

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
January 2018



Photo by Rick Raskin

Commander Pete MacLeod, Gary James; CPT (USN-Ret), Guest Speaker at our 2017 Youth Awards ceremony and Youth Committee Chair Lou Filippone at our 2017 Holiday Party at Stonewall Golf Club. See more pictures on page 6.

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NOTICE

Due to the New Years holiday, the January membership meetings will be held on January 8.

CANNON NEWS—2015 National VFW Publications Silver Award
2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for
Most Outstanding Post Publication/Newsletter, VFW Department of Virginia

Commander's Message



Peter MacLeod

This is the time of year to look back and remember what Post 7589 has accomplished during 2017.

We are an All State Post once again. We topped 400 in membership,

and our financial health has never been better thanks to steady revenue from rentals. Quartermaster Rick Raskin and Building Manager Wayne Moore deserve the credit for that along with former Post Commander Ron Link who guided the expansion of the Post and the paving of the parking lot sparking a huge increase in rentals.

Let's not forget the under the radar work done by the Post's Service Officer Steve Meade this past year and for the past few years to carry out the main mission of the VFW: Helping our fellow veterans!

QM Raskin and his merry band of Bingo workers continue to show up every Wednesday morning, rain or shine, and put in several hours of hard work which keeps the players coming back week after week and keeps the money coming in.

Speaking of Bingo; early morning caller Phil Smith, is responsible for much of the time credited to our Post's hospital visits with his weekly commitment. Historian Paul Chase spends many hours at hospitals and assisted living centers helping patients, many of whom are veterans. His brother Joel, former commander Jerry Martin, and comrade and former World War II POW Merle Hancock spend hours in high schools, middle schools and even a college class or two talking about their war experiences.

Let's go back to February 2017. There were whispers that there was no way we would make 100 percent in membership. Well, Chaplain Joel Chase refused to listen to those whispers. He took the bull by the horns, accepted the position of Chair of the Membership Committee and through hard work at meetings, recruiting drives, Gun Shows and "phone call nights" got the Post where it needed to be. The result was another banner and recognition from the state!

What a Spring it was for the Post with local Eagle Scout Kyle Picot our "Scout of the Year" and VFW Junior ROTC awards to Cadets William C. Engleman at Battlefield High School and Cadet Woo Jung at Osbourn Park High School. Later in the year we presented VFW Civil Air Patrol awards to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Noah Graves and Cadet Lt. Brandon Lawson, both from the Prince William Composite Squadron of the CAP.

VFW Post 7589 continued to show a deep commitment to the local Manassas area community with our leadership of Memorial Day and Veteran's Day services and, with help from the Auxiliary and Scouts of Pack 1355, placing hundreds of flags at graves of veterans in the Manassas Cemetery. Those holidays also featured hours put in by Post members in school and assisted living center visits and numerous Buddy Poppy Drives. The Post also re-organized a Color Guard to march in the Manassas Veteran's Parade. Can anyone forget the professional cadence shouted out by Comrade and former Marine Warren Ewell?

A big tip of the hat to Youth Chair Lou Filippone for his leadership of the Post / Auxiliary Youth Committee. All 3 of our Manassas area Teachers of the Year for 2017-18 won the District awards and advanced to the state competition. We had a near record 50 Voice of Democracy audio-essay en-

tries from Manassas area students this year and 129 Patriot's Pen essay entries. Lou also organized our very successful Holiday Party.

This all may seem like a bit of bragging, but one incident brings home the hard work it takes to accomplish goals in a volunteer organization. Flashback to Friday, Nov. 10 at about 2:00 pm at the Centreville Giant Store just as the first real bitter winds of winter began to howl. I was huddled with Comrades Terry Bursey and Joel Chase. We had been sideswiped by an agreement at the corporate level between Giant Grocery stores and the Salvation Army. The Holiday Bell Ringers were out at most Giant stores in the area at the very early holiday time of the second week in November! Making matters worse, a construction crew was working on the pavement at the store entrance where we usually set up and it was very cold with a strong northwest wind in our faces. For anyone who has been out there, you know there is no way you are going to compete with all of that. We did bounce back the next day at another Giant Store and the old reliable Food Lion at the Woodbine Shopping Center and cleared \$1,000.00 for Veteran's relief. But our experience once again showed us the obstacles a volunteer effort can run into at any time and why we continually must work at getting the numbers out to these events. The margin of success can be very slim. We certainly cannot rest on our laurels and you know what's coming next: despite the triumphs of the past year we need a renewed effort from more of the membership if we are to continue our success in 2018.

