

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
February 2014



Cast members practice a scene from Prince William Little Theater's upcoming production of "Blithe Spirit". The Company has offered the Post a limited number of complimentary tickets. See Page 11 for further information.

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From the Editor



Since I became Editor we have been publishing Cannon News in booklet format. Beginning this month we are revising the publication to letter size format to make it more readable over the internet. Additionally, when publishing in book format we have been required to insert pages

in groups of four which sometimes made it difficult to fill all of the pages. In this format we will no longer be subject to that restriction. I hope you enjoy this issue. Please direct all comments or suggestions to me via email.

Respectfully,
Rick Raskin
qm7589@verizon.net

Commander's Report



Elections are coming...

This year, the election process is different from those of previous years. At the National Convention last year, the delegation approved changes to our election process. This year, we will elect the Commander, Senior Vice-

Department Commander in June.

Does this mean a downgrading in the value of the Judge Advocate and Surgeon? ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!! What prompted this change was to assist those smaller Posts to fulfill the officer requirements as stated by the organization's Bylaws. In the past, smaller Posts were often unable to find enough active members to fill a full slate of officers. Now a Trustee can hold both an elected and appointed position as long as the appointed position does not oversee monies.

Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and three Trustees. The office of Judge Advocate and Surgeon are now appointed offices. The Commander, on the night of the election, shall appoint the officers and chairman. Unchanged is the requirement to prove eligibility of membership in the VFW.

Our Nation's Mid-term Elections...

Over the course of the next few months, we are going to see and hear candidates campaign for Congress saying 'elect me...elect me'. STOP and ask yourself, is this candidate a VETERAN? If not, why not. And would this person, in your view, protect veterans' entitlements? Oh...for years, I've heard many candidates proclaim and profess that they are 'friends of the veteran'. To me, that means didly-squat. IF YOU HAVE NOT WALKED THE WALK, YOU CAN NOT TALK THE

Officers will be nominated at the March meeting, with nominations remaining open until the April meeting. At that meeting, nominations will be closed and the election will take place. All elected and appointed officers will be installed at the May meeting and their terms of office will begin with the installation of the

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Auxiliary President's Report



[Valentine's Day is February 14th. Remember to give your loved ones lots of hugs and kisses.](#)

Another event for the Ladies Auxiliary is the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest for the high school students. The deadline is March 31, 2014. For

the past two years, our Auxiliary was honored to have our entry place 1st in the Department. If you know of any high school student who would like to participate in this contest, please let me know at 703/361-8950 or mcorkhill@comcast.net.

The Ladies Auxiliary will be holding another Yard Sale on Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 7am-2pm. We will take donations and setting up on Friday the 25th from 7-8pm. Also, if you plan to donate items, please contact any member of the Post and/or Auxiliary.

As I have mentioned in my December article, the VFW National Home for Children is trying to purchase another bus. In order to assist them with this project, we are collecting **Campbell Soup** labels. Please drop any labels off at the Post and we will forward them to the National Home. Thank you in advance.

Just a note, April we will be electing new officers for the 2014-2015 Auxiliary year. Please consider taking an office so we can continue to support our Veterans. I want to thank everyone for such a wonderful year.

As always, for individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized, you are in our prayers.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
Ladies Auxiliary President



Service Officer's Report



2014 has begun for us all. Your VFW team just returned from the VFW Winter Counsel meeting in Williamsburg where they received even more training. Your Team works hard at continually learning and training so as to bring you more and better quality veteran's information and service for you and your dependants for benefits.

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If you have any questions please feel free to reach us at our VSO phone line of: 1-703-659-0849 or Email: SO7589@verizon.net.

Thank you,
Steven M. Botello
 Post Service Officer
 Veteran of Foreign Wars Post # 7589
 (Office) 1-703-659-0849
 (FX) 1-703-991-0677
 Email: SO7589@verizon.net

One of those benefits is called "Aid and Attendance" this benefit can be obtained for several differing basic reasons. If you are a veteran in a care facility where you must have direct care or if perhaps your home bound and receiving direct care please consider filing for this benefit.

Please seek out and contact any of our Service Officers here at Post 7589 and ask about this. We will assist you in filing for this benefit with the DVA and see if you qualify for it.

Please do not hesitate to speak to any of our Veteran Service Officers and find out just what they can do for you! They are:

Wayne Moore 1-703-361-5554 Email:
mgr7590@verizon.net

Stephen Meade 1-703-408-0875 Email:
SO2-7589@hotmail.com

Our goal is simple here. We want to take care of all our veterans with the greatest level of service that our resources will allow. Thank

Need help with filing VA claims?

