

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
February 2018

---



Comrade Paul Chase (Second Row Right) was selected 2017 Outstanding Volunteer by the Manassas Inter Services Club. Attending the banquet with Paul on January 18: Jean MacLeod, Peter MacLeod and Ilsa Chase.

---

## *In This Issue:*

- VFW Announces 2018 Teachers of the Year
- Digital Membership Cards
- National JVCNC Doc Schmitz to visit Virginia in March
- Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher awards
- Rob Wittman — 1st District Veteran's Forum
- Summary of 2018 Initiatives
- VFW Disaster Assistance Tops \$680,000
- Scammers impersonate the Social Security Administration

**Post 7589 featured in February VFW Magazine.** See [www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org)

---

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

## Commander's Message



Peter MacLeod

If you travel in downtown DC you may have noticed some construction taking place on Independence Ave. across the street from the Air and Space Museum. That is the site of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial due to be completed and

open to the public in 2019, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. For details go to: [www.eisenhowermemorial.org](http://www.eisenhowermemorial.org)

For many of us, of a certain age, Dwight Eisenhower was the first president we were aware of. I was born during the Truman administration but I really have no memory of President Harry Truman. But I have very distinct memories of President Eisenhower, mostly from watching him on black and white television in the late 1950's. Still today, he seems to me the most "presidential" of all the presidents since then.

Obviously he was a war hero before winning the White House. He was Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in World War II and had full responsibility for the D-Day invasion in 1944 that led to the rapid collapse of Hitler's Third Reich. He won two national elections in 1952 and 1956, defeating Democrat Adlai Stevenson both times.

There are many biographies of Dwight D. Eisenhower but I love Bret Baier's "Three Days in January" which came out last year and is now available in paperback. It details the meetings and contacts between President Eisenhower and his successor John F. Kennedy before Kennedy took office on January 20, 1961. The book details the time between President Eisenhower's famous "Farewell Address" and the Kennedy inauguration. Absolutely fascinating reading.

Among the highlights: Eisenhower's often misunderstood behavior during the Nixon/Kennedy presidential contest of 1960, Eisenhower's leadership of the

country during the "Cold War" years, and the January 17, 1961 "Farewell Address" to the American people.

A final note: If you are ever anywhere near Kansas, make sure you visit President Eisenhower's boyhood home in Abilene, which he shared with his parents and five brothers. The old Eisenhower homestead and presidential library is just off Interstate 70 and open to visitors.

VFW Post 7589 Historian Paul Chase was honored as an "Outstanding Volunteer" at the annual dinner of the Inter-Service Club Council of Greater Manassas held on January 18 at the Candy Factory in Old Town Manassas.

Paul was recognized for his work as Secretary of the organization and also for his work at Post 7589 as Historian and Adjutant. The group is made up of agencies involved in "not for profit work." The guest speaker was Dr. Renee Jackson Anderson, head of Exhibits Collections at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Paul was again installed as Secretary of the organization by retired Judge Richard Potter. Theresa Coates Ellis was installed as President of the organization for another year.



Comrade Paul Chase was named Volunteer of the Year by ISCC  
**Marks 3rd consecutive year a Post 7589 member received the award**

I think the Virginia VFW scored big with the selection of the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel as the site for the Winter Council of Administration Meeting and for the state convention coming up in June. The place felt like a real hotel and had a nice restaurant and bar, friendly and knowledgeable staff, a huge

lounge and computer area and no ongoing construction. The best feature is the view of the harbor and ship repair operations from most of the rooms and the first floor of the hotel. There are also magnificent views of downtown Norfolk and plenty of walking paths outside the hotel.



Pete MacLeod



Rick Raskin

The city of Portsmouth is kind of fun too with a throwback downtown movie theater straight out of 1957 and plenty of interesting stores. The housing stock is mixed with a lot of old homes. Inside the hotel there is a hallway of photos of what the harbor area used to look like. Let's stay at this venue awhile!

*Note: The COA voted to hold the 2019 winter meeting there. — Ed*

Please get out to the District 8 meeting on Feb. 10 at the Southern Fauquier VFW Post and honor the District 8 VFW Education Award recipients. Post 7589 has two students and three teachers who will be recognized. In fact we took all three Teacher of the Year slots (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12). Thanks to our Youth Chair Lou Filippone and the Youth Committee for some long hours and hard work.

## Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill

2018 has begun and I would like to wish all of you good health and happiness. I owe Ms. Betty Montgomery an apology for neglecting to mention her during our visit to Birmingham Green in December. I do apologize for my error. Since we were unable to hold a January meeting due to inclement weather conditions, our

February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held as planned. Hope to see you at the Post at 7:30pm.

The Department Winter Conference was held in Portsmouth, VA on January 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. There were National awards given from PDP Shema Peppers. Also, several announcements for National and Department positions were made. Ms. Kathy Birch is running for Southern Conference Chaplain, both Ms. Betty Gimble and Ms. Georgette Bannon are running for National 6<sup>th</sup> District Council and on the Department level, Ms. Vicki Butler is running for Department Guard. Elections for all positions will be held at the Department Convention in Portsmouth, VA on June 14-17, 2018.

Things were a little different this year during the Winter Conference banquet. The top three recipients for both Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen were invited to attend the banquet and it was during this event that the winners were announced. The Teachers of the Year recipients in the three categories also attended. The Departments' first place recipients read their essays. Their entries along with the Teachers of the Year entries were forwarded to National Headquarters to compete with other Department's first place winners. At the VFW Legislative Conference on March 3-8, 2018, the Voice of Democracy Scholarship winners will receive their awards from the National Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman and National Presi-

dent Dee Guillory.

There are several events scheduled for February. First, the 8th District meeting is February 10<sup>th</sup> at Southern Fauquier Post 7728 in Morrisville, VA. Lunch will be served at noon with the joint meeting starting at 1:00pm. Please bring a small gift for the 8th District's Veteran & Family Support raffle. The Mid-Year Conference will be February 8-11, 2018 in Nashville, TN. Valentine's Day is February 14<sup>th</sup> and President's Day is February 19<sup>th</sup>.

If you are planning to apply for the Auxiliary's Continuing Education Scholarship, you have until **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018** to have your application in at National Headquarters. Also, the deadline for the Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest for high school students is **March 31, 2018**. We are honored to have high school students participating in this scholarship program. The contest began in 1979 to recognize up-and-coming artists and encourage patriotism in our youth. We also want to thank the comrades for their assistance in promoting this program. 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](mailto:mcorkhill@comcast.net).

The Department Commander Mike Boehme and Department President Linda Bond's homecoming is March 10, 2018 at Battlefield Post 9808 in Mechanicsville, VA. RSVP deadline for the Homecoming is February 28, 2018. Cocktails will be at 5:00pm, dinner at 6:30pm and DJ at 8pm with a cash bar. Please RSVP for the Commander to Geoffrey Lyster at [chiefofstaff@vfwva.org](mailto:chiefofstaff@vfwva.org) and for the President to Ellie Smith (703) 791-5110 or Betty Gimble (703) 851-5819. Hotel accommodations: Holiday Inn Express, Mechanicsville, VA. (804) 559-0022. RSVP deadline for the hotel is February 16, 2018.



I want to give a large "THANK YOU" to all the individuals who assisted in our

fundraiser with Wreaths Across America this year. Thanks to Ginger Harvey for working with Miller Toyota, NOVEC and Operation Standdown of Tennessee and

their donations. With the assistance of three corporations, Manassas Park Post 1811, Francis Cannon Post 7589 and private individuals participations, we were able to raise funds to assist our veterans and families.

Last year, we gave certificates to corporations and individuals for flying our U.S. flag. We would like to honor them again with certificates for flying the flag. We are requesting assistance from the Post and Auxiliary members who know of anyone flying the U.S. flag to let us know. Thank you in advance.



The Auxiliary will be having their annual Spring Yard Sale on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 7am-2pm.

We will be setting up the night before from 4-8pm. If you are doing 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 if need be. If you require a receipt for your 2018 taxes, please let me know and as always, thank you in advance for your donations.

