

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
February 2024



RICK RASKIN

Post 7589 Commander Wayne Moore accepts a plaque from State Senior Vice Commander Mitch Rubenstein honoring Ron Link for his many years of service as the Department's Military Outreach Program Representative. Ron will officially receive the plaque at the District 8 meeting on February 3.

In This Issue:

- FTC Finalizes Order Requiring Old Southern Brass to Stop False Made In USA and Veteran Affiliation Claims
- Filing a Camp Lejeune Justice Act claim? Here's how to spot and avoid scams
- Delegate Briana Sewell introduces bill to address claim sharks
- Gloucestershire foundry cast first WW1 memorial for US
- VFW says "Don't pay for your benefits".
- The Joint Leadership Council Day on the Hill
- 2024 VA Disability Pay Chart
- Don't throw away your old laptop or computer

Commander's Message



Wayne Moore



Alton Adams, 1922

BLACK HISTORY

The first black bandmaster in the United States Navy

Composer, conductor, and flutist Alton Augustus Adams, Sr., was born in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, the Danish West Indies, on November 4, 1889. His early education was at the Moravian Town School on a rural plantation run by the Moravian mission. There Adams studied his subjects in both English and Dutch Creole. As a young adult, Adams became section leader and soloist with the St. Thomas Municipal Band and was in the island's first Carnival Parade in 1912. He played the piccolo and flute in the parade.

Later in 1917, shortly after the United States established control over the Virgin Islands, Adams joined the U.S. Navy and eventually became the first black person to be a bandmaster for a Navy band. He also founded and led an all-Black ensemble that performed classical music, ballads, and the blues.

Adams was an accomplished composer. His music was performed by the bands of John Philip Sousa and Edwin Franko Goldman and his march "The Governor's Own" (1921) appears as the first selection on the bicentennial album *Pride of America*. His compositions included "Warbling in the Moonlight" for flute/ piccolo and orchestra, "Doux Rêve d'Amour" for piano, as well as "Sweet Virgin Isles," "Bull Passin'," "Ingolf March," "Spirit of the U.S.N.," and "Caribbean Echoes," all written between 1910 and 1924. His "The Governor's Own" and the "Virgin Islands March," written in 1919 and 1921 respectively, are his compositions that were most frequently performed. The latter was and remains especially popular in the Virgin Islands and in communities where Virgin Islanders settled.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Chicago University and studied at the University of Pennsylvania and the School of Music Theory at Carnegie Hall, New York City. In 1978, Fisk University celebrated Adams by awarding him an Honorary Doctor of Human Letters for adding to the vast body of knowledge in music as a composer, orchestra conductor, and teacher.

Alton Augustus Adams Sr. died at the age of 98 on November 23, 1987, in Charlotte Amalie.

Alton Augustus Adams, Sr. (1889-1987) • (blackpast.org) By OTIS ALEXANDER

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill



Wednesday, February 14th is a time to show appreciation for friends, families, significant others and anyone else you might

love. Bouquets of flowers and candy often come to mind when you think of Valentine's Day. The holiday is a special one to express your love, affection and appreciation for another person.



Every third Monday in February, we celebrate Presidents' Day in all its patriotic glory. The day is understood as a celebration of birthdays for all U.S. presidents. This year Presidents' Day is on Monday, February 22nd.

The next District meeting will be February 3rd at Western Prince William County Post 12218 at 6620 James Madison Highway, Haymarket, VA starting at 9:00AM. There will be an audit at 8:30AM 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 Auxiliary members and their immediate families who are 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.

Fast approaching are several contests for the Auxiliary. The Youth program has the Illustrating America Art Contest for students, grades 1-8 and the Red, White & Blue Singing Competition for students, grades K-12. The scholarship program for the high school students (9-12) is The Young American Creative Patriotic Art. There are two categories, 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional and there are awards for both. All the contests have a deadline of March 31. Please contact any Post or Auxiliary member to submit an entry.

National President Carla Martinez will be visiting Virginia on March 17-19. More information will be available when it gets closer to the date.

The Department of Virginia is very fortunate to have a house at the VFW National Home that we take care of. When you designate your donations to the Virginia House, those funds assist in the house upkeep. There are other ways to assist the National Home in their daily

(Auxiliary continued on page 5)

Youth Committee



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee hopes everyone is having a pleasant New Year. Our committee held our last meeting on Thursday, 18 January. The meeting was attended by our regular attendees: Alex and Tina Bliem, Mary Corkhill and myself. Comrade Peter MacLeod participated for some of the meeting by phone conference. The main topic discussed was the Scout of the Year Contest and its approaching deadline.

The Youth Committee is pleased to announce that we have conducted two successful Educational Award Ceremonies for the year. As you recall, the Post had our Educational Awards Night back in December with a great response and much participation. The Department Awards Banquet was held on 13 January at the Winter Council meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. The top three Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year winners were recognized and awards were presented to them. This event was also well attended and was conducted at the Fort Magruder Hotel. It was included in the VFW Winter Council Program among many other events. Some poignant and memorable acceptance speeches were given by the teachers and everyone participating had an enjoyable evening. The caliber of students and teachers who competed in this year's competition was truly spectacular and attests to the optimistic future of our great nation. Our future is in good hands with these patriotic young Americans at the helm.

