

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
February 2015



January 15: VFW and Auxiliary members attend the opening session of the Virginia General Assembly during our annual Day on the Hill. Pictured in the House Gallery are: 1st row: Auxiliary President Ellen Carleton, Department Commander Buddy Weekley and Assistant Department Secretary Debbie Weekley. 2nd row: Post 7589 Commander Ron Link, Post 9835 Commander Geoff Lyster and Department JVC and JLC member Tom Gimble. Other Legislative Team members visited the Senate. Photo by Rick Raskin

In This Issue:

- Aluminum Tab Collection Program Update
- Kuentai identifies another local veteran's remains (*See Commander's comments*)
- Dinner for WWII Veterans (*See Commander's Comments*)
- Revised By-Laws to be presented at the Post meeting on February 2
- Annual Members — Please renew your membership
- Faces of Freedom
- Hagel Instructs Services to Embrace VSO/MSO Support
- VFW Statement on Military Pay Commission Report

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

From the Commander

Ron Link



Once Again

Our Post is once again assisting the representatives for Kuentai, USA. We are also assisting the family members of Richard Murphy. SSgt Murphy was a Marine and War Correspondent who was with the landing force for the invasion of Saipan during WWII. According to the family, SSgt Murphy was in a landing craft when a member of his unit was thrown overboard. Murphy was an outstanding swimmer and according to reports, dove into the water. Neither he nor his fellow Marine were ever seen again.

It was assumed SSgt Murphy's remains were recovered but not identified and were buried as an unknown service member at a US Military Cemetery in the Philippines. Recently members from Kuentai had forensic dentists examine dental records and with 99 % accuracy, they were assured the remains found in a grave are those of Marine SSG Richard Murphy.

Past Commander Jerry Martin and I met the representatives of Kuentai and Mr. Jerry Murphy, a nephew of SSgt Murphy. The family is extremely pleased with the

news that they may finally be able to bring Richard home to be buried in their family plot. The next step is DNA testing of the remains for comparison with living family members in the area to ensure 100% accuracy.



Holding the photo of SSgt Richard Murphy is Yukari Akatsuka, Secretary General of Kuentai, USA; Ron Link, VFW Post 7589 Commander; Jerry Murphy, nephew and Jerry Martin, VFW Post 7589 Past Commander.

The Post offered to assist the family with honoring SSgt Murphy when he is returned to American soil and buried with his parents, grandparents and brother. His brother was a retired Navy Captain.

On a side note, the folks from Kuentai have identified between two and three hundred American MIAs on the islands of Saipan, Guam and the Philippines.

It is time to bring them all home.

Honoring Our Local WWII Veterans

American Legion Post 10 and VFW Post 7589 again are teaming to host a dinner for the Manassas area's WWII veterans. This is to thank them for the service to their country and give them a chance to enjoy fellowship with their comrades from WWII.

The Legion, Sons of the Legion, Ladies Auxiliaries of both the VFW and the Legion and the VFW are co-sponsoring this event. Invitations have been sent out and RSVPs are being returned. Comments from the veterans are that they are looking forward to this event. It will be held at American Legion Post 10 on 21 February at 1700 hours.

Auxiliary President's Report

Mary Corkhill



With another holiday upon us, February 14th **Valentine's Day**, we would like for you to have an enjoyable one. Shower your loved ones with lots of hugs and kisses. (Candy and flowers work also.)

Thanks to Janet Raskin and Ginger Harvey for attending the Department Winter Conference. If you ever have the opportunity to attend, you will hear the Virginia winners of Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen read their essays, and also meet the winning teachers.

The Ladies Auxiliary is working on the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest for the high school students. The deadline is **March 31, 2015**. Since the Auxiliary has been participating in the contest, we have been honored to have several entries placed in the Department.

If you know of any high school student who would like to participate in this contest, please let any Auxiliary member know or you can contact me at 703/361-8950 or mcorkhill@comcast.net.

There are two fundraisers we would like for you to participate in. In March or April (date has not been finalized yet), we will be at Noodles & Company. I will let you know in my next news article the date and time. We are also holding another Yard Sale on Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 7am - 2pm. We are taking donations from now

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

until set up date which is on Friday the 15th from 4-8pm. You can contact any Auxiliary member or me at the above phone number or email.

There are some events planned for February and March. First, the National Ladies Auxiliary Mid-Year Conference will be February 12-15, 2015 in Anaheim, CA. The District meeting will be in Fredericksburg on Sunday, February 22nd at 1:00pm. And the 2015 National Legislative Conference will be at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City on March 1st to 5th. (This event is to honor the Voice of Democracy from all Departments.)

I want to thank everyone for the Campbell Soup labels. They have been forwarded to the National Home for Children. With

your assistance, they can purchase another bus. Please drop any labels off at the Post or give them to any Post or Auxiliary member. Thank you in advance.

Just a note in advance. In April we will be electing new officers for the 2015-2016 Auxiliary year. Please consider taking an office so we can continue to support our Veterans. I want to thank everyone for such a wonderful job you are doing. You all are **Outstanding**.

