

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
February 2020



MARY CORKHILL / AUXILIARY 7589

Virginia's First Place Voice of Democracy winner Sophie I. L. Crowder reads her essay at the Winter Council of Administration banquet in Portsmouth Virginia. Observing are State Commander Rick Raskin, State VOD Chair Lou Filippone and State Auxiliary President Marcia Semones.

In This Issue:

- Council of Administration meeting photos
- Education Awards Banquet photos
- Manassas City red-light camera program
- DoD answers top 10 questions on expanded commissary, exchange, MWR access
- VFW, Stars and Stripes Work to Bring More News to More Veterans
- Prince William County needs substitute teachers

Annual members...

Upgrade to Life membership and receive a \$50 gift certificate for the VFW store.

This offer also applies to those signing up as life members or Installment Life when they complete their membership agreement.

CANNON NEWS—2015 & 2018 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



Wayne Moore

Comrades,

I would like to "Salute the Heroes" who fought and died valiantly on the island of Iwo Jima on their upcoming anniversary. As a WESPAC sailor, I've had the distinguished pleasure to accompany a Marine contingency that paid annual homage by returning to the memorial. As the years pass and memories fades this information may dwell in archives for

posterity but, little is being taught to our children. Semper Fi!

On February 19, 1945, U.S. Marines made an amphibious landing on Iwo Jima, and were met immediately with unforeseen challenges. First and foremost, the beaches of the island were made up of steep dunes of soft, gray volcanic ash, which made getting sturdy footing and passage for vehicles difficult.

The Battle of Iwo Jima was an epic military campaign between U.S. Marines and the Imperial Army of Japan in early 1945. Located 750 miles off the coast of Japan, the island of Iwo Jima had three airfields that could serve as a staging facility for a potential invasion of mainland Japan. American forces invaded the island on February 19, 1945, and the ensuing Battle of Iwo Jima lasted for five weeks. In some of the bloodiest fighting of World War II, it's believed that all but 200 or so of the 21,000 Japanese forces on the island were killed, as were almost 7,000 Marines. But once the fighting was over, the strategic value of Iwo Jima was called into question.

Iwo Jima Before the Battle

According to postwar analyses, the Imperial Japanese Navy had been so crippled by earlier World War II clashes in the Pacific that it was already unable to defend the empire's island holdings, including the Marshall archipelago.

In addition, Japan's air force had lost many of its warplanes, and those it had were unable to protect an inner line of defenses set up by the empire's military leaders. This line of defenses included islands like Iwo Jima.

Given this information, American military leaders planned an attack on the island that they believed would last no more than a few days. However, the Japanese had secretly embarked on a new defensive tactic, taking advantage of Iwo Jima's mountainous landscape and jungles to set up camouflaged artillery positions.

Although Allied forces led by the Americans bombarded Iwo Jima with bombs dropped from the sky and heavy gunfire from ships positioned off the coast of the island, the strategy developed by Japanese General Tadamichi Kuribayashi meant

(See Commander on page 4)

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill



The Department Winter Conference was held in Portsmouth, VA on January 10-12, 2020. On the agenda for Saturday evening's banquet were the top

three recipients for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. The first place recipients read their entries before they received their awards. The three Teacher of the Year recipients were also in attendance and received their awards. The first place essays along with the Teacher of the Year recipients were forwarded to National Headquarters in Kansas City, MO to compete with other Department recipients. The VFW Legislative Conference in Washington will be from February 29 - March 5, 2020. All the Departments Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarship recipients will receive their National awards from National Commander-in-Chief William J. "Doc" Schmitz and National President Peggy Haake.

There are several holidays and events scheduled for February. Remember Valentine's Day on February 14th for your loved ones. President's Day is Monday, February 17, 2020. The 8th District meeting is Saturday, February 22nd 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. A combined National Auxiliary Mid-Year Conference and CAFÉ will be February 19-24, 2020 in Honolulu, HI.

The National VFW Auxiliary is pleased to offer the Continuing Education Scholarship. This scholarship is to assist Auxiliary members and/or their immediate family in the opportunity to further their education by pursuing a college degree or a career direction at a vocational/technical school. Your application must be in at National Headquarters by **February 15, 2020**. You can obtain an application by going to the National Auxiliary website: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-ContinuingEducation-ScholarshipPRINTABLE.pdf>. Good luck!!!

Last year, Auxiliary 7589 was honored to have Ms. Sarah Kim from W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA, place first in the Department and it was honored to compete at the National level. The deadline for the Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest for high school students is **March 31, 2020**. There are two different dimensional arts that can be submitted by high school students. The two-dimensional art must be on canvas or paper and the three-dimensional art can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, clay, metal work, fabric, etc. The three dimensional art cannot be more than 5 lbs. in weight. **Digital art, photography and jewelry are NOT ACCEPTED**. You can go to the National Auxiliary website <http://www.vfwauxiliary.org> under Scholarship/Patriotic Art.

