



# NEWSLETTER



VFW Post 7288 - Calabash, NC - Sept.Oct. 2016

## COMMANDERS MESSAGE



We have accomplished much over the past two years with improvements to the Post and more help provided to veterans and the families of veterans in need. But there is always more work to be done and more who are in need of our 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 success in that **"Nobody does more for veterans than the VFW!"**

## 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. That's correct; you can win more than once on the same ticket as your ticket is returned for additional chances to win.

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!

## Membership Cards

As our Post continues to grow with many new members and new bartenders in the Canteen, members may not be immediately recognized when entering the Canteen. New members or longtime members, please remember to have your official VFW membership card with you upon entering the Post. Keycards are not membership cards so be sure to bring yours to enter the Post. Also, included in this newsletter is a list showing the Canteen hours of operation and rules.

## Annual Golf Tournament - Robert Haight Memorial Veterans Golf Tournament

The Post's annual Veterans Day Golf Tournament, this year, the Robert Haight Memorial Veterans Golf Tournament. This year's tournament honors a longtime VFW Life Member and friend, Robert (Bobby) Haight, a Vietnam Veteran who served in the U.S. Marine Corps Recon Unit. Bobby was an avid golf enthusiast who earlier this year lost a long battle to cancer due to his exposure to and the effects of Agent Orange.

The tournament will be held on 11/14/16 at the Sandpiper Bay Golf & Country Club in Sunset Beach, NC, is open to the public. The tournament is a two-person best ball event, flighted by handicap, including a women's and mixed flight and is limited to the first 72 teams to register.

The donations/funds raised through hole sponsorships, cash donations and proceeds from the tournament help VFW Calabash Post #7288 provide a significant contribution to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF).

**The Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF)** is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization and was founded in 1980 to provide support and assistance to the U. S. military's special operations community, which consist Army Special Forces (Green Berets), the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Navy Small Boat Teams, Navy SEALs, Air Force Combat Controllers, Air Force rotary and fixed wing squadrons, and Marine Corps special operations personnel. SOWF's mission includes two major aspects in support of special operations personnel:

- providing a full college education to the surviving children of those who lose their lives while serving in the U.S. military special operations community.
- providing immediate financial assistance and support to ensure that severely wounded personnel are able to have their loved ones at their bedside during recovery.

The Charity Navigator has an Overall Score/Rating by Charity Navigator of 98.4 (out of 100) and four (4) Stars for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF).

## Important Upcoming Events

**9/9** - The Post is sponsoring a luncheon for veterans currently residing at Summit Place at 11:00 a.m. Stop by and say hello to our comrades. I'm sure they will be happy to see many longtime friends. Thank you to Jerry Aach for organizing this event.

**9/11**- Again this year the Post will be joining other organizations on the Rt. 130 Overpass as the 9/11 Memorial Motorcade passes through on its way from the North Myrtle Beach to Wilmington. Support VFW Calabash Post 7288, and attend in memory of those that died both on 9/11 and afterwards from the effects of this terrorist act. Please be on the bridge between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Names of those that died that day will be read – you can help by reading names. A sign-up sheet is also on the bulletin boards in the Canteen.

Rick Arvonio  
Commander

## AUXILIARY



Our Auxiliary is gearing up for a very busy Fall season with a very full plate. It has been a busy, productive summer with various on-going drives to benefit our veterans and our community.

The National Convention in Charlotte, July 23-28<sup>th</sup>, was well attended by our Auxiliary with Cathy Milstead, Pat Hinkley, Fran Redfield, Nancey Earney, Barbara Hertline, Joan Elmier and myself. We attended Auxiliary sessions, joint meetings and a memorial service with VFW members. We volunteered many hours and served as delegates to the convention.

We welcomed our new National President, Colette Bishop from Iowa as Auxiliary National President.

Highlights of proposed revisions to the National Bylaws:

- The Life Membership Committee recommended increase in Life Membership fees beginning Jan 01, 2017. Fee increase as proposed was defeated but amended to have a 15% increase across the board. So you may still want to consider upgrading membership to Life.
- Proposal to reduce the age requirement to 14 was vetoed keeping minimum age to 16 to join the Auxiliary.
- Department President's Pins are available for \$3.00 each. I have four left. Let me know if you want one?

NC, Group VII-under Department President, Fran Redfield ran away with numerous awards, given as Outstanding and Runner up as follows:

- OUTSTANDING IN: Membership - Scholarship - Veterans & Family Services
- RUNNER-UP IN: Chief of Staff - Hospital - Youth Activities
- OUTSTANDING CHAIRMEN PROMOTIONS IN: - Chief of Staff - Legislative - Membership - Scholarship - Youth Activities

Fran Redfield received a gold medal for her membership stats for NC and an award for Department Chairman for Group VII. Kudos to our past NC Department President, Fran Redfield on an awesome year as our NC Department President.

