

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
February 2022



RICK RASKIN

VOD Chair Lou Filippone, Department Auxiliary President Carol Vangi, Auxiliary 7589 President Mary Corkhill and State Commander Butch Schupska present First Place VOD winner Anjali Ghaoer Khan her award at the January 8th awards banquet in Portsmouth.

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Daniel Gade, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Veterans Services to speak at our February 7 Post meeting.

CANNON NEWS—2015, 2018 & 2020 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

Celebration of Black History Month:

We are a nation of change-makers, a nation of those who stand for equality and freedom. And each February during Black History Month, we honor the Black Americans who came before us and still serve now, standing for their dreams and rights, and making a difference for us all.

Recognizing the Tuskegee Airmen with Top Gun honor 73 years after winning



Members of the Tuskegee Airmen are some of the most highly decorated military pilots in U.S. history. But there was one honor that was overlooked for more than 70 years — until now.

In 1949, a team from the famed all-Black Tuskegee Airmen won the first Top Gun contest, a gunnery competition among pilots from across the Air Force. But the record book listed the winner as "unknown."

The trophy "mysteriously got lost", until 2005, when a historian found it in storage at an Air Force museum. "She asked, 'Why isn't this on display?' And was told, 'We can't display everything, but this item will never be on display.'"

The trophy is now on display, and last week a plaque commemorating the first Top Guns was unveiled at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, where the original competition was held.

The 66th Air Force Flying School was opened at the historically Black college Tuskegee Institute (today Tuskegee University) in Alabama. The flying school opened as an experimental training ground to test the potential of Black pilots. "It was programmed to fail," in support of findings in a 1920s War Department report

(See Commander on page 4)

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill



Americans celebrate love and friendship by exchanging cards, flowers, and candy. The romance we associate with Valentine's Day may spring from the medieval belief that birds select their mates on February 14. During the Middle Ages, lovers recited verse or prose to one another in honor of the day. This year, we celebrate Valentine's Day on Monday February 14th.



The story of Presidents' Day began in 1800. Following the death of George Washington in 1799, his February 22 birthday became a perennial day of remembrance.... While Washington's

Birthday was an unofficial observance for most of the 1800s, it was not until the late 1870s that it became a federal holiday. The day is sometimes understood as a celebration of the birthdays and lives of all U.S. presidents. This year Presidents' Day is celebrated on Monday, February 21.

The next District meeting will be February 12th at Fredericksburg Post 3103 starting at 10:00. There will be an audit before the meeting.

The Continuing Education Scholarship is awarded to one recipient from each of the four VFW National Conferences. Only VFW Auxiliary members, their spouse, sons and daughters may apply. The \$1,000 funds from this Scholarship assist the applicant in pursuing a COLLEGE degree or a career direction at a VOCATIONAL or TECHNICAL school. The application MUST be in at National Headquarters by February 15, 2022.

There is a deadline of March 31, 2022 for the Illustrating America art contest for grades 1-8, the Red, White & Blue singing competition for students ages 6-16, and the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest for grades 9-12. Please contact any Post or Auxiliary member to submit an entry.

The National Home for Children Board of Trustees has selected Michael Wilson as the Executive Director of the VFW National Home for Children. He succeeds Fred Puffenberger, who retired in October 2021. If you know of anyone who needs assistance, please contact the VFW National Home for Children. Info@vfwnationalhome.org or 800/313-4200.

We were informed that Ms. Shari Wahlert went to her heavenly home in March 2021. Ms. Connie Mayhugh lost her brother on December 26, 2021. I was also informed that several members and/or family members have COVID. Please keep them and other individuals who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers. Remember, we are still in uncertain and challenging times so please stay safe and follow the guidelines set forth by local and state authorities.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill
VFW Auxiliary President



Youth Committee Update



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee hopes everyone is coping well with the cold weather and staying healthy. Hang in there, spring is only two months away. We have been fairly busy and have a lot to report for the month of February. We held our last meeting on Thursday, 20 January 2022 at the Post. The meeting was attended by Comrades Alex and Tina Bliem, Peter MacLeod and myself. Our opening topic of discussion was Scouting and Scout related activities. The big push is on right

now to recruit candidates for the VFW Scout of the Year contest. We are currently looking for Eagle Scouts who demonstrate exceptional skill and leadership and have achieved significant accomplishments. They are invited to enter our contest and compete for scholarship prizes. The deadline for the contest is 1 March and as usual we are awaiting application submissions. There is still time and we always manage to find our candidates before the deadline but would like to enter our contestants in the next week or two. If you know of any deserving and qualified Eagle Scout please contact the Youth Committee as soon as possible and we'll get you an application or as always you can go online and download the application from the National website.

