

# THE CANNON NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 1

Next Meeting: Monday, February 02, 2009

January 2009/February 2009

## GREETINGS FROM THE COMMANDER

Our Post continues to be busy! This past month the Post and Ladies Auxiliary participated along with American Legion Post 10 at Birmingham Green presenting those Veterans living there Christmas presents and various essential personal belongings. Our members were well received as always and everyone went their separate ways with feelings of good cheer. The Post also cooperated with the Dumfries/Triangle American Legion Post 28 in providing a Christmas Party for the families of troops of the 266th Military Police Company, Virginia National Guard who are deployed in Iraq. Gifts for the kids and spouses were very well received when Santa presented them. Our Post also participated in the Manassas Christmas Parade, along with American Legion Post 10, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 617, the Auxiliary of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 617, and the Post 10 Legion Riders making one combined and integrated unit. We also provided last minute food and drink and one of our members who is a professional Santa was unbelievably available to provide the kind of wonder that only Santa can at a Christmas concert played by the 29th Infantry Division, National Guard Band at the Centreville Methodist Church.

If you haven't visited your Post's website lately, please do so. Your Post website is completely homegrown and maintained. I developed the initial website and your Post Quartermaster Rick Raskin has been doing an exemplary job being the primary maintainer and now architect. It changes nearly on a daily basis at times. You won't find the glitz and garish colors and animations that clutter the average Service Organization website. What you will find, is a website that try's to get you where you need to get to in only a couple of clicks at the same time providing you with useful information. Under the "Photos" tab on the left side, you'll discover photographs from all of the events which the Post participates. Look at it and I hope you'll develop a sense of ownership for the site. It's your site! Take a look, I think you just might be impressed.

It's still not too late to renew your membership with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. For those of you who really don't want to participate a whole lot (if at all), but want the VFW magazine and the prestige in being a member of the world's largest combat veterans organization, there is always being a Member-at-Large. The price for being a Member-at-Large set by the National Organization is \$35 @ year. Membership in our Post is \$25 @ year. That's whether you actively participate or not. I don't know about you, but saving \$10 @ year in one of possibly many groups not an insignificant factor. Retain your membership in our Post and save that \$10 every year. We have our Bingo and we rent our Post Home out a lot! That enables us to offer a lower membership cost than National and just about every other VFW Post in Virginia.

We started a new activity several months ago. We started having a drawing for those members present at the meeting, and the winner **wins a gift card** for a local restaurant at no cost to the Post. The winner of the January drawing was Comrade Ed Johnson Sr.

**Your Post Commander**  
**Stephen A. Meade**  
**[cmdr7589@verizon.net](mailto:cmdr7589@verizon.net)**

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***This is your Newsletter, therefore your input is not only welcome, but encouraged.***

**Virginia District 8 as of Monday, January 12, 2009**

Post	Life	New	Rein-stated	Continu-ous	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Division	City	N/R LM
1177	46	24	4	20	94	94	100	9	LEESBURG	0
1811	175	2	0	0	177	189	93.65	6	MANASSAS PARK	0
2524	186	2	3	51	242	268	90.3	5	CULPEPER	0
3103	210	30	4	91	335	350	95.71	4	FREDERICKSBURG	1
<b>7589</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>108.25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>MANASSAS</b>	<b>2</b>
7728	28	2	0	12	42	48	87.5	11	REMINGTON	0
8208	36	0	0	21	57	294	19.39	5	STANARDSVILLE	0
9835	42	0	1	11	54	56	96.43	10	WARRENTON	1
District Total	886	144	15	271	1316	1590	82.77			4

**DISTRICT MEETING - MARCH 8TH**

The next District 8 Meeting is Sunday, March 8th at 1:00 PM at VFW Post 3103, Fredericksburg, Virginia. As always, we meet at the Post just prior to 1100hrs and then we car pool to the District Meeting.

