



NEWSLETTER



VFW Post 7288 - Calabash, NC - Nov/Dec 2017

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



We are coming to the halfway mark on the VFW 2017-2018 service year and our Post through the many volunteers, can be proud of a great number of accomplishments and to name just a few:

First and foremost is the \$4,600 in contributions raised for the Hurricane Relief Fund at the NC Department's Foundation, to help veterans that are victims of this year's

devastating hurricanes. When the "Call Went Out" the members of VFW Calabash Post #7288, the Auxiliary and the Military Family Guest Program responded to the call – just as they did in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew just last year.

Again, this year, the Post hosted a luncheon for over sixty riders and support staff for The Warrior Ride, as a way of thanking them for their service and sacrifice. You can read more about The Warrior Ride luncheon later in this newsletter.

Once again, in its 10th year, VFW Calabash Post #7288 did an outstanding job managing the parking across five separate parking lots for those attending the 37th Ocean Isle Beach Oyster Festival in Ocean Isle Beach, NC from October 20th-22nd. Over 35 members of the Post, Auxiliary and Military Family Guest Program volunteered their time to support this community event over the weekend. In addition, a cadre of volunteers from the Auxiliary supported the entrance gate admissions. For these efforts, the Chamber of Commerce makes a very nice monetary donation to the Post and the Auxiliary.

As you can readily see, it is our members who unselfishly volunteer their time to support the Post and ultimately veterans and the families of veterans in need! A big THANK YOU everyone who volunteered their time to support our myriad efforts. If the opportunity hasn't presented itself for you to volunteer, come by the Post and see what opportunity is available in any of our many activities!

In closing, I want to wish our members and their families a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year! All the best to you always.

Rick Arvonio

Important Upcoming Events

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

- 5 Nov Post Breakfast from 8-10:30 am
- 6 Nov Annual Golf Tournament @ Sandpiper Bay Golf Club
- 7 Nov Regular Member Monthly Mtg. @ 10 am
- 10 Nov Marine Corps Birthday Party
- 11 Nov Veterans Day Ceremony @ 11 am
Buddy Poppy Distribution
- 14 Nov Auxiliary Monthly Mtg. @ 1 pm
- 17 Nov Summit Place Veterans Luncheon
- 23 Nov Thanksgiving Day – Post CLOSED - NO BINGO
- 2 Dec VFW Dist. 5 Mtg., Boiling Springs Lakes Post @ 10 am
- 3 Dec Breakfast at the Post 8-10:30 am
- 5 Dec Regular Member Monthly Mtg. @ 10 am
- 9 Dec World War II Veterans & Pearl Harbor Day
Remembrance Dinner
- 12 Dec Auxiliary Monthly Mtg. @ 1 pm
- 16 Dec Wreaths Across America (WAA) Laying of Christmas
Wreaths at the National Cemetery in Wilmington, NC
Volunteers needed.
- 24 Dec Christmas Eve – Canteen Closes @ 4 pm
- 25 Dec Christmas Day – Canteen CLOSED
- 31 Dec New Year' Eve Party - TBD
- Dart League Every Tuesday 5:30 pm – Newcomers Welcome
- Bingo Every Thursday 6:30 pm
- NFL Sunday at the Post 12 noon

AUXILIARY

The past two months have been very busy as was expected!! I want to thank everyone who has pitched in or donated money/time to make our projects successful!!

Special Elections: Special Elections was held at the October Meeting to fill vacancies for Jr. Vice President, 3-year Trustee, and Chaplain. Wayne Weszka was elected as Jr. Vice President, Doris Strider a recent transfer, was elected as Chaplain and Donnie Thompson was elected as 3-year Trustee. There are now 3 male officers in the Auxiliary! This is a big step for integrating the Auxiliary as National wanted us to do! Thank you for stepping up and accepting these offices.

Attractions, Dining & Value Guide Books. The Auxiliary exceeded their expectations to make \$1,000 to go toward the Veterans and Family Support Program. Due to Wayne & Arlene Spears' efforts we made a profit over \$1,800!! Other members helped in coordinating sales or selling 10 or more books apiece. We will surely sell these books again next year.

Past Events - LOOK at what we have done!!

15 Sep - Our Post held the POW/MIA service on September 15 and we were proud to assist the Post with its ceremony as well as provide refreshments.