(See Auxiliary on page 5)

Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone

Greetings to everyone from the Youth Committee. Our last meeting was held on Thursday, 16 January 2020 at 7:00 PM. The primary topic of discussion was the VFW Scout of the Year Program. The deadline for all applications is 1 March 2020 and will soon be upon us. Each year the VFW awards three National Scholarships to Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have

excelled among their peers. The candidates must also be registered active members of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship at the time the award is received. There is no minimum age requirement. The maximum age is 18 years. They can be above the age of 18 provided they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline. The documents required are fairly extensive for each candidate, consequently candidates must be recruited as soon as possible in order to make the 1 March deadline. In addition to a completed entry form, each Scout must include a 3x5" photo of his or herself in their current uniform, a one page school participation record, a Scouting Record not to exceed three pages, a one page Community Service Record and three letters of recommendation, not to exceed two pages, from a scout leader, community member and a teacher. The deadline for Department judging is 1 April and for National judging 1 May. The National prizes are \$5000 for 1st place, \$3000 for 2nd place and \$1000 for third place. Should any comrade know of an eligible candidate please contact myself, or any member of the Youth Committee, as soon as possible. As always we want our Post to be well represented this at the District and, hopefully, Department level judging and wish to recruit as many applicants as possible. With your help we can recognize an outstanding Scout and also gain recognition for our Post as their sponsor.

The Department just held its Annual Awards Banquet at the Winter Council in Portsmouth, Virginia on 11 January 2020. We recognized the Department's top three winners in both the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy programs as well as the three Teacher of the Year winners. The ceremony was emceed by Department Commander Rick Raskin and was a spectacular event. Approximately \$30,000 in prizes were awarded to the winners this year thanks to several generous donations from private donors such as Commander Rick and Janet Raskin and from corporate donations from sponsors like Powerhouse Gaming. The first prize for the Department Voice of Democracy winner, Sophie I.L. Crowder, was an astounding \$11,000! You can imagine the excitement when the first place winner was announced. It was a wonderful occasion and celebration for everyone in attendance

Just a reminder about our District Eight Awards Ceremony which will recognize and award the District's Patriot's Pen, Voice of

(See *Youth* on page 5)

Legislative Update



Monti Zimmerman

There are six issues going forward to the Virginia legislature. All are moving forward at this time The JLC is the Joint Leadership of Veteran Service Organizations. The VFW is a member of this Governor Appointed Council and all initiatives are being closely tracked. We have been supporting these or similar proposals for several years, but have traction on all of them.

JLC Initiative 2020-01

HB 1268 Constitutional amendment; personal property tax exemption for motor vehicle of a disable veteran.

Constitutional amendment (voter referendum); personal property tax exemption; motor vehicle owned by a veteran who is disabled. Provides for a referendum at the November 3, 2020, election to approve or reject a personal property tax exemption for a motor vehicle that is owned and used primarily by or for a veteran of the armed forces of the United States or the Virginia National Guard who has a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability.

JLC Initiative 2020-02

HB 191 Absentee voting; counting military and overseas absentee ballots received after close of polls.

Absentee voting; counting military and overseas absentee ballots received after close of polls on election day. Provides that absentee ballots cast by military and overseas absentee voters that are (i) received after the close of the polls on any election day but before 5:00 p.m. on the second business day before the State Board meets to ascertain the results of the election and (ii) postmarked on or before the date of such election are to be counted if the voter is found entitled to vote. Under current law, such ballots cast by military and overseas absentee voters are counted in this manner regardless of the date of any postmark if the absentee ballot was requested on or before, but not sent by, the deadline for making absentee ballots available. The bill provides that a postmark includes any other official indicia of confirmation of mailing by the United States Postal Service or other postal or delivery service.

JLC Initiative 2020-03

HB 125 Income tax, state; subtraction for low-income military veterans with a service-connected disability.

Income tax; subtraction for low-income military veterans with a permanent service-connected disability. Provides an income tax subtraction for the military retirement income

(See *Legislative* on page 6)

(Commander from page 2)

that the forces controlling it suffered little damage and were thus ready to repel the initial attack by the U.S. Marines, under the command of Holland M. “Howlin’ Mad” Smith.

Marines Invade Iwo Jima

On February 19, 1945, U.S. Marines made an amphibious landing on Iwo Jima, and were met immediately with unforeseen challenges. First and foremost, the beaches of the island were made up steep dunes of soft, gray volcanic ash, which made getting sturdy footing and passage for vehicles difficult.