Happy New Year and once again a big thank you for your efforts.

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill



Now that the holidays are over, I trust you were surrounded with family and friends for another year of celebration.

2018 looks like it is going to be just as busy as 2017. We have a lot of events scheduled and we hope you will be able to attend or participate. We will keep you informed.

Our Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year awards ceremony was held on December 8, 2017 at the Post. We were honored to have as our Guest Speaker, Mr. Gary B. James, a retired U.S. Navy Captain and Lay Minister with the Lutheran Church. We would like to thank Mr. James and congratulate the recipients of this year's awards as well as to thank



Yvonne Sullivan, Jean MacLeod and Janet Raskin for assisting with the refreshments.



I would also like to thank Elanor Doczi for opening up her home to assist the members



Sullivan, Jan Germain, Ann Mitchell, Cindy & Jim McIntyre, Elanor and myself. On Tuesday, December 12th, we presented the veterans with their gifts.

Fran Filippone and a co-worker, Yvonne &



John Sullivan along with yours truly attended the Wreaths Across America at Quantico National Cemetery on December 16, 2017. Since 2007, Wreaths Across America carries out its mission of **RE-MEMBER** the fallen, **HONOR** those that serve and **TEACH** our children the value of **FREEDOM** in part by placing wreaths on veterans graves during the holiday season. It seems that every year this event gets larger and larger. You wouldn't believe the people that attended. Awesome turnout.

I would again like to thank Yvonne Sullivan for setting up the appointment at Birmingham Green for us to spend Christmas with our adopted veteran, Carlos Ramos. He was placed in a new room and we were able to decorate it with his favorite things and also for Christmas. Attending with me were Patsy Gough, Dana Zank, Cindy & Jim McIntyre and Yvonne Sullivan. I was able to organize his dresser drawers and Santa was able to leave some gifts for him. I'm pleased to say that he was thrilled with his room. Thank you everyone; without

in fixing the Christmas bags for the Birmingham Green Veterans. Assisting were: Cookie Cullen, Yvonne

you, we wouldn't have completed our projects during the two visits at Birmingham Green. You are the best.

I would like to thank Lou & Fran Filippone for putting together our Post Holiday Party at the Stonewall Golf Club at Lake Manassas on December 17th. We were honored to have Department Commander Mike Boehme, Sr. Vice Commander Ken Wiseman, Jr. Vice Commander Rick Raskin and 8th District Commander Ron Link with us. Auxiliary Department President Linda Bond and 8th District President Sheila Hunter were also in attendance.

Our January meeting will be held on January 8th. Our standing rules state "... if a holiday falls on the first Monday, the meeting will be held on the following Monday". The meeting will start at 7:30pm at the Post. Hope to see you there for the New Year's events.

The Winter Conference will be held at a new location this year; the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA from January 12-14, 2018. If you plan to attend, please stop by the different tables that will be set up for fundraisers. There will be Ways & Means and Department President's Special Project. The weekend starts off Friday night with the Council of Administration meeting. Saturday is the Auxiliary meeting and Saturday night will be the banquet where they will honor the department's first place winners of the Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teachers of the Year.

We have some deadline dates that you need to be aware of: The VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present the Continuing Education Scholarship to assist members and their immediate family members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at a vocational/technical school. This scholarship is due to National Headquarters by **February 15th**.

The VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest began in 1979 to recognize up-and-coming artists and encourage patriotism in our high school youth. The deadline for this year's entries is **March 31st** when entries are due at the local Post. Please ask any Auxiliary member about these contests and we will

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provide you with more information.

