



# NEWSLETTER



VFW Post 7288 - Calabash, NC - Jan/Feb, 2016

## COMMANDERS MESSAGE



Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year! While 2015 has come to a close – it was a very good year and much was accomplished by the Post and its many volunteers. As we begin 2016, we look forward to the year to come as there is still much work to be done. Looking forward to another successful

year for your Post in 2016 and with your support can make this new year the best ever! Thank you for your continued support! All the best!

## Veterans History Project – Library of Congress

The VFW's North Carolina Department is partnering with the U.S. Army Reserve's, 210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) in their work on the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. You will hear more about this in the near future.



This year's Toys For Tots campaign was an outstanding success with two van loads of toys being picked up by the Marine Corps. Reserve with an additional load of toys brought in late being taken to Fisher House in Fayetteville by the Post's Auxiliary. Thank you to all that donated in helping make some young child's Christmas a Merry one!

Rick Arvonio  
Commander

## LADIES AUXILIARY



The Holidays are over and I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday with family and friends. It certainly was a busy time of year and we are headed toward Spring with a very busy agenda.

**Here is a summary of what has been happening in the Auxiliary:**

Our Buddy Poppy Drive went well and we collected almost \$500 from this drive. Proceeds went into our Relief Fund and will be allocated to a specific program in

the near future.

On November 11 we honored Veterans Day. Our AUX participated in the ceremony and served refreshments after the ceremony. I was asked by Union Elementary School to attend their ceremony and was so honored to accept proceeds from their "Coin Drop for Veterans." The children brought their coins in each day for a month and over that period of time, they collected \$605.00. It was so exciting to see Union Elementary School and the children honoring our veterans in such a big way.

The Southern Conference was held in Savannah, GA Nov 19-22. Sharon Kossler, Pat Hinkley, and I attended the conference. We received up-to-date information on how to better implement the many programs we support.

Our AUX 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Charter member ceremony was held December 5<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm. We honored two of our original Charter signers, Dorothy Hoffmann and Theresa McMahon. We also recognized Lillian Hickman for her dedication to our AUX for the past 29 years and for chairing our Bingo Committee at Shallotte Assisted Living Center for many years. Carolyn Moskowitz was recognized for her dedication to chairing our Hospital/Community Service Committee for over ten years. Refreshments were be served.

Our Christmas Wish List items for the VA Hospital in Fayetteville exceeded our expectations. Everyone was so generous in donating items listed on the Wish List and many donated money. Our Men's Auxiliary so graciously donated \$250.00 to this worthy cause. Delivery to the hospital was done December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The WWII and Pearl Harbor celebration dinner and entertainment was held Dec 12 at the Post. What a great honor it was to attend this celebration. Thanks to all that helped set up the tables and served the food. I appreciate all who step up and help in so many ways.

AUX Calendar of Upcoming Events:

**16 January** Winter District meeting at Boiling Spring Lakes Post 10400 Located at 3161 George II Hwy, Southport, NC

**24 January** Soup Cook-off Contest at the Post **12 – 4 pm**

**5-7 February** Council of Administration will be held this year at Embassy Suites,, 201 Harrison Oaks Blvd, Cary, NC 27513 919-677-1840

Brenda Arnold, President



## WORLD WAR II VETERANS PARTY

On Saturday, December 12, 2015, VFW Calabash Post 7288 hosted an annual dinner party in honor of World War Two veterans and in remembrance of Pearl Harbor. Commander Rick Arvonio, noting that his father and other family members served in World War Two, offered a salute to the World War Two veterans gathered at the celebration in their honor. "You are our heroes," Arvonio told them, "and we cannot repay or thank you enough." Commander Arvonio's remarks were followed by those from Calabash Mayor Mary Knight who expressed her pride in being involved with the Post's recognition of the the World War Two veterans' service in a war that changed history forever. There was a moment of silence and a prayer to remember those who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor and the singing of the National Anthem and "God Bless America."

