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January 2021

Commander's Message



We are sorry to announce the joint Homecoming for Department State Commander Eric Mallett, Department President Maggie Myers and MOCA Supreme President Jennifer Winn of the **cancellation** of our homecoming scheduled for February 5 - 6, 2021. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions from the Governor of Virginia we are unable to hold the event. At this time, we do not have a reschedule date.

If you have made a hotel reservation please call the hotel to cancel your reservation so you are not charged. Refund payments will be forthcoming from the Department of Virginia for those that have paid for the registration fee.

The Department of Virginia VFW is growing strong this year we have started one new post in Emporia Virginia, we are working on the next Posts in Kilmarnock Virginia and King George and later in the year Reston Virginia.

If you are an eligible veteran living in these areas look out for us recruiting in your area or visit our website https://vfwva.org/

The Department supported numerus bills in January for the House and Senate. Please read one of the letters of support below. One of the others was SB1410 from delegate Kathy Tran Senate bill and Senator John Bell House bill SB1410 Prohibited discrimination; status as active military or a military spouse.



"Your passion is your internal compass that will guide you from where you are towards where you want to go."



VFW DEPARTMENT of VIRGINIA

403 LEE JACKSON HIGHWAY STAUNTON, VA 24401 PHONE: 1-540-886-8112

FAX: 1-866-416-0586

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DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander Surgeon Mitchell L. Rubenstein Fric Mallett **Past Commander** Senior Vice Commander Harold "Butch" Schupska Rick Raskin **Junior Vice Commander** Chaplain Geoffrey Lyster Harold Sayles Adjutant/ Quartermaster **Chief of Staff** Ed Mann Mark Maggio **Judge Advocate** Inspector

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor Randy Coker

Gary Adams

Managing Editor Ed Mann

Doug Hoffman

Copy Editors

Doc Crouch, Janet & Rick Raskin

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13212 Trails End Court, Manassas Va. 20112

We reserve the right to edit all submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.

The Honorable Daniel Helmer Virginia House of Delegates 900 East Main Street Richmond, VA 23218

Delegate Helmer,

On behalf of the 32,335 members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Department of Virginia (VFW), I am pleased to announce our support for HB 2020, a bill relating to the nomination of candidates for elected office, which would support those members of the U.S. military who seek to serve the Commonwealth while also serving in uniform. This legislation is important as every service member goes where they are sent to serve but when a deployment ends should not be the deciding factor in their quest to run for public office.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has a long history of its citizens serving in both the Reserve and National Guard components of the military while also holding higher office. Serving in the military means protecting the right of citizens to decide who gets the nomination of their party. Further, this bill does not intrude on the ability of parties to decide their nomination method nor does it change the outcome of any election which, in our opinion, simply leaves the door open to someone who wants to seek the nomination. In many ways, this bill defends the American system of elections by protecting access to the nomination process for all eligible citizens. Again, thank you for putting this bill forward and please know that you have our support for it.

Eric Mallett

State Commander

Department of Virginia

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



From the Editor's desk

Hope everyone is staying safe through these uncertain times. Please keep the state of Virginia VFW informed of all your accomplishments, by submitting your articles and pictures to me, for the Virginia Veterans Newspaper.

Randy Coker

21101479D

HOUSE BILL NO. 2020

Offered January 13, 2021 Prefiled January 12, 2021

A BILL to amend and reenact § <u>24.2-509</u> of the Code of Virginia, relating to nomination of candidates for elected offices; restrictions on nomination method selected by political party.

Patrons-- Helmer, Scott and Hurst

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

- 1. That § 24.2-509 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:
- § 24.2-509. Party to determine method of nominating its candidates for office; exceptions.