VA DVS AGENT SERVICE
2nd & 4th THURSDAYS
0900 - 1500

Post 7589
9304 Centreville Rd.
Manassas, Virginia

APPOINTMENTS PLEASE
Walk-ins Accepted
703-359-1210

Youth News and Notes



No sooner are we done with the 2013-2014 VFW/Ladies Auxiliary education awards than the new themes for the 2014-2015 school year are announced. I think the VFW has hit a couple of home runs again! Voice of Democracy theme: “Why Veterans

Are Important To Our Nation’s History And Future.”

Patriot’s Pen theme: “Why I Appreciate America’s Veterans.”

By the way the new contest entry forms will be available for printing off of the national website, www.vfw.org, by March 1, 2014. Click on Community, than Programs and you’re there! Deadline is November 1, 2014 to submit the essays.

Please attend the Post 7589/Ladies Auxiliary Youth Committee meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20 at the Post headquarters at 7:00 pm. We hope to have a discussion of a new film that Northern Virginia Community College is helping us produce. One of the professors there wants to have his students produce an educational film that contains interviews with members of Post 7589 about their wartime experiences. We will invite a representative from the college to attend the meeting.

On Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014, at 1:00 pm at the Fredericksburg VFW Post, Seton School teacher Daniel Mahar will be honored as the District 8 Teacher of the Year for grades 6-8. Dan is a worthy winner. He was nominated by past Virginia VFW Teacher of the Year, Anne

Carroll, the Principal of Seton School. Mrs. Carroll calls Dan, “an exceptional teacher and leader of students.” We certainly agree and he won the local and District 8 Teacher Award. One of the really interesting things Dan has his students do is make aquatic robotic devices and enter them in competitions with other schools. It’s called the “SeaPerch” program at Seton. Dan also has his students write fictional history about eras they study. For instance, students can make believe they are a drummer boy in the Revolutionary War or a fur trader on America’s frontier and then write a story about it.

If you know of an exceptional teacher, nominations are wide open for 2014-2015!

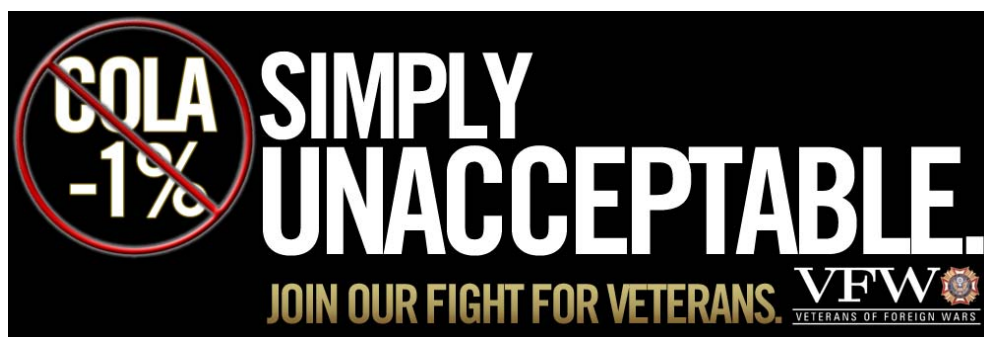
Pete MacLeod, VFW Post 7589 SVC and Youth Chair.

2014 Voice of Democracy Theme

“Why Veterans Are Important To Our Nation’s History And Future.”

2014 Patriot’s Pen theme

“Why I Appreciate America’s Veterans.”



VFW Supports Sanders Bill S. 1950 expands VA services and eliminates COLA penalty

WASHINGTON (January 23, 2014) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has thrown its support behind a bill introduced by the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee chairman because it fulfills a number of VFW legislative priorities that benefit all generations of veterans and their families, and it eliminates the cost-of-living adjustment penalty on military retirees.

S. 1950, the “Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Restoration Act of 2014,” was introduced last week by Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), and VFW National Commander William A. Thien is calling it “The most comprehensive veterans’ legislation to be introduced in decades.”

In a letter of support, Thien said the bill expands the current caregiver law to include all generations of veterans, something the VFW has been advocating since the law was signed in 2010. It provides advance appropriations for all mandatory accounts, which ensures disabled veterans, survivors and GI Bill student-veterans will continue to receive their monthly payments regardless of future government shutdowns. S. 1950 improves and expands

education and training programs to allow veterans to receive in-state tuition rates, extends the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, improves mental healthcare access to veterans and families, expands military sexual trauma treatment services, authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to proceed with contracts to build community-based outpatient clinics that have been on hold, and mandates that VA provide a comprehensive assessment of its capital infrastructure and how it will address its deficiencies. The bill also eliminates the 1 percent COLA penalty on working age military retirees younger than age 62.

The VFW national commander is now pledging to work with Senator Sanders to get other senators and congressmen from both sides of the aisle to support S. 1950. “Now is the time for every member of Congress to support those who have served and sacrificed the most for our nation,” he said.

