

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
January 2021



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Post 7589 member Elizabeth Lewis turned 100 on December 12

- VFW 7589 Bingo temporarily relocates to American Legion Post 10 on January 6.
- Post 7589 member Elizabeth Lewis turned 100 on December 12.
- Nimitz Explains Blessings At Pearl Harbor
- Congressman Rob Wittman Applauds Bipartisan NDAA Conference Report
- Patriotic Donation by the son of a WWII Veteran

January 4 Post meeting to also be available via video teleconference.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87089832611?pwd=Y1V5RS9PUmNxRWtVRmpNTUo2QkVRZz09>

Come in person or join using Zoom.

See Page 7 for additional access information.

Zoom available starting 7:15 PM

Commander's Message



Wayne Moore

Comrades, a new year is upon us, and I would like to extend my gratitude for your support and hard work despite the challenges we have faced due to COVID 19. I would ask that we continue to follow the guidelines in order to enjoy the coming year's promise. It's my pleasure being your Commander, and I wish you and your families the Happiest and Healthiest New Year! Wayne

Tet Offensive (Vietnam 1968)

Vietnamese Lunar New Year or Tet Vietnam is the most significant festival in Vietnam, hence the name of a very comprehensive strategic endeavor by Ho Chi Ming. The Tet Offensive, or officially called The General Offensive and Uprising of Tet Mau Than 1968, was a significant escalation and one of the Vietnam War's most extensive military campaigns.

On January 30, 1968, a massive surprise attack was launched by the Vietnamese. The surprise attack became known as the 'Tet Offensive.' The communist North Vietnamese and Viet Cong guerrilla forces began a coordinated series of ferocious attacks on more than 100 south Vietnamese cities and towns.

At 2:45 a.m. on the morning of January 31, 1968, the first day of the Tet Offensive, the Vietnamese attack began with Saigon's US embassy invasion. A suicide squad of some 19 Viet Cong had blasted its way through the high walls surrounding the embassy compound and held it until 9:15 a.m.

The Offensive attempted to foment rebellion among the South Vietnamese population and encourage the United States to scale back its involvement in the Vietnam War.

The Tet Offensive was the largest military operation conducted by either side up to that point in the Vietnam war and carried out in South Vietnam in a series of three phases:

- Phase 1: January 30, 1968 – March 28, 1968
- Phase 2: May 5, 1968 – June 15, 1968
- Phase 3: August 17, 1968 – September 23, 1968

During the Offensive, the Viet Cong fought an open war, not the typical guerrilla warfare usually fought.

The Offensive was a crushing tactical defeat for the North, but it struck a sharp psychological blow that eroded support for the war among the American public and political establishment.

Despite heavy casualties, North Vietnam achieved a strategic victory with the Tet Offensive. The attacks marked a turning point in the Vietnam War and the beginning of the slow, painful American withdrawal from the region.

During the Tet Offensive week, the tally of American soldiers who had died in Vietnam passed those killed in the Korean War.

Retrieved: 11/15/20 from american-historama.org/Tet-offensive.

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill



As the year **2020** fades into history, may the New Year be filled with new goals, great adventures, achievements, lots of new inspirations on your life and may you be blessed with

health, wealth, and happiness.

The Auxiliary members wish every day of the New Year to be filled with success and prosperity for you.

Here's wishing you all the joy of the **New Year.**

2021



Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
VFW Auxiliary
President

VFW 7589 Bingo temporarily relocates to American Legion Post 10 on January 6.

Thanks to the courtesy of American Legion Post 10 our Wednesday morning Bingo will resume on January 6 at their hall located at 9950 Cockrell Rd. in Manassas.

This relocation is necessary because of the restrictions placed on us due to Covid-19 and will remain in effect until those restrictions are lifted.

Thanks again to Post 10 for their generosity. Together we are an awesome team in our common mission to help veterans and their families.

Youth Committee Update



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee sincerely hopes this newsletter finds everyone healthy and safe during this holiday season. The pandemic has strained the world, our nation and our families and we are all hopeful it will be behind us very shortly. The committee is now entering a period of much needed rest after a rather intense season of contests, judging and award ceremonies. Our Post held an abbreviated and staggered Youth Awards ceremony on

Sunday, 6 December. Most of the Post's Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year winners attended and received their prizes and certificates. Those absent were mailed their awards. District 8 will be presenting its Youth Awards at the next District 8 meeting scheduled for Saturday, 13 February at Post 3103 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. As that date approaches more information will be announced. As with all events, this one will be subject to COVID-19 restrictions appropriate at that time. Hopefully we can assemble under Phase III conditions and have a larger gathering, unlike our Post event.