Thank you to all the annual members who paid their membership dues by the December 31, 2017 deadline. For those members who failed to pay their dues, you can still pay by June 30<sup>th</sup> but you are not eligible for the cancer grant for a year. Not paying your dues on time results in the ineligibility of getting a cancer grant. This is the reason your dues had to be paid by the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Just an advance notice. In April we will be electing new officers for the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year. Please consider taking a position so we can continue our mission to support our veterans. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the wonderful job you are doing. All of you are **AWESOME**.

The National Home for Children's life membership is \$35.00. It is rumored that the price of life membership is going up. If you wish to become a member before the price increase, please let any Post or Auxiliary member know and they will as-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

sist you in the process.

As of July 1, 2017, the Auxiliary has collected over \$38,000.00 in coupons for the veterans that are overseas. Please assist us in this venture. You may drop your coupons off at the Post or give them to any Post or Auxiliary member. Thank you in advance.

Since Janet Raskin is the Chaplain for the 8<sup>th</sup> District, please let her know of anyone who is ill or in the hospital. Please keep Yvonne Sullivan, Patsy Gough, Elanor Doczi, Cindy McIntyre and Cookie Cullen in your prayers and other individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized.

**Don't forget Valentine's Day (February 14<sup>th</sup>) and President's Day (February 19<sup>th</sup>).**

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill  
Auxiliary President



## VFW Announces 2017–2018 Teachers of the Year

Lynn W. Rolf III

Programs Director  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

### Virginia teacher is grades 6-8 winner

Congratulations to the following VFW Teachers of the Year:

#### Grades K-5

Emily Cowan Ezell  
VFW Post 10904 Manchester, TN

#### Grades 6-8

Sara Gibson  
VFW Post #8529 Sandston, VA

#### Grades 9-12

Michael Rauenhorst  
VFW Post #10029 North Pole, AK

## Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone  
Youth Committee Chair

Hello to all of you from the Youth Committee. Historically, December is quite busy for the Youth Committee, however January is the opposite and is quite slow. Our current

activities for the month include the following:

Commander Peter MacLeod and his wife, Jean, are currently distributing certificates and pens to all of the Post 7589 contestants from the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contests. There were approximately 129 Patriot's Pen applicants and 50 Voice of Democracy applicants for 2017.

At the 17 December 2017 Christmas party one of our attendees was Captain Gary James who was our guest speaker at the award ceremony. He was accompanied by his wife, Jill, and was presented with a Post 7589 coin.

At the VFW Winter Conference in Portsmouth, Virginia, on Saturday, 13 January 2018, Post Commander Peter MacLeod awarded the third place winners in Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy, at the department level, with the Post 7589 Francis P Cannon award of \$300 each.

We are tentatively scheduling another flag retirement ceremony for our Scouts on a Saturday in March. The exact date will be announced shortly.

Three of our teachers and two of our students, from Post 7589, will be receiving awards at the District 8 ceremony. The teachers are: Jennifer Young for grades K-5, Paul Malc for grades 6-8, and MSgt Robert P. McKinney for grades 9-12. In addition, John Tessier, a student from Kettle Run High School, and Wesley Hale, a homeschooled student, tied for third place at the District Level in Voice of Democra-

cy and Patriot's Pen, respectively. Wesley sent the Post a very nice thank you letter for his Post 7589 award. The ceremony will be held on Saturday, 10 February 2018, at 12:00 noon, at Post 7728 Southern Fauquier 12496 Harpers Run Road Bealeton, VA 22712.

Just a reminder we are currently accepting applications for the Scout of the Year Award. If you would like to nominate a Scout for this contest we have applications available. The deadline is 1 March 2018, which is fast approaching.

As a result of the discussion at the Winter Conference in Portsmouth we have decided to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the World War I armistice. We are looking for volunteers to present an educational program to area school children. It will probably coincide with our Veteran's Day program. I will give you more information as it becomes available.

We are always looking for help and support from new volunteers with our Youth Committee programs. Please contact me or any of the other committee members if you would like to join us.

The next Youth Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 15 February 2018 at 7:00PM at the Post hall. All are welcome and I hope to see you there.

## Digital Membership Cards

Members now have the ability to download their digital version of their membership card.

Depending on whether a member has an iPhone or Android, they will be able to download and access their digital membership card from the VFW app. This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience.

When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card on their smart phone.