On January 15th, Past Department Commander Doc Crouch (Past Department President Cathy Graham's husband) fell and broke his arm. Third District President Ginger Guthrie lost her husband. **Please** keep them and any individual or family members who are ill or hospitalized, in your prayers.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill

Ladies Auxiliary President



Service Officer's Report

Steve Botello



who help them.

Just so you know, there are constant and ongoing needs for them ranging from homelessness, helping families feed themselves, unemployment, pension, VA claims, medical coverage, aid and attendance...just to name a few.

It never stops for them and so it never stops for us! We will never stop helping them as much as we can to provide the services they need. This is our goal and yes.... this is our promise to you!

There are two things I would like to touch on this month. Every day we are working with and helping our brother and sister veterans. Their ongoing needs are a continuous issue for all of us

Our second item is to remind you of the Prince William County Veterans show Operation Freedom which is sponsored by VFW Post 7589, American Legion Post 10, DAV Chapter 15 and the VVA 617.

We look for and seek out Prince William veterans with stories to tell about their lives in the military and hear firsthand some of the more challenging highlights of their military and personal lives.

If you have any interest in sharing your story please feel free to contact me at: 1-703-335-9013 / 1-571-251-6000 or at: steven.botello@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact our Service Officer Team at any time for questions, suggestions or other needs you may have at: so7589@verizon.net or call us at 1-703-

659-0849 or just pull one of us aside and give us a suggestion of service that we can provide.

Our number one goal is providing the best service to our veterans and their families.

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:

Steve Botello 1-703-650-0846

Email: SO7589@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 you for your service!

Youth News and Notes

Pete MacLeod—Youth Committee Chair



The Va. VFW District 8 School, submitted by Post 9835, Warrenton. This District awards ceremony will bring down the curtain on the 2014-15 VFW Youth and Teacher Awards and now it's time for the next school year (2015-16) and here are the new themes:

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8)
 "What Freedom Means to Me"

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12)
 "My Vision for America"

District 8 Award Recipients:

Voice of Democracy – Anastasia (Stacy) Nosal, Kettle Run High School, submitted by Post 9835, Warrenton.

Patriot's Pen – Samantha Marie Ita, Metz Middle School, submitted by Post 7589, Manassas.

Teacher of the Year, Grades 9 through 12 – Lisa Hailey, Fresta Valley Christian School, submitted by Post 9835, Warrenton.

Teacher of the Year, Grades 6 though 8 – Trinette Drake, Parkside Middle School, submitted by Post 7589, Manassas.

Teacher of the Year, Grades K through 5 – Linda Hume, Greenville Elementary

Our next Post 7589 Youth Committee Meeting is set for Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 PM at the Post. We are looking for new ideas and energy and some of the pressing issues are:

Updating of our Power Point presentation, "This is VFW Post 7589", fundraising ideas, U.S. Constitution education, increasing the number of schools that take part in our essay and teacher of the year contests, Youth activities that could be sponsored by the Post, increasing the number of school visits during the year especially with the new Rick Raskin-produced Vietnam video based on footage I shot in Vietnam in 1970. If you have

ideas and would like to get more actively involved with the Post, this is your opportunity, March 19! And this is a committee of both Post 7589 and the Ladies Auxiliary.

Here are some ideas that have been kicked around in the past: Sponsoring a VFW Youth bowling tournament at the nearby Manassas Bowl America which has been receptive to the idea, a story/movie/video hour on Saturday morning at the Post for children, regular family meals served at the Post, flag education for youth including Scouts and regular school students, field trips for youth to nearby military bases, museums, historical sites involving the military, family outings at nearby parks or baseball games (Nationals minor league affiliate in Woodbridge), sponsoring play/drama competition in the middle and high schools (one VFW post in Pennsylvania already does this and the finals are presented like the Academy Awards). If any of these are something you would like to pursue or look into, March 19 is the night to show up. We need your help and participation!

Pete MacLeod
 Post 7589/Ladies Auxiliary Youth Chair

2015—16 Essay Topics

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8)
 "What Freedom Means to Me"

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12)

Aluminum Tab Collection Program Update

Comrade Paul Chase



We blew through 200,000 tabs just before the end of the year! That's about \$200 to the Boston Burn Center.

ter. What a Christmas present!!!

That represents 75,000 over the goal we set for ourselves last April. I'm going to consult with our collection team before setting our goal for 2015. This project represents the best of the VFW. We get things done without being a burden to the community and spread and give credit to those who made it happen. The collection team wants to thank you all for making this a success.

Pete Slusher
Warren Ewell
Joel and Paul Chase

Revised By-Laws to be presented at the Post meeting on February 2.

The Post's By-Laws were last updated in January 2008. National recommends that Posts periodically review and update them so that there will be no conflict with National and/or Department by laws.

Since 2008 several references to specific sections of the National By-Laws need to be updated. Additionally, several sections relating to expenditures, committees and appointments need updating.

Accordingly, the Executive Board has made recommended changes copies of which will be available for inspection prior to the meeting. Discussion will follow during the meeting and approval will be voted at the March meeting.