As the Marines struggled forward, the Japanese lay in wait. The Americans assumed the pre-attack bombardment had been effective and had crippled the enemy’s defenses on the island.

However, the lack of immediate response was simply part of Kuribayashi’s plan.

With the Americans struggling to get a foothold on the beaches of Iwo Jima – literally and figuratively – Kuribayashi’s artillery positions in the mountains above opened fire, stalling the advancing Marines and inflicting significant casualties.

However, despite a Banzai charge by dozens of Japanese soldiers as dusk fell, the Marines were eventually able to move in past the beach and seize part of one Iwo Jima’s airfields – the stated mission of the invasion.

Battle of Iwo Jima Rages On

Within days, some 70,000 U.S. Marines landed on Iwo Jima. Although they significantly outnumbered their Japanese enemies on the island (by a more than three-to-one margin), many Americans were wounded or killed over the five weeks of fighting, with some estimates suggesting more than 25,000 casualties, including nearly 7,000 deaths.

The Japanese, meanwhile, were also suffering major losses, and were running low on supplies – namely, weapons and food. Under Kuribayashi’s leadership, they mounted most of their defenses via attacks under the cover of darkness.

While effective, the success of the Japanese forces seemed to merely forestall the inevitable.

Just four days into the fighting, U.S. Marines captured Mount Suribachi, on Iwo Jima’s south side, famously raising an American flag at the summit. That image was captured by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal, who won a Pulitzer Prize for the iconic photograph.

However, the fighting was far from over.

Iwo Jima Falls to American Forces

Battles raged on in the northern part of Iwo Jima for four weeks, with Kuribayashi essentially setting up a garrison in the

mountains in that part of the island. On March 25, 1945, 300 of Kuribayashi’s men mounted a final Banzai attack.

The American forces sustained a number of casualties, but ultimately quelled the attack. Although the American military declared that Iwo Jima had been captured the next day, American forces spent weeks on end trudging through the island’s jungles, finding and killing or capturing Japanese “holdouts” who refused to surrender and opted to continue fighting.

Dozens of Americans were killed during this process. Two Japanese holdouts continued to hide in the island’s caves, scavenging food and supplies until they finally surrendered in 1949, almost four years after the end of World War II.

In the end, neither the U.S. Army nor the U.S. Navy was able to use Iwo Jima as a World War II staging area. Navy Seabees, or construction battalions, did rebuild the airfields for Air Force pilots to use in case of emergency landings.

Letters From Iwo Jima

Because of the brutality of the fighting, and the fact that the battle occurred fairly close to the end of World War II, Iwo Jima – and those who lost their lives trying to capture the island – retain a great deal of significance even today, decades after the fighting stopped.

In 1954, the U.S. Marine Corps dedicated the Marine Corps War Memorial, also known as the Iwo Jima Memorial, near Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia to honor all Marines. The statue is based on Rosenthal’s now-famous photograph.

More recently, actor/director Clint Eastwood in 2006 made two movies about the events on Iwo Jima called, respectively, *Flags of Our Fathers* and *Letters from Iwo Jima*. The first depicts the battle from the American perspective, while the latter shows it from the Japanese perspective

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-iwo-jima>

Retrieved 1/18/2020



JOE ROSENTHAL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

(Youth from page 3)

Democracy and Teacher of the Year winners for 2019. It is scheduled for Saturday, 22 February 2020 at Post 7728 in Morrisville Virginia. The luncheon begins at 12:00 noon and is followed by the 1:00 awards ceremony. This is a great opportunity to celebrate with and recognize our winners, many of whom were sponsored by our Post, and to attend the District Eight meeting as well. We hope to see you all there.

Another youth contest currently underway is the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest sponsored by the Post Auxiliary. Art entries from students with patriotic themes are judged and monetary awards are given. Several art categories or media are included in the contest. The deadline is 31 March and applications are available either online or from President Mary Corkhill of the Auxiliary. If you know of any student with artistic talent interested in entering please bring it to Mary's attention.

Our next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 20 February 2020 at the Post at 7:00 PM. Please join us and help promote patriotism and Americanism with our youth. By mentoring them we will ensure our Nation has the next generation of leaders it deserves. Isn't that a noble cause?

With best regards,
Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

Auxiliary from page 2)

The Auxiliary is looking forward to this year's entries.

Just an advance notice: In April we will be electing new officers for the 2020-2021 year for both the Auxiliary and District. Please consider taking a position so we can continue our mission of supporting our veterans. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the wonderful job you are doing. All of you are **AWESOME**.