23 Sep - The dance hosted by the Auxiliary made a profit of \$505. A check for \$550 was sent to the Department President's Special Project: recognizing caretakers of veterans with PTSD & TBI at the NC VA Hospitals. My thanks to Wayne & Arlene Spears and Stan and Sue Burchacki for helping with the food prep & serving.

AUXILIARY (con't.)

6-8 Oct – C of A: Several Auxiliary members attended the VFW NC Department's Council of Administration held October 6-8 at the Embassy Suites in Cary, NC. Valuable information on programs was presented.

18 Oct - VA Hospital Patients Project: This year's fall project was to make tootsie roll lollipop pumpkins for VA Hospital patients. 135 "pumpkins" were sent to the Fayetteville VA Medical Center. The volunteer coordinator thanked us and commented on the unique craft. She will distribute to veterans and caregivers at the center. Thanks to Barbara Raulsome, Barbara Hertline, Nancey Earney, Doris Strider, and Kim Kossler for their help.

20 Oct - Thanks to Linda Haight, Maria Dwornik, Marlene Lidgard, Sue Burchacki, Doris Strider, Jay Bertha, Ted Olczak, and Ray Barno (YES 3 OF OUR MALE MEMBERS ASSISTED) for serving at the Warrior Ride Lunch. It is a great feeling when they thank us when we all know it is them we give our thanks to for their service & sacrifices.

22 Oct - What a beautiful fall day we had to work the entrance gates at the Ocean Isle Beach Oyster Festival. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped us earn \$500 from the Chamber of Commerce.

28 Oct - As usual, the Halloween Party was a great time. Proceeds go to VFW National Veterans Service Program.

31 Oct - The Auxiliary's Card Party at Ryan's Steak House in North Myrtle Beach was held. It was a fun time to play different games plus it's always fun to win prizes! Proceeds go to the North Carolina Cottage at the VFW National Home for Children.
Upcoming Events – YES, we have even more to do by Year's-end!

Nov - Entries for Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year will be judged and awards distributed. The Post's 1st Place winners will be sent on to District for judging.

Nov-Dec - Collections for Christmas Wish List items for the VA Hospital in Fayetteville will begin. A Wish List for items includes toiletries, sweat shirts & pants, Walmart gift cards, movies & compact discs. Cash donations are used to buy coffee, to go to homeless veteran's programs and nursing home enhancement or recreational activities. Please bring items to the AUX November & December meetings or drop off in the Canteen. Delivery to the hospital will be before Xmas.

6 Nov - Volunteers are still needed to work at Sandpiper Bay Golf Course on Sand #8 and Piper #3 golf hole to measure closest to the pin distances at the Post's Golf Tournament. Volunteers report at Sand Piper Golf Club at 7:30 a.m.

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. Please plan to attend.

11 Nov - Buddy Poppy Drive and there are still some openings for some two-hours shifts at Food Lion store in Sunset Beach or Carolina Shores. Sign-up sheets are on our bulletin board in the canteen.

17 Nov - Summit Assisted Living Facility Veterans Luncheon at the Post. We will need 3 volunteers to set up tables and serve to approximately 15 veterans and caregivers.

2 Dec - Winter District 5 Meeting – 10 am Boiling Spring Lakes, Post 10400, 3161 George II Highway. We can carpool if anyone is interested in attending.

9 Dec - The WWII Veterans and Pearl Harbor Remembrance 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 serve dinner to our honorees. The Dinner/Dance is available to Post members for \$15 each.

16 Dec - Wreaths Across America Program & laying of the wreaths at Wilmington National Cemetery at Noon. We will have a signup sheet to carpool. Our Post has made a donation of \$1245 toward the purchase of wreaths for this event.

It is amazing how fast this year sped by and the Holidays are approaching. Please take a moment to be thankful for our blessings and what we have been able to do and always be sure to add a prayer for our active military and veterans.

Sharon Kossler, President

Committee for Americanism Citizenship & Community Service

As you read this, please remember that the Committee will no longer exist in its present form in 2018. The Committee contributed and continues to contribute several hundred hours of volunteer work to support the post functions and work details. I'm happy to report that our last order of business is to donate \$165 dollars from our Petty Cash to the Auxiliary to support the Fayetteville Veterans Hospital Christmas Campaign. It has been a pleasure to be the chairman of this Committee and it's over 150 members this year. It is with great hope that all of our members that will be grandfathered into the 2018 Active Military & Veterans Family Program, will continue to belong to the Post under this new program and to continue to support various committees, Post functions and other efforts undertaken at the Post. To remain an active member, you must pay your 2018 Dues payable to VFW Calabash Post 7288 and give it to Bill McCormick by January 15th, 2018. Enjoy the Holidays and stay active in our Post.

