

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
February 2017



Remy Butts receives the \$500 Post 7589 endowment for his third place finish in the Department Voice of Democracy competition. (L-R) National Chief of Staff Carl Kaelin, Remy Butts, Department Commander Tom Gimble and 8th District Commander Ron Link.

In This Issue:

- Comrade Phil Smith named Volunteer of the Year
 - Former Post 7589 Comrade John Burns receives Idaho Governor's award
 - State Commander announces new membership contest
 - Happenings — *Day on the Hill and the Winter Council of Administration*
 - VVMF needs photos of those who died in Vietnam
 - DOD Extends Online Military Exchange Shopping Privileges to Veterans
 - The Great War, Captured on Film — Library of Congress Digitizing Footage from WWI
 - Status of JLC 2017 Initiatives
-

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

Commander's Message

Pete MacLeod



It is that time of year when VFW membership becomes an even bigger issue than it is the rest of the year. Post 7589 is a large Post in District 8 and it is more difficult for us to maintain 100 percent membership then it is for the smaller Posts. It is simply a numbers game.

The numbers change daily so I will be dealing with ballpark figures here. But, basically, on January 25, 2017 here is the way it looked. We have a membership of 390. We are now at 85.38 percent. We have to get about 57 people into the Post by the middle of April. These can be new members or comrades whose membership has expired because they have not paid their \$35.00 annual dues.

The job before us involves continuing to look for new members and going back and finding those who have not paid their dues and getting them to sign on for another year or, better still, become VFW life members. We have to complete this task or we will lose our status as an "All State

Post" and we will not be able to try for "All American Post," a goal which is within our grasp. If we fall back, it will also affect all of District 8 and it will affect the status of the VFW in the state of Virginia. So this is something we simply must do.

At the Post 7589 General Membership Meeting on Feb. 6 I will be forming a Membership Committee whose task will be to go after those 57 members we need and keep going beyond that number. We can have recruiting days, we can use the phone, we can use email and texting, we can knock on doors, but we simply have to accomplish our goal.

In our midst are some expert recruiters who have been recognized by the state over and over again. Start with our Quartermaster Rick Raskin, also our Service Officer Steve Meade and our Senior Vice Commander Ron Link.

There are other talented comrades too and a large number who probably don't realize how good they are at this.

Remember, VFW studies show: The most successful recruiting is done among our every day acquaintances who are veterans who have never considering "signing up." Just ask them!

I am going to go away from the standard VFW "line" that it is easy to recruit. It is not easy. Like most everything else in life

that has value, it takes hard work, time and determination. One thing we have in Post 7589 is a surplus of people who have honorably served their country. The VFW needs us to now use our talents and experience and help this great veteran's organization maintain its membership levels so we can successfully lobby and represent the interests of veterans at all levels of our society and government. Let's not let the VFW and our fellow veterans down!

Once again this year I was honored to be a guest at the annual "Installation of Officers and Awards Ceremony" of the Inter-Service Club Council of Greater Manassas held at St. Thomas United Methodist Church in Manassas on January 19. Along with 9 other outstanding community volunteers, Post 7589's Phil Smith was recognized for his continuing hospital visits in the Manassas area. Last year former Post 7589 Commander Jerry Martin was honored for his great service to veterans both locally and nationally.

Phil Smith also works diligently and efficiently every week as a Bingo Caller at the Wednesday bingo games at our Post. He isn't the type of guy to draw attention to himself. Phil just does his job and, as with the hospital visits, his work speaks for itself. In other words he is the type of guy who gives back to the community and makes the VFW the great organization it is.

Youth News and Notes

The VFW has announced the new essay themes for the 2017-18 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy youth contests.

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8): "America's Gift to my Generation"

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12): "American History: Our Hope for the Future"

The entry deadline will be Oct. 31, 2017. The new application forms will be on the VFW national website no later than April 1 and soon after that will be available at the VFW Store.

Don't forget the deadline for "VFW Teacher of the Year" nominations will is

Feb. 15. Locally, the nominations must be submitted to Post 7589 by that date. The VFW and Auxiliary recognize teachers of the year in 3 grade categories; K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. The teacher nominated must be a classroom teacher who interacts with his or her students every school day. A school principal can be eligible if they have daily classroom teaching assignments.

