



NEWSLETTER



VFW Post 7288 - Calabash, NC - Jan/Feb 2017

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year! Hoping you had a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year!

As we headed into the Christmas season, the Post was involved in some very significant events including an outstanding effort to raise donations for flood relief for the victims of Hurricane Matthew who lost their homes and all of their belongings; a very beneficial Buddy Poppy distribution for Veterans Day; an

outstanding turnout for the Post's remembrance on the 75th Anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor that coincided with our annual dinner tribute to honor World War II Veterans; and lastly, members of the Post participating in Wreaths Across America, placing Christmas Wreaths on the graves of our fallen heroes at the Wilmington National Cemetery. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make these important events a resounding success. We could not have done it without you! Please read more about these great events later in this newsletter.

The Post is looking forward to 2017 and another great year supporting veterans and their families in need and our community. Regardless of the effort or activity, volunteers are always needed to support the Post and just a few hours of your time can make a difference. Hope to see you at the next event.

Thank you to all the volunteers who this past year gave of their time unselfishly to support your Post and accomplish so very much. Looking forward to another great year!

Rick Arvonio
Commander

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 our Auxiliary:

Our Buddy Poppy Drive went well and we collected almost \$500 from On November 11 we honored

Veterans Day. Our AUX participated in the ceremony and served refreshments after the ceremony.

Our Christmas Wish List items for the VA Medical Center 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 \$300.00 to this worthy cause. Donna Stueve and I made delivery to the hospital on December 22th. The Volunteer Coordinator, Norma Fraser, is always so pleased with our donations.

The WWII and Pearl Harbor celebration dinner and entertainment was held Dec 10 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 really appreciate all who step up and volunteer and help in so many ways. Our Auxiliary could not do what we do without each and every one of you!

Patriot's Pen Winners were all from Shallotte Middle School. Cathy Milstead and I made those presentation with certificates, pens, and checks. Those winners were, Taylor Ward, 1st place; Jennifer Argo, 2nd place; Ryan Beth Connick 3rd place winner.

Teacher of the Year nominations are now under way. Applications and information has been taken to the local schools. Deadline for nominations is February 15. Our nomination last year went all the way to Department level, stopping short of being nominated for consideration at National level.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

28 January 2-4 pm School of Instruction

For new member and those who might need a refresher about Program introduction and what the Auxiliary is all about.

28 January 1-4 pm Souper Sunday Soup Competition

Sign up to bring your favorite soup recipe and compete for recognition and prize.

3-5 February Council of Administration

Will be held at Embassy Suites, 201 Harrison Oaks Blvd, Cary, NC 27513 Call 919-677-1840 to make reservations or see Brenda Arnold.

Brenda Arnold
President



Committee for Americanism, Citizenship & Community Service

As we ring in the New Year we leave with sadness the end of VFW Calabash Post #7288's Men's Auxiliary. We should be proud of the service and financial support the volunteers of the Men's Auxiliary provided to the Post. I would be remised if we didn't thank Donnie Thompson, our president for the last three years and past officers who provided leadership to the Men's Auxiliary.

We now have a new opportunity with VFW Calabash Post #7288. With the new Committee for Americanism, Citizenship & Community Service, we can continue our work supporting veterans and volunteering to assist the Post with the projects that makes belonging to the VFW special and fulfilling.

In the New Year, the Committee will meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. to conduct business and to find what volunteer opportunities lie ahead in support of the VFW's programs, the goals and objectives of the Post and the needs of the community.

I look forward to being your chairman for the first year of this Committee and with your help to assist the post with positive volunteerism and service to make Calabash VFW Post #7288 the best that we can be.

Wayne Spears, Chairman

MEN'S AUXILIARY

As this year comes to an end so does the Men's Auxiliary. I want to thank everyone for their support these past three years. We had a few rough seas to negotiate but we managed to calm the waters. Thanks for all the volunteers that gave their time. Much more work needs to be done here at the post. I encourage everyone to join the new program the Commander has instituted for your acceptance and continue to support your post. Many volunteers are still needed. Once again Thank you.

Don Thompson
Past President



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

Department of North Carolina VFW & Bass Pro Shop Sport Raffle

Last chance for you to purchase VFW & Bass Pro Shop Sport Raffle tickets. Once again this year the VFW's NC Department has partnered with Bass Pro Shops and is having 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 so you can win more than once on the same ticket. 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!