I would also like to remind you of the 8th District meeting on Saturday, February 10th at Southern Fauquier Post 7728. Lunch will be served at noon and the meeting will start at 1:00 pm.

Another event will be the National Mid-Year Conference on February 8 -11, 2018 in Nashville, Tennessee.

I would like to thank the annual members who have paid their dues before December 31, 2017. As you know, if your 2017 dues were not paid, you are not an Auxiliary member in good standing and this could jeopardize you getting a Cancer Grant. For those individuals who have not paid, please forward your payment of \$20.00 to the Auxiliary Treasurer, Ms. Elanor Doczi, 7415 Roxbury Ave., Manassas, VA 20109. The National Auxiliary has provided benefits for all of us. Please check the National Auxiliary website under benefits for more information. <http://www.vfwauxiliary.org>. Thank you for choosing 7589 VFW Auxiliary as your home.

Please remember the National Home for Children. You can still get a one-time life membership for \$35.00.

Our coupon project is doing really well, thanks to you. We have collected over \$38,000 for our military personal overseas. Please bring your coupons to the Post so we can send them overseas. Thank you in advance.

Please remember the following individuals who are ill: Elanor Doczi, Patsy Gough and Cookie Cullen and other individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized. As always, you are in our prayers.

Have a very safe and enjoyable 2018 New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill



Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

Happy New Year to all of you!

Our awards ceremony on Sunday, 3 December 2017 was an outstanding success. Awards were presented to Post 7589 winners for Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year contests. Friends, family, school officials, comrades and Auxiliary members were in attendance supporting the winners.

CAPT Gary James USN, Ret was our guest speaker and gave an inspirational speech about the rewards and gratification of military service. Gary has quite an accomplished and varied background. In addition to being a retired naval flight officer, Gary is also a lay minister in the Lutheran church and was a fascinating speaker. A color guard from Stonewall Jackson High School presented the colors and opened the awards ceremony.

All three teachers, Mrs. Jennifer Young, Mr. Paul Malc, and MSGT Robert P. McKinney, and two students, Wesley J. Hale, homeschooled, and John P. Tessier, Kettle Run High School, also won at the District level. Wesley tied for second place in Patriots Pen and John tied for second place with Voice of Democracy. The awards ceremony for the District level will be held in February 2018. Hope-

fully we will see some of our winners place at the Department level.

Due to inclement weather our Flag Retirement Ceremony scheduled on 9 December 2017 was postponed. We will announce the new date for the next Flag Retirement Ceremony in the upcoming months when the weather improves.

Please remember the 1 March 2018 deadline for Post "Scout of the Year". We already have a few Scouts under consideration, but need more nominations. Also, don't forget the 31 March 2018 deadline for the Auxiliary Patriotic Art contest. You should contact Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill for applications and details on the contest.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all Youth Committee members who helped with our activities. A special thanks goes out to Commander Peter MacLeod, Senior Vice Commander Ron Link, Quartermaster Rick Raskin and Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill. I would also like to recognize Roger Nicol and Kelly Williams for their service and hard work. Another thank you to Comrades Robert Punihaole and Rod Gillette who helped the rest of the Youth Committee at the awards ceremony.

The next Youth Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 19 January 2018 at 7:30PM. We hope to see you there. Again, I hope you had a happy holiday season and a happy New Year. I once again look forward to serving you as the Post's Youth Committee Chairman in the upcoming year and consider it an honor and a privilege.

Thanks to you all,

Lou

Youth and Teacher Awards presented on December 4

Approximately 60 people attended the annual ceremony at the Post



A few of approximately 60 people who attended.



Youth Committee Chair Lou Filippone was Master of Ceremonies.



Stonewall Jackson HS JROTC provided the color guard.



Our guest speaker was Navy CPT (Ret) and Lutheran Lay Minister Gary B. James.



Following his address CPT James took questions from the attendees.



Patriot's Pen winner Claire Wilson read her 1st place essay.