Wayne Spears, Chairman

Shallotte Presbyterian Church Annual Community Charity Golf Tournament

The Shallotte Presbyterian Church is conducting their Annual Community Charity Golf Tournament at Crow Creek on November 18, 2107. This is a Captain's Choice event with a shotgun start at 9:00. A continental breakfast, buffet lunch, golf, 25 Chinese Auction tickets and free range balls are included in the price of \$75 per golfer. There will be closest to the pin and long drive contests. Prizes will be awarded in a Men's Division, a Woman's Division, and a Mixed Division. The field is limited to the first 140 entrants. To get an entry form you may contact the church secretary at 754-6929 or Ed Kazan at 579-3384 or kazan@atmc.net.

The Shallotte Presbyterian Church supports many worthwhile causes and organizations in Brunswick County, including donations to our Post.

What Are Those Collection Boxes For In the Canteen?

Have you noticed the plastic tubs of various sizes under the tables in the dart area of the Canteen? One of the tubs is for the collection for the Comfort Sox Program promoted by the VFW to help collect and provide socks to the homeless in southeastern North Carolina, particularly during the winter months. Please go out and purchase any kind of socks (the white gym type socks offer great warmth and are relatively inexpensive). For more information about Comfort Socks go to: <http://www.comfortsocks.org/>.

Another big tub is for the collection of Wish List items that are requested and that the Auxiliary delivers to the VA Fayetteville Medical Center. During the year, Post members drop off small toiletry items and larger items such as books, crossword puzzles, lap afghans, etc., that are stored in the Auxiliary office. Updated Wish Lists will be obtained from

the Veteran's Hospital and the Auxiliary will start collecting those items for delivery to the Hospital by Christmas. Look for a future email that lists the items needed.

The smaller tub is for the collection of "Store Coupons" that you find in your newspapers and magazines. These coupons are collected and picked up by our own Donna Stueve, who cuts them up, packages them, and spends her own money to mail to various overseas military bases for military families to use. She spends many, many hours on this and thoroughly enjoys it – sending over 100,000 coupons last year alone. So please put any coupons - even those that have expired within 4 months - in the tub so we can help ease some costs for these families! Many other organizations like the American Legion, collect and send as Donna does. So please help support our military families.

Reminder: 2017 VFW North Carolina Department & Bass Pro Shop Sport Raffle

This is a reminder that tickets for the VFW North Carolina (NC) Department/Bass Pro Shops Sport Raffle continue to be on sale at the Post. The cost for each ticket is \$5.00.

The drawing will be held February 2, 2018 at the VFW NC Department Conference in Cary, NC. You do not need to be present to win. Our Post will get 20% back on each \$5.00 ticket sold.

Prizes include: \$100 Gift Cards; \$500 Bass Pro Gift Card; various Rifles & Pistols; Callaway Strata 12-piece Golf Set; Event Grill; Electric Smoker; Surf Reel; Baitcast Reel; Garmin GPS; binoculars; and more! The Grand Prize is a Bad Boy Buggy valued at \$10,000. Winners will receive a certificate for the value of the item won. The certificate can be used to purchase any item carried by Bass Pro Shop or MAY BE redeemed for a gift card. You have more than one chance to win with each ticket. If your ticket is drawn for a prize, it will go back in the drawing for other prizes. That's correct; you can win more than once on the same ticket!

So please purchase a ticket and support your VFW Post, the VFW North Carolina Department, and give yourself a chance to win valuable prizes. **GOOD LUCK TO ALL!**

Reminder - NEW "Lending Library"

A new "Lending Library" for military related books has been created in the Canteen. A small bookcase has been placed along the left wall of the dart area of the Canteen. Members have an opportunity to donate and share military related books and borrow books that other members have donated. You may keep the books as long as you wish but ask that they be returned to the Post library after you have finished reading. There are already a small number of military related books that have been donated. Enjoy!

U.S. Navy Submarine Services Inc.

