



NEWSLETTER



VFW Post 7288 - Calabash, NC - Nov./Dec. 2016

COMMANDERS MESSAGE



"Nobody does more for Veterans than the VFW!"

By now most of us have weathered the storm, so-to-speak. That is Hurricane Matthew. Hurricane Matthew created a crisis situation for too many throughout North Carolina and in particular, veterans and their families in Brunswick County and points farther west in the state. Here along the immediate coast, we were much more fortunate, unlike many other veterans in North Carolina. Many of these

areas remained flooded and rivers continued to rise for several days after the storm. Thousands of people, including over 1,500 veterans and VFW members, lost their homes and all of their belongings, and the number affected continued to grow.

On the morning of Monday, October 17, 2016 an email was sent out to all members of our Post and surrounding communities asking for monetary donations and household items in need. By day's end, donations came pouring in and continued at a steady pace for a full week. All totaled, over the past week the Post collected needed household items including over 150 cases of bottled water, blankets, pillows, bedding, brooms, mops, medical supplies, non-perishable food items, pet food, toiletries and more. The generosity of so many in this time of need, resulted in donations of over 4,000 pounds of needed items and \$4,000 in monetary donations, and counting. Donations came from members of the Post, the Auxiliary, the Men's Auxiliary, the Post's Monday Golf League, the Wednesday Tee-Birds and the Friday Golf Group, Tidewater Golf Members, residents in local communities, churches, friends and families. On Monday, October 24th, volunteers from Post #7288 loaded a rented 26-foot box truck with the donations and the next day transported and unloaded them at a distribution point in Spring Lake, NC. When the call went out – **THEY ANSWERED THE CALL!** The overwhelming response to the request for donations proves that "Nobody Does More for Veterans" than the VFW! Once again VFW Calabash Post #7288 stepped up. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthwhile and necessary cause to help our veterans in need. Your donations will greatly help them on the road to recovery.

Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be here at Calabash VFW Post #7288 on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health and to live longer for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these potentially life-saving tests today. Please refer to the attached flyers to get more info about how you can sign up while receiving \$10 off any package priced above \$139. For only \$139 (regularly \$149) you can learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease. There is no time like the present to take action!

Learn more by watching this short video:

<http://www.lifelinescreeningblog.com/introduction/>

Department of North Carolina VFW & Bass Pro Shop Sport Raffle

Again this year the VFW's NC Department has partnered with Bass Pro Shops and is have a Sport Raffle at a cost of \$5 per ticket. You do not have to be present to win! And if your ticket is selected for a prize, it will go back in the drawing for other prizes so you can win more than once on the same ticket. Importantly, our Post retains 20% of the funds from the sale of tickets at our Post – a Win/Win for the Post and its members. Support your Post, support the North Carolina Department and give yourself a chance to win valuable prizes. Purchase one or more tickets at \$5 each at the Canteen or at a monthly meeting. Ask your bartenders or one of the Post Officers for tickets!

Post Website and Facebook

Just a reminder that you can keep pace with what is happening at the Post and the latest VFW News at the Post's website at vfw7288.org and its Facebook page. You don't need a Facebook account to view the Facebook page, just Google – VFW Calabash Post 7288 Facebook page.

Important Upcoming Events

Every Sunday is NFL fun and food – Members Only

- 6 Nov - Post Breakfast
- 11 Nov - Veterans Day Ceremony @ 11am
- 12 Nov - Buddy Poppy Distribution – Volunteers Needed
- 14 Nov - Robert Haight Memorial Veterans Day Golf Tournament at Sand Piper
- 24 Nov - Post CLOSED – Thanksgiving Day
- 4 Dec - Post Breakfast
- 10 Dec - World War II & Pearl Harbor Remembrance Celebration 4-7 p.m. Entertainment is Lou Pratt
- 25 Dec - Post CLOSED – Christmas Day
- 31 Dec - Post New Year's Eve party @ 6:00 p.m.

Rick Arvonio
Commander

LADIES AUXILIARY



Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year will be here before we know it. Take time to reflect on all our blessings and the happiness and health of our own families. Let's keep in mind that many of our service men and woman won't be home with their families as they continue to fight for us and our way of life.