What do you need to nominate someone? A 350 word nominating essay, a head and shoulders photo of the teacher, backup material with the teachers accomplishments (newspaper articles, letters of praise, certificates of accomplishment, etc) and a one page resume of the teacher's career. Winners locally go on to the district and then state competition. Applications can be found near the snack counter at our Post or by contacting a Youth Committee mem-

ber at 730 220-4545. As I have said before, judges tend to lean toward teachers who have led student projects that benefited the school and/or community.

At the District 8 meeting on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Southern Fauquier Post 7728 in Morrisville, the district student essay award recipients will be recognized and given their prizes.

Here is the complete list:

Voice of Democracy:

First Place: Maria T. Luetkemeyer from Post 7589, Manassas.

Second Place (tie): Isabelle G. Mehochko of Post 1811, Manassas Park

(See Youth on page 3)

Auxiliary President



In January, we held the Department Winter Conference in Williamsburg, VA. There were several awards given out from the different Department Chairmen during the Auxiliary meeting. Congratulations to all the Auxiliaries that received their special awards. During the banquet, the first place recipients of Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen read their essays. The Department 3rd place VOD recipient was from 7589 and Ron Link was present when Department Commander Tom Gimble presented him with his award.

There are several events scheduled for February. First the 8th District meeting is February 11th at Southern Fauquier Post 7728 in Morrisville. Lunch will be served at noon with the joint meeting starting at 1:00pm. Next is Valentine's Day on February 14th. The Mid-Year Conference is a Royal Caribbean Cruise on February 20 - 25, 2017. In Washington, D.C. on February 26 - March 2nd, the VFW Legislative Conference where the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Winners will receive their awards from the National Commander-in-Chief and the National President.

The upcoming contest and deadline for the Auxiliary's Continuing Education Scholarship and the Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award is **February 15, 2017**. Also, the deadline for the Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest for the high school and home schooled students is **March 31, 2017**. We are very thankful for all the students that participated in this contest last year and hope to have other students from other schools for this year's contest. Since the Auxiliary has been participating in these contests, we have been honored to have several entries placed at the Department level. If you know of any high school age student who would like to participate in this contest, please let any Post and/or Auxiliary member know or contact me at 703/361-8950 or mcorkhill@comcast.net.

Again this year, we want to thank Ginger Harvey for the excellent job she did as the Wreaths Across America Chairman. With the assistance of several corporations and private individuals, we were able to raise funds to assist our Veterans. Well done Ginger. We would like some assistance from the Post & Auxiliary members who know of any corporations that fly the US Flag because we would like to present them a certificate. Please let us know.

The Auxiliary will be having their annual Spring Yard Sale on May 6th. When you do your spring cleaning and want to get rid

of your unwanted items, please consider donating them to the Auxiliary Yard Sale. We will even pick up your items. We are also requesting unwanted jewelry for the jewelry area of our Yard Sale. If you require a receipt for your 2017 taxes, please let me know.

Just an advance notice. In April we will be electing new officers for the 2017-2018 Auxiliary year. Please consider taking an office so we can continue to support our Veterans. Also, this is the year Virginia has been working hard for because Dee Guillory will be our National President. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the wonderful job you are doing. All of you are **AWESOME**.

Since the National Home for Children no longer taking Campbell Soup labels, the Auxiliary is now collecting coupons for the Veterans that are overseas. Please assist us in this venture for our Veterans. You may drop any coupons off at the Post or give them to any Post or Auxiliary member. Thank you in advance.

Any individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized, PLEASE let us know and remember to keep them in your prayers.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
Auxiliary President



(Youth from page 2)

Second Place (tie): Caitlin Orr from Post 7589, Manassas.

Honorable Mention: Tristan L. Brown from Post 9835, Warrenton

Honorable Mention: Seamus M. Kochr of Post 7728, Morrisville.

Patriot's Pen:

First Place: Riley Kotlus of Post 7589, Manassas

Second Place: Samuel L. Rodman of Post 9835, Warrenton.