Generally the Youth Committee activities enter a slow phase at this time of year until the spring when programs begin again and milder weather permits more outdoor activities. Similarly this also applies to our Scouting program. This year in addition to the weather we also have to contend with additional obstacles resulting from COVID-19.

Some of our upcoming youth programs scheduled for the early Spring are as follows:

-**Scout of the Year** which honors outstanding Eagle Scouts. The deadline for application submission is 1 March 2021.

-Auxiliary Sponsored Events

- 1) **Illustrating America Art** contest for grades 1-8
- 2) **Patriotic Art Contest** for grades 9-12
- 3) **Get Excited for the Red White and Blue!** - A national anthem singing contest.

The deadline for application submission for these contests is 31 March 2021.

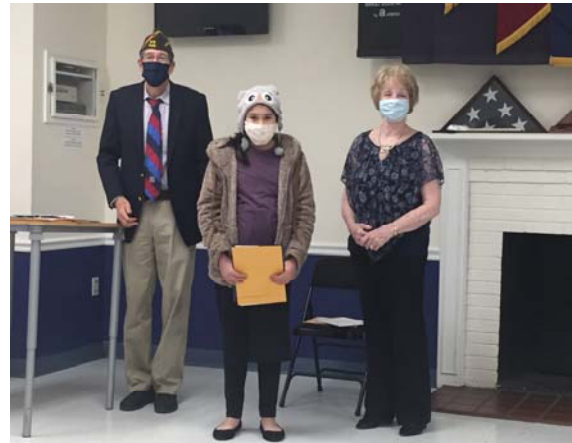
We will also schedule a Spring flag retirement ceremony and will let you know the date of this event in the New Year. Our last ceremony in early November was quite successful and we are hopeful we can repeat that performance this Spring.

Last year our scheduled Youth Awards Ceremonies for JROTC at Battlefield, Osbourn Park and Unity Reed (formerly Stonewall Jackson) High Schools, as well as the Civil Air Patrol Award Ceremony in Manassas had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. These awards are held in the late Spring and early summer each year. We remain hopeful that conditions will permit a resumption of these VFW activities in 2021.

Our next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 21 January at the Post at 7:00 PM. Please join our committee and help mentor our youth and instill patriotism and Americanism. They need our guidance now more than ever. Until then please

stay safe and distance, wear your mask and wash your hands frequently. When the vaccine becomes available to you I strongly suggest you take it if you are medically able to do so. Only then can we defeat COVID-19 and rebuild our nation.

With best regards,
Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair



Three of our student award winners at our December 6 award ceremony

Photos by Rick Raskin

Scouting Report



**Alex & Tina Bliem
Post 7589 Scouting
Representatives**

The month of December has been a quiet month for the Scouts based on new safety protocols that were implemented for the pandemic. All of the activities that they normally would have done such as Christmas parades or volunteering with Wreaths Across America were all canceled from a Scouting perspective. The Scouts, however, continue to meet virtually and work on Merit Badges for the older Scouts, and Belt Loops for the younger Cubs. All of the Scouts are continuing to work on their individual rank advancements at their own pace.

The younger Cub Scouts adapted and performed a "Drive Thru" awards ceremony in December. This allowed the Cubs to be awarded for all of their hard work while being socially distant and safe. The older Scouts performed their awards ceremony virtually and their merit badges and rank advancements were all hand delivered to each Scout's house.



LAURA GUIDOTTI

The younger Cub Scouts adapted and performed a "Drive Thru" awards ceremony in December.

From a leadership perspective everything is going as well as could be expected during these times. We have newer parents stepping up and volunteering which is always a great thing for the units and their Scouts. Planning meetings continue for the long term activities. This includes virtual activities as well as in person activities with hopes that it is allowed and safe to do so.

Until next time, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay happy!

Patriotic Donation by the son of a WWII Veteran

Comrades,

A community member of Post 7589 donated five (5) pairs of brand new sneakers. However, the left is a size nine (9) and the right a 10 1/2. Through an unfortunate accident, the donor's one leg atrophied, requiring the need for the different sizes. He must purchase two (2) pairs of sneakers to make one (1) good pair.

Per the donor's wishes, I extend this request to the Department to give the sneakers to any veteran in need. Please contact Commander Moore or Quartermaster Raskin at 703-361-5554.



