



NEWSLETTER



VFW Post 7288 - Calabash, NC - July/Aug. 2017

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



As I begin my fourth consecutive term as your Post Commander, once again I want to thank the Post's officers, members and volunteers throughout the Post for their continued support over the past three years. Thank you to the past Officers of the Post for serving and supporting the Post and congratulations to this year's corps of Officers for stepping up and serving VFW Calabash Post

#7288 in the coming year.

As I look forward to another successful year for the Post, I can't help but look in the rearview mirror and see how much our Post has accomplished over the last three years. It is sometimes difficult to see the full breadth of accomplishments that happen one-by-one, particularly if you haven't attended meetings to hear the reports or frequented the Post.

Looking at the past three years, the improvements, repairs, refurbishments and investments made to the Post have made it a clean and bright environment, a home for our members and guests, and preserved it for years to come. The following list provides a snapshot of the improvements, repairs, refurbishments and investments that have been made to the Post over the last three years and paid for without incurring any debt – it has been "pay-as-you-go"

- Installed new bulletin & white boards for better communications* 06/2014
- Removed front tree and replaced front sidewalk* 06/2014
- Purchased new copy machine for QM's Office* 07/2014
- Repainted and replaced front VFW Logo & Sign* 08/2014
- Purchased new safe for QM's Office* 08/2014
- Repainted parking spaces* 08/2014
- Added 3 new Handicapped Parking Places* 08/2014
- Purchased 50 new bar stools replacing old stools* 01/2015
- Replaced old water heater with tank-less unit* 03/2015
- Removed front tree causing roof/venting problems* 05/2015
- Purchased AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)* 06/2015
- Purchased new beer cooler for the Canteen* 07/2015
- Purchased new cooler for Service Bar in Hall* 08/2015
- Replaced ALL ceiling tiles throughout the Post* 10/2015
- Installed new fluorescent lights & covers throughout the Post* 10/2015
- Painted all ceiling grids and light fixtures* 10/2015

- Replaced carpet with tile in Service Bar, Kitchen Area* 10/2015
- Replaced kitchen exhaust system* 11/2015
- Repaired old septic system* 12/2015
- Installed new fire alarm system* 04/2016
- Replaced air conditioning unit in Hall* 06/2016
- Installed new hardwood flooring in Rear Hall* 07/2016
- Repaired & resealed parking lot & re-lined parking spaces* 02/2017
- Installed new FOB access & entry security system* 03/2017
- Installed new hardwood flooring in Front Hall* 06/2017

From a financial standpoint, the Post paid off its mortgage in 2015; has been on a pay-as-you-go basis for all the efforts described above and in meeting its monthly expenses.

Most importantly, in keeping with the primary purpose of the VFW as an organization, the Post's monetary donations to veterans' causes, to organizations that support veterans and to veterans and the families of veterans in need has increased significantly over the last three years. The following shows the annual donations made for the last four years reflecting the increases in donations that the Post has made:

<i>2013 - 2014.....</i>	<i>\$8,207</i>
<i>2014 - 2015.....</i>	<i>\$8,350</i>
<i>2015 - 2016.....</i>	<i>\$19,150</i>
<i>2016 - 2017.....</i>	<i>\$18,081</i>

On a different note, I am proud to announce that VFW Calabash Post #7288 has achieved over 100% in membership for the 2016 – 2017 year. I am equally proud to announce that along with achieving over 100% in membership, our Post has completed five other requirements and achieved "All State" status in the VFW North Carolina Department. "All State" status recognizes VFW Posts that participate successfully in ALL program requirements. I am proud of all our Post's officers and members who have contributed so much to the success of the programs and mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, that made achieving this milestone possible.

We could not have accomplished so much without the dedicated support of our many volunteers. Volunteers, including regular members, Auxiliary members, past Men's Auxiliary members, and the Military Family Guest Program members that support the Committee for Americanism, Patriotism & Community Service. All our volunteers have unselfishly donated their time, investing untold hours and providing financial support that allowed the Post to accomplish so very much over the years.

