



NEWSLETTER

VFW Post 7288 - Calabash, NC - May/June 2018

www.vfw7288.org



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



As my fourth consecutive year as your Post Commander comes to a close, this will be my last Commander's Message.

These last four years as your Commander have been quite a ride! When I volunteered, and you elected me, I brought the energy, drive and commitment, with a single purpose, to lead our Post in achieving its goals and objectives. But I could not have

done it alone! Together with the support of the many volunteers from the Post, the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries, now the Auxiliary, and the Committee for Citizenship, Americanism & Community Service, we have accomplished so very much.

I must also recognize those comrades who have stepped up and volunteered in varying capacities as Post Officers. In particular, those who have served multiple years to support our myriad efforts to successfully manage the Post, deserve special recognition. They include: Quartermaster Bill McCormick; House Committee Chairman, Bill Hertline; Canteen Manager, Tom McCormack; Sr. Vice Commander, Dan Kossler; Jr. Vice Commander, Bob Stocklin; Chaplain, Jim Stueve; Trustees, Tommy Tucker, Vince Krasniewicz and Dianne Larrowe.

I also want to thank the officers and members of the Auxiliary for their support over these last four years. It takes a great number of people to be successful and the many members of the Auxiliary who continue to volunteer to support so many of the Post's functions have played a great role in the Post's success. Thank you to Donnie Thompson for managing our kitchen operations, Wayne Weszka for managing Bingo and Wayne Spears for managing the Post's parking detail for the Oyster Festival and for being the head chef on so many dinners. Together, our monthly breakfasts, lunches, special events, fundraisers and dinners have helped put the Post on a solid financial footing. While it is not possible to list by name all of our volunteers, and I would hate to leave someone out, I want to thank our regular members and the very many Auxiliary members who volunteer day-in and day-out! You see them at the breakfast cooking, serving and cleaning, at the lunches taking orders and cooking food, at special dinners cooking, serving, cleaning, etc. Our volunteers are what make the world go-round!

THANK YOU!

As I reflect and look in the rearview mirror, we have made significant improvements and investments in the Post and most importantly, have made significant financial contributions in support of veterans, their families and the community.

Inside the Post, we purchased new ceiling tiles and light fixtures, new flooring and tile in the Hall, new bar stools, beer coolers, and myriad kitchen equipment. Outside the Post, re-sealing and re-lining the parking lots, wrapping the facades with aluminum, installing new pillars at the front entrance and replacing the kitchen exhaust system on the roof have restored new life to our building. For the safety and security of our members and guests, we purchased a new Automated Electric Defibrillator (AED), providing training to officers, bartenders and members, and installed a Fire Alarm System throughout the Post.

Beyond that there is the constant daily maintenance and repairs that have been made by our House Committee and volunteers to keep the Post operating.

We also expanded our communications vehicles to provide information to our members. New bulletin boards in the Canteen and Hall provide real time information to those frequenting the Post; email distribution; bi-monthly newsletters; a new Facebook page; and a new website at www.vfw7288.org provide a variety of resources for our members regardless of what their computer capabilities may be.

From a financial standpoint, in 2015, we paid off our mortgage, are paying our bills on-time and most importantly, the improvements and investments we have made have been paid for without the need to borrow. We pay as we go!

Of significant importance, the Post's contributions to veterans and their families, veteran support organizations and community support has more than doubled that of previous years. Of particular note are the following: \$4,250 donated to help veterans that were flood victims from Hurricane Matthew in 2016; \$4,600 in donations to help the veterans who were victims of the Hurricanes that ravaged Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico in 2017; and \$3,750 collected by the Post and Auxiliary throughout 2017 that was donated to the Wreaths Across America to ensure there was a wreath on every veteran's grave in the Wilmington National Cemetery. Beyond those examples, the Post provided financial support for the VFW National Home for Children, North Carolina Cottage; the Special Operations Warrior Foundation; Fisher House at Ft. Bragg and Camp LeJeune; Calabash Fire & EMT; Ronald McDonald House, Chapel Hill; and many, many more. A truly outstanding effort and contribution by members of our Post and the Auxiliary.

Make no mistake, the VFW is a non-profit organization whose goal is to help veterans and their families, but it is also a business that must be managed. And we accomplish both through our many volunteers who step up day-in and day-out.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE (con't)

The late Lt. Colonel Jimmy Doolittle once said, "There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer!" And in the words of DeAnn Hollis, "The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others". The members of VFW Calabash Post #7288 who have and continue to volunteer - have great heart! And I thank you!

I know I can count on our members to join me and continue to volunteer and support the Post and our next Commander, Dan Kossler as he continues our great work in the coming year!

It was a privilege and honor to serve as Commander, VFW Calabash Post #7288. Thank you for the opportunity! "Nobody does more for veterans than the VFW."

Respectfully,
Rick Arvonio

AUXILIARY

The reporting year ended on April 15. There was a lot of hours reported and I am very proud to say that our Auxiliary donated over \$15,000 toward National, State and local programs or organizations. Everyone has worked so hard and we should be very proud of the help that we have been able to provide! Thank you!! Take a breath and let's do it AGAIN in the next 12 months!!

