



NEWSLETTER



VFW Post 7288 - Calabash, NC - Jan/Feb 2018

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018! I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. As we begin anew in 2018 we are halfway through our service year that runs from July 1st to June 30th each year.

This past year has been filled with great stories about the significant efforts of our volunteers, who spent untold hours supporting the myriad

functions and events of the Post to support veterans and the families of veterans in need, and in service to the community.

Certainly, 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 was itself a significant demonstration of the generosity of so many members, family and friends. And the generosity of our members in support of the Wreaths Across America Program to provide Christmas Wreaths on the graves of veterans in the National Cemetery in Wilmington, resulted in \$3,755 in donations or enough for over 375 wreaths. Again, this year, our members made generous donation to the TOYS FOR TOTS campaign!

Be it a fundraising event; dinner function; weekly lunches; the Post's annual golf tournament; the Ocean Isle Beach Oyster Festival Parking Detail; Bingo; the volunteers have made the difference in allowing the Post to continue to provide support for veterans and their families in need and organizations that support veterans.

Whenever the call goes out for help and support, the members of VFW Calabash Post #7288, the Auxiliary and members of this past year's Military Family Guest Program continue to respond.

There is always more work to be done, more help that is needed and more veterans and their families in need. Thank you for your support in the past and thank you in advance for your continued support going forward.

It is because of you, our members, that "Nobody does more for Veterans than the Veterans of Foreign Wars". HAPPY NEW YEAR! THANK YOU for your continued support!

Rick Arvonio
Commander

AUXILIARY

The Holidays are over and I hope everyone had a Happy and Healthy time over the past two months. I cannot thank everyone enough for all they do for the programs. The Fall was a very busy time but at the same time very rewarding with all we have accomplished.

First, I want to say that our Auxiliary 1st Place winners for Teacher of the Year in K-5, Tara Cumbee from Union Elementary, and High School, Colonel Joe Calisto from WBHS, are also 1st Place winners in District 5 and are on their way for Department judging. Our Middle School Teacher, Cecelia Gore from Waccamaw School, received 2nd Place in District 5. ALSO, our Patriot Pen 1st Place Winner, Grace Yando from Shallotte Middle School is 1st Place in District 5 and her essay is on its way to Department judging.

I also am proud that our Auxiliary is at 101% membership!! That means our current membership number of 227 is 4 over our starting point in June 2017!

Past Events

11 Nov - Our Buddy Poppy Distribution went well and we collected over \$500 with over 10 members assisting.

11 Nov - Auxiliary members were proud to assist the Post with its Veterans Day program as well as cook/serve a light lunch and donated a sheet cake.

17 Nov - Several Auxiliary members set up and served lunch at the Post's quarterly luncheon for over 10 Veterans who reside at the Summit Assisted Living facility in Little River.

1 Dec - The Christmas spirit hit Sharon Kossler, April Farquhar, Cathy Milstead, Nancey Earney, Barbara Hertline and Marlene Lidgard and we decorated the Hall and Canteen with snowflakes, stockings, and the tall Christmas tree. It looked very festive for the December Breakfast, Weekly Bingo, WWII Dinner and private parties.

9 Dec - Thanks to many who cooked, decorated, served dinner to the 120 attending the WWII Veterans Dinner. The room looked lovely and the 25 WWII Veterans and 3 widows of WWII Veterans seemed extremely appreciative. Cathy Milstead's Pre-K class made Christmas cards for the Veterans to take home and there was Poppy watercolor art work on the walls donated from Union Elementary School. Julie Larsen helped sew a "valor" pattern quilt that she donated and was raffled to one lucky WWII veteran.

2 Dec - 6 Auxiliary members attended the District 5 meeting at the Boiling Springs Lake Post, supporting our District 5 Auxiliary President Fran Redfield.

16 Dec - Members attended the Wreaths Across America Program at noon at the Wilmington National Cemetery and help place wreaths on the graves of the veterans.

AUXILIARY (con't.)

VFW Calabash did a big part in having 90% of the graves covered this year!! In fact, with Susan Burchacki's push from Nov 14-31, another \$1410 was raised. I cannot say how emotional it is to lay a wreath on a grave - known or unknown veteran - and say "you are not forgotten".

17/18 Dec - Auxiliary Members sorted the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville Wish List items and a truckload of goods and money was delivered. The Post's Committee donated \$156 toward this cause and many made lap afghans. Many, many thanks to all the generous donors!!

28 Jan - The Auxiliary's 3rd Soup Cook-Off will take place from noon-2 p.m. A signup sheet will be in the Canteen or contact Patty Burton. Pull out your best recipe and try for a win!! Monies raised will go toward a \$500 donation made to the Blue Star Mothers in December.

2-4 Feb - The Department Council of Administration session will be held at the Embassy Suites, 201 Harrison Oaks Blvd in Cary NC. All members are welcome. See me if you want to attend.

An Auxiliary January-May Calendar of Events will be coming to you soon. I also plan to survey our Auxiliary members with National's "Health Checkup for our Auxiliary Members" and hope to receive a lot of responses. You can always send suggestions or recommendations directly to me or put in our Suggestion Box at meetings.

It is a New Year and we all have new resolutions and hopes and wishes. I hope we can all keep up the good work that has been done for our Veterans and their families and I am looking forward to another great year.

Sharon Kossler, President

Wreaths Across America (WAA) & VFW CALABASH POST #7288

Each December on National Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day, Wreaths Across America's mission is to Remember, Honor and Teach and is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,200 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. One of those cemeteries is the Wilmington National Cemetery, where over 5,100 veterans have been buried.