We appreciate all you do and cannot THANK YOU enough!

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE (con't.)

But there is always more work to be done and more veterans in need of help and support! I encourage every member to find their niche and step-up and volunteer to support the Post's myriad efforts! We want to continue to live up to the VFW's success in that "Nobody does more for veterans than the VFW!"

Members are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings, congratulate your new slate of officers and be a part of the process on the front lines! You can also find out what's happening at the Post by going to its Facebook page I created a couple of years ago. You do not need to have a Facebook account to view the Post's page. You can Google search: Facebook VFW Post 7288 and it will provide a link to the page. We are also in the process of developing a new website for the Post home page on the Internet that will be linked to the VFW North Carolina State Department and VFW National webpages for the latest information throughout the VFW. The current webpage is still available and the new website will be up and running in a short period of time.

Thank you again for your tremendous efforts and support over these past three years! We have shown what we can accomplish through volunteerism, working together to achieve so very much. I look forward to another successful year fulfilling the goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Respectfully,
Rick Arvonio, Commander

AUXILIARY

I want to thank you so much for the trust you have placed in me and I am proud to be president for the 2017-18 service year. But, do you know the pressure I feel since both recent past presidents, Brenda and Fran, received Department President of the Year at least once during their terms? While they were strong leaders for our Auxiliary, they also needed your support. Now that we have 224 members - the 3rd largest in NC - we must show other Auxiliaries and Posts we can maintain our super reputation!

Speaking of a super reputation, we received several awards at the Department Convention held in Cary, NC June 1-4.

Brenda Arnold - 1st Place, President of the Year, Group IV (Auxiliaries with membership of 120+). She won this award by your hours and donations to various programs. Our Auxiliary volunteered over 3000 reportable hours and we donated over \$10,000 to VFW National or Department Programs. This does not include the volunteer hours spent at the Post for Bingo, Breakfast, etc

Susan Burchacki - 2nd Place, Treasurer of the Year as well as Aide-de-Camp Membership Award.

1st Place - Best Scrapbook

1st Place - Veterans & Family Support Program (Buddy Poppy, Veterans Service Program, National Home, etc.)

1st Place - Scholarship Program (Patriotic Pen, Patriotic Art and donations to 3 NC Scholarship Programs)

3rd Place - Americanism Program (Flag education for pre-school and 2nd graders, POW/MIA, Veteran & Memorial Day ceremonies, etc.)

3rd Place - Hospital Program (volunteer time)

Staff Healthy Auxiliary certificates from National & NC for our support to Veterans & Military Support Programs (Operation Uplink, Unmet Needs, Military Assistance Programs, etc.)

And if that isn't enough, our Patriotic Art submission won 2nd Place at Department level.

This was a team effort and we should be extremely proud. We can truly say no one does more for veterans than our Auxiliary!

May 11 - Brenda Arnold and I went to West Brunswick High School to deliver Patriotic Art certificates to over 20 high school participants & 1st, 2nd & 3rd place monetary awards.

May 27 - 12 volunteers helped raise approximately \$700 for the Buddy Poppy Program for Memorial Day.

May 29 - the Auxiliary participated in the Post's Memorial Day Service and prepared/served a light lunch afterward.

Since our membership is so large, I will try to keep you aware of activities with the hope that the more you know, the more involved all will be. You may even beg me to stop sending out communications at some point! I just ask you to attend the monthly meetings and help us identify where to spend our hard-earned fund-raising monies so we can bring home more awards next year!

I hope to see you at the Post's July 4th picnic at 6:00 p.m. Have a safe and happy Summer!

Sharon Kossler, President

KITCHEN

The kitchen was busy throughout May and June. We had the Triple Crown horse races plus Shields picnic that kept the kitchen hopping. Joe Capone and his crew including Tommy Lynn, Joe Nance, and Chaz Rowe prepared the food for the races and did an outstanding job – enjoyed by everyone. Well done!

For the Shields picnic, Richard Wilder, Chaz Rowe, and Joe Nance flipped burgers and dogs while Wayne Spears, Wayne Weszka, and Billy Gajewski cooked the chicken for over 50 guests. Everything was great and a big Thank You to you guys for your help.