**Commander Stephen Meade**

**15 Years Out, Vet Ordered Up to Deploy**

A Tennessee man who last kicked off his combat boots 15 years ago after serving in the Persian Gulf War has been told he's going once more into the breach.

According to a report Jan. 2 by KMBC-TV of Kansas City, Mo., 50-year-old Paul Bandel got his notice from the Army right about the same time he got his AARP card.

"(I was) kind of shocked, not understanding what I was getting into," Bandel told KMBC. The Nashville-area resident he could understand if the Army wanted to give him a stateside assignment, something that recognized he has been away from soldiering for 15 years.

"But, 'Hey, here's a gun, go back to the desert'?" he quipped. Bandel originally was trained in missiles, he told the station, but said the system he worked on is no longer in service.

Bandel said he is not angry at being recalled, but concerned at the financial affect it will have on his family. Going back to active duty will about cut his pay in half, he told the station.

His wife, Linda, is less understanding.

"It's like a dream or a nightmare," she said, arguing the absurdity of his being called up to be deployed "with 18-year-olds" at the same time he's getting his AARP card.

Bandel left the Army without retirement in 1993, never thinking he'd be called up again, he told KMBC.

"I certainly never thought I'd be going back there at this point in my life," he said.

**Military.com—January 5, 2009**

### **MANASSAS CITY CHRISTMAS PARADE**

On Saturday, December 6, 2008. Post 7589 joined with American Legion Post 10 and Chapter 617 in a combined entry. Comrades Rick Raskin and Ron Link participated in the Legion Color Guard while Comrade Mike Guttman carried the VFW banner. Walking alongside the 1957 Chevrolet Bel Aire driven by it's owner Comrade Ed Johnson Sr. and Commander Steve Meade riding shotgun, were Comrades Pat Templeton, Rod Gillette and Pete MacLeod. I want to thank those members who braved the cold temperature to come out and represent our Post.

**Commander Stephen Meade**

### **POST 7589 OPEN HOURS**

Since our Post does not have a bar or canteen, if there is no activity going on, the building is usually locked up. I have been trying to put in a presence at the Post from about 1300hrs to 1800hrs Monday through Thursday, 1500 hrs to 1800hrs on Friday, and from 1200hrs to 1600hrs on Saturday. Every now and then, life interferes with the plan and for whatever reason, I might not be at the Post.

**Commander Stephen Meade**

### **Biden Promises Help in Afghan Visit**

KABUL, Afghanistan - Vice President-elect Joe Biden pledged long-term American support for Afghanistan during a visit, and the commander of NATO-led forces told him that thousands of new American troops expected this year will need more support against surging Taliban violence.

President-elect Barack Obama has promised to end the war in Iraq and refocus American military efforts on Afghanistan. Biden's visit is a sign that Obama plans to make the region an immediate priority.

In a meeting Saturday with President Hamid Karzai, Biden "talked about ... the fight against terrorism, American troop increases as well as equipping and supplying of the Afghan forces," a statement from Karzai's office said, without providing any details.

Earlier, America's top general in Afghanistan, Gen. David McKiernan, told Biden that thousands of new American troops expected in the country's south will need more support to beat back surging Taliban violence.

Some 32,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan serve alongside another 32,000 other NATO-led and coalition troops, the highest number since the invasion to oust the Taliban from power began in 2001.

The U.S. is rushing up to 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan and some will go to its volatile southern provinces to combat the spiraling violence.

"Gen. McKiernan explained the current situation and talked about the incoming troops and the need for additional enablers ... things like helicopters, engineers, military police, transportation assets," said Col. Greg Julian, a U.S. military spokesman. "As we expand in the south we will need those additional enablers to cover for the troops."

Southern Afghanistan has become the center of the Taliban-led insurgency, which left some 6,400 people - mostly militants - dead in 2008 alone.

Foreign and Afghan troops are the target of daily roadside bombings and suicide attacks. In 2008, 151 American troops died in the country, more than in any other year since 2001.

Obama has called Afghanistan an "urgent crisis," saying it's time to heed the call from U.S. commanders for significantly more U.S. troops.