# National JVCNC Doc Schmitz to visit Virginia in March

*Post 7589 visit planned*



William J. "Doc" Schmitz

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz will be visiting Virginia for a membership roundup March 18—23. Starting in Richmond, he and several state officers plan to visit VFW Posts throughout the State over several days.

Concluding the trip in Northern Virginia on March 22, Doc will visit our Post in Manassas. On March 23 Doc will be flying out from Dulles Airport. The full schedule will be published in the March edition of Cannon News.

Last year we were privileged to host the now Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman for a Virginia Roundup. Because of the success of that trip, Keith had no issue approving Doc's visit this year. Doc was invited by Post QM Rick Raskin when he attended Junior-Vice-Commander training in Kansas City last summer.

William "Doc" J. Schmitz, of Corning, N.Y., was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief July 26, 2017, at the 118th VFW National Convention in New Orleans, La.

Doc joined the United States Navy in 1966. He served in Vietnam as a corpsman attached to USMC infantry and artillery. In recognition of his service, he received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1971 at Post 524 in Corning, N.Y., where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership. He has served as Department Commander, Post Commander, Southern Tier County Council Commander and District 5 Commander. He was also editor of the New York State Overseas Veteran publication for nine years. In 2007, he was elected Department Surgeon for the Department of New York where he served for five consecutive years and served as the national Surgeon General in 2010-2011 and as the national Inspector General in 2015-2016.

Doc worked for the Department of Corrections as a Registered Nurse and Acting Nurse Administrator for 30 years before retiring. He currently is employed as the Director of Veterans Issues for Congressman Tom Reed of the 23rd Congressional District in New York.

Doc and his wife, Deborah, reside in Corning, N.Y.

# Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher awards presented at Winter Council Banquet in Portsmouth



January 13: Voice of Democracy 1st place winner Emily R. Moore, Blacksburg H.S., Blacksburg, VA (District 6, Post 776 Radford) with State Commander Mike Boehme and Chief of Staff / VOD Chair Geoff Lyster.



The banquet was well attended and the winners did not know their placement until their names were announced.



Dear 1st District Veteran:

I am writing to invite you to attend our **1st District Veteran's Forum** located at VFW Post 1503. The purpose of this forum is to offer 1<sup>st</sup> District Veterans an opportunity to speak with representatives from the Veterans Administration and Congressman Wittman about VA benefits and services.

#### 1st District Veteran's Forum

**Who:** Congressman Rob Wittman; Mike Carr, Deputy Director, VA Benefits Assistance Service; and Lawrence B. Connell, Acting Medical Center Director, Washington D.C VA

**When:** February 17, 2018

**Time:** 09:30AM-11:30AM

**Where:** Dale City VFW **14631 Minnieville Rd, Dale City, VA 22193** Hall B

**RSVP to Karen Klotz by February 14, 2018**

[Karen.klotz@mail.house.gov](mailto:Karen.klotz@mail.house.gov)

540-659-2734

I hope you will be able to attend. Your participation and ideas will be valued and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Wittman

Member of Congress

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

State Headquarters  
403 Lee Jackson Highway  
Staunton, Virginia 24401  
[www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)



Phone: 540-886-8112  
800-888-3521  
Fax: 866-416-0586  
Email: [statehq@vfwva.org](mailto:statehq@vfwva.org)

VIRGINIA

### Summary of 2018 Initiatives

1. That the 2018 General Assembly pass resolutions identical to the one passed by the 2017 General Assembly (HJ562), thereby continuing the process to amend Virginia's Constitution to provide parity for surviving spouses of 100% disabled veterans and those Killed in Action.
2. 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.
3. That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support, in the amount of \$1,000,000 in FY19 and \$1,000,000 in FY20, to establish a Veteran Entrepreneur Capital Resources Program.
4. That the Governor and General Assembly approve an individual income tax subtraction for 100% service-connected disabled veterans with a federally adjusted gross income, not exceeding 250% of the federal poverty level for a four-person household, who have not already claimed another exemption.
5. 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.
6. 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.