A. The duly constituted authorities of the state political party shall have the right to determine the method by which a party nomination for a member of the United States Senate or for any statewide office shall be made. The duly constituted authorities of the political party for the district, county, city, or town in which any other office is to be filled shall have the right to determine the method by which a party nomination for that office shall be made. A method of nomination shall not be selected if such method will have the practical effect of excluding participation in the nominating process by qualified voters who are unable to attend meetings because they are (i) a member of a uniformed service, as defined in § 24.2-452, on active duty; (ii) temporarily residing outside of the United States; (iii) a student attending a school or institution of higher education; (iv) a person with a disability; or (v) a person who has a communicable disease of public health threat as defined in § 32.1-48.06 or who may have come in contact with a person with such disease. However, such restriction shall not apply when selecting a candidate for a special election or nominating a candidate pursuant to § 24.2-539, or in the event that no candidate files the required paperwork by the deadline prescribed in § 24.2-522.

B. Notwithstanding subsection A, the following provisions shall apply to the determination of the method of making party nominations. A party shall nominate its candidate for election for a General Assembly district where there is only one incumbent of that party for the district by the method designated by that incumbent, or absent any designation by him by the method of nomination determined by the party. A party shall nominate its candidates for election for a General Assembly district where there is more than one incumbent of that party for the district by a primary unless all the incumbents consent to a different method of nomination. A party, whose candidate at the immediately preceding election for a particular office other than the General Assembly (i) was nominated by a primary or filed for a primary but was not opposed and (ii) was elected at the general election, shall nominate a candidate for the next election for that office by a primary unless all incumbents of that party for that office consent to a different method.

When, under any of the foregoing provisions, no incumbents offer as candidates for reelection to the same office, the method of nomination shall be determined by the political party.

For the purposes of this subsection, any officeholder who offers for reelection to the same office shall be deemed an incumbent notwithstanding that the district which he represents differs in part from that for which he offers for election.

2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on January 1, 2024.

Department Commander, Eric Mallett installs Mitch Rubenstein as the new Department Surgeon



THIS JUST IN !!!!!

Comrades and Auxiliary, the information below just became available as of Wednesday afternoon, January 27th. For more details, check in the Department General Orders.

Hal Roesch

VFW Commander-in-Chief 2020-2021 Homecoming

July 8-11, 2021

Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel
425 Water Street Portsmouth, VA 23704

Cont. from previous page

Hotel Information

DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS June 7, 2021

USE NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR ALL FLIGHTS

LINK TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:

https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1611690097306&key=GRP & app=resvlink

CALL TO MAKE THE RESERVATION: 1-800-839-1775 (Say you are with the "Hal Roesch" group to get the special rate)

We have the dates of the event plus more both before and after for the same price. Make sure you book accordingly.

The Department of Virginia has used this hotel for several years for our conventions and conferences. With beautiful views of the harbor, U.S. Navy warships, and historical and vibrant surroundings, this is the ideal location for a homecoming! The hotel is newly renovated with all rooms ready to welcome you in comfort and style. A modern, sleek approach to the well-known "Virginia Hospitality" awaits your arrival!

Rooms are \$135, plus tax, per night. Parking is \$10 per day. The rooms include complimentary Wi-Fi, a pool and exercise room, and the rate is good for three days before and three days after the event for those who want to stay longer. In addition to the hospitality provided by the Department of Virginia, a full restaurant and bar are available in the hotel.

DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS June 7, 2021

USE NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR ALL FLIGHTS

VFW Post 2894 Chesapeake Honors Community Public Service Workers



From left: Jim Keiper, Chris Mulholland, Trooper Austin Pittman, and Jim Ireland

Post Honors State Trooper of the Year. The Post's annual awards ceremony was cancelled due to the Wuhan flu so we have had to arrange for independent awards ceremonies. On 5 August, we were able to hold a ceremony to recognize and award our Post "State Trooper of the Year." This was our second ever such award and we presented it at the State Trooper Barracks in Chesapeake. This year's awardee was Special Agent Accountant Austin Pittman. He was born at Royal Air Force base Mildenhall in England, and is an Air Force "military brat". He attended six different schools for primary/secondary education and graduated from Tabb HS in York County and Longwood University. He joined the VSP in 2004 and was also a canine officer with his German Shepherd partner, "Haro". Trooper Pittman was promoted to Special agent and assigned to Chesapeake in 2014. He has made over 75 arrests related to financial crime since arriving in Chesapeake. Council member Debbie Ritter was also on hand to share in this recognition. We made a \$200 donation in his name to the Virginia State Police Association's Teddy Bear Program which provides teddy bears to state troopers to give out to traumatized children at accident or crime scenes.