DAVE MATTINGLY /POST 7589

Post Quartermaster and Past Department Commander Rick Raskin performed the roll of Herr Silberhaus in Manassas Ballet Theatre's 2020 production of "The Nutcracker".

Our Post helps support the Manassas Ballet Theatre in memory of LCPL Colin Wolfe.

Post 7589 member Elizabeth Lewis turned 100 on December 12.

Veterans celebrate with drive-by greetings

WWII veteran Elizabeth Lewis marked 100 years of age on December 12. A current resident of Manassas, Elizabeth is a member of both VFW Post 7589 and American Legion Post 10. To honor her 100th birthday Post 10 organized a drive by celebration that was attended by scores of people who lined the streets and cheered as the celebration progressed. Because of COVID-19 concerns Elizabeth, was unable to attend outside so she viewed the event from a nearby window. It is truly a milestone to have one of our veterans reach the century mark and we wish her well for the future.



TONYA HERRING / POST 10

Elizabeth Lewis observes the drive-by from a nearby window.

Nimitz Explains Blessings At Pearl Harbor

Keith Parks of Sun City, AZ

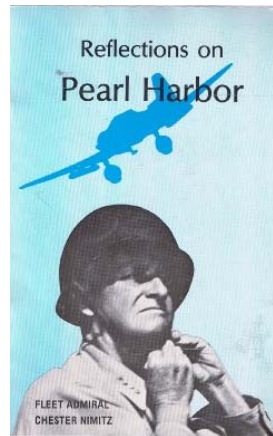
Tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every 30 minutes. We had just missed a ferry and had to wait 30 minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time. In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled Reflections on Pearl Harbor by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, Admiral Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington DC. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He told Admiral Nimitz that he would now

be the commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day 1941, Admiral Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and Navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the



young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well, Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?"

Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do you mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?"

Nimitz explained. Mistake number one: the Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and sunk, we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number two: when the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is on top of the ground in storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make, or God was taking care of America.

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredricksburg, he was a born optimist. But anyway you look at it, Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism. President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader who could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat. There is a reason that our national motto is, "In God we trust."



Wittman Applauds Bipartisan NDAA Conference Report

WASHINGTON – Congressman Rob Wittman (VA-01), Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee and conferee on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21 NDAA), released the following statement on the release of the conference report:

“After an arduous process full of months of negotiations and discussions, made more difficult by the impacts of COVID-19, I am proud to have been appointed a conferee to finalize the bills between the House and the Senate and have signed the bipartisan conference report. This is a piece of legislation that I believe does right by our men and women in uniform and provides sound, strong defense policy for the next year. As a core conferee, I am pleased with the report as it will give our armed forces the tools and resources necessary to deter our adversaries, support our allies, and project power around the globe.

“As the Ranking Member of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, I am proud that we were able to take an originally undesirable shipbuilding request and turn it into a more reasonable product. Paramount among this final funding result is the restoration of a second Virginia-class submarine and the required advanced procurement to maintain the two-per-year build rate. These submarines are critical to both our national defense strategy and the Commonwealth’s economy. Additionally, I was pleased to see the inclusion of my bill H.R. 7195, which will allow for the multi-year procurement of three smaller amphibious ships and one large deck amphibious ship that will save the taxpayers roughly a billion dollars. Ultimately, the shipbuilding account procures nine battle force ships including one Columbia-class fleet ballistic missile submarine; two Virginia-class submarines; two DDG 51 Arleigh Burke destroyers; one guided missile Frigate (FFG); two T-ATS towing, salvage, and rescue ships; and one expeditionary fast transport ship (EPF).

“The conference report also fully funds the critical B-21 Raider bomber program, as well as the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine program and provides additional P-8 aircraft to combat the undersea threat. Finally, it includes the creation and authorization of the Tanker Fleet Security Program, a program that will continue to address our inability to appropriately transport fuel by creating a stipend for ten U.S.-flagged fuel transport ships to be chartered for this purpose.

“Outside the seapower portfolio, I was pleased with the inclusion of my bill, H.R.8263, Ensuring opportunities for Department of Defense participation in wildlife conservation banking programs. This bill will establish accountable performance standards and criteria for conservation banking and will maximize available credits and opportunities for mitigation. Ultimately, by establishing objective, measurable criteria for conservation results, this new policy will accelerate the regulatory process while achieving conservation results that are not otherwise being gained. This is a win for the Department of Defense, our environment, and our wildlife.