Comrade Alex Bliem submitted his Scouting report for the newsletter and has provided us with a very thorough and detailed account of current and future Scout activities. He discusses multiple activities by all the Scout units including Venture Crew and Cub Scouts. Please give Alex's article your attention to learn what our Scouts are up to. I know you will be impressed by how active and involved they all are. We are currently waiting on an announcement from Life Scout Ethan Williams, from Troop 1372, regarding the Post Sign Restoration Project. As you recall Scout Williams has volunteered to replace our Post sign for his Eagle Scout project and will probably begin in the spring. He is currently awaiting final approval of his project from Senior Scout officials.

In the next newsletter we will announce a date and time for the Spring Flag Retirement Ceremony. It will be sometime in late April or early May and we hope you can attend. We will also provide you with more information regarding our JROTC and CAP Award Ceremonies which are usually well attended by our Post. We present VFW Cadet Awards to at least three area high school JROTC Cadets and two Cadets from a CAP Squadron located in Manassas. You are all encouraged to attend and participate along with us.

Please don't forget the upcoming art and singing contests sponsored by the Auxiliary. They are the Patriotic Art Contest, as well as the Illustrating America Art Contest and the Get Excited For The Red White And Blue National Anthem Contest. The deadline for all three contests is 31 March. If you know of any students who might like to enter please contact Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill or any of the Youth Committee members and we'll get you an application.

District 8 will be holding it's Annual Education Awards Ceremony on Saturday, 12 February at Post 3103 in Fredericksburg. The ceremony will begin prior to the District meeting at 10:00. We will be recognizing all our District Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year winners and present them all with certificates and prizes. Many of our District winners are from our Post this year. If you can, please attend the ceremony and show support for our students and teachers.

Our next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 17 February at the Post at 7 PM. Please attend our next meeting and get involved with our youth. They are our Nation's future and are a most noble cause. Until we meet again stay safe and warm and just remember the pandemic is almost over.

With best regards,

Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

Scouting Report



Alex & Tina Bliem
Post 7589 Scouting
Representatives

The last couple of months have been pretty busy for our Scouts.

In December we had Scouts and families participate in the Wreaths Across America wreath laying at Stonewall Memorial Garden in Manassas. The weather was nice this year and the cemetery had a very nice educational ceremony for everyone. The Scouts laid wreaths at the veterans grave-sites, spoke the veterans names aloud, saluted, and placed a wreath.

Later that same day, our scouting units participated in the Manassas Park Light Parade. This was a roughly five mile parade route that our Scouts walked. Our younger Scouts, however, got to ride in the open trailer that our Scouts all decorated for the parade.



ALEX BLIEM

(Continued on page 8)

Legislative Update



Monti Zimmerman

There are several initiatives in the Virginia legislature that will impact some members of the VFW and VFW Auxiliary.

All seven JLC Initiatives for 2022 have bills covering them.

#1 HB 403 a budget amendment (Suicide Prevention-a budgeted increase).

#2 SJ 19/ HJ 83/ HJ 96 (Provides for a Constitutional Amendment for surviving spouses whose service member died on

active duty).

#3 HB 17 (Exempts Veteran Service Organizations from prosecution for weapons training for funerals and parades).

#4 HB 144 (Removes \$400 fee for burial of spouses of veterans in State veterans cemeteries).

#5 A budget amendment (Provides grant money for businesses who hire Guard & Reserve).

#6 HB 487 (Provides free entry to members of the National Guard to State Parks).

#7 HB 233 (Updates the National Guard tax deduction for Virginia National Guard members).

Additionally:

HB 120 Provides free Virginia hunting and fishing licenses for 30% disabled veterans.

HB 1035 provides free entry to State Parks by veterans.

HB 666 provides free entry to State Parks to active duty members and a 50% discount to veterans.

SB 609 & SB 571 remove the tax on groceries.

HB 1128, SB 528 & SB 568 provide a tax year 2021 \$20 K deduction from taxable military retirement income, a \$30 K for 2022 and a \$40 K deduction in 2023.

HB 1045 provides a deduction of \$20 K for 2022 and an increase of \$10 K per year for the next four years (\$40 K in 2025).

HB 1069 & SB 381 provides the full \$40 K for 2022.

(Commander Continued from page 2)

stating that Blacks weren't smart enough or disciplined enough to fly a plane.

During their flight training, the airmen were denied rifles because the airstrip was in Alabama, a deeply segregated state where some folks didn't like the idea of Blacks shooting at Whites --- even if they were the enemy.

The drills became bittersweet to the airmen, whose hopes of flying dimmed as they waited and waited for a call-up from the government. After months of waiting, their spirits were restored by a visitor (Eleanor Roosevelt) to the airstrip.