Third Place: Vincent Verrocchio of Post 7589, Manassas.

Honorable Mention: Keely M. Crane of

Post 9835, Warrenton.

Honorable Mention: Henry J.S. Cisneros of Post 3103, Fredericksburg.

The Feb. 11 District 8 meeting begins at noon with lunch followed by the business meeting at 1:00 pm.

If you want one of the best VFW/Auxiliary experiences ever, make a point to attend this year's Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners at the National Legislative Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City on Monday, Feb. 27 at 6:00 pm. Your VFW or Auxiliary cover will allow you in. It will be televised on the national website and covered by local and national media but there is nothing like being there. My first experience was 2012 and I will never forget it. Each of the VOD winners

from all 50 states are escorted into the large packed ballroom by the State VFW Commander and the state Auxiliary President and announced state by state. Extremely impressive! It is done first class with music and a professional announcer. You have to be there! Then on a big stage it is like the Academy Awards as the 50 winners gather together, are announced, and, over about 30 minutes of drama, reduced to the last 2. The national winner is finally announced! Quite a show and Major League all the way!

Peter MacLeod
Youth Chair

Comrade Phil Smith named Volunteer of the Year

I am pleased to announce that Comrade Phil Smith of VFW Post 7589 in Manassas was recognized on January 19 by the "Inter-Service Club Council of Greater Manassas" for his volunteer work and hospital visits. Phil was one of 10 individuals in the Manassas area recognized at the annual banquet of the organization held at St. Thomas United Methodist Church in Manassas.

This organization represents not-for-profit groups in the Manassas area and the individuals who give of their time to help oth-

ers. Phil was honored as an "Outstanding Volunteer." Post 7589 Adjutant Paul Chase is the Secretary of the organization.

Phil also gives of his time to help the Post 7589 Wednesday Bingo games by being the "Bingo Caller" for the first hour and a half on Wednesdays. He has worked at Post 7589 Bingo for years and helped it become the financial success it is.

A true example of veterans who continue to serve: Phil Smith

Thanks,

Pete Macleod
Post 7589 Commander



Pete Macleod

Phil Smith (L) with Post Adjutant Paul Chase at the January 19 ISCC awards banquet.

Former Post 7589 Comrade and American Legion Post 10 Commander John Burns receives Idaho Governor's award

John is a WWII Navy veteran who served on a mine sweeper at the end of the war and occupation duty in Japan. He moved to Idaho several years ago to be near his family and has been an active VFW member at his new Post.



State Commander announces new membership contest

Posts that have achieved 100% membership by April 13, 2017 will be entered once for the drawing and those Posts that are 105%+ by April 13, 2017, will be entered twice for the drawing. On April 13, 2017, we will draw the winning Post and give that Post \$1,000.00. All Commanders that are 100% in membership by April 13, 2017 will receive a commander's polo shirt.

Good Luck

Yours in comradeship
Tom Gimble
State Commander
Department of Virginia
Veterans of Foreign Wars

We can make 100% by April 13. Recruit a new member or encourage an annual member to renew.



BINGO Workers

No Experience Necessary
We Provide Training
Hours: Wednesdays
8 AM—12:15 PM
Just show up and work with our crew.
Free coffee, donuts and snacks!

Happenings

Day on the Hill and the Winter Council of Administration



Dan Boyer

Comrade Larry Clance and QM Rick Raskin at the Virginia State House on the January 19 VFW Day on the Hill



Judge Advocate Rick Raskin reports at the Council of Administration on January 14.



District 8 Commander Ron Link gives his report as District 9 Commander Howard Minton prepares.



The Virginia VFW Delegation on January 19 together with Delegate Rich Anderson (center) who is also a member of VFW Post 1503 in Dale City.



Rick Raskin with Department Surgeon Eric Mallett.



National Chief of Staff Carl Kaelin



Post 7589 Service Officer Steve Meade attended Service Officer Training.



Steve Meade, Rick Raskin and Lou Filippone at the banquet and awards dinner.