Fundraising efforts have been ongoing throughout the year to raise funds to purchase sufficient wreaths to be placed on every veteran's grave. This year, members of the Post and the Auxiliary raised \$3,755 towards wreaths for the Wilmington National Cemetery. An "outstanding" effort spearheaded by Auxiliary President Sharon Kossler and Treasurer, Sue Burchacki.

On December 16, 2017 members of the Post and Auxiliary, along with hundreds of volunteers, veterans, comrades, brothers and sisters, attended the noon ceremony at the Wilmington National Cemetery followed by the laying of the wreaths on the graves of over 5,100 veterans at the Wilmington National Cemetery.

As volunteers place a wreath on each grave, the deceased veteran's name was said aloud to honor and remember their service and sacrifice.

Volunteers from the Post in the first picture are (l to r) Sue Burchacki; Gordon Heitmuller; Sue Heitmuller; Sr. Vice Commander, Dan Kossler; Auxiliary President, Sharon Kossler; Bill Hertline; Barbara Hertline, Commander Rick Arvonio; Faye Arvonio; Fran Redfield; and Rose Deck.

It was an honor to be part of this year's wreath laying, an annual event for our Post! Thank you to everyone who donated! Your donation helped ensure that there was a wreath on every veteran's grave.



Important Upcoming Events

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

2 Jan Regular Member Monthly Mtg. @ 10 am
7 Jan Post Breakfast from 8-10:30 am
9 Jan Auxiliary Monthly Mtg. @ 1 pm
28 Jan Auxiliary Pre-Super Bowl Soup-Off Competition

4 Feb Post Breakfast from 8-10:30 am
6 Feb Regular Member Monthly Mtg. @ 10 am
10 Feb Valentine's Day Dinner Dance 6-10 pm
13 Feb Auxiliary Monthly Mtg. @ 1 pm
16 Feb Fish Fry 5-7 pm
23 Feb Fish Fry 5-7 pm



7288 Members GOLF LEAGUE

Jan/Feb Schedule

Jan 1	No Golf	Feb 5	Pearl West
Jan 8	Crown Park	Feb 12	Rivers Edge
Jan 15	Eagle Nest	Feb 19	River Hills
Jan 22	Ocean Ridge Tigers Eye	Feb 26	The Valley - Eastport
Jan 29	Sea Trail Byrd		

Check the Bulletin Board for Additional Info

The Post's Monday Golf League is alive and well! If you are already a member, the league continues in 2018! 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! Our "new" League Coordinator Dorsey Bouque has volunteered to take the lead and manage the Monday Golf League.

For newcomers, 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! If interested in joining the league, contact Dorsey Bouque at dorseygolf@gmail.com or at mobile: (219) 793-4653. The schedule for January & February 2018 is listed above.

Reminder - NEW "Lending Library"

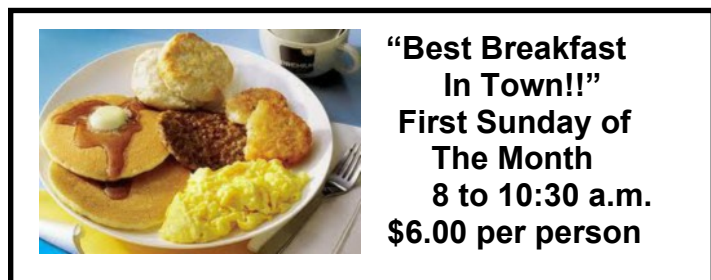


A new "Lending Library" for military related books has been created in the Canteen. A small bookcase has been placed along the left wall of the dart area of the Canteen. Members have an opportunity to donate and share military related books and borrow books that other members have

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!

LOST & FOUND

Have you misplaced your car and house keys, your hat or even the shoes you were wearing? Here's a picture of a few things we found left at the Post and if they are not yours it is still quite possible they are at the Post. We continually have items left behind by members or their guests. A set of keys, including car keys has been at the Post for quite possibly more than a year! There are a few baseball caps, a pair of shoes and usually a sweater or jacket. Good News! We have a "Lost & Found" containers under the tables in the dartboard area. If you've misplaced something, take a look there! After a period of time, items will either be donated or discarded – so don't wait – take a look!



**"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 January or February, 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



Don't Forget Collection Tubs in the Canteen.

There is a plastic collection tub 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 collection tub is for 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.

There is also a smaller tub 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 .

NEW POST WEBSITE

Come see us at our New Location! Internet "Website" location that is! Effective January 1st, 2018, VFW Calabash Post #7288 has moved on the internet to www.vfw7288.org. Along with a new web address, members will find an updated Events Calendar; current and back issues of the Newsletters; the latest in veteran's news; articles and photos of previous Post #7288 events; and much, much more. Along with specific information about our Post, you will also find updates from VFW National and NC State level news and events. Our goal is to make the website your one stop for all information regarding the VFW and veterans. Follow us as we continue to build the website to meet the needs of the members of VFW Calabash Post #7288.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our New Members

Michael Beleski, Edward Schotter, Harmon Smith, Stephen Sober

SICK

Al Jackson, Ed Kenney, Gary Thomas
"Say a Prayer Send a Card"

DECEASED

None

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.....Pasquale Cappelletti
Judge Advocate.....Bill Reinhardt, Jr.
Officer of the Day/Guard.....Cliff Hinkley
Service Officer.....Edward Warner
Surgeon.....Gary Thomas
Communications.....Pasquale Cappelletti

House Committee

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