

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
February 2023



RICK RASKIN

John McGraw reads his award winning essay at the Winter Council of Administration Awards Ceremony

In This Issue:

- Pictures from the Winter Council of Administration meeting
- VFW Urges POTUS to Support Repeal of Concurrent Receipt Policy
- VFW launches PACT Act Information initiative
- Legislative Update — Virginia
- Manassas 150th birthday party
- Department of Virginia Centennial Celebration

CANNON NEWS—2015, 2018, 2020 & 2021 National VFW Publications Award Winner
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 up 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 stating that blacks weren't smart enough or disciplined enough to fly a plane.

Under the direction of Charles Alfred "Chief" Anderson, the pio-
(See *Commander* on page 8)

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill

Happy Valentine's Day!! Bouquets of flowers, cards, handwritten notes and candy often come to mind when you think of Valentine's Day. Whether you celebrate with friends, family or a romantic partner, the holiday is a special one to express love, affection and appreciation for another person. This year, we celebrate on Tuesday, February 14th.

Every third Monday in February, we celebrate Presidents' Day in all its patriotic glory. The day is sometimes understood as a celebration of birthdays for all U.S. presidents. This year Presidents' Day is on Monday, February 20th.

The next District meeting will be February 4th at Fredericksburg Post 3103 starting at 10:00am. There will be an audit at 9:30am before the joint session honoring the contest recipients for the District.

One of the National Auxiliary's contests is the Continuing Education Scholarship. This is for the Auxiliary members and their immediate family in pursuing a COLLEGE degree or a career direction at a VOCATIONAL or TECHNICAL school. The application **MUST** be submitted to National Headquarters by February 15, 2023.

The deadline of March 31, 2023 for the **Illustrating America** art contest for grades 1-8, the **Red, White & Blue** singing competition for students grades K-12, and the **Young American Creative Patriotic Art** contest for grades 9-12 is fast approaching. Please contact any Post or Auxiliary member to submit an entry.

The VFW National Home had a name change. It will no longer have "for Children" according to Mark Winn, the representative for the home. Life membership to the National Home is \$50. If you know of anyone who needs assistance, please contact the home at info@vfwnationalhome.org or 800/313-4200.

There are several request for prayers. Ms. Yvonne Sullivan for a quick recovery after her medical procedure, Ms. Ellie Smith for her long medical issues and two members Ms. Elizabeth Lewis and Mr. Leo Cummings who went to their heavenly home. Please keep their families and other individuals who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
VFW Auxiliary President



Youth Committee Update



Lou Filippone

Greetings from the Youth Committee. We hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and warm during the winter season. We held our last meeting on Thursday, 19 January at the Post. Comrades Alex and Tina Bliem, Paul Chase, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and myself were present. Past State Commander Rick Raskin and Past Post Commander Peter Macleod participated by phone. Most of the

discussion involved future budgetary issues for the Youth Committee. Suggestions were made for expanding our role and assistance with our Youth and Scouting programs. No specific actions have been implemented yet but in the near future we will be even more active in the Scouting and school community. I will report these exciting developments in the next newsletter once everything is finalized.



RICK RASKIN

John McGraw 1st place VOD winner — VFW Department of Virginia

The most exciting development this month was that John McGraw, our Post and District Voice of Democracy winner from Seton School in Manassas, Virginia took first place in the Department competition. He was honored at the Winter Council Awards Banquet in Portsmouth, Virginia on 14 January. We will also recognize John, along with the other student and teacher winners, at the District Eight meeting on 4 February at Post

3103 in Fredericksburg. You should have received an evite invitation to this event by now. I strongly encourage you to attend and show your support for John and all the Post 7589 winners. Our Post had an incredibly successful year with our student and teacher contests. In addition to taking 1st place in the Department VOD competition we also won five out of nine categories at District to include 1st and 2nd place in Patriots Pen, 1st place with Voice of Democracy and grades K-5 and 9-12 Teacher of

the Year. This has been by far the Post Youth Committee's most successful year since I've been associated with it. We should all be very proud of John's Department victory and it is my sincere wish that he be equally successful in the National competition. I would like to thank everyone who supported John and our Youth programs throughout the year. We couldn't have done it without you and look forward to even more success next year.