Post Honors Deputy Sheriffs of the Year.

Post 2894 normally recognizes a single awardee in each category of Public Service but this year was special because two deputies equally earned the accolade. In November 2019, Deputies Quitez Burke and Ronald Hastings, Jr., came across a multiple vehicle accident involving an overturned 18-wheeler and a tour bus in the Afton Mountains. They secured the scene, helped evacuate the tour bus, and freed the driver of the 18- wheeler who was pinned in the cab of his vehicle! On Thursday, 27 August, comrades Jim Ireland and Carl Dozier presented plaques to the two deputies, recognizing them as the Post's "Deputies of the Year." Congratulations to these heroes!

Post Honors Fire Department Awardees. On

Wednesday, 26 August, Post representatives handed out awards to members of the Chesapeake Fire Department (CFD) in a ceremony at Station 12 in Western Branch. Junior Vice Commander Bob Gregory, Service Officer Jim Ireland, and Past Commander Carl Dozier, along with Fire Chief Elliott and members of the Command Staff participated in the ceremony. Lt Waistel Kelley was our EMS Provider of the Year and FF Timothy Livingston was our Firefighter of the Year. In addition, FF/PM Richard Gray was presented with the National VFW Paramedic of the Year Award – the Post's fifth national public servant award in five years! Congratulations to all who were recognized and for their continued dedication to the City of Chesapeake. The ceremony was followed by a sit-down breakfast with the firefighters.



Post members and CFD Awardees along with Chief Elliott



From left: Carl Dozier, Jim Ireland, Deputy Burke, Deputy Hastings, and Sheriff Jim O'Sullivan

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VFW Post 2894 Chesapeake, Honors Community Public Service Workers

Post Middle School Teacher of the Year. At our Post meeting on Post Honors Local Veteran Business Owner. 9 September, we recognized and awarded our 2019-20 Middle School Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Virginia "Ginny" Corbett, of Hugo Owens MS. Ginny is in her 21st year of teaching and is strongly involved in the Military Child Club, which supports students



Post Commander Mulholland presents Mrs. Corbett with her "crystal apple" while her husband, a Chesapeake Fire Fighter, looks on

who have parents serving in the military. She engages her students in all aspects of Civics: including historical documents leading to the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and its Amendments.

She stresses the importance of Citizenship, its rights and responsibilities, and the positive character traits of citizens through simulations. Among civic duties she discusses is the military draft and she has each class propose a Bill to include women in the draft and debate if the draft is still necessary in today's times. She routinely has students create their own political parties allowing them to produce platforms using current events and teaches them to respect ideas that are different from their own. Ginny brings her subject to life and believes it is her duty to instill pride and love for one's country, one child at a time. Congratulations!

Also at our September Post meeting, we took time to recognize Troy Hare, owner/operator of Hare's Heating, Cooling and Electrical, who fixed the A/C for an elderly Korean War veteran who had been without it since May. She was covered with heat sores when we found out about her and the Post purchased a small unit to cool one room but it wasn't enough. Troy's repair of her A/C very likely saved her life this as summer was extremely hot. The total value of his work and a 'used' system would have cost over \$2,500. If we had to buy a new system it would have been much more. He donated his labor and



reduced the cost to \$800. We received assistance from Posts 4411 and 3160 and presented him with a check for \$500 (along with a Home Depot card worth more than \$331). Troy has also found a company to donate a new air handler which is dented and unable to be sold. He will also look for a donated - or at least buy at a reduced cost $-2\frac{1}{2}$ ton A/C unit and will install them both for her when the weather cools. She will have a totally new system! Troy is a veteran and will be joining the Post. Incredibly, he turned around and gave back the check we presented him and told us to use it on another needy vet! Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU!