**Military.com—January 12, 2009**

### **"Dog Tags" Help Wounded Warriors**

The Washington Humane Society (WHS) launched its new program called "Dog Tags," which provides a new type of training to injured servicemembers. Participants meet at the Washington Humane Society's new Behavior and Learning Center located near the Walter Reed Army Medical Center twice a week to learn and study animal training and behavior. The Soldiers teach homeless animals behaviors that will help the animals succeed in their new homes, and the Soldiers gain new skills to prepare them for future careers in animal training and behavior. For more information visit the Washington Humane Society's website at [www.washhumane.org](http://www.washhumane.org) and click on the "In the News" link.

**Military.com—January 12, 2009**

### **11,000 Survivors to Get Retro Payment**

Nearly 11,000 surviving spouses of deceased veterans received a lump-sum payment before the New Year to correct an error in their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits in which they did not receive the veteran's VA compensation or pension benefit for the month of the veteran's death. VA officials are still tracking down eligible survivors. VA established a special Survivor Call Center (1-800-749-8387) for spouses who believe they may be eligible for this retroactive benefit. The Call Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Central Standard Time. Inquiries may also be submitted online at the [VA Veterans Benefits Administration webpage](http://VA Veterans Benefits Administration webpage).

**Military.com—January 12, 2009**

### **VA to Re-open Enrollment to 265,000 Vets**

#### **VA To Offer Health Care to Previously Ineligible Veterans**

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today plans to re-open enrollment in its [health care](#) system by July 2009 to about 265,000 veterans whose incomes exceed current limits.

"We're pleased to be able to offer what has been called 'the best care anywhere' to many more new veterans," said Dr. James B. Peake, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "We'll be able to provide these newly enrolled veterans with the kind of timely, high quality health care veterans who already use our system are accustomed to."

The change affects veterans whose incomes exceed the current VA means test and geographic means test income thresholds by 10 percent or less. [Congress](#) provided funds in VA's fiscal year 2009 budget to support the new enrollment.

In 1996, Congress established a priority-based enrollment system for VA and a uniform package of medical benefits for all enrollees. The legislation opened enrollment in [VA's health care](#) system to all eligible veterans and required that each year the Secretary of Veterans Affairs assess veterans' demand for services and determine if the necessary resources are available to provide timely, quality care to all enrollees.

Enrollment for the lowest priority of the eight groups--veterans who are not being compensated for a military-related disability and who have incomes above a set threshold--was suspended on January 18, 2003, although veterans in that priority group who were already enrolled for care were permitted to remain enrolled.

VA originally suspended enrollment for [Priority 8 veterans](#) because it was unable to provide all enrolled veterans with timely access to its health care due to a tremendous growth in the number of veterans then seeking enrollment. VA now plans to reopen enrollment for a portion of these veterans without compromising the Department's ability to provide high quality health care services to all enrolled veterans who are eligible for care.

VA's computer systems are being modified to accommodate the changes, and the Department is preparing communication and education materials to ensure that Congress, veterans service organizations, and the public are aware of the coming changes.

"The rule will take effect by June 30, 2009, if the regulatory process proceeds smoothly," Peake said. "We look forward to welcoming these newly eligible veterans into the VA system. VA will continue to monitor wait times to ensure the quality of care is not adversely affected."

**Military.com—January 12, 2009**

### **SUNSHINE CORNER**

We are going to start a "sunshine corner", celebrating the birthdays of Post comrades. If you do not want your birthday celebrated in the newsletter, please send an email to the Post Commander. The commanders email is: [cmdr7589@verizon.net](mailto:cmdr7589@verizon.net).