Don't forget July 4th Picnic at the Post where you can get \$2.00 burgers and \$1.00 hotdogs. Music will be provided by a DJ. Come out and enjoy the fireworks.

Thank you as always to all the volunteers who help support the Post and make every event successful.

Remember, the kitchen will be open for lunch every Monday--Wednesday—Friday, rain or shine.

Donnie Thompson
Kitchen Manager

BINGO

Come out and enjoy a night of Bingo every Thursday night starting at 6:30 PM. Bingo pays out \$1,200.00 or more every Bingo session. The Auxiliary opens the kitchen around 5:30 p.m. with dinners, hot dogs and snacks.

Please note that on the first Thursday of every month we will be offering a special - buy a \$22.00 pack and get a \$2.00 pack for free. The more players - the better the prize payout.

Come out and support your Post by playing Bingo! Bring your family, friends and neighbors for a fun night at the Bingo Hall. You could be the next big winner!

In the event, you don't play Bingo please consider donating your time as a volunteer as a floor walker, check writer or caller. Please contact Wayne Weszka at 443-326-9961 or wwpremier@atmc.net to offer your time.

Thanks for your continued support through the years,

Wayne Weszka, Bingo Chairman

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| 7/6 Wayne Spears, Pat Henchcliffe, Nick Micale, Arlene Spears | 8/3 Tom Kelleher, Ed Warner, Ken McGuire, Shari Warner |
| 7/13 Ray Ketchum, Bob Hall, Greg Fallus, Marlene Lidgard | 8/10 Linda McPhearson, Marty Green Herk Hernandez, Jane Rockwell |
| 7/20 Jay Valkenburg, Jack Christensen, Larry Clark, Julia Larson | 8/17 Wayne Spears, Pat Henchcliffe, Nick Micale, Arlene Spears |
| 7/27 Marty Biddle, Greg Tucker, Jim Milstead, Kathy Milstead | 8/24 Ray Ketchum, Bob Hall, Greg Fallus, Marlene Lidgard |
| | 8/31 Jay Valkenburg, Larry Clark, Julia Larson, Jack Christensen |

Post Officers for 2017 - 2018 Elected Officers

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Commander..... | Richard "Rick" Arvonio |
| Senior Vice Commander..... | Dan Kossler |
| Junior Vice Commander..... | Robert "Bob" Stocklin |
| Quartermaster..... | William "Bill" McCormick |
| Chaplain..... | Jim Stueve |
| Trustee - 1 Year..... | Vincent Krasniewicz |
| Trustee - 2 Year..... | Tom Tucker |
| Trustee - 3 Year..... | Diane Larowe |

Appointed Officers

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Adjutant..... | Michael Crowley |
| Judge Advocate..... | Bill Reinhardt, Jr. |
| Officer of the Day/Guard..... | Cliff Hinkley |
| Service Officer..... | Edward Warner |
| Surgeon..... | Gary Thomas |
| Communications..... | |

House Committee

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 Year..... | Jim Milstead |
| 2 Year..... | Bill Hertline (Chairman) |
| 1 Year..... | Tom McCormack (Canteen Manager) |



HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

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

NEW MEMBERS

New Member

Welcome to our New Members
Ian Bailey - Richard Cole - Bill Hoyle Barry Young
Lisa Kiefer - Donald McGee - Richard Whitney

DECEASED

Stu Cleveland - J.C. Peloquin
Military Family - Jerry Morano



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

DD Form 214 Online

Have you or your family member served in the Armed Forces of the United States but you don't have or are unable to find a copy of the DD-214/Separation Documents? Gaining access to your military personnel records has never been easier. Military personnel records can include DD 214/Separation Documents, service personnel records found within the Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), and medical records. Military personnel records can be used for proving military service or as a valuable tool in genealogical research. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of the DD-214 for employment purposes.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

The NPRC has provided the following website for veterans to sign on to for access to their DD-214 online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

4th OF JULY CELEBRATION

Come to the Post to celebrate the 4th of July. Festivities start at 6:00 p.m. with music by a DJ! A cookout by the Men's Auxiliary with hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments and drinks available along with desserts provided by the Auxiliary. Again this year, fireworks will be the highlight of the evening at the Calabash waterfront and visible from the rear parking lot at the Post. So, bring your lawn chairs and enjoy a relaxing evening of music and fireworks.