That set the tone for the affair in which those members of the "Greatest Generation" enjoyed food, fellowship and entertainment during the party in their honor. In addition there were over a 120 other veterans and their families gathered for the festive event to thank the

guests of honor for their service and to join them in a sit-down dinner with table service provided by the Post's Auxiliary. Three veterans were singled out to receive the World War Two Veterans Honor and Remembrance Medallion, presented by Tom Perrone of the Marine Corps League. Receiving that honor were Hal Riebesehl, Leo Jarmusz and Jim Quigley.

While Christmas favorites were sung by featured entertainers Larry Tanelli and Claudette, Claudette presented each veteran of World War Two a hat that said "World War Two Veteran" and "Merry Christmas." One veteran was given a copy of Tom Brokaw's book "The Greatest Generation." The entertainment, by Larry Tanelli & Claudette, was perfect for the occasion with the duo's performance of old standards mixed with Christmas music which had many singing along. Larry thrilled Dottie Hoffman, widow of World War Two veteran Al Hoffman, by dancing with her during the singing of "At Last." It was a moment she will always remember and the party was an event none of those who were present will ever forget.



In keeping with our traditions, the great volunteers from the members of VFW Calabash Post #7288, members of the Auxiliary and members of the Men's Auxiliary worked together make this a spectacular and memorable event that will be remembered for years to come. And appropriately, the following members made this event from its planning stages to its finale, a great success:

Ray Ketcham	Bill McCormick	Wayne Spears	Pat Hinchliffe
Jeff Hayden	Bill Gajewski	George Bissett	Jim Bicknell
Hal Riebesehl	Tom McCormack	Bill Hertline	Ben Bruno
Brenda Arnold	Susan Burchacki	Fran Redfield	Mary Sweeney
Alice Weiser	Barbara Raulsome	Linda Rogers	Frank Richardson

## MEN'S AUXILIARY

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year! As we close on 2015 and begin anew in 2016, I want to say THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who helped make 2015 a successful one for the Men's Auxiliary. The success of any organization is only as strong as it's volunteers. The fund raisers we had this year were successful but more participation is needed from all members of the Post. As most of you know, we lost Mickey Golden, who was a very strong supporter of the Men's Auxiliary. For those of you who have not paid your dues, if not paid by December 31, 2015, your canteen privileges will be suspended.

The last lunches for 2015 were served on December 18th and the kitchen will be closed until January 18th. After that, lunches will be offered weather permitting. Volunteers are still needed for lunches. You don't have to be Betty Crocker to help out with lunches. See me to have your name put on volunteer list. A couple days a month or even one day a month, for four hours a day is all the Post asks. Thank You for your past support and looking forward to your continued and greater support in 2016!

Don Thompson  
President, Men's Auxiliary

## NEW MEMBERS

Hector M. Castro-Colon, Robert Ferreira, Greg Giles

## SICK

SICK - Brooke Farquhar, Frank Morrone, Stuart South  
Joe Williams.

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

## DECEASED

Tom Newmeyer  
Mickey Golden (Auxiliary)



## 7288 Members GOLF LEAGUE

Jan / Feb  
Schedule

Jan 4	Crown Park	8:00	Feb 1	Seatrail Maples	8:30
Jan 11	Colonial Chart	8:30	Feb 8	Oak Island	8:30
Jan 18	Rivers Edge	8:40	Feb 15	Leopards Chase	8:30
Jan 25	Oyster Bay	7:30	Feb 22	Sandpiper	8:10
			Feb 29	Crow Creek	7:00

**GET  
INVOLVED**  
Be a volunteer and reap the rewards

*Even if it's a little thing, do something  
for those who have need of a man's  
help, something for which you get no  
pay but the privilege of doing it. For,  
remember, you don't live in a world all  
your own. Your brothers are here too.*



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

1/7 Ray Ketcham, Ken Keil, Marty  
Biddle, Marlene Lidgard  
1/14 Durwood Jackson, Bill McDavid,  
Jerry Baum, Sue Buchaski  
1/21 Wayne Weszko, Mike Crowley,  
Ed Warner, Shari Warner  
1/28 Linda McPherson, Greg Tucker,  
Don Thompson, Jim & Cathy  
Milstead