"I've always heard colored people can't fly, but I see them flying around here," Eleanor Roosevelt reportedly said during her visit. Against the objections of her security men, the open-minded, free-spirited first lady asked to fly with [a pilot named] Anderson.

Using her political connections, Roosevelt convinced her husband to use his influence to give the airmen a chance to fight --- especially since the military was facing a critical shortage of pilots.

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of primarily Negro military pilots (fighter and bomber) and airmen who fought in World War II. They formed the 332d Expeditionary Operations Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Forces

The Tuskegee Airmen not only broke the color line but also shattered stereotypes about Black pilots.

Excerpted from: Tracie Reddick, "Tuskegee Airman Yenwith Whitney soared above barriers," Bradenton Herald, 27 July 2000

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.

800-313-4200

A Great Place to Call Home!

Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office

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

President's & Commander's Homecoming

Photos by Doc Crouch



Ann Hill, Department Buddy Poppy/National Home Chair and Auxiliary 7589 President Mar Corkhill pass out welcome gifts



D8 Commander Jeff Dombroff, Past State Commander Rick Raskin and District 6 Commander David Jarrett



State Commander Butch Schupska and Department Auxiliary President Carol Vangi



Post 7589 Commander Wayne Moore



Jill Lynch and Bobbiejo Lazo



Department Auxiliary Line Officers



Peggy Schupska, Carol Vangi and Butch Schupska

Council of Admiration Meeting

Photos by Doc Crouch



Education Awards Banquet

Photos by Doc Crouch



(Scouting Continued from page 3)

These two events our Scouts have been doing every year since the units inception many years ago. The laying of the wreaths is a way for our Scouts to say thank you and to pay respect to our fellow veterans that have passed. The parade is a good community service project to help spread some holiday joy among the city.

Our older Scouts had a Winter Camp-o-ree on January 21st-23rd. This is normally a very cold camp-out for the Scouts where numerous activities are planned. They also still cook, clean and sleep outdoors despite the cold. This years theme is a Klondike Derby in which they build and race their sleds which Scouts on the team will pull.

Our Venturing Crew had a group outing over the holidays going to UpTown Alley to have a fun day bowling and socializing. They also just had another social function roller skating late into the evening. The crew is also in the middle of a fund raiser selling coffee from a local coffee shop that is located in old town

Manassas. This is to raise money for more adventurous activities.

The troops will be having their quarterly Court of Honor at the post on 1/25. During the Court of Honor Scouts will be awarded their new ranks, Merit Badges, and Awards that they have earned.

The younger Cub Scouts continue to meet and work on various requirements. Right now. However, the Scouts are very busy trying to create their Pinewood Derby cars for the big race. The Cub Scout leadership decided to push the derby back until February because of the current pandemic surge. They will also live stream the derby for those families that cannot physically be there.

Since these are the winter months the Scouts are planning ski trips, and have also had some fun in the snow together. This is also the perfect time for them to plan and prepare for various summer camps and high adventure trips in the summer, which they have been doing.

Hal Roesch announces his candidacy for Quartermaster General

Hal Roesch, Virginia's first and only National Commander-in-Chief, has thrown his hat into the ring as our next National Quartermaster General.

Hal issued the following statement: "After lots of encouragement from all of my VFW family and friends, and the support of my beautiful bride Beth, I am an official candidate for the position of National VFW Quartermaster General. I have an extensive fiduciary, financial and insurance background. Seven years experience at the national VFW level as National Council Member, Inspector, Jr & Sr-Vice and Commander-in-Chief. Ready, Willing and Qualified to serve."

A proven leader with 30 years in the VFW + 19 years as a professional in the investment & insurance industry makes him uniquely qualified for Quartermaster General

Contributions Desired for the Community Service Book

As you may or may not know I am working on the Community Service Book this year which covers 1 May 2021 thru 30 April 2022. The guidelines for the book are detailed in minutiae - this makes it more challenging.

NO Post events such as elections, installation, meetings, dances, etc. shall be included in the book or mentioned. **ONLY COMMUNITY SERVICE** to include monetary donations and the cost of any projects for the community.

The book shall be divided into tabs:

- Tab 1, Community Involvement
- Tab 2, Cooperation with Others
- Tab 3, Aid to Others
- Tab 4, School & Church Assistance
- Tab 5, Safety
- Tab 6, Americanism/Loyalty Day
- Tab 7, Youth & Voice of Democracy

Many of our community service events fall into several categories but only one can be chosen.

I am respectfully requesting each and every one of you to send me any and all info on the above to include photographs, newspaper articles, money expended, etc. Again, no internal events. Dates to be included are listed above.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. Remember the CSB will reflect on us!