“Additionally, the conference report includes several other provisions I am proud to support such as a 3.0% pay raise for our servicemembers, funding for future warfare projects being done in Virginia’s First District, such as the railgun and directed energy projects, and making sure our Armed Forces have the diagnostic equipment, testing capabilities, and the personal protective equipment necessary to protect servicemembers from the threat of infectious diseases.

“The FY21 NDAA supports our military community both throughout our nation and here in the Commonwealth. Our area is home to one of the largest populations of military members, their families, and the hardworking Americans who develop and support the platforms, systems, and programs that our warfighters use to execute their critical missions around the globe. Advocating for these individuals is one of my top priorities, and I am proud of the provisions in the FY21 NDAA that put our military community first.

“For 59 years, this piece of bipartisan legislation has been signed into law as it is what is necessary to support our troops and set the defense policy for our nation.”

Congressman Rob Wittman represents the 1st District of Virginia. He serves on the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Armed Services Committee, where he serves as the ranking member of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee.

2020-21 Post Officers

Commander	Wayne Moore
Senior Vice Commander	Lou Filippone
Junior Vice Commander	Bobby Knight
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Chaplain	Ron Knowles
1 Year Trustee	Pete MacLeod
2 Year Trustee	Tina Bliem
3 Year Trustee	Dave Mattingly
Adjutant	Ron Link
Service Officer	Ron Link
Judge Advocate	Bobby Knight
Surgeon	Alex Bliem



Meeting information:

Topic: VFW Post 7589
Time: Jan 4, 2021 07:15 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87089832611?pwd=Y1V5RS9PUmNxRWtVRmpNTUo2QkVRZz09>

Meeting ID: 870 8983 2611
 Passcode: 808813
 One tap mobile
 +13126266799,,87089832611#,,,,,0#,,808813# US (Chicago)
 +19292056099,,87089832611#,,,,,0#,,808813# US (New York)

Dial by your location
 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
 +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
 +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C.)
 +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
 +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
 +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 870 8983 2611
 Passcode: 808813
 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kDWAAkOa5>

Annual members...
 Upgrade to Life membership and receive a \$50 gift certificate for the VFW store.
 This offer also applies to those signing up as life members or Installment Life when they complete their membership agreement.

Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office
 9300 W. Courthouse Rd.
 Suite 305
 703-479-7437

The VFW National Home for Children



The VFW National Home for Children offers a once in a lifetime **opportunity** for military and veteran related families.

If you know of a family in your community that could use our help, please encourage them to call!

We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.

Most qualify to apply. Caring staff will help families to determine eligibility.

800-313-4200

A Great Place to Call Home!

Upcoming Events

2021	
January 4	Executive Meeting – 7 PM, Post Meeting — 7:30 PM — Video teleconference available
January 9	Department Council of Administration meeting — Post 9808, Mechanicsville
January 11	Auxiliary Meeting — 2 PM
January 21	Youth Committee — 7 PM
February 1	Executive Meeting – 7 PM, Post Meeting — 7:30 PM — Video teleconference available
February 5-6	State Commander’s Homecoming, Virginia Beach
February 8	Auxiliary Meeting — 2 PM
February 13	District 8 Meeting — Post 3103, Fredericksburg — 10:00 AM
March 1	Executive Meeting – 7 PM, Post Meeting — 7:30 PM — Video teleconference available
March 8	Auxiliary Meeting — 2 PM
March 24-28	National Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch’s Homecoming, Portsmouth, Virginia
April 5	Executive Meeting – 7 PM, Post Meeting — 7:30 PM — Video teleconference available
April 12	Auxiliary Meeting — 2 PM
April 17	District 8 Convention — Post 2524, Culpeper — 10:00 AM

KNOW YOUR VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE

Rob Wittman	1st District	202-225-4261
Elaine Luria	2nd District	202-225-4215
Bobby Scott	3rd District	202-225-8351
Donald McEachin	4th District	202-225-6365
Denver Riggleman	5th District	202-225-4711
Ben Cline	6th District	202-225-9681
Abigail Spanberger	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Jennifer Wexton	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492



CANNON NEWS

The official publication of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
Francis Cannon Post No. 7589
P.O. Box 10206
Manassas, VA 20108-0668

Cannon News is emailed to Post and Auxiliary members with email addresses on file.

[\[Click Here\]](#) To be added to our email distribution.

Cannon News is also available on our website www.vfw7589.org

Editor: Rick Raskin
Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to quartermaster@vfw7589.org no later than the 28th of the month.
We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.