VVMF needs photos of those who died in Vietnam

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is the organization raising funds for construction of a museum on the Mall in Washington DC. Since there is no room for additional memorials above ground, the VVMF will be built underground. It will feature an interactive visual display of the faces of those listed on the Wall. It will also display many of the items left at the Wall by visitors which are presently stored at the Smithsonian and are unseen by the public. The intent of the VVMF is to collect photographs of all those listed on the Wall, and display their faces on their birthdays.

Obviously, gathering over 58,000 photos dating back nearly fifty years is an arduous task, and there are only a few individuals working on the project in their spare time.

Perhaps you can help.

Many of us know of someone killed in Vietnam and could obtain a photo of that person. Prior to submitting a photo please visit www.vvmf.org/thewall and search for the person you knew. If a picture exists then no further action is needed. If however there is no picture please send me a copy of what you have. Please also include the home of record along with the full name of the individual.

We are only about 8,000 photos short of achieving our 100% goal. Thus far our Post has contributed 6 new photos to the gallery. The last ones are going to be the most difficult to identify. While the Wall is a fitting memorial to those who gave their all during the Vietnam War, the Wall of Faces will be a much more personal connection with those whose names are on the granite wall.

Submit photos to Joel Chase, 6925 Mill Valley Dr, Warrenton, VA 20187-9212 or by email joelchase07@comcast.net.

Submitted photos will be forwarded to the project coordinator for inclusion in the Wall of Faces exhibit

Sorry, photos cannot be returned.

Joel Chase
Chaplain, VFW Post 7589 - Manassas



Department of Defense Extends Online Military Exchange Shopping Privileges to Veterans

Press Operations

Release No: NR-010-17
Jan. 13, 2017

The Department of Defense announced a policy change that will extend limited online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans of the military.

The veterans online shopping benefit will be effective this Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

While shopping privileges exclude the purchase of uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products, it includes the Exchange Services' dynamic online retail environment known so well to service members and their families. This policy change follows careful analysis, coordination and strong public support.

"We are excited to provide these benefits to honorably discharged veterans to recognize their service and welcome them home to their military family," said Peter Levine, performing the duties for the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"In addition, this initiative represents a low-risk, low-cost opportunity to help fund Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs in support of service members' and their families' quality of life. And it's just the right thing to do," Levine added.

The online benefit will also strengthen the exchanges' online businesses to better serve current patrons. Inclusion of honorably discharged veterans would conservatively double the exchanges' online presence, thereby improving the experience for all patrons through improved vendor terms, more competitive merchandise assortments, and improved efficiencies, according to DoD officials.

"As a nation, we are grateful for the contributions of our service members. Offering this lifetime online benefit is one small, tangible way the nation can say, 'Thank you' to those who served with honor," Levine said.



Correspondent Wilbur Durborough talks with German Gen. Limbrecht von Schlieffen in a frame from "On the Firing Line with the Germans."

From "On the Firing Line with the Germans"

The Great War, Captured on Film Library of Congress Digitizing Footage from World War I

By Mark Hartsell
Editor, The Library of Congress Gazette

World War I was unlike any war the world had ever seen: a global conflict with tens of millions of casualties, waged across continents and fought with revolutionary weapons – tanks, airplanes, Zeppelins, poison gas.

As armies fought abroad, Americans at home were able to watch, thanks to the pioneering filmmakers who, in cinema's early years, went "over there" to document the war for audiences back here.

Some of their work will appear in "Echoes of the Great War: American Experiences of World War I," a major exhibition that opens at the Library of Congress in April to mark the war's centennial.

As part of that effort, the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division (MBRS) is digitizing nearly 19,000 feet of 35mm nitrate film and 7,200 feet of safety film from its collections related to the Great War.

"We are awash in images of World War II – there is a lot of film documentation of World War II. There's just not as much for World War I," said Mike Mashon, head of the Moving Image Section. "Part of it is the age of the film and what's been lost over the years. It's particularly incumbent upon us to preserve as much of this material as we possibly can."

The bulk of World War I film is held by major archives in the

European countries that did most of the fighting, such as the Imperial War Museums in Great Britain, the Bundesarchiv in Germany and Cinémathèque Française in France.