## **LADIES AUXILIARY 7589 NEWS**

**Editor: Valerie Nealey - 703-368-7636 [jynealey@verizon.net](mailto:jynealey@verizon.net)**

### **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA™ FUNDRAISER**

I would like to thank those who supported our **Wreaths Across America™** Fundraiser. The Auxiliary raised \$205 (41 wreaths). This money will be placed into our Relief Fund to help veterans and their families. This is a continuing fundraiser and any further wreath sponsorships purchased will be applied to the 2009 event, but our Auxiliary receives the fundraising credit NOW. If you would like to sponsor a wreath, please contact me and I will send you a sponsorship form. If you wish to purchase your sponsorship with a credit card, or would like to designate a cemetery outside of Virginia, please visit [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org). If you purchase online, please be sure to enter our **Sponsoring Group Number VAVFW7589**. Contact person is Valerie Nealey - 703-368-7636 or [jynealey@verizon.net](mailto:jynealey@verizon.net)

### **ADOPT-A-UNIT UPDATE**

#### **266th MP Company of the Virginia National Guard**

The children of the MP Company enjoyed a Halloween Party and Christmas Party sponsored by our Post and Auxiliary and American Legion Post 28 and Auxiliary. Both parties were held at Legion Post 28 in Triangle. At the Halloween Party the children enjoyed lunch, the haunted trail, crafts, cake walk, gifts and prizes and DJ music furnished by dual member Tonya Miller. At the Christmas Party the children were served lunch, Santa arrived with gifts and there were games, prizes and music galore. Everyone definitely had a good time and it was a great opportunity to meet the family members. As an added bonus, a long-lasting friendship has stemmed from these joint ventures with the American Legion and Auxiliary and we hope to share more activities in the future. I would like to thank all members who volunteered their time to help out with these festivities. To view pictures of these events, visit our web site [www.vfwpost7589.org](http://www.vfwpost7589.org).

Future activities are being planned for the MP Company and families -- Child ID Program in the Spring - care packages - parties, etc.).

### **CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS**

VFW National Home for Children are working towards their fifth mini-van and need your help. Please remember to bring your Campbell's Soup Labels to the next meeting, drop them off at the Post Home or mail them to Pam Braithwaite at 11927 Appling Valley Rd, Fairfax VA 22030-5701.

### **BIRMINGHAM GREEN HOLIDAY VISIT**

On December 14, our Post and Auxiliary joined the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 10 and visited 15 veterans at Birmingham Green for holiday gift-giving. Afterwards, we sang carols and enjoyed refreshments as we talked to the veterans. I would like to thank Elanor Doczi and Patsy Gough for chairing this event and the members who attended.

### **YOUTH/TEACHER AWARDS**

On **Monday, February 2nd at 6:30 pm**, certificates and monetary awards will be presented by the Post/Auxiliary to the winners of the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year. Refreshments will be served after the presentations and our meeting will be held at 7:30 pm. Please attend and show your support to our youth and teachers.

### **AUXILIARY FUNDRAISERS**

At our January meeting, we voted to hold an Avon Products fundraiser. Our member, Yvonne Sullivan, who is also an Avon Representative, will assist us with the fundraiser. Angela Fromm has volunteered to chair the project and she will have catalogs and more info at our February 2nd meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to participate, please contact Angela at **angelafromm@gmail.com** or 703-989-5502.

Other Auxiliary members are researching fundraisers and will make a report at our February meeting. If you have any fundraising ideas you would like to share, please come to the meeting or contact Valerie at **jvnealey@verizon.net** or 703-368-7636.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Welcome New Member **Marjorie Jones**.

Our membership has now reached 60 but we still need members to pay their 2009 dues. As of December 31, 2008, any member who has not paid her dues is "not in good standing" -- she is not eligible to hold office on any level, receive Cancer Grants if otherwise eligible, or attend meetings until her dues are paid. Please mail your dues of \$15 to Treasurer, Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 7589, PO Box 10206, Manassas, VA 20108. All checks should be make payable to "Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 7589". **If your address has changed, please notify President Nealey so we may change our roster.**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Meetings** - Monday, February 2 – 7:30 pm -- 6:30 pm Youth/Teacher Awards  
Monday, March 2