For those unable to attend the February meeting copies are available in the Members Only area of the Post website. Please contact the Post Quartermaster if you need a login for this area. You must be a member of Post 7589 to obtain a login. qm7589@verizon.net

Annual Members — Please renew your membership.

For most annual members if you did not renew you membership before December 31, you are no longer a member in good standing. National has sent you several dues notices and you haven't responded.

Please renew your membership.

The VFW succeeds by our strength in numbers. Without your membership our continued fight for veterans' entitlements becomes more difficult.

Just recently several veteran friendly bills were introduced into the Virginia legislature, largely due to our lobbying efforts in Richmond. It is because of our strength in numbers that we get serious consideration from the Senate or House.

Your membership counts!

You can renew online at www.vfw.org Click on the RENEW tab in the upper right side. You may also mail in that renewal notice to National or send your payment to the Post. Annual dues are \$35.00.

Those members who joined after January 1, 2014 will have expiration dates one year from the date they joined. National has also sent them renewal notices.

If you renew early you will get an additional year's membership from your original expiration date.

If you let your membership expire you will get one year's membership from the date your renewal is processed.

District 8 meeting Feb. 22

The 8th District will meet on February 22 at Post 3103 in Fredericksburg beginning at 1300. Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year awards will be presented.

Department Surgeon Ken Wiseman will be the State representative. Lunch will follow the meeting.

We will carpool from our Post at 1130. Just show up if you need a ride.

Let's make a good showing from Post 7589!

Faces of Freedom: Profiles of America's Fallen Heroes: Iraq and Afghanistan

Faces of Freedom is a compilation of stories about service members who have been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan since 9/11. It



includes one person from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. This book is a tribute to all who have paid the ultimate price. The stories were written by a team of volunteer professional writers and editors, and **proceeds from book sales are going to Wounded Warrior Project and Fisher House.** Barnes & Noble sells this book for \$32.99.

I will have several copies available for \$10.00 each in mid February. Please let me know if you would like one.

Rick Raskin qm7589@verizon.net

Hagel Instructs Services to Embrace VSO/MSO Support

At the urging of the VFW, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has signed two policy memorandums that direct the military services to allow veteran and military service organizations greater and more standardized access to installations and their troops and families. The VFW worked with Defense Department staff to shape the new policy in two ways: to increase national service officer presence on installations, and to create greater troop and military family awareness of VFW support programs, such as Unmet Needs, Adopt-a-Unit, and Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy, among others. The new policy will not, however, loosen current restrictions regarding on-base fundraising and membership recruiting activities. The VFW will provide additional information after the services publish their implementation guidance in March.

From: VFW Action Weekly
January 23, 2015

VFW Statement on Military Pay Commission Report

WASHINGTON (January 29, 2015) — The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission released a 300-page report today that contained 15 specific recommendations regarding military pay and retirement compensation, health benefits and military quality of life programs. The following statement is from John W. Stroud, the national commander of the 1.9 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliaries:

“The commission said from the onset that its mission was to preserve the long-term viability of the All-Volunteer Force, to maintain the quality of life of troops and their families, and to achieve fiscal sustainability for the military compensation and retirement systems going forward. The report does contain recommendations to increase military retiree Tricare fees, as well as to alter the military retirement program for future enlistees, but the devil is always in the details, and the VFW will now review the entire report in detail and address our concerns with the United States Congress.

“The VFW thanks the nine commission

members and staff for staying focused on the reform of existing programs, and for not using the opportunity to merely cut programs or slash compensation.”

Download the MCRMC report at <http://www.mcrmc.gov/public/docs/report/MCRMC-FinalReport-29JAN15-LO.pdf>.

Comments From the Department Surgeon

Kenneth B. Wiseman, III
VFW Department of Virginia Surgeon

Key things to remember:

- 1) This is a report of recommendations. No laws have been passed.
- 2) No changes would affect the currently serving and retired unless it would be an "improvement" so no benefits would be lost.
- 3) The truth is better than gossip so read and educate yourself for the times when people will wrongly comment.
- 4) The VFW is all over this issue and will be deeply involved in any changes just as we always have been.

VA DVS AGENT SERVICE AT POST 7589

2nd & 4th Thursdays
0900– 1500

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Upcoming Events

- Feb. 2** Executive Board meets at 1830
General Membership Meeting -- 1930
- Feb. 21** Appreciation Dinner for WWII Veterans — Sponsored by VFW 7589 & American Legion Post 10
Location: American Legion Post 10; 1700
- Feb. 22** District 8 Meeting – Fredericksburg, VA (Post 3103) - 1300
- Mar. 1–5** National Legislative Conference — Hyatt Regency, Crystal City
(This event honors the Voice of Democracy from all Departments.)
- Mar. 2** General Membership Meeting -- 1930
- Mar. 20** Youth Committee Meeting -- 1900
- Mar. 31** Deadlines for Auxiliary's Patriotic Arts Contest entries
- Apr. 6** General Membership Meeting -- 1930
- Apr. 18** Department Commander's and Auxiliary President's Homecoming, Harrisonburg, VA



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Please send photos as attachments and not imbedded in your article.
We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for clarity and syntax.