We have yet to determine the date for our Spring Flag Retirement Ceremony. We will make an announcement in the next newsletter regarding this as we navigate through our busy spring calendar and find an open Saturday. It will be sometime in either April or May and provides us with a wonderful opportunity to interact with our Scouts and adult leaders. These ceremonies are usually well attended and are usually enjoyable activities, provided the weather cooperates. We hope to see you at our next one.

We are now recruiting Eagle Scouts for the Scout of the Year contest. The Post deadline is fast approaching on 1 March! If you know of any Scouts who are active members of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship who have received the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award and are no older than 18 please encourage them to enter the contest and contact us for an application as soon as possible. Scholarship awards are available to the winners at all levels of competition. At this time we are looking for candidates so please help us out if you can.

Alex Bliem reported to me that our Scout Troop 1372 has been busy in recent months with activities to include Wreaths Across America, Food Drives, and the Manassas Park Light Parade. He tells me they are planning a ski trip in March and will stay at VFW Post 2250 in Hornell, New York. While there they will also perform a community service project and organize their shed. The National Scout Jamboree is scheduled for 19-28 July in Summit, West Virginia and if that isn't enough there is also the World Scout Jamboree from 1-12 August in Seoul, South Korea.

Please remember the Auxiliary sponsors. Their art contests and the entry deadline for all contests is 31 March. This includes the Patriotic Art Contest, the Illustrating America Contest and the Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue Contest. If you need more information, or applications, please contact any of us on the Youth Committee or speak to Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill. Winners receive prizes and can compete from Post and Department all the way up to National level.

Our next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 16 February at the Post at 7:00PM. Please get out and join us if you can. I know you'll find it very rewarding plus it's good to get out and spend time with your fellow Comrades during the gloomy winter months. I hope to see you all there.

With best regards,
Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

State Commander



Comrades and Auxiliary,

Greetings. We had a busy VFW week across the State. Next week, we are looking forward to celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Dept. of Virginia (see below)!

-January 21-22 - Recruiting Event for New Post Western Prince William County:

We held a *Meet & Greet* on January 21-22 at Orner Tap Room and picked up several new members. Today we sent off our Charter Application Package to National with 43 applications. The process for new posts is to send in all the applications, with proof of eligibility and *Charter Application* to the Commander-In-Chief. The new post is instituted within 60 days of approval. Special thanks to the “Organizer” (for this post) Ken Wiseman. I expect that you will be hearing some new post Institution news in the coming weeks.

-24 January: VFW Riders Fund Raiser: The Riders held a successful fundraiser at VFW Post 3160 for one of their members who was recently badly injured, to raise funds for medical bills. They sold cheeseburgers (which were donated), held a 50/50 Raffle and also raffled off some donated items. Thanks to the generosity of attendees and members \$2000 was raised for this veteran.

-February 1 - 100th Anniversary of Department of Virginia (Mechanicsville): The date on our historic charter reads **February 1, 1923**; join us on Wednesday as we cut-the-cake and celebrate our Centennial Anniversary at VFW Post 9808 (7168 Flag Ln, Mechanicsville) from 12:00-2:00 PM. Lunch will be provided. This is a free event, open to members, Auxiliary and their families. RSVP now (*click link or cut/paste in your browser*) https://VFW_VA_100_Mechanicsville.eventbrite.com

-Gaming News: This week our Gaming Committee members were in Richmond working with our partners and meeting with State Legislative Committees including: House General Laws Gaming Subcommittee, Senate General Laws full committee and Gaming Subcommittee.

[SB1209](#), the paper pull tab bill, came before the full

Senate General Laws Committee last Wednesday. We are working to get legislation passed which benefits our veterans in the VFW. Thanks to Hal Roesch, Tom Gimble and Ed Mann for looking out for VFW interests.

-February 25 - Post 12217 Holland Institution: We will be instituting a new post in the Holland area on February 25 at 6712 S. Quay Road, Suffolk. The ceremony begins at 10:00 AM. Your State Commander will be the Instituting Officer; State Judge Advocate Doug Hoffman will be the Installation Marshall. Light refreshments will be provided. If you are interested in attending RSVP to cdr@vfwva.org.