The Post has been contacted by Thomas Czulewicz (Choo-levitch) CDR, USN (Ret), also retired from the US Navy (Submarine Services). He is a member of the United States Submarine Services Inc. (USSVI) and is attempting to establish a USSVI "Base" here along the Grand Strand.

The purpose and creed of USSVI is: "To perpetuate the memory of our Submariner shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution. In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, the USSVI shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today. USSVI also has a separate 501(c)3 USSVI Charitable Foundation for Scholarships, Brotherhood Fund, Memorial Fund and other various Funds.

If any of our members, family or friends are "qualified in submarines" please contact Thomas Czulewicz at the below listed e-mail addresses or phone numbers:

Email: submariner635@sccoast.net or

thomas123@sccoast.net

Telephone: 843-236-8925 (H) or 843-303-6990 (C)

POW/MIA Ceremony

VFW Calabash Post #7288 carried on the tradition of conducting a POW/MIA Ceremony at the Post on September 15, 2017. Various Post Officers participated in the solemn ceremony. We will never forget those who have yet to come



home and those that are missing in action. They have sacrificed for all Americans! NEVER FORGET!

The third Friday of September was established as the National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The day honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are missing in action. Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities.

This observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

The flag is to be flown at major military installations, national cemeteries, all post offices, VA medical facilities, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the official offices of the secretaries of state, defense and veteran's affairs, the director of the selective service system and the White House. A Pentagon ceremony featuring members of each



branch of military service is held annually on National POW/MIA Recognition Day.



*From All of Us
To
All of you*



The Warrior Ride Luncheon

VFW Calabash Post #7288 played host to over 60 members of the Coastal Carolina Warrior Ride on October 20th, as they arrived at the last stop of their trek. The Warrior Ride was founded by Bob Racine and his late wife Debra of Oak Island, NC several years ago. It's a tool to give returning wounded heroes from our nation's wars a chance to use specially fitted bicycles to pedal hundreds of miles and by doing so to realize their full potential and redefine their capabilities. Racine says when troops return from combat areas they often bring their hostilities with them which leads to broken homes, lost marriages and friendships. This despair, he says, is lessened considerably as the riders' confidence builds and the camaraderie gives them a chance to vent any hostilities.

During the luncheon sponsored by our Post, the riders are served by members of the Post, the Auxiliary and Military Family Guest Program before posing for pictures and heading out for more bicycling and the constructive enjoyment it fosters. Thank you to the many Post, Auxiliary and Military Family Guest Program members who volunteered to help support the luncheon! As always, we could not have done it without your help and support!



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!

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

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| 11-2 Linda McPhearson, Herk Hernandez, Marty Green, Jane Rockwell | 12-7 Marty Biddle, Greg Tucker, Jim Milstead, Kathy Milstead |
| 11-9 Wayne Spears, Pat Henchcliffe, Nick Micale, Arlene Spears | 12-14 Tom Kelleher, Ed Warner, Ken McGuire, Shari Warner |
| 11-16 Ray Ketchum, Bob Hall, Greg Fallus, Marlene Lidgard | 12-21 Linda McPhearson, Marty Green, Herk Hernandez, Jane Rockwell |
| 11-23 NO BINGO | 12-28 Wayne Spears, Pa Hanchcliffe, Nick Micale, Arlene Spears |
| 11-30 Jay Valkenburg, Larry Clark, Jack Christensen, Julia Larson | |



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.



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our New Members

John Brandon, Greg Charles, Derek Hill
Peter Paul, Allen Payne, Jonathan Smith, John Wagner

SICK

Jerry Aach, Ed Kenney, Stuart South, Walt Timmerman
"Say a Prayer . . . Send a Card"

DECEASED

Larry Clark, Donnie Howlson, Odell Norman
Alfred (Fred) Ortiz
Military Family. . . John Mahar



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



7288 Members GOLF LEAGUE

Nov/Dec Schedule

Nov 6 Sandpiper	8:15	Dec 4 Tigers Eye	8:00
Nov 13 Panthers Run	8:15	Dec 11 Aberdeen	8:00
Nov 20 Thistle	7:30	Dec 18 NO GOLF	
Nov 27 Beachwood	8:00	Dec 25 NO GOLF	

Check the Bulletin Board for Additional Info

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 Larrowe

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)