**District Meeting** - Sunday, March 8 - 1:00 pm -- VFW Post 3103 - Fredericksburg

**OVERSEAS COUPONS**

Pam Braithwaite s continuing to collect coupons for our overseas military families. Restaurant and store specific ones (like Target or Petsmart) are not eligible for the program. She is very thankful to all who clipped, separated into food and non-food groups and totaled the coupons. If you can't do it all, just do what you can and she'll do the rest. Bring the coupons to a meeting or drop off at the Post Home.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Auxiliary Member Patsy Gough lost her husband, Randy, on October 1 after a long illness. Randy was a long-time member of Post 7589.

Auxiliary Member Pat Cornwell lost her husband, Charlie, on December 24th after a long illness. Charlie was a Charter Member of Post 7589 and Post Commander in 1963-64.

Auxiliary Life Member Yvonne Sutton died on December 26th after a long battle with cancer. Yvonne joined our Auxiliary in 1999 and served as 2003-2004 District 8 Chaplain, Auxiliary Patriotic Instructor 2000-Present and Trustee 2002-2004. She was also a Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children. Yvonne received the "2005 Department of Virginia's Outstanding Community Volunteer of the Year Award" for her compassion and generosity to others and for being a pillar of goodwill in her community. Yvonne was a very active member -- she recruited her three daughters, two stepdaughters and three granddaughters into our Auxiliary. Besides being a very kind and caring person, she was a true friend and we will miss her very much.

Our sympathy, love and prayers go out to all the family members.

*It is hard to understand why people are taken away from us,*

*But find comfort in knowing you were a special part of a well-lived life. -- Unknown*

If you know of any members or their families ill or in distress, please contact Chaplain Bettie Keyton at 703-369-2209 or [genebettie@verizon.net](mailto:genebettie@verizon.net)

If you would like to receive, via e-mail, reminders of auxiliary events, meetings, updates, alerts, etc., please send your e-mail address to Valerie Nealey [jvnealey@verizon.net](mailto:jvnealey@verizon.net).

**WEB SITES**

**VFW Post 7589:** [www.vfwpost7589.org](http://www.vfwpost7589.org)

**Virginia Ladies Auxiliary VFW:** [www.vfwvaaux.org](http://www.vfwvaaux.org)

**National Ladies Auxiliary VFW:** [www.ladiesauxvfw.com](http://www.ladiesauxvfw.com)

**FRANCIS CANNON VFW POST 7589  
703-361-5554**

**9304 CENTREVILLE ROAD - MANASSAS, VIRGINIA 20110**

**2008-2009 POST OFFICERS**

Commander	Steve Meade	703-408-0875
Sr. Vice Cmdr	Pete MacLeod	703-794-1103
Jr. Vice Cmdr	Sam Nealey	703-368-7636
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin	703-369-2732
Adjutant	Mike Guttman	703-330-3925
Advocate	Ron Link	571-921-9220
Chaplain	Ron Knowles	703-368-4743
Surgeon	Dick Lemmon	703-330-3376
Off of the Day	Rod Gillett	703-361-8358
Guard	Dallas Kennedy	703-393-9632
Service Officer	Sam Nealey	703-368-7636
Historian	Ed Fishpaw	703-335-5422
Trustee 1 year	Joe Dazzo	703-361-6041
Trustee 2 year	Bob Pace	703-680-1229
Trustee 3 year	Mike Guttman	703-330-3925

**2008-2009 AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

President	Valerie Nealey	703-368-7636
Sr. Vice Pres.	Pam Braithwaite	703-278-8076
Jr. Vice Pres.	Jenn Nealey	703-331-1214
Secretary	Pam Braithwaite	703-278-8076
Treasurer	Angela Fromm	703-330-3931
Chaplain	Bettie Keyton	703-369-2209
Conductress	Kay Yeager	703-791-6665
Guard	Patsy Gough	703-368-2697
Historian	Elanor Doczi	703-361-4795
Patriotic Inst.	Debbie Baxter	703-791-7690
Trustee 1	Polly Tibbs	703-361-9462
Trustee 2	Nancy Dazzo	703-361-6041
Trustee 3	Joanna Roberts	703-392-3870