Post 7589 wins Life Membership drawing

Executive Committee selects Heidi BruMar

As part of State Commander Eric Mallett's 2020-21 membership plan: "...there will be four (4) Life Membership drawings and one (1) Post will be selected for each drawing. Posts must meet their membership quota by the day prior to drawing to be eligible..." We are proud to have been selected and have awarded the free life membership to comrade Heidi BruMar.



Heidi has been active in both the VFW and American Legion and participates in many color guard events; representing both organizations. Heidi was recognized at our October 5 membership meeting.

Department Senior Vice Cmdr. Gives blood, during these uncertain times



Department Senior Vice Commander, Harold "Butch" Schupska giving blood at the Greenbrier American Red Cross.

TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee to Start Jan. 1

DOD announced that TRICARE Select Group A retirees will be required to pay an enrollment fee beginning on Jan. 1, 2021. Congress directed the Defense Health Agency in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 to implement TRICARE Select retiree enrollment fees, but delayed the implementation. Group A is comprised of retirees and their family members if the sponsor's initial enlistment or appointment occurred before Jan. 1, 2018. The enrollment fee is waived for medically retired individuals and their family members, and for survivors of active-duty deaths. During TRICARE Open Season, running now to Dec. 14, beneficiaries must set up an allotment with their regional contractors for the enrollment fee to begin on Jan. 1, 2021. Beneficiaries who do not set up their allotment by the deadline will be unenrolled due to nonpayment. These individuals would have previously had 90 days from the termination date to request reinstatement. However, recently the Defense Health Agency has agreed to extend the reinstatement period to 180 days.

The following resolution was submitted by Manassas Post 7589 for consideration at the next State Convention.

SUPPORT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is the oldest Congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organization (VSO), in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Postal Service pre-dates the founding of the United States, the first Postmaster General, Benjamin Franklin, having been appointed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of VSOs to support current and former members of the United States Armed Forces in whatever ways practical, and;

WHEREAS, the American public has come to rely upon the United States Postal Service (USPS) as an essential and indispensable means of communication and commerce, even in an increasingly electronic world, and;

WHEREAS, millions of military members, retirees, survivors, and beneficiaries depend upon the USPS to deliver life sustaining medications through Federal Government programs, established through the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Health and Human Services, and;

WHEREAS, the United States Armed Forces rely upon the USPS to deliver, around-the-world, the critical spare parts needed to enable, restore, and sustain war-fighting capabilities, and;

WHEREAS, uniformed service-members stationed at sea and ashore on all seven continents continue to rely upon the USPS as the sole means of exercising their right to vote in elections, through absentee ballot, the loss of which would disenfranchise them from the very freedoms that they are serving and sacrificing to protect, and;

WHEREAS, pronouncements, political posturing, and thinly veiled disdain for the USPS have led to threats to delay the mails and reduce enabling funds for this essential institution; THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the VFW encourages the President of the United States to include adequate funding in the national budget to sustain and further modernize the USPS and; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the VFW enjoins Congress to adequately fund the USPS to provide timely, dependable, and secure delivery of the mails, and; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the VFW demands that those entrusted with the stewardship of the USPS be free from compromising conflicts of interest that could inhibit the faithful and efficient fulfillment of their duties to the American armed forces and public.

Approved by Post 7589 September 14, 2020

Wayne Moore, Commander

Post 4809 TIDEWATER, remembers POW/MIA Day





Veterans, active duty members, spouses, and children of all branches united in front of the display to pay their respects to their brothers-in-arms who could not join in the festivities. *Taps* was then played by Ronald Riffle III, the Post Auxiliary Chaplain, bringing a moment of gravity and solace to the ceremony.

The second half of the ceremony took place in Post 4809's Canteen, where VFW National Assistant Adjutant General Kim DeShano offered a speech that honored the fallen and raised the spirits of the veterans and the other VFW members present. Upon his speech's conclusion, every attendee was led to the building's cafeteria, where a dinner was provided. During this dinner, many long-time members, as well as newer members, offered their honest opinions pertaining to the event, comparing and contrasting it with previous versions

Tim Dawley, past commander of Post 4809 and Cootie Pup Tent 2 Seam, compared the event to the previous year's event. During this incarnation, a lecture took place to inform all attendees of the significance of the event as a whole. Dawley has a long history with the VFW, having visited many Posts before finding a home at Post 4809. Many of its members are people Dawley works with, offering him chemistry that is more organic. The primary message he hopes this event will always convey is the unyielding loyalty all members have to each other and their dedication to their families, should they ever be in need of assistance.