To urge your members of Congress to support S. 1950, and to read the VFW’s letter of support to Senator Sanders, click here or go to [http://www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/2014-Articles/VFW-Legislative-Alert-Urge-Passage-of-Comprehensive-Veterans--and-Health-Benefits-Package-Today!/.](http://www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/2014-Articles/VFW-Legislative-Alert-Urge-Passage-of-Comprehensive-Veterans--and-Health-Benefits-Package-Today!/)

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TALK. It then boils down to how could a non-veteran Congressman honestly know what a veteran has gone through and what a veteran needs? When push comes to shove, is this candidate going to vote for veterans' needs even if it goes against the so-called established "party line"?

Over the past years, entitlements for veterans have become so watered down it is embarrassing. This means reduction, and in some cases elimination of medical and dental services for retirees. Active duty personnel and their dependents are experiencing a run-around. The Legislative, Judicial and Executive branches of our government have not suffered in their medical benefits. They also have not suffered any lack of pay increases. The COLA fight that is presently going on is now in the hands of Congress. (HEY, I HAD A BRAINSTORM... LET THE SERVICE MEMBERS DECIDE WHAT THEIR RAISE IS GOING TO BE AFTER CONGRESS DECIDES ON THEIR OWN.)

In our current Congress only 19% of the members have ever served in the military (Active or Reserve Duty). If you look at the number of combat veterans serving, that is even more of a travesty. How can we as the VFW expect to fight the battles for our young veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan; Desert Storm Veterans; Vietnam Veterans; Korean War;

World War II; and all the other skirmishes our military has suffered and endured when the overwhelming majority of our elected officials have chosen not to serve in harm's way? Getting an elected official to respond to Veterans Service Officers is even a bigger joke. Corporations and interest groups may have the big bucks, BUT Veterans vote—AND, Veterans influence their family members' votes.

This is a fight which starts at the Post level. We need to start this year by taking back our government. Look what has happened to the Vietnam veterans (Agent Orange and the associated strange ailments); Desert Storm (Gulf War Syndrome); and the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans (PTSD, TBI, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy). The latest estimates are, according to Pentagon data, 275,000 U.S. military men and women diagnosed with TBI, often caused by one or more exposures to bomb blasts. Thousands more are believed to have experienced undiagnosed brain damage from blast injuries.

This does not take into account the cost of the countless service family members' who also suffer.

It is time...Take aim and fire your salvos.

Ron



VFW Day on the Hill (January 9)



Two days before his inauguration Gov. Elect Terry McAuliffe addresses the Veterans Caucus.



Rick Raskin, Del. Michael Webert (18th District), Geoff Lyster (Post 9835) and Peter MacLeod



Mary Corkhill, Tom and Bonnie Snook (Post/Aux. 8644)



Bonnie Snook, Rick Raskin, Buddy Weekley (Dept. SVC), Peter MacLeod and Betty Gimble (Aux. 1503)



Steve Botello and Peter MacLeod



Ron Link and MG Long, The Adjutant General, VA Guard.

The Winter Council of Administration Meeting (January 10—12)



Commander in Chief Bill Thien



District 8 Commander Rick Raskin



Military Services Chair Ron Link



VOD Winner Kathryn DuHadway



Commander Chris Birch, Dennis Stevens (Elementary Teacher of the Year) and District 10 Commander Nelson Betancourt



Kathryn DuHadway pulls the winning ticket for the Harley Raffle as Adjutant/Quartermaster Kim DeShano and Commander Chris Birch observe.

Join the VFW Action Corps Today

In 2013, the VFW Action Corps generated well over 100,000 messages to every congressional office on critical issues like the budget, tuition assistance, military awards, healthcare and the new retiree COLA penalty, but more still needs to be done. Of tremendous assistance to the VFW's national legislative work is the grassroots advocacy provided by veterans and veterans' advocates who reside in every state and congressional district of all 535 members of Congress. In 2014 we must remain vigilant and remind Congress that cutting any benefits earned by veterans, service members and their families is not acceptable. Pass the word for others to join Action Corps and help us to create and protect those benefits, as well as to defeat those proposals we deem detrimental to veterans, service members and their families. Join Action Corps today at <http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>

VFW Releases 2014 Priority Goals

The VFW's 2014 Legislative Priority Goals are now available on the VFW website for the second session of the 113th Congress. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the information, then provide copies to your congressional members and their professional staffs during office visits. Highlights from the 2014 goals include providing advance funding for all VA programs; protecting quality of life programs for military service members, retirees and their families; improvements in transition and employment tools for separating service members and veterans; and continued oversight and improvement to the VA disability claims system, among many others. To download and print copies of the 2014 Legislative Priority Goals, go to http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/VFW_in_DC/2014%20Priority%20Goals%20brochure%20final%20pdf.pdf.



Francis Cannon Post 7589

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The Military Times Hall of Valor

What is the Hall of Valor?