Dianne Larowe, Post Service Officer's NC Sheriffs' Association dinner July 25<sup>th</sup> 5-7:30 was well attended and I want to thank all of you who helped with this endeavor.

Angela Norris, District President, held her "School of Instruction" July 30. 11-2 pm at the Whiteville Post. It was well represented with discussions about the responsibilities of officers in their respective positions.

Campbell Soup labels are no longer collected. Instead labels from Tyson products are being collected

We were asked to support Wreaths Across America on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 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.

Don't forget to sign up for upcoming Football Sundays at the Post. We need members to prepare and serve food on the days we have committed to. Sign-up sheet is on our bulletin board in the canteen.

The Oyster Festival is coming up October 15-16 and we need members to sign up to help with this event. Sign-up sheet is available on our bulletin board in the Canteen.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

September 10, 6-10 pm we will be hosting an End-of-Summer Beach Party at the Post. Tickets are \$12.50 per person and dinner will feature a Low-County Boil or BBQ Chicken Plate. A DJ will provide entertainment playing beach party favorites. Get your tickets from the bartender in the Canteen.

September 16, 9 am, We will be assisting the Post with its POW/MIA Ceremony. Coffee cake and coffee will follow the ceremony. Let's not forget these men and women.

October 7 - 9, Council of Administration convenes at the Embassy Suites in Cary. See Brenda Arnold for more information if you are interested in attending.

October 15-16, The Oyster Festival is coming up. We need members to sign up to help with this event. Sign-up sheet is available on our bulletin board in the canteen.

October 21, 12:30 pm, The Warrior Ride is at the Post. We help the Post by serving lunch to these deserving riders. Let Brenda Arnold know if you can help serve lunch.

October 29, 6-10 pm, Halloween Party. We will get more information to you shortly and let you know when tickets are available. Costume is optional but a lot of fun.

Brenda Arnold  
President

## NEW MEMBERS

Pasquale Cappelletti, Michael Connelly, Paul Daughten, John Ewell, Connor Fahey, James McMonagle, Michael Nagle, William A. Neilson

## SICK

Willy Keefe, Dan Kossler, Clinton (Roy) Laws, Jr., Terry Smith, Stuart South

**Send a Card . . . Say a Prayer**

## DECEASED

Richard Guarino (Charter Member)  
Charles (C.J.) Thomas

## MEN'S AUXILIARY

As we leave the long hot day of summer looking for cooler months ahead, change is all around us. By now you know that at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention there was much discussion and finally a vote to end Men's Auxiliaries on December 31, 2016. There is nothing the Men's Auxiliary could have done to prevent it and the VFW Departments like North Carolina were in the minority that wanted to continue to have Men's Auxiliaries. We can be proud of the work our Men's Auxiliary has done to support VFW Calabash Post #7288 and we will continue to support them through the end of the year. I am confident that the leadership of our Post recognizes the volunteer efforts and support given by our volunteers and will be speaking with us about what the future holds.

So we will continue to look forward and continue the volunteer work to support the schedule of events for the remainder of the year. That said, the NFL season is upon us and we need volunteers to cook for Sunday football in October, November, and December. A signup sheet is on the Men's Auxiliary bulletin board in the Canteen. I encourage you to attend the September 6, 2016 monthly meeting to hear more about what is happening at the Post and what the future holds. Don't sit on the sidelines, we are all in it together! See you at the meeting.

Don Thompson  
President



### 7288 Members GOLF LEAGUE

September/October  
Schedule

**Check the Bulletin Board**



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

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



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

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans and others who had helped with their annual Christmas wreath ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, formed Wreaths Across America™ to continue and expand this effort and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. This nonprofit organization continues the Arlington tradition as part of its mission to: Remember. Honor. Teach.

In 2015, Wreaths Across America and a national network of volunteers laid over 900,000 memorial wreaths at nearly 1100 locations in the United States and beyond. This was accomplished with help from over 2500 fundraising groups, many corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands. The annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery is known as the world's largest veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to remember, nor and teach. For more information, you can go to [WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://WreathsAcrossAmerica.org)

This year, VFW Post #8073 in Whiteville, NC is the local location leader for District 5 to purchase wreaths from this organization for Wilmington National Cemetery. Sharon Kossler will be collecting the donations for VFW Calabash Post #7288 through November 25th. A collection jar with required donor forms will be in the Post Canteen.

An individual wreath donation is \$15 and our Post will receive \$5 back for every wreath donated. Checks should be made payable to "VFW Auxiliary Post 7288" earmarked for this Across America. The wreaths will be sent directly to the cemetery. We also have the opportunity to participate in the laying of the wreaths in a public ceremony at Wilmington National Cemetery in December. More information will be coming regarding the wreath laying ceremony date and time. I encourage you to donate a wreath to reach the goal of a wreath on every grave to honor their memory and service.