The Library's holdings are the U.S.'s largest – hundreds of reels of U.S. Army Signal Corps films; Committee on Public Information propaganda films; newsreel excerpts; actuality films; official films made by England, France and Germany; war-related films from the Theodore Roosevelt Collection of the former president and his son Quentin.

Filmmaking Goes to War

Those films weren't the first moving images of war; filmmakers, to a limited degree, had documented the Spanish-American and Second Boer wars over the previous two decades.

Nevertheless, at the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the craft of filmmaking and its equipment still were young – especially for the harsh test of battlefield conditions.

A hand-cranked metal camera, together with its oak tripod, might weigh over 100 pounds; heavy film canisters added to the burden. Getting footage on the battlefield with such a cumbersome rig was difficult and perilous.

"You had to raise your camera above the trench, and immediately



Correspondent Wilbur Durborough (in car) talks with German soldiers in 1915.

snipers would find you and start shelling you or shooting at you," said Cooper Graham, co-author of "American Cinematographers in the Great War, 1914-1918" and a contractor on the digitization project. "They were basically a large target."

The Library's footage documents war as men and women experienced it, in the trenches and at home, on both sides of the lines: American soldiers celebrate July 4 in France, women work farms for their absent men, the Kaiser greets his troops, American soldiers fight at the Meuse-Argonne in 1918 – the bloodiest battle of the war for the U.S.

“It was surprising to me how good it was; I thought it would be very amateurish,” Graham said of the Argonne footage. “They had incredible shots of shellfire and very poignant shots of dead and wounded. I’d always heard that the World War I films avoided showing fatalities and blood and gore. Not at all.”

Last year, MBRS completed the restoration of “On the Firing Line with the Germans,” one of the few American feature-length documentary films produced during the war.

The film was shot in 1915 by Wilbur Durborough and cameraman Irving Ries, who boarded a Stutz Bearcat sports car and crossed Germany to document the country at war – folks handing out flowers and cigarettes at a military hospital, correspondents drinking at the Adlon hotel in Berlin, German troops visiting a delousing station, soldiers writing letters home in the trenches hours before an attack.

The restoration was carried out by George Willeman and Lynanne Schweighofer of MBRS, who chose the best surviving scenes from reels of nitrate film, paper print fragments and footage from the National Archives, then assembled them, in digital files, as a nearly two-hour film.

History, in Bits and Pieces

That feature-length film is a rare survivor. In the 1920s, Graham said, the film industry realized there was a market for war-film compilations – a practice that had both good and bad effects.

“You want to cry because it means that the original film has been gone or chopped to shreds and reused somewhere else,” he said. “On the other hand, it means that some of the film did survive.”

World War I films add a few more difficulties to the usual challenges faced by preservationists working with historical material.

Higher-quality materials, Willeman said, were diverted to war efforts, such as manufacturing ammunition. So, film companies made do with second-best for film stock – a problem compounded by the increased volume of films and faster production time during the war.

“Films had to be processed and printed faster, which of course is going to lead to sloppy work and not being able to clean them properly,” he said. “That would leave a lot of chemical residue on them that would cause them to deteriorate

faster.” It’s difficult to determine how much Great War film was made or how much survives – even if only in pieces, jigsaw puzzles of history waiting to be put back together again.

“It’s arguably one of the most important groups of films that we have here – it’s the first full record of a world-scale war,” Willeman said. “To be able to see these people who are all gone now and see what they look like

and how they marched and the rare shots you see of actual battle carnage – they should be out there.”

“On the Firing Line with the Germans” is available for viewing on the Library’s website at <http://go.usa.gov/x8a5q>.

The Library of Congress Gazette is the Library’s employee newsletter. This article is reprinted with permission from the editor.



From “On the Firing Line with the Germans”

German soldiers attack at Biondi in Russian Poland, captured in “On the Firing Line with the Germans.” Kneeling near the top of the frame.