In the past few month our Auxiliary has been very busy: Our End-of- Summer Beach Party at the Post held Sept. 10 was a fun-filled time featuring a low-county boil or BBQ chicken plate. A DJ

provided entertainment playing beach party favorites. Thank you Donna Stueve and committee for making this a success. Proceeds from this event went in support of "Help for Homeless Veterans."

Our Post held the POW/MIA service on September 16th. We assisted the Post with its POW/MIA Ceremony. Our ceremony represents a reminder of the lives of each of the missing and their loved ones who keep the faith, waiting for answers.

LADIES AUXILIARY (cont.)

The Council of Administration held in Cary October 7-9 convened at the Embassy Suites in Cary. Unfortunately, Hurricane Matthew did not allow many of our officers to attend. A representative from the VA Hospital in Durham talked about the hospital and its services. ****Suicide Prevention and a 20+ day commitment for veterans with suicidal tendencies. One veteran per day commits suicide and females are 500% more successful at ending their lives. This commitment on the part of VA coincides with National President Colette Bishop's Homeless Veterans Special Project. State politicians spoke directly about the state of our military and the security of our country.

Remember, one-stop early voting period continues until Nov 5. Be sure to make your vote count by voting November 8 in the general elections. If we don't speak up for our veterans and their needs by voting, who will?

You still have time to convert your Auxiliary membership from annual to life; save yourself some money over the long term. There will be a 15% increase across the board for life memberships on January 1, 2017. See Brenda Arnold or Susan Burchacki for more information.

The Oyster Festival held October 15-16 and was again, a huge success. The Festival takes a dedicated commitment from us each year and we could not have done it without each and every person who participated.

The Warrior Ride luncheon held at the post October 21. It was both an honor and a humbling experience for Auxiliary members to participate in serving lunch to the riders, their support teams, and Brunswick County Law Enforcement.

We have been asked to support Wreaths Across America – Dec 17th - noon at Wilmington National Cemetery; it was voted on at our August meeting that we support this worthy cause. Wreaths are placed at Arlington National Cemetery and 1,100 add additional graves, a small act to keep the memory of our veterans live. Wreaths are \$15 and we get \$5 back for every wreath sold. I am asking everyone who can, please write us a check for \$15.00 and earmark it for Wreaths Across America.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

9 Nov - Card Party 11 am-3 pm to be held at Ryan's Steak House in North Myrtle Beach. Tickets are still available from Fran Redfield for \$15 each. We still need gifts and donations for this event. Contact Fran at 910-287- 7527 for more information/donation.

11 Nov - Veterans Day Ceremony - 11:00 am. Our Auxiliary will participate in the ceremony to honor our veterans. We will serve hot dogs and chips after the ceremony. Plan to attend.

12 Nov - Buddy Poppy Drive will be Nov 12 th and sign-up sheets are on our bulletin board in the canteen. PLEASE sign up for one of the three two-hour shifts at Food Lion stores in Sunset Beach or Carolina shores. We need you!

10 Dec - Winter District Meeting – 10 am Boiling Spg Lakes, Post 10400, 3161 George II Highway. We can carpool if anyone is interested in attending.

10 Dec - The WWII and Pearl Harbor celebration dinner and entertainment will be held at the Post. Our Post will be preparing food and we will need six Auxiliary members to sign up to decorate the tables and presenting food to our honorees.

13 Dec - Collections for Christmas Wish List items for the VA Hospital in Fayetteville is now in full swing. A Wish List for items they would like to have will available at our November meeting and also be emailed to you. Please be generous and bring your items to the December 13 th AUX meeting. Please note, our RSVP Christmas luncheon will follow our 12:00 meeting. Cost will be a donation to the VA Hospital – Fayetteville Christmas drive. Delivery to the hospital will be before Xmas.

During this busy, hectic time, cherish time with your families and friends but please take time to pray for our veterans during the holidays. Pray God speed in their safe return to the arms of their loved ones.

God Bless . . . Brenda Arnold

MEN'S AUXILIARY

As the year comes to a close on December 31st, unfortunately so does the Men's Auxiliary. Regardless, there is still much work to be done. Decisions must be made by all current members to either join the Auxiliary, if you are eligible, or join the Military Family Guest Program to volunteer to support the new Committee for Americanism, Citizenship & Community Service. Your forms must be completed and turned in with your dues payment by December 31, 2016. I encourage you to pay as soon as possible so you will not be left out.