Kathy Goodall, the first female commander of Post 4809, and Dave Alexander, Post 4809's current commander, additionally noted how National POW/MIA Recognition Day is celebrated differently each year. For instance, in previous years the ceremony



would have consisted of a reading to recognize the fallen, or it would have been more interactive. In the past the ceremony regarding the POW/MIA table was such that every member had a different duty pertaining to its assembly thus showcasing the importance of each item to the VFW.

One of the many takeaways of the event, as observed by Post 4809's Auxiliary Chaplain Ronald Riffle III, was the sight of so many individuals of various branches coming together to pay their respects to those who have fallen and to deeply recognize their sacrifice for the country they all loved. The ceremony also consisted of a flag raising that was acknowledged by approximately twenty attendees.

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The gathering for this year's event differed, as typically the POW and MIA event for Post 4809 would have a small attendance. That was not the case this year, as more than sixty people attended.

This event is held by many VFW Posts and Districts across the country and celebrated in a multitude of ways unique to their respective Districts. According to Tim Dawley, who attended District 2's commemoration as well, their event was well executed. Michael R. Chism, Department of Virginia chairman of the POW Committee, led the District 2 event and collaborated with the various Posts within the District to erect a granite sculpture of an empty chair at Albert G. Horton Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, VA. This gesture is meant to honor the MIA's and POW's memories in the same fashion as the POW/MIA chair at Post 4809. This was one of many examples Dawley provided to describe the ways in which the event was celebrated.



ALEX PERRY/ SUFFOLK NEWS HERALD

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia salute the new Chair of Honor monument that was dedicated in a ceremony at Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in October 2019. Pictured are VFW Department of Virginia POW/MIA Committee Chair Michael Chism, VFW Virginia State Adjutant Ken Wiseman and Robert Grady, past commander of Suffolk's VFW Post 2582

As a whole, the most vital part of the event that every interviewed VFW member could agree on was the community and camaraderie within the Post. Post 4809 members felt comfortable around their fellow comrades, laughing among old friends, telling stories from the past, making new friends while singing along to the talented Robbie Bradshaw's music, or catching up at the dinner table.

The 75th anniversary of Tidewater Post 4809 ultimately ended on a high note, not because of a grand financial gesture, nor from a national officer's attendance. It ended the way it did because of:

- the people who made the experience so enjoyable
- the history each VFW member possessed to enrich the Post's integrity and intrigue for new members
- the camaraderie that could be found from any attendee who partook in the event not only successfully honoring the memory of those who could not attend, but celebrating as though they never left.

VFW Post 609 in Alexandria participates in the National Commemorative Commission, recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.



Pictured above (L-R): Vietnam Veterans John Ayers, Bob Spence, Jerry Krueger (Post Commander 609), Bill Camarinos and Marty Menez.

VFW Riders roll into Hampton Roads with a load of food for a donation to the Mayflower Marathon.

On Nov 22nd 2020 the VFW Riders Virginia, made a food donation to the Mayflower Marathon here in the Hampton Roads Virginia area. Back in October, the Riders decided to ask different Posts if we could put out a box to collect food that the Riders could donate to the Mayflower Marathon in November. All the Posts that we went to opened up their doors and allowed us to put boxes in their social quarters. Bravo Zulu to the following VFWs for helping the Riders collect food: VFW Posts 392, 4809, 3160, 993 and 3219. Even our CiC Hal Roesch donated a car full of food to our food drive. On November 22nd, the Riders and the Dept. of Virginia Sr. Vice Commander, Butch Schupska delivered all the food donated to the central collection area and then rode with numerous other motorcycle organizations to the Mayflower Marathon where the food was donated together.



VFW Riders doing what they do best: riding and donating their time and efforts into helping others.





