



NEWSLETTER



VFW Post 7288 - Calabash, NC - July/August 2016

COMMANDERS MESSAGE



As I begin my third consecutive term as your Post Commander, again I want to thank the Post's officers, members and volunteers for their continued support over the past two years. Congratulations to this year's corps of Officers for stepping up and serving VFW Calabash Post #7288.

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!"**

Members are encouraged to attend our monthly meeting, congratulate your new slate of officers and be a part of the process on the front lines!

Commander.....Richard H. Arvonio
 Sr. Vice Commander.....Dan Kossler
 Jr. Vice Commander.....Robert Hall
 Quartermaster.....William McCormick
 Chaplain.....George Bissett
 Adjutant.....Michael Crowley
 Judge Advocate.....Ed Warner
 Surgeon.....Willie Richardson
 Service Officer.....Dianne Larowe

Officer of the Day.....Dennis O'Brien
 Guard.....Cliff Hinkley
 Publicity Officer.....Frank Richardson
 Trustee 3 Year.....Tommy Tucker
 Trustee 2 Year..Vincent Krasniewicz
 Trustee 1 Year.....Bob Stocklin
 House Com. 3 Yr.....Bill Hertline
 House Com. 2 Yr.....Ben Bruno
 House Com. 1 Yr..Tom McCormack

VFW Calabash Post #7288 Comfort Socks Drive & Challenge: A HUGE success!

The Comfort Sock Drive the Post conducted during May paid off in dividends and was a resounding success. With the combined \$300 from the Post, the Men's Auxiliary and the Auxiliary and socks and monetary donations from our members, the Post was able to donate 380 pairs amazing socks to comfort our Veterans. Overall **Comfort Socks** was able to bring over 600 pairs to their event the end of May.

Thank You Members of VFW Calabash Post #7288! Because of you, Comfort Socks was able to reach out to so many veterans in need. On their Facebook page, Comfort Socks stated: "We love you for your faithfulness and effort to get the just right kind of socks, the kind we feel so good about giving. Excellent quality. Comfort Socks will be sure to share with the veterans, how their brethren stepped up to help in such a big way. Thank you, and God Bless each and every one of you." A special thank you from Comfort Socks went out to our own **Bill Gajewski!** On behalf of the Post, thank you Bill for continuing to represent the Post in this effort and for everyone who donated socks or made a monetary donation to make this happen!

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.

Rick Arvonio
Commander

LADIES AUXILIARY



The Auxiliary's District 5 Convention was held April 30 at the Oak Island, NC Post. At the convention five of VFW Calabash Post #7288's Auxiliary members assumed a position as an officer at the District: Brenda Arnold - Sr. Vice, Nancey Earney - Jr Vice, Cathy Milstead - Chaplain, Barbara Hertline - Conductress, Marlene Lidgard - 3 Year Trustee.

At last, we have an Auxiliary website. <http://vfwaux.nc.org> It has been a long time

coming. It is being populated with information for our members with more being added each day. The site will contain forms, schedules and articles of interest. There will also be a link to the VFW publication, **The Leader**.

Our entry for Teacher of Year (Megan Bellamy) from the Waccamaw School, won at District and Department level. She was awarded certificates and monetary awards at each level. It was a pleasure for us to sponsor her up to National level.

Distribution of Buddy Poppies was conducted May 28th at the Food Lion in Carolina Shores and Sunset Beach. We received generous donations. Thanks to all who stepped up to volunteer your time; a special thanks to Pat Hinkley and Susan Burchacki for making this such a successful endeavor.

Sharon Kossler, Pat Hinkley and myself participated in Teacher Appreciation Week with a luncheon at Waccamaw School on Friday, May 6. They were so appreciative.

The Post's Memorial Day Service was held on May 30 at 10:00 a.m. with over 250 people attending an excellent service. At the service, Bob Racine, guest speaker and Founder of The Warrior Ride, presented the Auxiliary with an award in recognition of Outstanding Support and Significant Contribution for the endeavor, The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Ride.

