updates and News

Please send your email to

vfwpost7234@gmail.com