Pictured from left to right are: Allan Laws, Andy Fernandes, Shep Shepherd, Mark Shockley (District 1 Commander) Virgil Hart, Butch (Dept. Sr. Vice commander) Jerry Ralston (President of Riders) Raleigh Pacheco, Mike Thompson, Mike Bolton, female passenger and Damon Davenport

Russell Mitchell VFW Post 609 Alexandria VA - Our Story

Veterans of Foreign Wars Russell Mitchell Post 609 is the oldest VFW Post with continuous service in Virginia, and is one of the Posts that chartered our state Headquarters. We proudly have two charters on display at our Post: the original charter from December 2, 1920, which was spearheaded by 35 VFW members who knew and admired Alexandria native Corporal John Russell Mitchell, a WWI vet, who they chose to be our namesake. In 1935 we received our second charter with the founding of the Department of Virginia. We received our certificate of perpetuity in 1965.

VFW Post 609 meets on the second Saturday of every month at our "Post Home", in the Caretaker's building of the Alexandria National Cemetery, located at 1450 Wilkes Street in Alexandria, VA, 22314. This has been home to Post 609 home since the 1980s with the help of a former Alexandria legislator who ensured Post 609 was not without a place for its members to meet.

Since we meet on federal property, we are a dry Post. We do not have a canteen, and we do not host games or other public funding activities. However, we are active in the community through our youth programs, teacher of the year program, and by engaging with local law enforcement and first-responder organizations.

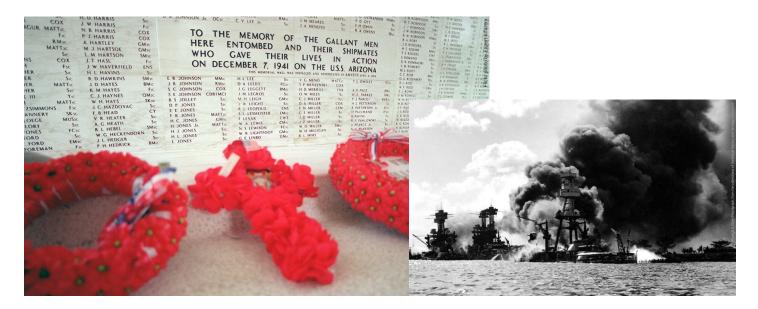
Annually, we host and co-sponsor with local American Legion Post 24, the "Flags Out" ceremony for Memorial Day (then collect the flags and re-store them the following weekend); plus, the "Wreaths Across America" (WAA) ceremony held in December. As we meet, we keep watch over the grave headstones of 4,230 veterans from all U.S. wars dating from the Civil War to present-day conflicts in the Middle East. In December 2019 we hosted 500 public volunteers in the posting of WAA pledged wreaths on 100% of the headstones.

Post 609 members also render assistance to the Veterans Administration Cemetery Oversight Office, located at Quantico Marine Base. For example: we assist any time the American flag needs to be lowered or raised; inspect the cemetery grounds and the Caretaker building after heavy storms, and respond to other requests as they occur. We maintain a 24-hr per day "retired American Flag collection point to permit the public to return worn flags, which we then deliver to Scout and Cadet Troops for their periodic conducting of respectful flag retirement ceremonies.

Through our efforts, the Alexandria National Cemetery has become a place of assembly for other military and historical groups, such as the American Legion Post 1775 (formerly of Ft. Belvoir) and the Kenyon Anderson Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Navy.

Remembering Our Fallen at Pearl Harbor

On the 79th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the VFW solemnly honors the 2,403 men and women who died in the devastating attack on Dec. 7, 1941. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremonies honoring the fallen were held virtually this year. The Pearl Harbor National Memorial held a live Commemorative Ceremony on Dec. 7, 2020, at 7:45 a.m. GMT-10.