Today's military and veteran families face different challenges - reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries among others. The National Home has evolved over our decades-long history to meet those changing needs. If you wish to become a Life Member to the National Home for Children, your application and membership fee of \$50.00 can be forward to VFW National Home for Children at 3573 S. Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 43327. Thank you in advance for becoming a member.

As of July 1, 2019, the Auxiliary has collected over \$12,584 05 in coupons for our veterans who are serving 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.

Please keep Ann Mitchell and Renee Bramer in your prayers. They are facing some medical issues. As always, remember the individuals who are ill and/or hospitalized in your prayers. Thank you!!

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
Auxiliary President



INSIDENOVA PRINCE WILLIAM presents MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE
in LES SYLPHIDES AND MORE

Friday, March 13-Sunday, March 15

We are happy to present *Les Sylphides*, a ballet blanc widely thought of as the first ballet to be created simply about mood and without a storyline. Additionally, the program will include new contemporary works, all accompanied by the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra.

MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE

The VFW National Home for Children

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

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

We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.

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

A Great Place to Call Home!

800-313-4200

(Legislative from page 3)

received by a veteran who has been rated with a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability. The bill provides that the subtraction is available only to those taxpayers whose federal adjusted gross income is no greater than 150 percent of the federal poverty level for a four-person household.

JLC Initiative 2020-04

SB 753 Virginia National Guard; state active duty for emergency response.

Virginia National Guard; state active duty for emergency response; pay and allowances for members. Provides that whenever called to state active duty in response to certain emergencies, members of the National Guard and the Virginia Defense Force receive pay and allowance equal to their rank and years of service, as determined by the Department of Military Affairs. The bill also authorizes the Adjutant General to increase state active duty pay on an annual basis by a rate not to exceed the most recent percentage increase in basic pay for members of the Armed Forces. Current law provides that (i) officers of the National Guard receive the same pay and allowances as prescribed for members of like rank in the United States Armed Forces, (ii) members of the National Guard receive the same pay and allowances as if they were on a day of Annual Training, and (iii) members of the Virginia Defense Force called to state active duty receive the same pay and allowances as persons of like grade in the National Guard for a day of Annual Training, capped at 25 years of service.

JLC Initiative 2020-05

HB 230 Income tax, state and corporate; tax credit for employers of National Guard members.

Individual and corporate income tax credit; employers of National Guard members and self-employed National Guard members. Provides for taxable years 2020 through 2024 a nonrefundable tax credit against individual and corporate income taxes for (i) wages paid by an employer to an employee who is a Virginia National Guard member or (ii) income of a self-employed National Guard member attributable to his business. The amount of the credit shall be 25 percent if such member was in a military pay status for 65 days or more during such taxable year or 15 percent if such member was in a military pay status for 45 days or more during such taxable year. The credit shall not be allowed if such member was in a military pay status for less than 45 days during such taxable year.

JLC Initiative 2020-06

SB 458 Microloans for Veterans Program and Fund; created.

This applies to those spouses subject to the DIC offset now or would be in the future. No additional benefits will be paid in 2020, a thirty-three percent increase will be paid to all eligible beneficiaries in 2021 and full DIC/ SBP benefits will be paid to all beneficiaries in 2022.

Details:

1. Spouse SBP annuitants subject to the DIC offset will see the first payment increase effective February 1, 2021 with no retroactive payments.
2. This will be automatic and will not require additional actions by the beneficiaries.
3. It will be the responsibility of the recipients to ensure that their SBP account information is current and correct, including correct mailing address. If the beneficiaries do not have a DFAS "myPay" or a USCG "Direct-Access (DA) Self-Service" account now, they should add their email address (learn more at [DFAS.mil](https://www.dfas.mil) for DoD or <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/> for Coast Guard).
4. Pay agencies do not have estimates available at this time. Please do not call Customer Service Centers for this information.
5. **IMPORTANT BENEFIT:** Survivors will not have to pay back any premium refunds if they previously received a refund of SBP premiums due to the SBP-DIC offset.
6. The "Repeal of Authority for Optional Annuity for Dependent Children" and "Restoration of Eligibility for Previously Eligible Spouses" in the law only affects those spouses and children of service members who died on *active duty* when the surviving spouse previously elected to transfer the SBP annuity to a child or children. They do not affect previous or future SBP elections by retirees or SBP annuities for a retiree's beneficiaries.
7. Finally: **the law is not retroactive**, so **there will not be any back payments for past offset amounts**. The law starts as of the law's passage and going forward.



Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office

9300 W. Courthouse Rd.
Suite 305
703-479-7437

Council of Administration — January 11

PHOTOS BY DOC CROUCH / POST 3150



FVW National Representative Past Commander in Chief Glen Gardner



Bob Jekanowski from Powerhouse Gaming



State Service Officer Bobbiejo Lazo teaches a class for service officers — Note Post 7589 Commander Wayne Moore in the foreground.