Our annual election of Auxiliary Officers was held at our April 10, 2018 meeting. The Officers who will serve for the coming year, June 2018– June 2019, are as follows:

President.....Sharon Kossler.....kosslerd@aol.com
Sr. Vice President... Fran Redfield.....franredfield@atmc.net
Jr. Vice President.... Wayne Weszka.....wwpremier@atmc.net
Treasurer.....Susan Burchackiss.....burch@atmc.net
Chaplain.....Jerry Way.....wayjer57@gmail.com
Conductress.....Marlene Lidgard..oyster942@yahoo.com
Guard.....Ed Rauls.....ometomcat14d@verizon.net
3-Year Trustee.....Jerry Aach.....jshoreline@atmc.net
Secretary.....Susan Burchacki.....ssburch@atmc.net

The new officers will be sworn in at our May 8, 2018 meeting and will serve in their elected capacity after the June 2018 Department Convention. Thank you to all officers who continue to serve and to the new officers stepping up. We could not do what we do without you!

District 5 held its Officer Elections on April 21st at VFW Post #10226 in Oak Island. District 5 Auxiliary Officers for 2018-19 are:

President:.....Deborah Crowder
Sr. Vice President:.....Rusty Spear
Jr. Vice President:.....Linda Snyder
Treasurer:.....Fran Redfield
Chaplain:.....Angela Norris
Conductress:.....Barbara Hertline
Guard:.....Tracey Tippit
3-Year Trustee:.....Gail Caster

Here is a summary of what has been happening in our Auxiliary:

A U.S. Flag Education Program was presented to students at Seaside United Methodist Church Preschool. The children sang the Pledge of Allegiance as a special surprise to the Auxiliary members who were present. As usual, the children then made approximately 100 Easter Cards to be sent to the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville.

A donation was made toward a 5th Grade trip of Union Elementary students to Washington, D.C. There students toured Arlington Cemetery, the various war monuments, and different museums. They laid a wreath at the NC Section of the WWII monument. This trip was the first for Union Elementary and the event was planned by Tara Cumbee who is the VFW NC Department Teacher of the Year, Pre-K through 5th grade, for 2018.

Turnout was good for our Chinese auction, bake sale & lunch held March 24th. Proceeds from this event were earmarked for VFW National Military Services Program. We are still waiting for a final number, but we expect to make a donation of \$1,000 or more to this worthy cause.

Patriotic Art competition has been judged at the Post level and forwarded to Department for further competition. Certificates and monetary awards will be made in May at West Brunswick High School. This year we had 54 art entries and we shared the art with Holden Beach VFW Post. The talent these young people displayed is awesome.

At least 7 applications have been received for the Theresa McMahon Scholarship Award. Judging will occur on May 2nd and winner(s) will be announced by May 15th.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

May 18 - the Auxiliary members will cook and serve lunch provided by the Post for Veterans who reside at the Summit Assisted Living facility. The residents always look forward to their time at our Post.

May 26 - Buddy Poppy Drive at Food Lion locations in Carolina Shores and Sunset Beach.

May 28 – 10 am Memorial Day Service at the Post. Refreshments to be served. Please plan on attending and pay tribute to those we have lost.

June 8-9 – Department Convention in Cary, NC.

Sharon Kossler, President

FROM THE KITCHEN

The Post recently purchased a new convection oven for the kitchen. This will allow the cooks to have more time and flexibility to prepare meals and dinners. Upcoming events for the kitchen include the Triple Crown Races - May 5th is the Kentucky Derby, May 19 The Preakness, and June 9th is the Belmont Stakes. Come out and pick your favorite horse and get something to eat. On May 18th, the Veterans from Summit Place will be at the Post for lunch. Come out and say Hi to these Veterans and thank them for their service.

Donnie Thompson, Kitchen Manager

Important Upcoming Events

Note: Event information can be obtained at the Post for times, places and sign-up for volunteers.

Golf League - Every Monday

Dart League - Every Tuesday 5:30 pm – Newcomers Welcome

Bingo - Every Thursday 6:30 pm

May 1 - Regular Member Monthly Mtg. @ 10 am
May 5 - The Kentucky Derby @ Post 11 am – 7 pm
May 6 - Post Breakfast from 8-10:30 am
May 8 - Auxiliary Monthly Mtg. @ 1 pm
May 19 - The Preakness @ Post 11 am – 7 pm
May 26 - Buddy Poppy Distribution 10 am – 4 pm
May 28 - Memorial Day Ceremony 10 am – 1 pm

Jun 3 - Post Breakfast from 8-10:30 am
Jun 5 - Regular Member Monthly Mtg. @ 10 am
Jun 7-10 - VFW NC Department Convention, Cary, NC
Jun 12 - Auxiliary Monthly Mtg. @ 1 pm

Honor in the Veterans History Project

You can honor a Veteran by including their story in the Veterans History Project (VHP) of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. No special skills required! The VHP is designed to preserve firsthand interviews and narratives of United States military veterans from World War I through present. You can prepare audio or video recorded interviews; submit memoirs and collections of original photographs, letters, diaries, maps and other historical documents from veterans who served in the US armed service. Not only will it give veterans a chance to share their stories in a meaningful way; it will also preserve their stories and historical information in the Library of Congress. Learn more by going to <https://www.loc.gov/vets/> or find it on our web page at www.vfw7288.org under the Member Connections heading in the Programs tab. The VHP is also great opportunity for a Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Service Project or a Girl Scouts Gold Award Project. Be sure to share it with the young people you know and maybe they will be recording your stories!