# From the



## VFW Helps Lower TRICARE Select Copayments

[On January 5], after months of pressure by the VFW and other veteran, military and family service organizations, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) reduced copayments for the new TRICARE Select plan. DHA initially announced the new copay concept and costs, which will replace the percent-of-services-used model in place under TRICARE Standard and Extra, in the Interim Final Rule released in September. The new copay scale released [January 5] shows a reduction in the cost of Group A primary care visits from \$27 to \$21 for active-duty family members, and from \$35 to \$28 for retirees. Group A beneficiaries are those who were in uniform or retired prior to the Jan. 1, 2018, implementation date. Similar reductions will be seen in specialty care, urgent care, emergency room visits, and ambulance service. The new copay amounts were included in the “Notice of TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select Plan Information for Calendar Year 2018.” The document also includes details on new covered care, enrollment requirements, and a change in the urgent care referral requirements.

## TRICARE Pharmacy Copays Increasing

TRICARE pharmacy copay costs will increase on Feb. 1, 2018, as required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. The increases will impact almost all beneficiaries, including individuals on TRICARE For Life. Exceptions include active-duty service members (ADSM), who can still fill their prescriptions at any pharmacy at no cost, dependent survivors of ADSM, and medically-retired service members and their dependents, who will continue to be charged 2017 rates. Both retail network and home delivery costs are impacted for generic, brand name and non-formulary drugs. The most significant increase will be in the home delivery generic formulary drug costs, which will increase from \$0 to \$7 per 90-day supply of a medication. Beneficiaries can still fill their prescriptions at a military treatment facility for a \$0 copay. Read details on the pharmacy costs at <https://tricare.mil/pharmacycosts>.

## VFW Welcomes New Army Secretary

The VFW joined with other veteran and military service organization leaders ... to welcome aboard Dr. Mark T. Esper as the 23rd secretary of the U.S. Army. The secretary was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1986 from West Point. He would go on to serve with the 101st Airborne Division in Operations Desert Shield/Storm, as well as command an airborne rifle company in Europe before retiring from the Reserve Component in 2007. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He is also a Life member of the VFW Department of Pennsylvania. Esper has served in senior positions with Raytheon, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Aerospace Industries Association, the House Armed Services Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations and Government Affairs Committee. He also served as a deputy assistant secretary of defense for negotiations policy, and was

the legislative director and senior policy advisor to another VFW Life member, Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska.

## Veterans Legislation Roundup

Congress recently passed three pieces of legislation supported by the VFW — S.1393, the Jobs for Our Heroes Act, S.925, the Veterans E-Health and Telemedicine Support (VETS) Act of 2017, and H.R.4323, the Supporting Veterans in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Careers Act. S.1393 amends existing law in order to allow VA physicians and nurse practitioners to provide medical certifications to veterans who currently operate or wish to operate commercial vehicles. Additionally, it applies commercial driver's license standards for former members of the armed forces to current members. Passed by both the House and Senate, this bill now goes to the president. S.925, passed by the Senate, amends Title 38 to improve the ability of licensed health care professionals employed by VA to treat veterans via telemedicine at any location in any state, regardless of where the professional and patient are located. H.R. 4323, passed by the House, directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research by increasing outreach to veterans and by expanding certain NSF scholarships, grants and fellowship opportunities to veterans and military families.



## WWI Commemorative Coin Sales [Began January 17]

The U.S. Mint [began] selling the 2018 World War I Centennial Silver Dollar on Jan. 17 ... with a one-month introductory discount of the proof (\$51.95 each) and uncirculated (\$48.95) coin versions only. The five different service versions of the World War I Centennial Silver Dol-

lar and Medal Sets will go for \$99.95 each. Public Law 113-212 authorizes the Mint to issue up to 350,000 silver dollar coins. Customer demand will determine the ratio of proof to uncirculated coins within the authorized mintage limits. The price of each coin includes a \$10 surcharge, which will help construct the VFW-supported World War I Memorial a block away from the White House. In a ceremonial “first purchase” [was] **Gerald York, a Life member of VFW Post 7589 in Manassas, Va., and the grandson of another VFW member, WWI Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Alvin C. York.**

Learn more about the commemorative coins at <https://www.usmint.gov/news/press-releases/united-states-mint-begins-sales-of-2018-wwi-commemorative-silver-dollar-and-companion-medal-sets-on-january-17>

## VFW Disaster Assistance Tops \$680,000

*VFW swiftly rose to assist service members and veterans affected by string of natural disasters*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (January 26, 2018)** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is proud to announce that its VFW Unmet Needs program provided a total of \$684,000 in disaster assistance grants to help more than 2,050 military and veteran families recover from last year's string of natural disasters.