Rick Raskin addresses the Auxiliary. Accompanying Rick: PDC Ken Wiseman, Bob Jekanowski, Past Commanders in Chief Glen Gardner and John Smart.



Gene Chavis and Kathy Goodall staffed the registration table.



Hospitality chairs Mark & Jennifer Winn at the Military Order of the Cootie table.

Education Awards Banquet — January 11

PHOTOS BY MARY CORKHILL / AUXILIARY 7589



State Commander Rick Raskin



VOD Chair Lou Filippone and Department Scholarship Chair Debbie Weekley



VOD 1st place winner Sophie Crowder with Rick Raskin & Bob Jekanowski from Powerhouse Gaming



State Surgeon Eddie Reasor, Amanda Reasor, Kimberly Greene, (Grades K -5) Orchard View Elementary School, Winchester, VA , and Bob Jekanowski



Janet & Rick Raskin with VOD 3rd place winner Timothy Naff



Rick Raskin and Teacher of the Year Chair Chris Birch with Jennifer L. Conner-Harris, (Grades 6-8) Lake Ridge Middle School, Woodbridge, VA

Manassas City red-light camera program

<http://www.manassascity.org/2558/Red-Light-Camera-Program>

On December 9, 2019 the City of Manassas City Council approved an ordinance allowing for photo enforcement of red light violations. The City of Manassas is committed to keeping our residents safe on our roadways. To do that, we will be installing red light cameras to help prevent accidents at some of the busiest intersections in the City. The project is a public safety initiative through the Manassas City Police Department which aims to change driver behavior and reduce accidents at some of the most problematic intersections within the City.

The Manassas City Police Department is currently in the contract phase with the vendor, Conduent Transportation. After that is completed, the implementation phase of the project will begin with extensive traffic studies of intersections to determine if they are appropriate for photo enforcement.

The following intersections will be considered for the study:

Liberia Avenue/Centreville Road
 Liberia Avenue/Euclid Avenue
 Liberia Avenue/Mathis Avenue
 Liberia Avenue/Signal Hill Road
 Grant Avenue/Center Street
 Godwin Drive/Wellington Road
 Godwin Drive/Nokesville Road
 Liberia Avenue/Prince William Parkway
 Liberia Avenue/Richmond Avenue
 Sudley Road/Godwin Drive

More information will be provided as the project progresses. Please refer to this web-page for all project updates. For more information, refer to the Code of Virginia Section §15.2-968.1 which establishes the regulations associated with the enforcement of traffic light signals through the use of photo-monitoring systems. For additional questions, contact the Manassas City Police Department's Public Information Office by email at mcpdpio@manassasva.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the goal of the red light photo enforcement project?

The program is intended to improve the safety of drivers by conducting enforcement at the most problematic intersections in the City of Manassas. Traditional enforcement of these areas is difficult and dangerous for not only the officer, but the driver. Highway safety studies show photo red light enforcement helps change driver behavior and drastically reduce the number of violations and accidents.

How many cameras will be installed?

Virginia Code allows for ten intersections to have photo enforcement in the City of Manassas. However, that does not mean ten intersections will receive photo enforcement systems. Photo enforcement will only be installed at intersections that are deemed appropriate through traffic and engineering studies.

How long will it take for cameras to be put up?

Each intersection requires a traffic study to determine if photo enforcement is appropriate for the intersection. If it is deemed appropriate, a camera will be installed. The study and installation takes approximately 45-60 days.

What is the fine and who does the citation go to?

There will be a 30-day grace period after a camera is installed. During this time, warnings will be issued. After this grace period, fines will be issued. The Code of Virginia establishes the fine which is \$50 per violation. It is a civil penalty that goes to the owner, not the driver. This means there are no points assessed to the driver or owner's licenses. The violation is mailed to the owner's registered address.

How are fines paid?

Fines will be able to be paid via phone, mail, or online. Upon receipt of the violation, the owner can request a court date if they wish to appeal.

What type of photo is taken?

The system is a rear-facing system. The camera only captures the rear of the vehicle and its license plate. No photo is taken of the driver.

How is the violation determined to be accurate?

Two separate individuals with the vendor will review the violation to ensure it is accurate. The photo is then sent to our department where a sworn officer reviews it a third time and makes final approval.

How will the money collected through fines be used?

The fines collected will be used to fund the entire red light camera enforcement project. Any money collected beyond the amount required to maintain the project will be deposited in the City of Manassas' General Fund.