-February 25-16 - Yellow Ribbon (YR) Event (Williamsburg): As part of our continuing mission to improve service to veterans, we will be participating in a Yellow Ribbon event to welcome home recently deployed veterans. This will be the largest YR event held in Virginia this year. Thanks to Tom Hines and the Membership Team for organizing.

-Membership & Recruiting: Despite the winter season, we had another good week last week. According to *Recruiter Tracker* Jeff Dombroff, the Department gained 7 new recruiters (up to 307) and 29 new members (up to 1,458). I really enjoy awarding “One Recruiter Pins”. We are currently at 94.5 percent; needing only 1,754 to achieve 100 percent. We continue to track ahead of where we were last year, which was a good year for membership. Keep up the great work. If you haven’t done so already, get out there and recruit at least one new member.

Merchandise-Fundraisers: As part of our year-long *Centennial Celebration* we are selling limited edition, 100th Anniversary Centennial Ka-Bar Knives. 100th Anniversary/100 Knives/Only \$100! Each comes with a numbered Certificate Of Authenticity (COA). To obtain yours contact State HQ at 540-886-8112 or purchase at the next Centennial Celebration.

Have a great week!

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Geoffrey D. Lyster
Commander
Department of Virginia
Email: cdr@vfwva.org
(C) 703-725-7862





RICK RASKIN

State Commander Geoff Lyster addresses the council meeting

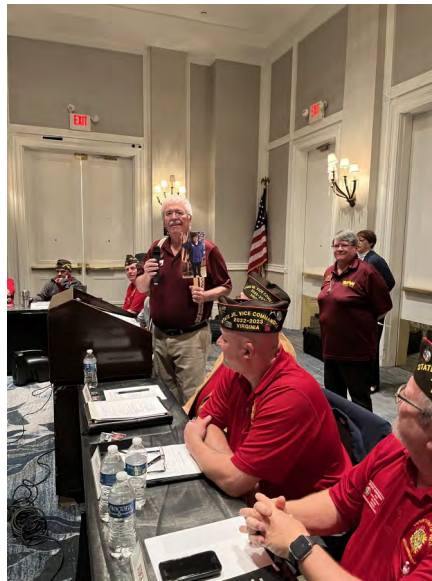


RICK RASKIN

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento reads a citation for State Commander Geoff Lyster at the council meeting



KEN WISEMAN



KEN WISEMAN

Auxiliary President Fred Jennings addresses the council



KEN WISEMAN

VFW VA made their annual visit to the Hampton VA Medical Center



KEN WISEMAN

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento and State Commander Geoff Lyster at the Hampton VA Medical Center



KEN WISEMAN

Auxiliary President Fred Jennings said National Auxiliary President Jane Reape accompanies him on visits

Photos from the Winter Council Meeting in Portsmouth — January 12-15.

Awards Ceremony at the Winter Council of Administration

PHOTOS BY CATHY GRAHAM



Nathan Wallin Patriots Pen 1st place



Hollace Oakes Patriots Pen 2nd place



Connor Wright Patriots Pen 3rd place



John McGraw Voice of Democracy 1st place



Anish S. Aradhey Voice of Democracy 2nd place



Jeanne Gates — Teacher of the Year grades K-5



David Lingenfelter — Teacher of the Year grades 6-8



Christine Kapko — Teacher of the Year grades 9-12

VFW Urges POTUS to Support Repeal of Concurrent Receipt Policy

VFW National Commander Tim Borland writes letter to the White House asking for leadership on the issue

WASHINGTON (Jan. 17, 2023) — In a letter sent to the White House, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) National Commander Tim Borland urged President Biden to support the repeal of concurrent receipt policy, which denies veterans receiving both retirement pay and VA compensation if they were forced to retire early from military service because of battlefield injury or illness.

“I write to request your urgent support in ensuring our nation's veterans receive the benefits they have earned by defending the ideals our nation holds sacred,” opened Borland in his letter addressing the policy. “This policy is nothing more than a way to save money on the backs of veterans.”