V/r
SS SF
Gunny Lewis

gysgt_mc@yahoo.com

2020-21 Post Officers

Commander	Wayne Moore
Senior Vice Commander	Lou Filippone
Junior Vice Commander	Bobby Knight
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Chaplain	Ron Knowles
1 Year Trustee	Tina Bliem
2 Year Trustee	Dave Mattingly
3 Year Trustee	Heidi BruMar
Adjutant	Ron Link
Service Officer	Ron Link
Judge Advocate	Bobby Knight
Surgeon	Alex Bliem

2020-21 Auxiliary 7589 Officers

President	Mary Corkhill
Senior Vice President	Ellie Smith
Junior Vice President	Cindy McIntyre
Secretary	Ann Mitchell
Treasurer	Elanor Doczi
Chaplain	Cookie Cullen
Conductress	Debbie Baxter
Guard	Patsy Gough
Trustee 1	Yvonne Sullivan
Trustee 2	Jan Germain
Trustee 3	Janet Raskin
Historians	Patsy Gough Yvonne Sullivan
Patriotic Instructor	Bettye Montgomery

It's official: Get free COVID test kits at COVIDtests.gov

by Colleen Tressler

Division of Consumer and Business Education, FTC

There's a new federal resource to get free FDA-authorized coronavirus test kits. At COVIDtests.gov, you'll find information about testing and a link to the U.S. Postal Service – special.usps.com/testkits – where you can order up to four rapid tests to be sent to your home address. Your kits will be mailed through the U.S. Postal Service within 7 to 12 days.

The tests are completely free. There are no shipping costs, and you don't have to give a credit card or bank account number. You only need to give a name and address. You also can order for other people who may not have online access. Once you place an order, you'll get an order confirmation number. If you give your email address, you'll also get an order confirmation email and delivery updates. **Anyone who asks for more information than that is a scammer.** So, remember:

Go to COVIDtests.gov to order your free COVID test kits from the federal government. If you click to order, you'll be redirected to special.usps.com/testkits. Or, if you follow a link from a news story, double-check the URL that shows in your browser's address bar.

No one will call, text, or email you from the federal government to ask for your information to "help" you order free kits. Only a scammer will contact you, asking for information like your credit card, bank account, or Social Security number. Do not respond. Instead, report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

Right now, there's no phone number to call to order your tests.

That might change soon, and we'll update you as soon as it's live. Until then, the only way to order is online.

Please share this information with others and stay connected to stay informed. [Subscribe to consumer alerts](#) from the FTC to get updates delivered right to your email inbox.

If you spot a scammer offering COVID test kits, tell the FTC about it right away at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Or, file a complaint with your state or territory attorney general at consumerresources.org, the consumer website of the National Association of Attorneys General. Your reports can make a difference by helping us investigate, bring law enforcement cases, and alert people about what frauds to be on the lookout for so they can protect themselves, their friends, and family.

Get **free** COVID test kits at **COVIDtests.gov**

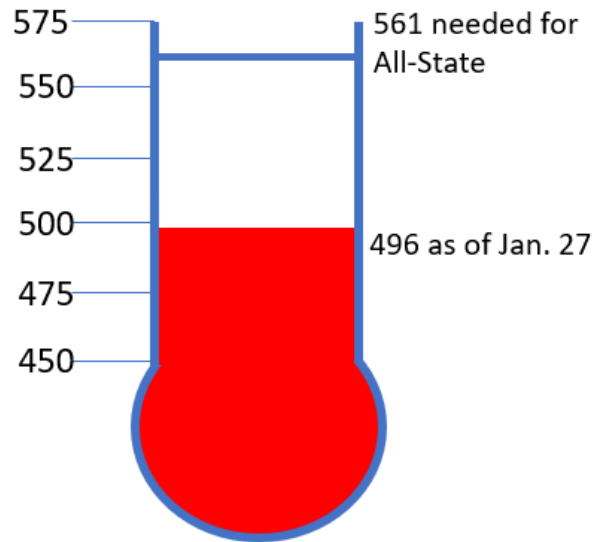
- ▶ There are no shipping costs.
- ▶ You don't have to give a credit card or bank account number.
- ▶ You only need to give your name and address.

Anyone who asks for more information than that is a scammer.

Report them to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov or your attorney general at ConsumerResources.org.

Upcoming Events

2022	
February 7	Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
February 12	District 8 Meeting — Post 3103, Fredericksburg — 10:00 AM
February 14	Auxiliary Meeting — 2:00 PM (teleconferencing)
February 17	Youth Committee Meeting — 7:00 PM
February 27 - March 3	Legislative Conference, Washington, DC (Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners will be in a virtual format)
March 7	Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
March 14	Auxiliary meeting at 2:00 PM (teleconferencing)
March 17	Youth Committee Meeting — 7:00 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
Bob Good	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



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