The relief funds aided more than 1,063 families after Hurricane Harvey, 925 families after Hurricanes Maria and Irma, and more than 40 families after the California wildfires.

In addition to the monetary support provided by the VFW national organization, many local VFW members quickly joined relief efforts in their own devastated communities. When members of VFW Post 4709 in Conroe, Texas, discovered their Red Cross couldn't reach several emergency shelters, they prepared and shipped out three meals a day for nearly 2,000 people.

Shortly after Hurricane Maria swept through Puerto Rico, VFW Post 754 Commander Gamalier Rosa departed his hometown of Shutesbury, Mass., for the storm-stricken island armed with Unmet Needs relief funds that purchased several generators to aid local veterans in cleanup efforts and to help restore some power.

Members of Puerto Rico VFW Post 12064 helped distribute water and nearly 1,000 meals to struggling veterans, as well as helped others with debris removal, to receive health care, find temporary housing, and by connecting them with the correct government agencies to help get them back on their feet faster.

"Too many veterans still don't have access to power or water," said Post 12064 Senior Vice Commander Jose Santos-Alvarez. "It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, if we see you and you need help, we're going to help," he said of the Post's dedication in their neighborhoods and communities.

The VFW projects that by the end of its fiscal year, nearly 2,400 grants will be distributed, surpassing \$786,000 in disaster aid.

The VFW's most recent assistance continues a long-standing commitment to supporting veterans, service members and their families in the wake of natural disasters. In 2012, the VFW provided more than \$120,000 for Hurricane Sandy victims on the East Coast, distributed over \$60,000 in 2013 for Moore, Okla., tornado and Colorado flood relief, and in 2016 provided \$25,000 to Louisiana for flood relief.

"The VFW is extremely proud of the fact we can provide a life-line for so many military and veteran families, especially during an already trying time in their lives," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. "This program really showcases what we do, and have always done to support America's service members."

## Scammers impersonate the Social Security Administration

January 26, 2018

by Ari Lazarus

Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

Your Social Security number is an important key for an identity thief. Scammers want it, and they think of all sorts of ways to trick you into giving it away.

Here at the Federal Trade Commission, we're getting reports about calls from scammers claiming to be from the Social Security Administration. They say there's been a computer problem, and they need to confirm your Social Security number. Other people have told us that they have come across spoof websites that look like the place where you would apply for a new Social Security card – but these websites are actually a setup to steal your personal information.

If you get a phone call or are directed to a website other than [ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov) that is claiming to be associated with the Social Security Administration, don't respond. It's most likely a scam. Here's some tips to deal with these government imposters:

**Don't give the caller your information.** Never give out or confirm sensitive information – like your bank account, credit card, or Social Security number – unless you know who you're dealing with. If someone has contacted you, you can't be sure who they are.

**Don't trust a name or number.** Con artists use official-sounding names to make you trust them. To make their call seem legitimate, scammers use internet technology to spoof their area code – so although it may seem they are calling from Washington, DC, they could be calling from anywhere in the world.

**Check with the Social Security Administration.** The SSA has a warning about [these scams](#) and suggests you contact them directly at 1-800-772-1213 to verify the reason for the contact and the person's identity prior to providing any information to the caller.

If you come across one of these scams, please report it to the Social Security Administration's Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271/1-866-501-2101 (TTY) and then tell the FTC about it at <http://www.ftc.gov/complaint>.



**Dominion Energy  
Veterans Guitar  
Workshop Series  
"January Jam"  
Workshops**

Tuesday, January 16 and 30  
from 7–8:30 p.m.

**Poetry Writing  
Workshop**

Presented by the Hylton  
Center Veterans and the  
Arts Initiative and the Armed  
Services Arts Partnership  
Saturday, January 27  
from 1–4 p.m.