Post Commander Peter MacLeod, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and Youth Committee Chair Lou Filippone with Patriot's Pen winners.



With the Voice of Democracy winners



With our 3 winning Teachers: Paul Malc (Grades 6-8), Robert McKinney (Grades 9-12) and Jennifer Young (Grades K-5)



The Post's Holiday Party — December 17 at Stonewall Golf Club



Rick Raskin, Mike Boehme, Donna & Terry Bursey and Lou Filippone



Fran Filippone, Jean MacLeod, Mary Corkhill and Janet Raskin



Linda Bond, Mary Corkhill and Wally Bond



Stan Hunter and Sheila Hunter



Roger Nicol and Ron Knowles



Elanor Doczi with Bettye and Charlie Montgomery

Photos by Pete MacLeod

VFW National Programs Report

In observance of the centennial of World War I, a total of 100 matching grants of up to \$2,000 each will be awarded for the restoration of 100 World War I memorials across the United States. The first 50 of these were announced on Sept. 27, 2017, and the second 50 will come from the second round of the matching grant challenge.

Any municipal government, individual or organization may apply. Likewise, any individual, organization or company can become a sponsor of this effort, because the more we raise toward this program, the greater the matching grants can be awarded.

Interested parties should go to www.lcc.org/100memorials where they can learn about the details of the program, read or download the competition manual, submit a grant application and sign up for an informational blog about the program that will keep them updated over the coming months.

We have a lot to be thankful for this year. First and foremost, VFW Unmet Needs has delivered nearly \$9 million in financial grants. Second, we have eclipsed 900 VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarships" totaling just over \$4 million. And rumors are, next week, Sport Clips will present a record-breaking \$1.25 million dollar donation to the program.

We could not have the incredible impact on veterans, service members and their families without the support of Burger King & Sport Clips. This is why we have asked those of you with participating franchises to go out and show them our support, thank them and continue to build the relationship!

We have seen an increase in holiday party support through MAP grants for our adopted units. We salute you for pushing the incredible support to our military and their families during the holidays. Your VMS staff is here to support you and we look forward to an amazing 2018!!!!

I salute the hard work you do daily in support of the VFW's mission.

Contact: VFW Programs Director Lynn W. Rolf, III,
L.Rolf@vfw.org.

Tax relief for elderly and disabled residents of Prince William County

Elderly Citizens and Disabled Persons who meet certain criteria may be granted relief from all or part of their real estate taxes, personal property tax on one vehicle, the vehicle registration/license fee, and the solid waste fee. Eligibility criteria may change from year to year.

To qualify, an applicant must:

- Be 65 years of age or older as of December 31, 2017. Relief will be prorated for those applicants that turn 65 during calendar year 2017.
- Have a gross household income from all sources of not more than \$81,490 - The first \$10,000 of income earned by any relative living in the household other than the owner(s) or spouse is excluded. For an applicant who qualifies as permanently and totally disabled, the first \$7,500 of any income received by the applicant as permanent disability compensation is excluded.
- Have a combined financial net worth for the applicant and spouse of not more than \$340,000, excluding the residence for which the exemption is sought and up to 25 acres of land it occupies.
- Own and occupy the home as his/her sole dwelling.

Disabled veterans who meet certain criteria may be granted relief from real estate taxes on a home and up to one acre of land it occupies and the solid waste fee. Relief will be prorated for applicants who become disabled or purchase a home after January 1, 2017.

Eligibility criteria for relief of real estate taxes and the solid waste fee:

- The applicant must provide documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) indicating the veteran is 100% (or compensated at the 100% rate), service-connected, permanently, and totally disabled. The VA documentation must include the effective date the veteran's disability was determined to be service-connected, 100% (or compensated at the 100% rate), total, and permanent.
- The applicant must own and occupy the home as his/her principal place of residence.
- There are no income or net worth requirements for real estate tax relief for qualifying disabled veterans.