DISCOUNT AT LOWE'S

Did you know that Lowe's (the home improvement store not the food store) established the 10% Military Discount to extend its gratitude to the men and women who have served or are currently serving our country in the US Armed Forces?

To receive the Everyday 10% Military Discount, you must be currently serving in, or be a veteran of, the U.S. Armed forces or be the immediate family member, and enroll in the program online at [Lowe's.com/military](https://www.lowes.com/military). Lowe's uses a trusted third party to verify eligibility status for online enrollment and may require additional documentation or proof of eligibility. Don't miss this money saving opportunity.



7288 Members GOLF LEAGUE

July/August Schedule

July 3	Oyster Bay	7:00	Aug 7	Rivers Edge	8:30
July 10	Colonial Chart	7:00	Aug 14	Meadowlands	6:45
July 17	Lockwood Folly	8:00	Aug 21	Thistle	7:00
July 24	Brick Landing	7:30	Aug 28	Pearl West	7:30
July 31	Lions Paw	7:30			

Check the Bulletin Board for Additional Info

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES



VFW Calabash Post #7288. On Memorial Day VFW Calabash Post 7288 along with over 250 members and guests, paid tribute to all veterans who gave their lives in past wars. This year's ceremony included remarks by Calabash Mayor Mary Knight who noted that, "We are forever thankful for the sacrifice by so many service men and women who helped preserve the freedoms we enjoy today." Her remarks followed by Post Commander Rick Arvonio who stated that, "Memorial Day isn't just about honoring veterans, it's about honoring those who lost their lives, those who were so willing to give of themselves to defend their brothers and sisters, their country and our way of life. They made the ultimate sacrifice. Veterans had the ability to come home. Some never came home!"

He went on to say that "Memorial Day is a day we as a country, come together to honor and remember our servicemen and women who answered America's call to service and paid the ultimate price. Memorial Day is the time for Americans, as one body, to stand up and say, Thank you! We remember you! We are grateful to you! We will never forget you! We remember our fallen and we also honor their loved ones. Mothers. Fathers. Sisters. Brothers. Sons. Daughters. Friends. Every year, families of the fallen are joined together and bound by loss in a way most of us can't even imagine. Military families are something special!"

The guest speaker was Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired) John G. "Jack" Heslin who completed a 20-year military career as an Army aviator and is a retired Lieutenant Colonel. Lt. Colonel Heslin spent two tours in Vietnam, 1967-68 and 1971-72, both of which were in the Central Highlands operating out of Camp Holloway in Pleiku. He was a helicopter pilot and operations officer during the Easter Offensive of 1972 in Kontum Province and spoke of his first-hand experience and many insights relating to the military operations of that period especially the Easter Offensive of 1972 and The Battle of Kontum.



Lt. Colonel Heslin spoke that as a tribute to those who fought in one of the largest battles of the Vietnam War, a battle most Americans never heard of, he told the story for so many of my friends who will never be able to tell their story – he told the story on the web so that others could read it and remember - he told the story on the web so that those who needed to read the story could find it — so that they could find it from anywhere in the world — and they have – to date, millions have found the story – The Battle of Kontum ... and for many, they remember." He went on to read many stories, "voices" of those

who read his story and remembered their loved ones who gave their lives during these long ago battles in Vietnam.

The West Brunswick HS Jr. ROTC Color Guard posted the colors to begin the service. Julie Larsen led in the singing of the National Anthem, Memorial Wreaths were presented by Auxiliary and the Post's Committee for Americanism, Citizenship & Community Service. The singing of "God Bless the USA" by Cathy Milstead brought a fitting close to the ceremony.