Auxiliary Members Brenda Arnold, Susan Burchacki, Marlene Lidgard, Sharon Kossler, Nancey Earney, Fran Redfied, Cathy Milstead and Pat Hinkley Barbara Hertline, Barbara and Ed Raulsome attended the North Carolina VFW Department Convention in Cary, June 2-5. State Commander Jesse Bellflowers addressed the Auxiliary recognizing it as the backbone of organizing what we are all about - serving veterans. We

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LADIES AUXILIARY

had a joint installation of officers to show we (VFW and the Auxiliary) are one team.

We attended council and business meetings and a program awards session; served as pages, voted on Department resolutions; participated in the nomination and election of new Department officers for 2016-2017; and attended the banquet on Saturday night.

Our Auxiliary won numerous awards within their respective groups to include,

1st Place - Hospital Program;

1st Place – Earline Mayberry Scholarship

2nd Place - Veterans & Family Support Program;

2nd Place – Legislative Program

2nd Place - National Scholarship Program,

2nd Place - President's Special Project Program; 2nd Place for our Auxiliary Scrapbook.

We also received a certificate from the National VFW for its Veterans & Military Support Programs and Healthy Auxiliary award from Chief of Staff.

Cathy Milstead won Member of the Year Award in group four for her outstanding participation and dedication to her Auxiliary. Susan Burchacki won Aide-de-Camp Award for recruiting more than 10 members this year. She actually recruited 16 last year. Angela Norris won District 5 Auxiliary President of the year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2016 Charlotte National Conv - July 22-28th. Remember the Life Membership Committee is recommending an increase in Life Membership fees beginning Jan 01, 2017. The proposed fee increase is significant, so consider upgrading membership to Life. This will be brought onto the floor at National Convention in July.
- Angela Norris is holding a "School of Instruction" July 30. 1-2 pm at Post 8073, 1028 S Madison St. in Whiteville. She is asking all officers (and those considering an officer position) at Post and District level to attend. We can carpool!!
- We will start collecting school supplies for Waccamaw Elementary School in July. Start shopping now and bring to our monthly meeting or leave at our Post. There will be a collection box in the Canteen.

Yours in Sisterhood
Brenda Arnold

Have an E-Mail Address???

Send it to us at the Post

VFWCalabash@atmc.net

Keep up with all the events!

MEN'S AUXILIARY

These past two months VFW Calabash Post #7288's Men's Auxiliary has been fairly busy with fund raisers. With the Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont races being completed, I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make these races a success for the post. Special thanks to Joe Capone, and his kitchen staff consisting of Chaz Rowe, Joe Nance, Tommy Lynn, and Jim Milstead for the great food provided for the races. Also Tony Nye informed me he was "retiring" from his position as ticket taker. Tony has been doing this for numerous years. But like all old race horses there comes a time when you have to hang it up. LOL Thanks Tony for a job well done for many years.

Upcoming is the Post's 4th of July cookout. Hamburgers \$2.00 Hotdogs \$1.00 will be provided. Cooked by renowned chef Richard Wilder and his henchmen Joe Nance and Chaz Rowe.

The "Commander's Dinner" was a complete success and thanks to all who came out and had an excellent meal. Again thanks to Head Chef Joe "The Don" Capone, Chaz "The Enforcer" Rowe, Joe "One Ear" Nance, and last but not least Jimmy "Silk Hands" Milstead. A GREAT MEAL ENJOYED BY ALL. Kitchen help is always needed. If you can spare 4 hours once or twice a month please let me know. If you can cook, great, but order takers are also needed!

Thanks for your support.

Don Thompson
President



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

7/7 Linda McPhearson, Herk Hernandez, Marty Green, Jane Rockwell

7/14 Wayne Spears, Marty Biddle, Nick Micals, Arlene Spears

7/21 Ray Ketchem, Greg Tucker, Don Thompson, Cathy & Jim Milstead

7/28 Jay Valkenburg, Jerry Baum, Pat Hinchliffe, Marlene Lidgard

8/4 Linda McPhearson, Bob Hall, Greg Fallus, Jayne Rockwell

8/11 Ray Ketchem, Tom Kelleher, Herk Hernandez, Marlene Lidgard

8/18 Wayne Spears, Marty Green, Marty Biddle, Arlene Spears

8/25 Jay Valkenburg, Greg Tucker, Don Thompson, Cathy & Jim Milstead

NEW MEMBERS

Anthony Antonacci, Dennis Diem, Gary Lehr, Steve Mathews
Wayne Miller, Ron Moss, Harold O'leary, Frank Ward, Larry Wilson