**Dominion Energy  
Veterans Guitar  
Workshop Series**

Tuesdays, February 20–April 24  
Level I Guitar Workshop from  
7–7:45 p.m.  
Level II Guitar Workshop from  
8–8:45 p.m.  
Free for Veterans,  
Servicemembers, their families,  
and military caregivers; \$250  
for the general public

**Poetry Writing  
Workshop**

Frederick Foote, M.D., Captain,  
Medical Corps, USN, (Ret.)  
Saturday, March 3  
from 1–4 p.m.

**Echoes of the  
Great War**

Presented by the Hylton Center  
Veterans and the Arts Initiative  
and Lifelong Learning Institute,  
Manassas.  
Lecture by Cheryl Regan,  
Exhibition Director, Library  
of Congress  
Thursday, March 8 at 10 a.m.

**Meditative Dots  
Workshop**

Martin J. Cervantez, Master  
Sergeant, USA (Ret.)  
Saturday, March 17  
from 1–3 p.m.

**Heroes' Voices  
National Poetry  
Contest Reading**

Wednesday, June 13  
from 7:30–8:30 p.m.

All events are free. Information and registration at  
[HyltonCenter.org/veterans](http://HyltonCenter.org/veterans).

**VFW-Sport Clips Scholarship Program  
Tops \$4 Million!**

*Program names 118 student veterans to  
share \$550,000 this spring semester*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (January 9, 2018)** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is proud to announce that its VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program has now awarded more than \$4.1 million in scholarships to 943 military and student veterans. The latest award of more than \$550,000 will now enable 118 student veterans to continue their higher education classes this spring semester.

"The VFW was instrumental in the passage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the new Forever GI Bill, but those beefed-up educational assistance programs still can't cover the full cost for certain curriculums," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. "Through the generosity of Sport Clips and its founder, VFW Life member Gordon Logan, we were able to create the Help A Hero scholarship program in 2014 to help a new generation of patriots attain their educational goals."

The VFW Help A Hero scholarship provides service members and veterans up to \$5,000 in post-secondary scholarships without any fear of increasing student debt.

"This grant will be a great opportunity ... I can now transition from the military into the private sector without the struggle of typical student debt," said 2018 spring scholarship recipient and Western Governors University student Jadus Bare. "For some veterans, this phase can be a nightmare, but companies and communities such as VFW and Sport Clips give support so we can accomplish our educational goals. I have always been interested in higher education, and now I have that opportunity. Thank you very much."

"This money is not just helping me afford my graduate program in marriage and family therapy, it is also an investment toward veterans mental health," explained scholarship recipient Brooke Mills, a student at Northcentral University. "I am pleased to announce that, due to your scholarships, I have paid for my entire education. I am so pleased and grateful!"

Help A Hero scholarships are awarded twice a year exclusively to service members and veterans to help cover the cost of tuition and fees. Scholarship applications are currently being accepted for the 2018 fall semester. Apply for a Help A Hero scholarship today at <http://www.vfw.org/scholarship>.

-vfw-

## Upcoming Events

<b>February</b>	
February 1	Executive Meeting – 7 PM
February 5	Post/Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM
February 8-11	Auxiliary Mid-Year Conference, Nashville, TN
February 10	District 8 Meeting 1:00 PM -- Southern Fauquier Post 7728 – Hosted by Warrenton
February 15	Continuing Education Scholarship <b>(Deadline)</b>
February 15	Youth Committee — 7 PM
<b>March</b>	
March 1	Executive Meeting – 7:30 PM
March 5	Post/Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM
March 10	Commander's & President's Homecoming – Post 9808
March 12	St. Patrick's Day Parade <b>(TBD)</b>
March 15	Youth Committee — 7 PM
March 22	VFW Junior Vice Commander in Chief Doc Schmitz visit & dinner
March 29	Executive Meeting — 7:30 PM
March 31	<b>Deadlines</b> for Patriotic Arts & Dept. Program Reports
<b>April</b>	
April 2	Post/Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM (Elections)
April 19	Youth Committee — 7 PM
April 22	Dist. 8 Convention – Culpeper 2527 – 1 PM (Elections)



**KNOW YOUR VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE**

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

**Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office**



**9300 W. Courthouse Rd.**  
**703-479-7437**

**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](http://www.vfw7589.org)

Editor: Rick Raskin  
 Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to [quartermaster@vfw7589.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfw7589.org)

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