February 26, 1916 THE MOVING PICTURE WORLD 1159

We sent Durborough to Europe with a car and cameraman - 7 months with the German armies

“On the Firing Line With the Germans”
(Name and title both copyrighted)
 WE MADE AND OWN THE NEGATIVE—8500 FEET of beautiful photography of the
War As It Is Actually Being Fought!
Notice to STATE RIGHT BUYERS!
 Because we own this negative and because it is copyrighted, we can offer you every protection, and because these are wonderful pictures we can show you how to clean up big money.
The CHICAGO TRIBUNE Says “There are War pictures and War pictures, but the Blue Ribbon goes to those taken by DURBOROUGH.”
 War Film Syndicate, 308 Mallery Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

“On the Firing Line With the Germans” advertisement, Moving Picture World, 26 February 1916



VA to Host Summit for Women Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans is slated to host the Summit for Women Veterans in Dallas from March 17-18. The summit will be the first national-level event for women veterans since 2011. Topics will include training, information and guidance particular to female veterans, regardless of VA enrollment. There will be lectures, panel discussions, exhibits and open forums promoting forward-thinking dialogue, collaboration with industry best practices and research. The target audience includes women veterans, public sector partners, academics and community partners. "Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from VA leadership, and participate in breakout sessions focused on employment, mental health, entrepreneurship, military sexual trauma, reproductive health, culture change and more. Additionally, plenary sessions will focus on VA care and benefits, partner organizations, and a special "Voice of the Veteran" panel," said Kayla Williams, the director of VA's Center for Women Veterans. To learn more about the summit and how to register, visit: <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/34336/>.

Federal Hiring Freeze Update:

On Monday (1/23), President Trump initiated a 90-day federal hiring freeze until the Office of Management and Budget can develop a long-term plan to reduce the size of the federal government's workforce through attrition. The executive memorandum does allow the head of any executive department or agency to exempt any position that is deemed necessary to meet national security or public safety responsibilities. Military service members are specifi-

cally exempt from the temporary freeze, but the Defense Department's 750,000 federal civilians are not; nor are the 350,000 employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Acting VA Secretary Robert Snyder said he would continue to hire medical staff and other front line personnel, and the VFW fully expects Trump's VA nominee, Dr. David Shulkin, and DOD to do likewise. Long time federal civilian personnel experts have called the temporary freeze a prudent step that many new administrations exercise in order to assess what they have before moving forward.

<https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/factsheets/Signed-Exemption-to-Hiring-Freeze-Memo-with-Exempted-Occupations-1-27-2017.pdf>

Three Veterans Tapped for Service Secretaries

President Trump nominated businessman Philip Bilden this week to become the new Secretary of the Navy. Bilden served from 1986 to 1996 in the Army Reserve as a military intelligence officer, including a stint at the Defense Intelligence Agency. He is the son of a career naval officer, and his mother also grew up in a Navy family. His eldest son graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2015, and his youngest is in the Class of 2018. Bilden now joins former Rep. Heather Wilson (R-N.M.), the new Air Force Secretary nominee, and Vincent Viola, who was picked for Army Secretary. Wilson graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1982 and served until 1989, when she left to join the National Security Council as its director for European defense policy and arms control. Viola graduated from West Point in 1977, and served in the 101st Airborne Division. Their Senate confirmation hearings have yet to be announced.

VA to Begin Fertility Counseling and Treatment

Thanks to the advocacy of VFW members, VA is now authorized to provide fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technologies, including in vitro fertilization (IVF), to veterans with service-connected disabilities that resulted in the inability to procreate without the use of such treatments. Last week, VA announced that it will begin providing IVF treatments for eligible veterans and their spouses. Veterans with service-related infertility who wish to explore IVF options should schedule an appointment with their local VA health care facility for eligibility determinations, clinical evaluation and consultation. The law also authorizes VA to reimburse veterans for the cost of adoption, but VA has not announced when it will begin adoption reimbursements.