Important Upcoming Events

In addition to Bingo on Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m. here are some important events

- 3 Jan** - Member Mtg. @ 1000 a.m.
- Committee Mtg. - Americanism, Citizenship & Community Service (ACCS) Mtg. @ 2:00 p.m.
- 8 Jan** - NO BREAKFAST
- 10 Jan** - Auxiliary Mtg. @ 1:00 p.m.
- 21 Jan** - Italian Dinner Night at the Post 4 – 6 p.m.
- 5 Feb** - Post Breakfast
- Super Bowl Sunday @ the Post
- 7 Feb** - Member Mtg. @ 10 a.m.
- Committee Mtg. - Americanism, Citizenship & Community Service (ACCS) Mtg. @ 2:00 p.m.
- 11 Feb** - Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance 6:00 p.m.
- 14 Feb** - Auxiliary Mtg. @ 1:00 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS

Robert Dock, Ayron Hirschler, Lloyd Perry, Don Uber

SICK

Terry Smith - Stuart South
Send a Card . . . Say a Prayer

DECEASED

Robert Malchodi - Billy Whaley



**7288 Members
GOLF LEAGUE
Jan/Feb Schedule**

Jan 9 Barefoot Love 8:00	Feb 6 Seatrail Maple 8:00
Jan 16 Oyster Bay 7:00	Feb 13 Thistle 8:30
Jan 23 Ocean Ridge Tig 8:00	Feb 20 Brick Landing 8:00
Jan 30 Tidewater 8:30	Feb 27 Barefoot Dye 8:00



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

1/5 Tom Kelleher, Ed Warner, Ken McGuire, Shari Warner	2/2 Jay Valkenburg, Jack Christensen, Larry Clark, Julia Larson
1/12 Linda McPhearson, Herk Hernandez, Marty Green, Jane Rockwell	2/9 Marty Biddle, Greg Tucker, Jim Milstead, Kathy Milstead
1/19 Wayne Spears, Pat Henchiffe, Nick Micale, Arlene Spears	2/16 Tom Kelleher, Ed Warner, Ken McGuire, Shari Warner
1/26 Ray Ketcham, Bob Hall, Greg Gallus, Marlene Lidgard	2/23 Linda McPhearson, Herk Hernandez, Marty Green, Jane Rockwell

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



On Saturday, December 17th, Lana Golden, Carol Thomas, Rose Deck, Gary Thomas, Sharon & Dan Kossler, Phyllis Banyay, Bill Hertline, Rick & Faye Arvonio went to the Wilmington National Cemetery to lay wreaths as part of the Wreaths Across America nationwide event. More pictures and information is on our Post's Facebook page. You can also go to the WreathAcrossAmerica.org website.

As I've said in a previous note, our Post donated 60 of the 3,037 wreaths for this cemetery. There was a 45 minute ceremony which started at noon. We were told to say the Veterans' names as we laid the wreaths. I cannot tell you how emotional that is to do! The theme of Wreaths Across America is REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH. I will never forget the three I honored with a wreath - Love, Field, and Bennett - veterans from the Revolutionary to Vietnam Wars. Sharon Kossler, Sr VP, Auxiliary



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.

Have an E-Mail Address??

Send it to us at:

vfwcalabash @atmc.net

We'll make sure you keep up with all the news at the Calabash VFW

VETERANS DAY AT THE POST

VFW Calabash Post #7288 joined with veterans posts across the country and around the world November 11th to celebrate Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, which honored the end of World War One when it was begun in 1918. Initially designated to honor World War One veterans, the observance was later set for November 11th 1954 and would honor veterans of World War Two and the Korean War. Now it honors the veterans of all wars in which America was involved on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour.

At VFW Calabash Post #7288 the day was marked by a humble ceremony that included a prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, Veterans Day tributes by the Post Auxiliary and the Men's Auxiliary and remarks by Post Commander Rick Arvonio. Arvonio's extended family members on his mother's and father's side have maintained a proud history of service in the U.S. Military Services dating back to the Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry in the Union Army during the Civil War, to World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Among the large crowd attending the ceremony were veterans from World War Two and our country's military engagements since, who shared a social hour after the formal ceremony.



WORLD WAR II VETERANS CELEBRATION

They were a hearty bunch 75 years ago and they're a hearty bunch now, braving near-freezing temperatures that promised to keep falling as VFW Calabash Post #7288's 12th Annual dinner party to Honor World War Two veterans and remember Pearl Harbor continued into the evening hours. They were warmed, though, by the camaraderie with some 29 members of the "Greatest Generation" gathered for the December 10th event, which included a sit-down dinner and entertainment.



Some World War Two veterans even got up to the music provided by Lou Pratt at the VFW Calabash Post 7288 Dinner Party in their honor, including Leo Jarmusz and his friend Dottie Callahan.



At VFW Calabash Post #7288 a hearty ham dinner with potatoes, carrots, rolls, salad, fruit and dessert was hastily consumed by all in attendance including the 29 World War Two veterans and their guests at the dinner party in their honor.



The dinner part of the World War Two Dinner Party was provided by the Post and the Men's Auxiliary. Pictured left to right are Wayne Spears, Pat Hinchliffe and Jeff Hayden.



World War Two veteran Leon Noorigian and his wife Mary were among the special guests at VFW Calabash Post #7288's Annual Dinner Party for members of the Greatest Generation on December 10th. 29 World War Two veterans were in attendance this year.



During the Pledge of Allegiance at VFW Calabash Post #7288's Dinner Party to honor World War Two veterans and remember Pearl Harbor everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. At left is Auxiliary President Brenda Arnold, widow of World War II veteran Art Paige.