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our New Members

Roy Dumar, Daniel Huerbin, Todd Nerdahl
Tom O'Neil, Stephan Spell

SICK

Al Jackson, Joe Williams
"Say a Prayer Send a Card"

DECEASED

James "Howie" Howsion, Richard Martin

Monday Golf League

Monday Golf League The Monday Golf League at the Post continues! If you aren't a member and want to join, please contact Dorsey Bouque at dorseygolf@gmail.com or at mobile: (219) 793-4653. Please don't forget to renew your membership!

If you aren't a member and you are a golfer and like to play different courses, you should look into joining the Post's Monday Golf League for just \$10 annually! There is a line-up of different courses each week and scheduled ahead for six months at negotiated green fees for our VFW Post. The six-month listing is posted on the golf white board in the dart area of the Canteen.

Each week a sign-up sheet is posted on a clip board that reflects the course name, time to show up at the course, the first tee-time and whether it is single- or double-teeing. On Friday, pairings are picked for the following Monday and posted on the golf bulletin board. Each week's game is based on modified Stableford scoring.

After golf, players adjourn to the Post for lunch and refreshments and the results of the day's game. So, come out and enjoy golf throughout the year! The following is the golf schedule for May & June 2018:



7288 Members GOLF LEAGUE

May - June Schedule

May 7 Leopard's Chase
May 14 River Hills
May 21 Crow Creek
May 28 Crown Park (Tue. Mon
is Memorial Day)

June 4 Aberdeen
June 11 Sandpiper Bay
June 18 Beachwood
June 25 Panther's Run

Check the Bulletin Board for Additional Info



**"Best Breakfast
In Town!!"
First Sunday of
The Month
8 to 10:30 a.m.
\$6.00 per person**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

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

BINGO

Come out and enjoy a night of Bingo every Thursday night starting at 6:30 PM. Bingo pays out over \$1200.00 or better every Bingo session.

The first Thursday of the month we will be offering buy a \$22.00 pack and get a \$2.00 pack for free. The Post has also increased regular Bingo game payouts from \$40 to \$50.

The more players there are, the better the prize payout. So, come out and support your Post by playing Bingo! Bring your friends and neighbors for a fun night at the Bingo Hall. You could be the next big winner. The Auxiliary opens the kitchen around 5:30 PM with dinners, hot dogs and snacks! As ALL monies made from the Bingo Kitchen goes towards VFW Programs, we appreciate you making your food purchases at the Post during Bingo.

Even if you don't play Bingo, you might like to donate your time to volunteer your help as a floor walker, check writer or caller. Please contact Wayne Weszka at 443-326-9961 to offer your time. Thank you for your continued support!

Wayne Weszka
Bingo Chairman



Elected Officer Nominations 2018

Elected Officers

Commander.....Dan Kossler
Senior Vice Commander.....Rick Arvonio
Junior Vice Commander.....Robert Stocklin
Quartermaster.....William McCormick
Chaplain.....Rich Murray
Trustee - 1 Year.....Tommy Tucker
Trustee - 2 Year.....Diane Larrowe
Trustee - 3 Year.....Vince Krasniewicz

Appointed Officers

Adjutant.....Pasquale Cappelletti
Judge Advocate.....Jim Stueve
Public Affairs/Publicity.....Pasquale Cappelletti
Surgeon.....Gary Thomas
Service Officer.....Rose Deck
Officer of the Day.....Cliff Hinkley
Guard.....Cliff Hinkley
Webmaster.....Rose Deck

House Committee

1 Year.....Bill Hertline - Chairman
2 Year.....Jim Milstead
3 Year.....Rick Arvonio
Congratulations to all of our officers and thank you for volunteering and stepping up to support the Post!



Remember . . .
No one does
More for Veterans
Than the VFW!



VFW CALABASH POST #7288 SPONSORS

Remember to say **THANK YOU** to our Sponsors & let them know you're from VFW Calabash Post #7288!



Butcher of Brunswick



Boundary House



VFW Calabash Post 7288 Bingo

VFW Post 7288 Bingo



Makai Brewing Co.



Sacred Willow Spa



Joey O's



Yard Bird Emporium



Officer's Club



Tidewater Golf Club



Since 1903

Seashore Drugs



NAPA Calabash