The Hall of Valor is a searchable database of valor citations collected by Doug Sterner, a Vietnam veteran and Military Times contributing editor, and by Military Times staff. All recipients in the database are verified by source material such as official award citations, narratives and/or synopsis from individuals or records from the national archives. The Hall of Valor is an ongoing project. It is a monumental effort to identify the half million men and women who received the highest U. S. military awards, in addition to the millions of others who received other awards.

What medals are in the Hall of Valor?

Military Times is adding medals in accordance with their place in the order of precedence. The database currently includes all recipients of the

Medal of Honor and all of the second-tier valor awards: Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross and the Air Force Cross. Work is ongoing to identify recipients of the Silver Star and below.

How do I access the database?

Visit www.militarytimes.com/citations-medals-awards/ and enter the name of the person you are searching for. If they are in the database their citation will appear for you to read.

How do I get an award added to the database?

Contact comrade Joel Chase at 540-428-3979 or e-mail joeljkc@aol.com and he will assist you with the process.

'Blithe Spirit'

A limited number of complementary tickets are available to Post 7589 members. Contact Quartermaster Rick Raskin for availability. qm7589@verizon.net

**Gregory Family Theatre
Hylton Performing Arts Center
George Mason University, Prince William Campus**

March 7th, 8th, 14th ,15th at 8:00 p.m. Matinees: March 9th and 16th at 2:00 p.m.

Winner! 2009 Drama Desk Award, Outstanding Revival

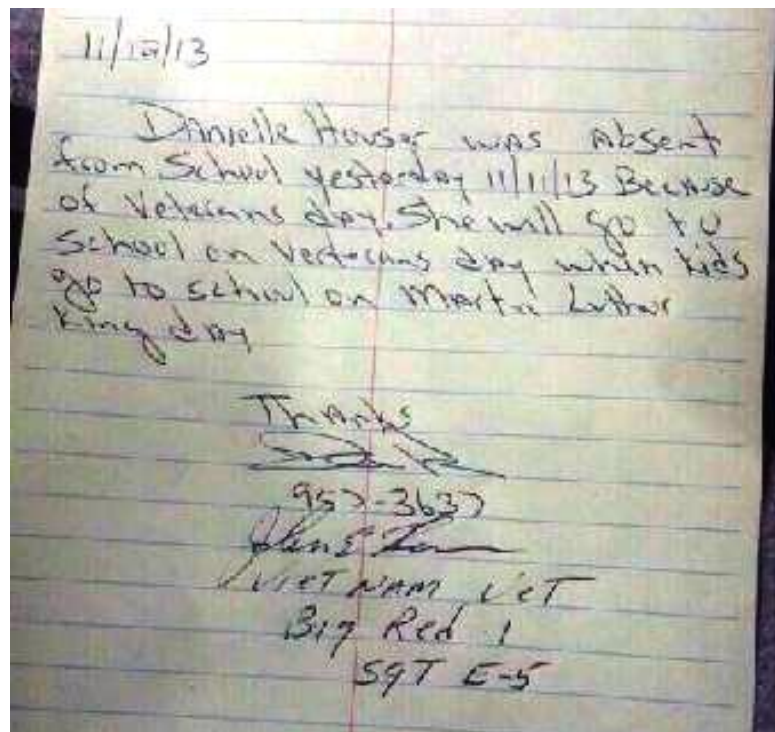
The smash comedy hit of the London and Broadway stages, this much-revived classic from the playwright of *Private Lives* offers up fussy, cantankerous novelist Charles Condomine, re-married but haunted (literally) by the ghost of his late first wife, the clever and insistent Elvira who is called up by a visiting "happy medium", one Madame Arcati. As the (worldly and un-) personalities clash, Charles' current wife Ruth is accidentally killed, "passes over", joins Elvira and the two "blithe spirits" haunt the hapless Charles into perpetuity.

(source: www.samuel french.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 3** Post general membership meeting—1930
- February 23** District 8 Meeting - Post 3103 - Fredericksburg—1300
- March 3** Post meeting—Nomination of officers for 2014-15—1930
- March 15** St. Patrick's Day Parade—TBD
- April 7** Post meeting—Election of officers for 2014-15—1930
- April 19** Department Commander's Homecoming— Post 9808, Mechanicsville
- April 27** District 8 Convention - Post 2524 - Culpeper - 1300
- May 5** Post meeting—Installation of officers—1930
- May 23 - 26** Memorial Day Activities—Poppies, Manassas Veterans' Memorial ceremony and flag placements on veterans' graves
- June 2** Post general membership meeting—1930
- June 5-8** Department Convention—Williamsburg

Well we think this guy has got it all figured out...



VFW Post 7589
PO Box 10206
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Cannon News
2013 Clair B. Poff
Public Relations Award
Most Outstanding Post
Publication/Newsletter
VFW Department of Virginia