Many volunteers are still needed for a variety of functions including lunches, dinners, and breakfast along with many other activities. A few hours a month working in the kitchen for lunches will be a great help. If you can't flip burgers, you can take orders or perform other tasks. Come in the kitchen some day during lunches and see how easy it is. After a couple of sessions with me, you will be a top chef!!! Seriously, come in and give it a try. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered for kitchen duty, it has been fun working with you.

I want to thank everyone who has supported me in my three years as President of the Men's Auxiliary. Sometimes we had some rocky roads to negotiate but we worked our way through and moved and eventually got the job done.

Please sign up for the new volunteer program and help support the Post. Your volunteer hours will help meet the Post's program and fundraising goals, supporting the Post and most importantly, veterans and their families.

Don Thompson
President

NEW MEMBERS

Tom Behan, Donald Campbell, James Carota
Ralph C. Moore Jr, Vernon Whitlow

SICK

Lefty Lewis, Terry Smith, Stuart South
Bruce Zawacki

Send a Card . . . Say a Prayer

DECEASED

Washington (Wash) Dayton, Frank Gajderowicz
Norman E. Meaders, Joseph Modica
Charles (Pat) Patterson (Charter Member)
Fred Bengis, (Auxiliary)



**"Best Breakfast
In Town!!"
First Sunday of
The Month
8 to 11 a.m.
\$6.00 per person**

FLAG EDUCATION

VFW Calabash Post #7288 likes to satisfy appetites, whether it's for more information that helps veterans and their families or by satisfying the hunger for knowledge displayed by fifth grade students at each of the Post's Flag Education Classes throughout Brunswick County. These classes instill in young people an appreciation for the American flag, its history and the way the flag should be handled. On Thursday, November 3rd it was Waccamaw Elementary School's turn so the Post's Flag Education Team headed to Ash, NC, to pass along lessons about Old Glory to students whose attention was focused on the veterans and the every word they said. After the formal presentation on the flag the floor was open for questions and there were many. The VFW Calabash Post 7288 Flag Education team fielded questions for an additional half hour to make sure the students' hunger for knowledge was satisfied.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

If your Birthday is in November or December, stop in at the Post, let the bartender know that you are celebrating your birthday and enjoy a free beverage on us.



7288 Members GOLF LEAGUE

Nov./ Dec. Schedule

Check the Bulletin Board

SERVING THE DESERVING

At VFW Calabash Post #7288 it was a case of "Serving the Deserving" when The Warrior Ride Coastal Carolina Tour ended the last leg of their ride at the Post where nearly 60 riders and staff enjoyed a sturdy lunch of meat loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll and a beverage of their choice. The Warrior Ride was founded in North Carolina by Oak Island's Bob Racine and his late wife Debra ten years ago and as VFW Calabash Post #7288 Commander Rick Arvonio said before the meal was served "We've been waiting for you and looking forward to when you'd be here," a sentiment shared by Calabash Mayor Mary Knight who told them "You are appreciated beyond words."

The lunch at the Post has become a staple of The Warrior Ride each year and the pleasure of having these disabled veterans grows each time they return. The riders use specially fitted bicycles to make their treks in various locations throughout the United States and by doing so take increasing pride in their skills and redefine their capabilities. There's no cost to the service members in the ride and all expenses are paid through donations and grants.

Some of these riders come back year after year and are an inspiration to VFW Calabash Post #7288 members as they witness the increasing confidence and determination that each rider displays.

As Post Commander Arvonio said, "We can't wait until you come back!"



FLOOD RELIEF HELP

“Veterans Care!”

On October 24th dozens of VFW Calabash Post #7288 volunteers loaded a rented truck with 4000 pounds of needed supplies for veterans who lost most of their belongings in the flooding following Hurricane Matthew. The Post also raised over \$4000 to help with the recovery. Donations of water and many more needed supplies twill be shipped to Spring Lake, NC where another VFW Post will handle the dissemination of the goods to veterans and their families who lost most, if not all, their belongings in the floods following Hurricane Matthew.