SICK

SICK - Ken Keil, Clinton (Roy) Laws, Jr., Bob Radcliffe,
Stuart South

Send a Card . . . Say a Prayer

DECEASED

Ralph Bigelow - Bernie Farrell

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2016

- July 3 Breakfast 8 to 11 a.m.
- July 4 4th of July Celebration
- July 5 Post Member Meeting 10 a.m.
- July 5 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 2:30 p.m.
- July 7 BINGO 6:30 p.m.
- July 12 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 1 p.m.
- July 13 Shields Meeting 5 p.m.
- July 14 BINGO 6:30 p.m.
- July 20 Life Screening 8 a.m. To 5 p.m.
- July 21 BINGO 6:30 p.m.
- July 25 Sheriffs' Dinner 5 to 7:30 p.m.
- July 21 BINGO 6:30 p.m.

AUGUST 2016

- Aug 2 Post Member Meeting 10 a.m.
- Aug 2 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 2:30 p.m.
- Aug 4 BINGO 6:30 p.m.
- Aug 7 Breakfast - 8 to 11 a.m.
- Aug 9 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 1 p.m.
- Aug 10 Shields Meeting 5 p.m.
- Aug 11 BINGO 6:30 p.m.
- Aug 18 BINGO 6:30 p.m.
- Aug 25 BINGO 6:30 p.m.



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.



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



7288 Members GOLF LEAGUE

July/August Schedule

July 4	Oyster Bay	Aug 1	Meadowlands
July 11	Seatrail Maples	Aug 8	Farmstead
July 18	Panther's Run	Aug 15	Pearl West
July 25	Crow Creek	Aug 22	Thistle
		Aug 29	Eagle Nest

BUDDY POPPY DAY



VFW Calabash Post 7288 continued a 94-year-old tradition over the Memorial Day weekend with the distribution of the Buddy Poppy, those little red flowers assembled by disabled veterans in VA hospitals. Donations provide compensation

to the veterans who assemble the poppies as well as supporting veterans' rehabilitation programs and the VFW National Home for Children. On Saturday, May 28th, members of VFW Calabash Post 7288 were seen distributing the poppies at Food Lion stores in Calabash and Sunset Beach as well as Ace Hardware in Calabash. Shoppers, realizing the sacrifices of war veterans, have been generous in supporting the Buddy Poppy drive and this year was no exception.



Memorial Day at Post 7288

On Memorial Day VFW Calabash Post 7288 paid tribute to all veterans who gave their lives in past wars. The somber May 30th ceremony included remarks by Calabash Mayor Mary Knight who noted that the sacrifice of their lives by those veterans of past and present wars purchased more than a holiday, it purchased our freedom.

Her remarks were followed by Post Commander Rick Arvonio's impassioned remarks about his Great Uncle, Robert Strzempek II, who entered the service in World War One at age 16 after lying about his age. The young Strzempek died shortly after his 18th birthday while fighting in France. Through relentless research, Arvonio found that although his great-uncle had received numerous awards for his service he had not received the Purple Heart. Commander Arvonio spent years gathering supporting documents and other information needed to present to the Army Board of Correction of Military Records. The Purple Heart, earned nearly a century ago, was awarded posthumously on February 22nd of this

year. When Arvonio made that announcement, the 250 in attendance at the Post's Memorial Day Service broke into applause.

The guest speaker was Bob Racine, founder of the Warrior Ride and a retired CWO3 who served 3 tours in Vietnam, who paid tribute to our nation's fallen service members and special honor to their families who, he said, have a heavy load to bear but are carrying it well. Racine also presented the Post with plaques in thanks for Post support in bringing the Vietnam Traveling Wall to Oak Island during the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

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 Men's Auxiliary. The singing of "God Bless the USA" by Cathy Milstead brought a fitting close to the ceremony.

