



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**

**POST 2632**

**FEB 26**



**23282 THREE NOTCH ROAD • CALIFORNIA, MARYLAND 20619 • 301.862.3247**

**vfw2632.org**

**CANTEEN HOURS:** Mon - Thurs 3 PM - Last Call  
Fri - Sun 12PM - Last Call

**FOOD NIGHTS:** 5 PM - 7 PM

**HALL RENTAL:** 240.861.8725  
POC Jeanie  
LEAVE MESSAGE



## POST OFFICERS

<b>Post Commander</b> .....	Chad Fluharty
<b>Senior Vice</b> .....	Jerry Girdlestone
<b>Junior Vice</b> .....	Joe Peters
<b>Quartermaster</b> .....	Jeff Graham
<b>Adjutant</b> .....	Dave Heinauer
<b>Judge Advocate</b> .....	Harry Pool
<b>Surgeon</b> .....	Ron Mc Kinnon
<b>Officer of the Day</b> .....	Tony Norris
<b>Service Officer</b> .....	LeeAndra Black
<b>Chaplain</b> .....	Nick Samouris
<b>3 Year Trustee</b> .....	Tracy Green
<b>2 Year Trustee</b> .....	Donn Rushing
<b>1 Year Trustee</b> .....	Grant Graessle

## POST NEWS

What a way to start the new year with this weather! I hope everyone is staying warm. This is also a great time to check in on members we haven't seen in a while.

The kitchen and bar floor renovations are now complete—and they look fantastic. Thank you to everyone who came out and offered your time, effort, and hard work. Your contributions truly made a difference.

Although our Annual Awards Night was shifted due to the renovations, we were still able to recognize our Youth in the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen programs, as well as our Teachers of the Year, Law Enforcement officers, Emergency Services personnel, and Junior ROTC award recipients. We deeply appreciate these outstanding members of our community. Thank you to all who attended and showed your support.

A few things to keep in mind:

The **Scout of the Year** nomination deadline is **March 1, 2026**. Eligible applicants include recipients of the Eagle Scout, Girl Scout, Venture Summit or Sea Scouts. For information and forms, visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), then navigate to Community → Youth and Education → Scout of the Year. Please send applications to [vso@vfw2632.org](mailto:vso@vfw2632.org).

And last but certainly not least, the Post has some great meals available. Check out the Club menu and come visit—we'd be glad to see you.

### When Guilt Destroys Us

"The conscience is a gift God has bestowed on us that tells us when we have sinned against him and against our neighbor. It calls us to turn from our sin and to seek to change the patterns of behavior that have caused us to sin.

This tug by our conscience can be counterproductive if we make no effort to change our behavior. It can also be counterproductive if we simply give into despair and resign ourselves to our sinful behavior, as though there were no cure for our illness. The sense of guilt is meant to aid in the fight to turn around our bad behavior.

When we have sinned, and our sins are tormenting us, at that moment we must seek out Christ, for only His sacrifice for our sins is eternal and living. When we lay our sins before the face of that sacrifice, we have nothing to fear, for we recognize that we cannot be saved by our own efforts.

If we simply surrender to guilt, we find nothing but destruction, and our conscience will have been of no benefit whatsoever. And victory will not be ours."

*Abbot Tryphon*

"Be careful with your words and how you pour out your anger; even when you think you are right, harsh words leave deep marks; your loved ones don't have to pay for your fatigue or frustration.

Everyone has difficult days, but peace isn't gained by disturbing others, but by learning how to bear your pain patiently."

*Fr. Pimen Vlad*



**2.18.26**

Ash Wednesday is a holy day of prayer and fasting in many Western Christian denominations. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and marks the first day of Lent: the seven weeks of prayer, fasting and almsgiving before the arrival of Easter.

Many Christians attend special Ash Wednesday church services at which churchgoers receive ash on their foreheads or the top of their heads, as the wearing of ashes has been a sign of repentance since biblical times. The imposition of ashes is typically done with the sign of the cross, signifying that the recipient is a follower of Jesus. Ash Wednesday derives its name from this practice, in which the words accompany the placement (imposition) of ashes, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or the dictum "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations.

**Nick Samouris**

Chaplain

## VETERAN NEWS

### VFW Announces 2025 District & State Scholarship Winners

# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**The VFW Teacher of the Year is a national award that honors outstanding K-12 teachers who promote citizenship, patriotism, and an understanding of America's history and veterans. It recognizes educators who go above and beyond in teaching civic responsibility and fostering national pride.**

Congratulations to Ms. Tylita D. Butler, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Esperanza Middle School teacher, for winning the POST 2632, District 1 Middle School Teacher of the Year Award. Ms. Butler continued her outstanding achievement by winning the Maryland State VFW Middle School Teacher of the Year Award. Her nomination package has now advanced to the VFW National Teacher of the Year competition, with national results to be announced later this year.

Her dedication to students, commitment to citizenship education, and passion for teaching have earned her well-deserved recognition at every level. VFW Post 2632 is incredibly proud of her accomplishments and the positive impact she makes each day.



**PATRIOT'S PEN.**

The VFW Patriot's Pen is a nationwide youth essay competition for middle-school students (grades 6–8) that encourages them to express their views on a patriotic theme.

**Bella R. Lyon**

District 1 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner



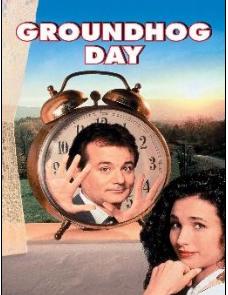
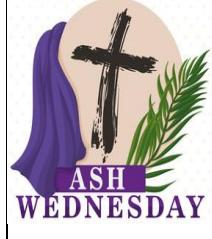
The VFW Voice of Democracy is a national audio-essay scholarship competition for high-school students (grades 9–12), where students write and record a 3-5 minute patriotic speech for a chance to win scholarships.

**Lucy J. Kelly**

Chopticon High School  
POST 2632 Runner up

# February

pot

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 	3 <b>MEXICAN NIGHT</b> 5-7	4	5 <b>CHEESESTEAK NIGHT</b> 5-7 <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING</b>	6	7
8 <b>SUPER BOWL PARTY (POTLUCK)</b>	9	10 <b>GREEK NIGHT</b> 5-7 POST MEETING 6 PM	11	12 <b>WING NIGHT</b> 5-7 <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING</b>	13	14 <b>STEAK NIGHT</b> 5-7 ♥HAPPY Valentine's DAY♥
15	16 	17 <b>PORK CHOP NIGHT</b> 5-7	18 	19 <b>CHEESESTEAK NIGHT</b> 5-7 <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING</b>	20	21
22	23	24 <b>ITALIAN NIGHT</b> 5-7	25	26 <b>WING NIGHT</b> 5-7 <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING</b>	27	28