**Join us at 6:30 p.m. "It could be your lucky day"**

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| 9/1 Linda McPhearson, Herk Hernandez, Marty Green, Jane Rockwell | 10/6 Vacant TBA, Tom Kelleher, Ken McGuire, Ken Keil               |
| 9/8 Ray Ketchem, Bob Hall, Greg Gallus, Marlene Lidgard          | 10/13 Linda McPhearson, Herk Hernandez, Marty Green, Jane Rockwell |
| 9/15 Wayne Spears, Nick Micals, Arlene Spears, John Mitchel      | 10/20 TBA, Ed Werner, Nick Micals, Shari Warner                    |
| 9/22 Jay Valkenburg, Jerry Baum, Jane Rockwell, Larry Eldridge   | 10/27 Ray Ketchem, Bob Hall, Greg Fallus, Marlene Lidgard          |
| 9/29 Marty Biddle, Greg Tucker, Jim Milstead, Kathy Milstead     |  |

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## CANTEEN RULES

1. The Bartender on duty is in charge at all times and will make all decisions.
2. Other than the authorized weapons owned by the Post and used for ceremonial purposes, NO firearms or weapons of any kind are allowed on the premises of VFW Calabash Post #7288 regardless of any authorization to carry a firearm, with or without a concealed carry permit.
3. With the exception of Guide Dogs, NO pets are allowed in the Post Canteen or in the Post building.
4. Profanity is NOT allowed in the Post Canteen at any time.
5. The decision as to whether a person will be served is at the Bartenders discretion.
6. Members who become loud will be asked to leave.
7. The Bartender will ask members and guests to leave once it is determined that they have consumed excessive alcohol.
8. If a member or guest enters the Post Canteen under the excessive influence of alcohol, he/she will not be served and be required to leave the premises.
9. If any member should become abusive he/she will be directed to leave the premises and shall be brought up on charges.
10. Post business shall not be discussed in the Post Canteen.
11. No outside soliciting allowed on the Post's premises.
12. No person under the age of twenty-one (21) shall be allowed to sit at the bar.
13. Members who bring guests into the Post must have the guest sign-in as a guest. Guests are welcome to stay on Post premises as long as their sponsor is present. If a sponsor leaves the Post premises the guest must leave with them.
14. No Smoking Allowed as the Post is a NON-SMOKING facility. Smoking is permitted in the area of the Gazebo and members and guests are to use the containers provided for cigarette butts.
15. Members and guests must dress appropriately. Shirts and shoes are required. Golf shoes may not be worn in the Post. Tank tops (i.e., those similar to basketball jerseys or beach wear) are not permitted except that women's sleeveless, collarless blouses or shirts are acceptable.

### NORMAL HOURS OF OPERATION OF VFW CALABASH POST #7288

Monday thru Saturday	1100 Hours until 2000 Hours
Sunday	1200 Hours until 2000 Hours

Canteen may, at the discretion of the Bartender, remain open until 0200 Hours for functions and/or large crowds.

## VFW Post 7288 Sponsored Summer Internship

Late in the spring of 2016, our post was contacted by Mrs. Sherry Farmer of Calabash who had a special request for our post: would the VFW be willing to sponsor her grandson in completing his required Student Service Learning Hours. Her grandson, Tyler Thomason, is a student at Damascus High School in Maryland where the school district requires each student to complete a certain amount of community service hours before they graduate. Tyler had 25 hours left to complete his obligation. Commander Arvonio agreed to the project and asked if I would execute a plan for Tyler.

Tyler arrived in the Calabash area during second week of July. At that time Tyler, Mrs. Farmer, Comrade Bob Larson and myself met and outlined a daily plan. Tyler would show up at the post Monday through Friday mornings and Bob Larson would have Tyler helping to clean the post or doing other tasks when necessary. For example, one-day Bob had Tyler painting the posts outside that surround the A/C units. Bob told me Tyler had more paint on himself than on the post, but that he was doing a good job.

Everyday Bob and Tyler would record the hours worked. Tyler also performed a few extra duties such as helping at the NC Sheriff's Association Conference dinner and placing bags on the tables for bingo. It didn't take long before Tyler had the hours he needed to graduate.

Once the 25 hours were completed, I met with Mrs. Farmer and she had me sign off on a school document verifying the completion of hours. She couldn't have been more pleased with the help the VFW gave her grandson.

Overall the project was very successful. I want to thank all the post comrades that helped Tyler, especially Bob Larson, who worked with Tyler every day.

One more note: on the way home on the first day of volunteering, Tyler's grandmother asked him why he was smiling. Tyler said the VFW members were cool. Not a bad compliment from a teenager! And that Comrades, Sisters and Brothers is what the VFW is all about!

Dan Kossler  
Senior Vice Commander

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*Have an E-Mail Address???*

**Send it to us at the Post**

[VFWCalabash@atmc.net](mailto:VFWCalabash@atmc.net)

**Keep up with all the events!**