As it stands the current compensation rule imposes what is known as an offset, requiring veterans forfeit all or part of one benefit to pay for or pay back another. Congress justifies the policy as a way to prevent veterans from “double-dipping” from the federal government, a justification which Borland says is erroneous.

“Military retirement pay is earned for years of vested service, while VA disability compensation is awarded as supplementary

VFW launches PACT Act Information initiative

The VFW worked tirelessly to champion the PACT Act and secure this life-changing legislation FOR VETERANS! Now, we're ready to make sure every veteran receives the care and benefits they've been promised by our country. VFW Accredited Service Officers are ready and waiting to help you avoid PACT Act scams and file your VA claim today absolutely free of charge.

The VFW's PACT Act Info initiative launched on Jan. 10. This nationwide campaign is led by media and advertising efforts to drive veterans to PACTActInfo.org where veterans can get quick answers regarding eligibility and a streamlined referral to the appropriate VFW Accredited Service Officer.

—VFW—

income for reduced earning potential of disabled veterans who incur lifelong illnesses and injuries from their service,” wrote Borland. “These are two fundamentally different benefits earned for two entirely different reasons.”

The Major Richard Star Act ([H. R. 1282/S. 344](https://www.congress.gov/bills/117/house/344)), which would provide total offset relief to veterans who suffered combat injuries or illnesses who were medically retired with less than 20 years of service, garnered overwhelming bipartisan and bicameral support from members of the 117th Congress. Despite this, the bill did not get enough votes to make it to the President's desk.

“It has become clear that political will is lacking, warranting the White House's leadership,” wrote Borland. “The VFW—and by extension the entire veteran community—is looking to you, President Biden, to lead from the front on this issue.”

The letter concluded by pressing the President to make repealing the concurrent receipt policy one of his legislative priorities in the fiscal year 2024 Department of Defense budget request.

“No veteran should question the value of their service to our country due to an unethical budget gimmick,” wrote Borland. “By repealing concurrent receipt, you will let them know that Every Veteran Counts.”

-vfw-

Legislative Update — Virginia

GREAT SUCCESS. The following three bills passed the House Finance Committee :

House Bill 1436: Income tax; military benefits subtraction; age restriction. Removes the age 55 or older restriction on those individuals allowed a military benefits income tax subtraction beginning with taxable year 2023.

House Bill 1470: Real property tax; exempt for disabled veterans & surviving spouses.

House Bill 2373: Income Tax, State; Subtraction members of National Guard.

(Commander from page 2)

neering airmen practiced at Moton Field, a tiny airstrip surrounded by marshes and stands of pine near the institute founded by Booker T. Washington, the son of a slave who was a strong advocate for black rights

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 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.

[Tracie Reddick, "Tuskegee Airman Yenwith Whitney soared above barriers," Bradenton Herald, 27 July 2000](#)



Come out to Dean Park for a full day of fun with children's activities, fabulous music, touch a truck, bounce houses, rock wall, food trucks, and fireworks. Come help us say Happy Birthday Manassas!



Post 7589 will host a recruiting table with information and lots of giveaways.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The VFW Department of Virginia is turning 100 this year and we are celebrating across the state with our members. Come join us at one of these seven locations. We will have food, fun, music, and giveaways. So, RSVP Online at one, or all these locations. Just click on any of the links You want to attend, to RSVP. We hope to see you there. These events are free to our members. It is you the membership who have made this Department the great organization that it is and it is you the membership we celebrate.

February 1, 2023, Post 9808, Mechanicsville https://VFW_VA_100_Mechanicsville.eventbrite.com

March 4, 2023, Post 1503, Dale City https://VFW_VA_100_DaleCity.eventbrite.com

April 22, 2023, Post 2447, Edinburg, VA https://VFW_VA_100_Edinburg.eventbrite.com

June 3, 2023, State Convention Portsmouth https://VFW_VA_100_Portsmouth.eventbrite.com

August 26, 2023, Post 8163, Clarksville https://VFW_VA_100_Clarksville.eventbrite.com

September 16, 2023, Post 1264, Roanoke https://VFW_VA_100_Roanoke.eventbrite.com

September 23, 2023, Post 4667, Marion https://VFW_VA_100_Marion.eventbrite.com



**ANNUAL MEMBERS
PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

**SIGN UP TO JOIN
VFW ACTION CORPS**

RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER
AND ACTION ALERTS

Use camera mode to scan code



or
Text "VFW" to 50457
or
Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps

**Post 7589 Service Officer
Monti Zimmerman
703-223-2211**



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net
or text to **838255**

Legacy Life membership

This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

| Levels | Posts | Departments | National |
|---------|------------|-------------|----------|
| Gold- | \$1,200.00 | \$18.00 | \$18.00 |
| Silver- | \$800.00 | \$12.00 | \$12.00 |
| Bronze- | \$400.00 | \$6.00 | \$6.00 |

| Member Incentives | Bronze \$400 | Silver \$800 | Gold \$1200 |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Plated Engraved Legacy Life Card* | ● | ● | ● |
| Lapel Pin* | ● | ● | ● |
| Hat Pin* | ● | ● | ● |
| Distinctive VFW Store Line for Legacy Life members* | ● | ● | ● |
| Framed Legacy Life membership Certificate | ● | ● | ● |
| Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program | ● | ● | ● |
| Special Legacy Life Plaque | ● | ● | ● |
| Hat Patch* | ● | ● | ● |
| Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza* | ● | ● | ● |
| VFW Store Discounts (for personal use only) * | 5% | 10% | 15% |
| Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance * | \$2000 | \$3500 | \$5000 |
| Annual Endowment: Post | \$6 | \$12 | \$18 |
| Annual Endowment: Department | \$6 | \$12 | \$18 |

2022-23 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 | Chris Morgan |
| Adjutant | Ron Link |
| Service Officer | Monti Zimmerman |
| Judge Advocate | Bobby Knight |
| Surgeon | Alex Bliem |

2022-23 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 | Janet Raskin |
| Guard | Patsy Gough |
| Trustee 1 | Jan Germain |
| Trustee 2 | Janet Raskin |
| Trustee 3 | Yvonne Sullivan |
| Historians | Patsy Gough Yvonne Sullivan |
| Patriotic Instructor | Lorri Allen Smith |



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



30 Games Including:

- \$750 Jackpot**
(Starts with 51 numbers)
- Lucky 7 Progressive**
- 90:10 Jackpot**
(Prize = 90% of sales)
- Pull Tabs & Hard Cards**
- \$10.00 Bingo Book**
(includes Early Birds)

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DOORS OPEN 7:30 AM

GAMES START AT 9:15 AM

SPECIAL
BUY 2 BOOKS
GET A 1/2 BOOK FREE

Virginia Department
of
Veterans Services

Manassas Office

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

Upcoming Events

| | |
|-------------|---|
| February 4 | District 8 Meeting & Youth Awards — Post 3103 — Fredericksburg — 10:00 AM |
| February 6 | Post meeting — 7:30 PM |
| February 13 | Auxiliary meeting — 2:00 PM |
| February 16 | Youth Committee meeting — 7:00 PM |
| | |
| March 6 | Post meeting — 7:30 PM |
| March 13 | Auxiliary meeting — 2:00 PM |
| March 16 | Youth Committee meeting — 7:00 PM |
| | |
| April 1 | Recruiting at Manassas 150th Birthday Party — Dean Park — 2-8 PM — Fireworks to Follow |
| April 3 | Post meeting — 7:30 PM |
| April 10 | Auxiliary meeting — 2:00 PM |
| April 20 | Youth Committee meeting — 7:00 PM |
| | |
| June 1– 4 | State Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$149.00 per night. Group name: “Virginia Department VFW & Auxiliary State Convention 2023”; Cut-off Date April 28, 2023. |
| July 22—27 | National Convention — Phoenix, AZ |

| VIRGINIA SENATORS | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Mark Warner | | 202-224-2023 |
| Tim Kaine | | 202-224-4024 |
| VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVES | | |
| Rob Wittman | 1st District | 202-225-4261 |
| Jennifer Kagans | 2nd District | 202-225-4215 |
| Bobby Scott | 3rd District | 202-225-8351 |
| Vacant | 4th District | 202-225-6365 |
| Bob Good | 5th District | 202-225-4711 |
| Ben Cline | 6th District | 202-225-5431 |
| 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

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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.