**2008-2009 EDUCATION AWARDS**

VFW Post 7589 of Manassas, Va. and its Ladies Auxiliary are proud to announce the Education Award  
Winners for 2008-2009:

**Patriot's Pen Essay Winners**

**"Why America's Veterans Should be Honored"**

- First Place – Austin P. Bond - 8<sup>th</sup> grade - Metz Middle School - Manassas
- Second Place – Antonio M. Dattoli, - 7<sup>th</sup> grade - Parkside Middle School - Manassas
- Third Place – Brian F. Majewski - 8<sup>th</sup> grade - Seton School - Manassas

**Voice of Democracy Speech & Essay Winners**

**"Service and Sacrifice by America's Veterans Benefit Today's Youth by....."**

- First Place – Kathryn M. Ostrich - 12<sup>th</sup> grade - Seton School - Manassas
- Second Place – Angela L. Jividen - 10<sup>th</sup> grade - Osbourn High School - Manassas
- Third Place – Theresa L. McCullough - 12<sup>th</sup> grade - Seton School - Manassas

**VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Awards**

- Grades K-5 – Betty Ann Blanton - Reading Resource Teacher, - Haydon Elementary School - Manassas
- Grades 9-12 – Timothy Heisler - English - Economics and Math Teacher - Seton School - Manassas

**Awards will be presented on February 2, 2009 at 6:30 pm before the regular meeting**

**Pete MacLeod, Chairman**

**Members Section Added to Post Website**

We have added a new feature to our website; a members only section. In this password protected area you can view minutes of post meetings, check the post by-laws and have a look at the hall rental calendar. This is only a start in making available information that is for the exclusive use of our members. Any Post 7589 member in good standing may request a login and password by contacting Quartermaster Raskin [qm7589@verizon.net](mailto:qm7589@verizon.net).

**Quartermaster Rick Raskin**

**Rain or Shine, Troops Flock to VFW "Free Call Days"**

For two days, the rain poured over the Iraqi desert. The torrential thunderstorm drenched the landscape at Joint Base Balad, where many U.S. service members are stationed.

As members of the U.S. military, they still continued about their daily duties, business as usual, even finding the time to make important calls home.

Sgt. J.T. Pettway, 28, woke up to the downpour on Oct. 28. Hearing it was a VFW "Free Call Day," he knew nothing could stop him from calling home to his loved ones in Hawaii. He suited up to fight the rain, grabbing his plastic overboots and rain jacket.

The storm interfered with telecommunications, but Pettway, already in the rain, rode out the delays until the power came back.

"It feels good to hear my mother's voice. I get a chance to release all my stress when I hear my mom and my wife," said Pettway, a life member of VFW Post 4895, Clarksville, Tenn.

Pettway appreciates VFW "Free Call Days" because they allow him to speak with more family and friends than he usually can with a phone card. It's an opportunity he never passes up, no matter the weather.

"I was wet and cold, but it was worth every minute to hear from my wife and kids," concluded Pettway.

**VFW Helping Our Heroes E-NEWS—January 7, 2009**

**February 2009**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 VFW & Auxiliary Youth Awd. 6:30 pm Meetings 7:30 pm	3	4 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 President's Day	17	18 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	26 Executive Board 1830hrs	27	28

# January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5 VFW & Auxiliary Meetings 7:30 pm	6	7 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	15	16 Winter Conference Williamsburg	17 Winter Conference Williamsburg
18 Winter Conference Williamsburg	19 Martin Luther King Holiday	20 Inauguration Day	21 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	29 Executive Board 1830hrs	30	31

## The Cannon News

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
 PO Box 10206  
 Manassas, VA 20108  
[www.vfwpost7589.org](http://www.vfwpost7589.org)



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**January 2009 - February 2009**

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