2/4 Wayne Spears, Greg Gallus,  
Bob Hall, Arlene Spears  
2/11 Ray Ketcham, Ken Keil, John  
Parisi, Marlene Lidgard  
2/18 Durwood Jackson, Marty Green,  
Ed Warner, Shari Warner  
2/25 Wayne Weszko, Greg Tucker,  
Don Thompson, Cathy & Jim  
Milstead



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

**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!**



## 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.



## WARRIOR RIDE



VFW Calabash Post #7288 is proud to join forces with the The Warrior Ride, a non-profit organization founded in Oak Island, North Carolina with a mission of rehabilitation for our injured war heroes who have received debilitating injuries while serving in hostile areas. The Warrior Ride, founded by Bob Racine and his late wife Debra of Oak Island, is a chance for those veterans to use specially fitted bicycles to pedal hundreds of miles and, at the same time, discover their full potential and capabilities. Their most recent ride ended with a luncheon sponsored by VFW Calabash Post #7288 in the Post Hall on October 16th. This year the proceeds from the Post's annual golf tournament November 9th went directly to The Warrior Ride. At the Post's monthly meeting on December 1st, Post Commander Rick Arvonio (right) presented Racine with a check for \$7500 and along with another donation of \$150 from the family of Post member Robert Mecleary who recently passed away. Bob Racine was amazed at the size of the donation and told the Post members that VFW Calabash Post #7288 is the "go to Post" for his organization.

## Veterans Day at the Post



VFW Calabash Post #7288 Auxiliary Patriotic Instructor Cathy Milstead led the capacity crowd gathered for Veterans Day in singing the National Anthem and "God Bless America."

The capacity crowd at VFW Calabash Post #7288's Veterans Day ceremony stood and saluted during the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance.



It took a lot of energy for VFW Calabash Post #7288 member and Korean War Veteran Frank Pinkerton to make it to the Post's Veterans Day ceremony but he was there and rendered a salute during the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officers of VFW Calabash VFW Post #7288 bowed in prayer to remember the more than 42 million veterans who've served and sacrificed since our nation's beginnings.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY 2016

Jan 3 Breakfast - 8 to 11 a.m.  
 Jan 5 Post Member Meeting 10 a.m.  
 Jan 5 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 2:30 p.m.  
 Jan 7 BINGO 6:30 p.m.  
 Jan 12 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 1 p.m.  
 Jan 14 BINGO 6:30 p.m.  
 Jan 21 BINGO 6:30 p.m.  
 Jan 24 NFL Championship - Soup Contest . . .Aux  
 Jan 28 BINGO 6:30 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 2016

Feb 2 Post Member Meeting 10 a.m.  
 Feb 2 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 2:30 p.m.  
 Feb 4 BINGO 6:30 p.m.  
 Feb 7 Breakfast - 8 to 11 a.m.  
 Feb 7 Super Bowl Sunday at the Post  
 Feb 9 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 1 p.m.  
 Feb 11 BINGO 6:30 p.m.  
 Feb 12 Fish Fry w/Bartender  
 Feb 13 Valentine's Day Party w/Bartender.  
 Feb 18 BINGO 6:30 p.m.  
 Feb 19 Fish Fry w/Bartender  
 Feb 25 BINGO 6:30 p.m.  
 Feb 26 Fish Fry w/Bartender



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## REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AT BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL

Over 800 students packed the West Brunswick High School gym for the Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony November 10th and VFW Calabash Post #7288 was well represented at the event. The ceremony, always saluting veterans and always impressive, featured the school's concert band, a deeply moving solo of "God Bless America" by Grace Helms, an interpretive dance of "I Will Wait" by the school's Dance Team and "Dueling Taps" performed by Logan Strahley and David Venegas, two gifted trumpet players from the school's band. The annual event was attended by several veterans groups including 9 members of VFW Calabash Post #7288.