The surviving spouse of a veteran eligible for the real estate exemption may qualify for the exemption if:

- The death of the veteran occurred on or after January 1, 2011.
- The surviving spouse does not remarry.
- The surviving spouse continues to occupy the real property as his/her principal place of residence.

Contact the Real Estate Assessments Office at 703-792-6780 or realestate@pwcgov.org for more information about the program or to request an application.

<http://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/finance/pages/tax->



Military Times Becomes Newest VFW Member Benefit

VFW members can now save even more on their annual subscription

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (December 15, 2017) – Known as one of the most trusted and independent sources for quality, unbiased reporting, *Military Times* has teamed up with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. to offer VFW members the opportunity to save 45% off its annual subscription rate.

Established in 1940, *Military Times* has earned its role as part of the fabric of the U.S. military community, playing an important role as the premier, dedicated, independent news source for active-duty military, their families, veterans and retirees.

Each week, *Military Times* reports on the important issues facing today's service members and veterans, covering everything from health care, pay and benefit updates, to providing education and training, product reviews and advice on transitioning to civilian life.

The Military Times group is comprised of *Army Times*, *Navy Times*, *Air Force Times* and *Marine Corps Times*. Each of the *Military Times* brands are specifically focused on the needs, interests and culture of those in their respective branch of service.

Did you know?

VFW Parliamentary Authority

The 2018 VFW Procedures and Rituals approved at the 2017 National Convention establishes *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Edition* shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

This obsoletes *Demeter's Guide to Parliamentary Procedure* that the VFW has previously used. The reason for the change is Demeter's had not been updated since the 1960s and had no provisions for dealing with technology changes that have occurred since that time.

This change brings the VFW in line with almost every other organization that uses parliamentary procedures.

Partners in Patriotism

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism?

Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families without receiving all of the unwanted mail?

The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account.

If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email us at partners@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

On a side note, if you wish to get removed from the VFW's mailing list you can ask to speak to 'development' at 800-963-3180.

Free Computers Available

Do you or a needy veteran you may know need a computer? How would you like to get one for free? That's right, FREE.

I have recently received a load of late model desktop PCs and flat screen monitors. These are computers that have been replaced in commercial environments and donated to the VFW. They are fully functional in today's office environment. They are perfect for day to day office use and high-speed Internet. All



of them will be loaded with Windows 7 and at least 2 GB of RAM. However, peripherals such as power cables, keyboards and mice might not be included. Contact me at 703-369-2732 if you are interested.

Rick Raskin
QM



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Apply Online at <http://icadev.org/membership.html>

To participate in the spring classes & Art Exhibition

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email: cab@icadev.org

Upcoming Events

2018	
January 4	Executive meeting – 7:30pm
January 8	Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm
January 12-14	Winter Conference, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, Portsmouth, Virginia, VA
January 18	Day on the Hill (TBD)
January 18	Youth Committee 7pm
February 1	Executive Meeting – 7pm
February 5	Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm
February 8-11	Auxiliary Mid-Year Conference, Nashville, TN
February 10	District 8 Meeting 1:00pm -- Southern Fauquier Post 7728 – Hosted by Warrenton
February 15	Continuing Education Scholarship (Deadline)
February 15	Youth Committee 7pm
March 1	Executive Meeting – 7:30
March 5	Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm
March 10	Commander & President Homecoming – Post 9808
March 12	St. Patrick Day Parade (TBD)
March 15	Youth Committee 7pm
March 29	Executive Meeting -7:30
March 31	Deadlines for Patriotic Arts & Dept. Program Reports
April 2	Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm (Election)
April 19	Youth Committee 7pm
April 22	Dist. 8 Convention – Culpeper 2527 – 1pm (Election)



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Rob Wittman	1st District	202-225-4261
Scott Taylor	2nd District	202-225-4215
Bobby Scott	3rd District	202-225-8351
Donald McEachin	4th District	202-225-6365
Tom Garrett	5th District	202-225-4711
Robert Goodlatte	6th District	202-225-5431
Dave Bratt	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Barbara Comstock	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492

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Please email articles to quartermaster@vfw7589.org

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