DoD answers top 10 questions on expanded commissary, exchange, MWR access

The Defense Department recently announced expanded commissary, military service exchange and MWR [access Jan. 1](#) and established a standard for physical access to military installations. Below are the top 10 questions Veterans have asked the Defense Department about the expanded access.

Q1. How do I get access if I have a 0 percent service-connected condition, but my income is too high to get a Veteran Health Identification Card?

A1. Veterans who have received a Health Eligibility Center Form H623A that states they have been placed in VA health care priority group 8E may bring this form paired with an acceptable credential like a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or a U.S. passport for installation and privilege access.

Q2. If I've got a DoD-issued identification card because I'm retired, a Medal of Honor recipient, or have a 100 percent VA-documented disability or unemployability rating, do I also need to have a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) to get access to DoD privileges?

A2. No. If you are eligible for a DoD-issued retiree, Medal of Honor, or 100 percent disabled identification card, you should obtain and use the DoD-issued card to access DoD installations and privileges. While you could use a VHIC if you had one, you would be subject to the commissary credit/debit card user fee if you paid for your commissary purchases with a commercial credit or debit card. The commissary credit/debit card user fee is not charged to DoD-issued identification card holders. Your DoD-issued identification card will also allow you broader morale, welfare, and recreation activity access.

Q3. How does the installation access process work for me and my guests; and if I have old felony activity on my record, will I be denied access to the installation?

A3. All newly eligible Veterans and caregivers and any guests traveling with them who are age 18 or older must stop at the visitor control center before entering an installation for the first time to verify identify, establish purpose for the visit, and undergo a basic on-the-spot background check.

- Newly eligible Veterans must show a Veteran Health Identification Card that displays "PURPLE HEART," "FORMER POW," or "SERVICE CONNECTED" below the photo on the front of the card; or a Health Eligibility Center Form H623A that states the Veteran has been placed in VA health care priority group 8E, paired with an acceptable credential like a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or a U.S. passport. (DoD installations cannot accept a driver's license that is not REAL ID-compliant as proof of identity.)
- Newly eligible caregivers must show an eligibility letter

from the VA's Office of Community Care that lists them as the Primary Family Caregiver for an eligible Veteran under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, paired with an acceptable credential like a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or a U.S. passport. (DoD installations cannot accept a driver's license that is not REAL ID-compliant as proof of identity.)

- Guests of newly eligible Veterans or caregivers who are age 18 or older must show an acceptable credential like a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or a U.S. passport. (DoD installations cannot accept a driver's license that is not REAL ID-compliant as proof of identity.)

If the installation has credential enrollment capability and the acceptable credential(s) used are enrollable, they can be enrolled for recurring access so that the individual(s) don't have to stop at visitor control every time they want to visit the installation. Even a guest's acceptable credential can be enrolled. It will not allow them to enter the installation without someone who is eligible to enter the installation, but it will allow them to have their credential scanned from the car when entering with an authorized individual. This is the same process used for anyone who desires entry to an installation.

An individual may be denied access if derogatory information shows up on the background check that reflects on the integrity or character of an individual that indicates that such an individual may pose a risk to the good order, discipline, morale, or safety of a DoD installation or the resources or personnel on that installation. Examples include, but are not limited to, aspects of an individual's criminal history or current status as wanted or as a known or appropriately suspected terrorist. There is a process for an individual with accurately identified derogatory information that prevents individuals from establishing either historic or current fitness to seek an exception due to their specific circumstances, allowing them to be granted unescorted access. DoD Components may grant unescorted access to a convicted felon, in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws, after considering appropriate mitigating factors such as the nature and seriousness of the offense, the circumstances surrounding the offense, recency and frequency of the offense, the individual's age and maturity at the time of the offense, the individual's effort toward rehabilitation, and other factors. Under these conditions, an individual should apply directly to the installation commander requesting an exception to all allow access to the installation.

Q4. Are dependents of newly eligible Veterans and caregivers also eligible for DoD privileges?

A4. No. The Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018, only gave these privileges to specific Veterans and caregivers, not to their dependents. Dependents may accompany eligible Veterans and caregivers as their guests, but they may not make purchases.

Q5. Why can't all Veterans have these DoD privileges?

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

A5. The scope of operations on military installations is sized to take care of the needs of military members and their families. Military operations are not funded or sized to accommodate all Veterans. Expanding access to the 4.1 million Veterans and caregivers directed by the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018 (and that number continues to grow daily), will already be a test of DoD's capacity. Inserting another 15 million Veterans into the mix would overwhelm the system and our military members and their families would suffer for it.

Q6. Will Veterans who choose to live overseas be able to access military installations and privileges in overseas foreign countries?