Warrenton VFW Post 9835 Presents VOD, PP & Teacher of the Year Awards

VFW Post 9835 presented awards ... to middle and high school students who excelled in writing or performing essays. Middle school students in the annual National VFW Student Essay competition Patriot's Pen were asked to submit a typewritten essay of between 300 and 400 words on the topic "What is patriotism to me?" High school students entering the Voice of Democracy competition submitted a 3- to 5-minute recorded essay on the topic "Is this the country the founders envisioned?" Entries were evaluated by several judging panels last month and Post winners advance to district, state and national competitions.

On Dec. 11, VFW Post Commander Jeff Dombroff and Auxiliary President Kathleen Bilger were at Wakefield School in The Plains to present medals, certificates and checks to students who wrote the top three Patriot's Pen entries; the Post received more than 60 entries. The winners, all of whom attend Wakefield School, were eighth-grader Leah Kim (third place); seventh-grader Tyler Kim (second place) and eighth-grader Ava Price (first place). Price earned second place honors last year.

On Saturday, awards were presented to the top finishers in the Voice of Democracy competition. Family members and teachers met in the parking lot of the former Warrenton Visitor Center to witness Seaton School 11th -grader Jordan Kach (third place); Fresta Valley student Colleen Stow (second place); and Southeastern Alternative School senior Tyler Kelley (first place) receive their awards. Kelley was also informed that his entry had been forwarded to the District 8 competition, where it took top honors. Kelley now represents the 8th District at state-level judging, where the essay will be judged on Dec. 19 against the top entries from the other 12 VFW Districts in the Commonwealth. The Post also recognized Wakefield upper class history teacher Peter Findler as its Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year. Besides his classroom work, which stimulates his students to embrace the country and its history, Findler was singled out for his creation of and overseeing the 9:57 project. The program connects schools and veterans in a recognition of 9/11 courage, resilience and sacrifice. The name recognizes the time when the crew of American Airlines Flight 93 chose to fight back. Findler's entry also took first place in District 8 and is competing for the state title later this month.

Article & photos by: Robin Earl Fauquier Times rearl@fauquier.com

Pictured to the right is Commander Jeff
Dombroff of Warrenton Post 9835, presenting
the First Place award certificate to Tyler Kelley
for his winning Voice of Democracy essay.
Tyler is a senior at Southeastern Alternative
School.



Warrenton VFW Post 9835 Presents VOD, PP & Teacher of the Year Awards



Wakefield school 8th grader, Ava Price won 1st place in the Patriots Pen essay contest.



Commander Jeff Dombroff presents award check and First Place Patriots Pen certificate to Ava Price.



Fresta Valley 11th Grader, Colleen Stow placed 2nd in the Voice of Democracy Essay competition.



Commander Jeff Dombroff presents award check and Third Place Voice of Democracy Essay certificate to Seaton school 11th grader, Jordan Kach.

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Warrenton VFW Post 9835 Presents VOD, PP & Teacher of the Year Awards

Pictured to the right is brother and sister Tyler and Leah Kim. They placed 2nd and 3rd place in the Patriots Pen essay contest. Both are students at Wakefield School.



World's largest VFW celebrates their 50th Anniversary. Chesty Puller VFW Post 1503 in Dale City gets a visit from the VFW National Commander in Chief



VFW National Commander in Chief Hal Roesch presents Post 1503 Commander Tom Levitt with their 50th Anniversary Certificate, at a small ceremony inside the Post home in Dale City.



Past Auxiliary National 6th District Council member Betty Gimble and Post 1503 Auxiliary President Kelli Levitt escort National CiC Hal Roesch into the Post Canteen in style.

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Christmas tree sales break new records at the Dale City Post 1503.



386 COVID style Christmas trees lined up and ready to sell for the 2020 season.

Dale City, Post 1503 broke records this year by selling their entire lineup of 386 Christmas trees in 7 days. Ron "Papa Six" Laney, the chairman of the Christmas Tree Committee (for life) said that they not only broke the total sales record, but they also sold the most ever trees in one day,164, and the most ever sold over one weekend period, 262. Congratulations Post 1503.





Post Comrades and Auxiliary came out in force to assist in the offloading of the 386 Christmas trees for Post 1503. According to some of the volunteers, it was more difficult this year, due to the additional mask requirement. Thanks COVID-19.