Pentagon Changes RIF Evaluations

The Defense Department announced this week a change in the way it would evaluate its civilians if there were to be a reduction in force (RIF). The procedural change was required by the 2016 defense budget and is not an indicator of an impending RIF. The change required DOD to make employee performance the top retention factor — it currently ranks fourth in importance elsewhere in government. However, in the reshuffling of evaluation factors, the Pentagon dropped veterans' preference to fourth in importance, where previously it was second. The VFW sees this move as a lessening of Pentagon support to retain qualified veterans and is voicing our disagreement with new Defense Secretary James Mattis. <https://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/OSD000467-17-RES-Final.pdf>

Status of JLC 2017 Initiatives – as of January 27, 2017

Initiative	Recommendation	Status – as of 1/27/17
JLC 2016-01 <i>Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly change the Code of Virginia to revise the charter of the VVFS; release \$393,494 to DVS in FY17; authorize 21 new positions in FY17 and FY18; and appropriate an additional \$700,000 (GF) in FY18 to convert VVFS to an all-state employee service delivery structure.	Introduced budget: \$610,128 plus the \$393,494 in the “lock box”. Additional Budget Amendment – N/A Legislation: HB2206 (Delegate Cox) 1/26: Reported out of Public Safety Subcommittee to full Appropriations Committee.
JLC 2016-02 <i>Virginia War Memorial</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$100,000 (GF) FY18 to ensure the Virginia War Memorial has the resources necessary to accomplish its dual mission of honor and education.	Introduced budget: None Legislation: • None
JLC 2016-03 <i>Guard Income Tax Subtraction</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly increase the state income tax subtraction level for members of the Virginia National Guard from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.	Introduced budget: None Legislation: HB1397 (Delegate Fowler)1/18: Laid on the Table
JLC 2016-04 <i>In-state tuition for all members of the Reserve Components</i>	That the Governor and the General Assembly change the eligibility for in-state tuition to include all members of the Virginia National Guard and the Reserve components, thus recognizing their service to the Commonwealth and treating them equally to the active components and veterans	Introduced budget: \$900,000 for VMI Legislation: HB1724 (Delegate Anderson)1/24: Higher Ed Subcommittee recommends reporting with an amendment and re-referring to Appropriations
JLC 2016-05 <i>Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly approve legislation creating the <i>Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program</i> under the Department of Veterans Services and appropriate \$900,000 (GF) per year in FY18 and FY19 to award grants to companies that provide entrepreneurship training to veterans. Also, that the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) continue its work on veteran entrepreneurship and develop additional recommendations for consideration.	Introduced budget: \$900,000 for FY17 and FY18 Legislation: HB1841 (Delegate Stolle)1/24: Reported out of General Laws and re-referred to Appropriations SB1114 (Senator McPike) In General Laws on Monday, Jan. 30 45 min. after adjournment of the Senate
JLC 2016-06 <i>VMSDEP</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly remove the requirement that a veteran’s disability rating be combat related. Instead, a permanent service-connected disability rating of at least 90%, plus satisfaction of the other requirements currently in the Code, would qualify a veteran’s spouse or child for VMSDEP benefits.	Introduced budget: None Legislation: HB2357 (Delegate Torian)
JLC 2016-07 <i>Electronic Ballot Return</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support of a pilot program for the electronic return of absentee ballots by Virginia’s deployed military service members to enfranchise their voting privileges.	Introduced budget: None Legislation: SB1490 (Senator DeSteph)

Upcoming Events

February 1	Executive Meeting – 12:30 pm
February 6	Post / Auxiliary Meeting—7:30 pm
February 11	District 8 Meeting 1:00pm -- Southern Fauquier Post 7728 – (Lunch at Noon)
February 15	Teacher of the Year Contest & Continuing Education Scholarship (Deadline)
February 20—26	Auxiliary National Mid-Year Conference (Auxiliary President will be attending)
February 27	VOD Parade of Winners at the National Legislative Conference — Hyatt Regency, Crystal City — 6:00 pm
March 1	Executive Meeting – 12:30 pm
March 6	Post / Auxiliary Meeting—7:30 pm
March 31	Auxiliary Patriotic Art Contest (Deadline)

Virginia Department of Veterans Services to open Manassas office.

The office is scheduled to open on or about March 1, 2017 and will be located at 9300 W. Courthouse Rd. At that time the DVS program at Post 7589 will be discontinued.



VA DVS AGENT SERVICE AT POST 7589

**2nd & 4th Thursdays
9:00 AM — 3:00 PM**

You can also visit the Fairfax office.

**11198 Lee Hwy., Ste. D4
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