A6. It depends. U.S. law doesn't apply outside of the United States and outside of the U.S. territories and possessions. Access in overseas foreign countries is subject to applicable host-nation laws and applicable international agreements, like status of forces agreements. The function of the installation also sometimes restricts access. It is best to check with the installation you desire to visit to find out if, as a Veteran or caregiver in one of the new Veteran or caregiver categories, you will be authorized access. Chances are that if you are a retired military member living abroad and didn't already have access as a retiree, you will not get access under any of the new categories.

Q7. Can newly eligible Veterans and caregivers bring guests to the installations and facilities?

A7. Yes. Guests will be subject to installation access procedures described in #8 above and must remain with the eligible Veteran or caregiver at all times when they are on the installation. Also, guests cannot make any purchases in commissary or exchange stores.

Q8. Which of the following MWR activities can be used? (This is not an exhaustive list, only the most frequently asked about activities.)

A8.

AmericanForcesTravel.com: Yes.

Bowling: Yes.

Camping: Yes. Tent sites and RV parks.

Child Care: No.

Clubs: Yes.

Fishing: It depends. If lakes are operated as part of the installation park and picnic areas, no. If lakes are operated as part of the installation outdoor recreation activity, then it is at the discretion of the Military Department, subject to capacity and funding conditions.

Golf: Yes.

Gyms: No.

Libraries: No.

Lodging: Yes. Cabins, cottages, recreation centers, resorts, and official temporary duty and permanent change of station lodging (on a space-available basis).

Movies: Yes, if there is an admission fee. (No, if the movies are shown at no charge.)

Pools: Yes, if designated as a recreational swimming pool. (No if designated as an aquatic training facility.)

Rentals: Yes.

Tickets: At the discretion of the Military Department, subject to capacity and funding conditions.

MAC flights: This is NOT an MWR, exchange, or commissary activity and access is NOT authorized.

Pharmacy: This is NOT an MWR, exchange, or commissary activity and access is NOT authorized.

USO: This is NOT a military organization. USO is a non-Federal entity.

Q9. What conditions are required to get access to the DoD privileges?

A9. Newly eligible Veterans must meet at least one of the following conditions:

- Purple Heart recipient
- Former prisoner of war
- Service-connected disability rating (between 0-90 percent) Veterans with a 100 percent disability or unemployability rating and Veterans who are Medal of Honor recipients already have DoD privileges, so they are not newly eligible.

Veterans include former members of any of the uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

Newly eligible caregivers must be the individual assessed, approved, and designated as the Primary Family Caregiver for an eligible Veteran under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

In addition to meeting one of the above conditions, newly eligible Veterans and caregivers must possess the specific documentation that DoD will accept as proof of identity and

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

eligibility for access:

Veterans must possess a [Veteran Health Identification Card \(VHIC\)](#) that displays “PURPLE HEART,” “FORMER POW,” or “SERVICE CONNECTED” below the photo on the front of the card. If an eligible Veteran is not eligible to obtain a VHIC, the VA Health Eligibility Center Form H623A indicating placement in VA health care priority group 8E, paired with an acceptable credential, like a REAL ID-compliant driver’s license or U.S. passport, will be accepted.

Caregivers must possess an eligibility letter from the VA Office of Community Care that lists them as the Primary Family Caregiver for an eligible Veteran under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, paired with an acceptable credential like a REAL ID-compliant driver’s license or a U.S. passport.

Q10. Can anyone with a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) get these privileges?

A10. No. Only Veterans with a VHIC that displays “PURPLE HEART,” “FORMER POW,” or “SERVICE CONNECTED” will be authorized the new privileges. Veterans may be able to use a VHIC that doesn’t contain one of these markings to access an installation with a medical facility if they have an appointment there, but if the VHIC does not display “PURPLE HEART,” “FORMER POW,” or “SERVICE CONNECTED,” they will not have access to commissaries, exchanges, or morale, welfare, and recreation facilities.

Learn more about the VHIC requirement and how you can get one [here](#).

Download the *Expanded Access at Commissaries, Exchanges and Recreation Facilities* fact sheet [here](#).

Find facilities or shop online:

Commissaries: <https://www.commissaries.com>
Army and Air Force Exchange System: <https://www.shopmyexchange.com>

Coast Guard Exchange: <https://shopCGX.com>

Marine Corps Exchange: <http://www.mymcx.com>

Navy Exchange: <https://www.mynavyexchange.com>



VFW, Stars and Stripes Work to Bring More News to More Veterans

VFW members can now enjoy access to discounted military and veteran news

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (January 9, 2020) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to announce it has teamed up with the renowned source for military and veteran news, Stars and Stripes, to offer VFW members a 50% discount on unlimited digital access to news and information on web and mobile.

“Stars and Stripes is certainly a trusted news source that VFW members know well,” said VFW National Commander William “Doc” Schmitz. “Our members are extremely busy. So we’re pleased to be able to offer them quick and affordable access to news while on the go.”

Stars and Stripes is the number one source of independent news and information for the U.S. military community, serving active-duty service members, veterans, DOD civilians, contractors and their families.

“From news coverage of veteran issues to informative online tools and publications, Stars and Stripes has always made our nation’s veterans a top priority,” said Max Lederer, Stars and Stripes publisher. “We recognize and respect the many contributions the VFW has made to the lives of veterans and their families over their long history. The opportunity to serve those who have served is a great honor and we are grateful to be working with the VFW to continue this proud tradition of supporting the veteran community.”

Members who take advantage of this new member benefit will enjoy exclusive news, special features photos and other content, daily newsletter and much more.

Login to vfw.org to sign up.



Apply to Become a Substitute Today!

Substitute Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Bus Drivers, Custodians, Food Service, and Lifeguards are in high-demand, and needed on an ongoing basis.

Great reasons to work in Prince William County Schools (PWCS):

- Support an organization that makes a difference
- Earn additional money
- Flexible hours (Most substitute personnel have flexibility to choose when they would like to work, how often, and at which locations.)
- Thrive in a positive work environment
- Participate in PWCS's Supplemental Retirement Plan and have access to PWCS's Employee Discount Program

Substitute Teacher - Requires 60+ college credits. Submit;

- A Substitute/Temporary Application
- College transcripts, and
- Certificate of completion of the free online one-hour Child Abuse and Neglect Training.



Substitute Teacher Assistant – Requires HS Diploma or GED.

- Submit a Substitute/Temporary Application, and
- Certificate of completion of the free online one-hour Child Abuse and Neglect Training.



Substitute Bus Drivers

- Submit a Classified Application. Paid training is provided to successful candidates. Contact 571.402.3868 for more information.



Substitute Custodians

- Submit a Classified Application. Contact 703.791.8361 for more information.

Substitute Food Service Associates

- Submit a Classified Application. Contact 703.791.7314 for more information.



Lifeguards, Head Lifeguards, or Swim Instructors

The Aquatics Center is located at Colgan High School (13833 Dumfries Rd, Manassas). Night and weekend hours are available.

- Submit a Classified Application. Lifeguard classes are available to obtain necessary certification. Contact 571.374.6333 for more information.

Teacher, Classified/Support, Coach, Temporary, and Administrative positions may also be available. Current job postings are available online. Please apply and upload applicable supporting documents for consideration.

Apply Today! www.pwcs.edu/employment



Need assistance? The Employment Service Center is available for assistance/questions by phone (703.791.8050), email (HR@pwcs.edu) or in person Monday – Friday 8am-4:30pm at the Kelly Leadership Building (14715 Bristow Road, Manassas).

Upcoming Events

February 3	Executive Meeting— 7:00 PM
	Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
February 15	Continuing Education Scholarship (Deadline)
February 19-24	Auxiliary Mid Year Conference, Honolulu HI
February 20	Auxiliary CAFÉ/Nat'l Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific/10 AM
February 20	Youth Committee 7 PM
February 22	District 8 Meeting 1PM/Southern Fauquier 7728
February 24	Americanism Committee Meeting 7 PM
February 29	VFW Legislative Conference starts
March 1-5	Continuation of VFW Legislative Conference/VOD/PP/Washington, DC
March 2	Executive Meeting – 7:00 PM
	Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
March 19	Youth Committee 7 PM
March 23	Americanism Committee Meeting 7 PM
March 31	Patriotic Arts (Deadline)
April 2	Executive Meeting – 7:00 PM
	Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM (Nominations)
April 16	Youth Committee Meeting 7 PM
April 26	District 8 Convention/Culpeper 2524/12 PM (Election)
April 27	Flag Retirement - 9 AM at the Post (TBD)
	Americanism Committee Meeting 7 PM
April 30	Department Program Reports (Deadline)
May 4	Executive Meeting – 7:00 PM
	Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM (Elections)
May 18	Americanism Committee Meeting 7 PM
May 21	Youth Committee Meeting 7 PM
May 23-24	Buddy Poppy Drive 9 AM -3 PM/Giant in Manassas (TBD)
May 25	Vet Day Activities/8:30 AM,, Memorial/9 AM Cemetery
June 1	Executive Meeting – 7:00 PM
	Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM (Elections)
June 11-14	State Convention— Portsmouth
June 18	Youth Committee Meeting 7 PM

KNOW YOUR VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE

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



CANNON NEWS

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

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

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

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

Editor: Rick Raskin
Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

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