We still have one remaining awards ceremony to go, the District 8 Youth Awards which is scheduled for Saturday, 3 February at the Great Mane Brewery in Haymarket, Virginia. The District 8 meeting will start at 9:00AM followed by the Awards Ceremony at 10:00AM. If you can attend the meeting and ceremony we would love for you to attend and show all your support for all our District 8 winners. It should be a memorable event followed by normal activities at the Brewery. Many of you might be familiar with the Installation of Post 12218 last year at the same facility. This should be a similar event and quite enjoyable.

The Scout of the Year Contest deadline is one month away and is 1 March 2024. If you take into account the preparation time required to complete and submit the application we need to get going. As of this writing we are still looking for Scout of the Year candidates. We are seeking Eagle Scouts, Venture Crew Summit award recipients, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers and demonstrate exemplary leadership qualities. Candidates should not be older than 18 years of age unless they are still seniors in high school. If you know of any Scouts who qualify for the contest please let any of us on the Youth Committee know as soon as possible so we can get them an application. Scholarships and awards are available to the winners at all levels of competition.

Please remember the Auxiliary sponsors their art contests as well. This includes the Young American Patriotic Art Contest, the 3 Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest, the Illustrating America Contest and the Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue National Anthem

Contest. The entry deadlines for all three contests is 31 March. 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 at Post and Department levels, all the way up to National. No matter what the students' age, artistic talent or medium, if they are interested and motivated there is a contest available for every student.

The Spring Flag Retirement Ceremony is upon us. The Youth Committee is in the process of selecting the date for this event and are currently checking with the Hall rental schedule and the schedule of our Scout Troop 1372 for availability and conflict before we select our date. We will release the date of the Flag Retirement in next month's newsletter once it is available. Please consider participating in this event with Troop 1372 and other local area Scouts. We usually conduct two flag retirement ceremonies each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. The event is usually conducted in the morning, lasts no more than two hours and is followed by a pizza party for the Scouts and the adult volunteers. These ceremonies are usually well attended and enjoyable, provided the weather is favorable.

We currently are reviewing requests for Scouting equipment to be funded from the Paul Chase Youth Fund. As you recall, Paul was a beloved comrade at our Post, who for many years was the Post Historian. He and his brother Joel were active with us at Post 7589 after transferring from Warrenton. Before he passed. Paul made a generous donation to the Post for the purpose of funding youth related activities such as Scouting and youth scholarships. We are eternally grateful and indebted to him for his kindness. Whenever a request is submitted to the Youth Committee for funding from the Paul Chase Youth Fund, it is seriously reviewed and considered. We will let you know about the next grants once they are approved.

Troop 1372, along with Comrades Alex and Tina Bliem, are currently busy with many projects and camping activities in the upcoming weeks. I will let them elaborate on the particulars in their Scouting column in this newsletter. Alex and Tina do an outstanding job running the Scout Program for our Post. They are indispensable, tireless and should be commended for all their hard work. We are currently trying to line up some Post improvement projects for our Scouts. We need a new flag retirement receptacle, additional repair on our storage shed and other Post improvements. An Eagle Scout candidate was supposed to take on one of these projects last month but he has decided to do his project elsewhere. We will let you know about any new projects as soon as they are assigned.

Our next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 15 February at the Post at 7:00PM. Please get out and join us if you can. I know you will find it very rewarding if you do. Nothing compares to promoting patriotism and Americanism with our local youth.

With best regards,
Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

Scouting Report



Alex & Tina Bliem
Post 7589 Scouting
Representatives

January finally brought about a change to the weather and our scouts got out there in the cold and snow and met it head on.

Both of our Troops just returned from their Winter Camporee. Our scouts ran this camporee, meaning that they planned the whole thing and taught at the individual stations. Scouts from all over the District attended and had fun. Because the temperature was to get down into the teens/single digits at night the District decided to make it only a Saturday Camporee though and not have the younger scouts in their tents overnight for safety reasons.

The troops also took a day trip to go skiing. This will lead up to a trip to N.Y. where they will be hosted by another VFW post. They will stay at the post over a long weekend. Last year the post fed the scouts and families and gave them a warm place to stay for the weekend, all for free, minus some manual labor in the form of a service project. From what I understood, last time the scouts had a blast and the post really enjoyed having them there, enough so as to invite them back again.

The younger Cub scouts went on an ice skating trip to have some fun. They are also preparing their five ounce block of wood for an exciting pinewood derby competition in February.

Our venturing crew on two different occasions went out and shoveled around the entire house of a family with disabled youth/elderly members at home. They did this for free as their good turn, however, the owner insisted on making a donation to the crew.

As I am writing this the crew is also getting together on their own to spend the afternoon sledding and just having fun together in the snow.

Be safe,

Alex & Tina Bliem
VFW Post 7589



(Auxiliary from page 2)



The Virginia House

operations. They have a brick program that customize a 4x8 inch brick with a three-line message which is placed in walkways throughout the community. Also, purchasing a Life membership for \$50 assists them as well. If you know of anyone who needs assistance, please contact the home at 800/313-4200 or

info@vfwnationalhome.org.

With winter upon us, I trust you are staying warm and healthy. Please keep individuals who are ill, hospitalized or have gone to their heavenly home in your prayers.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
VFW Auxiliary President

FTC Finalizes Order Requiring Old Southern Brass to Stop False Made In USA and Veteran Affiliation Claims

January 23, 2024

Following a public comment period, the Federal Trade Commission finalized a consent order settling charges that Florida-based EXOTOUSA LLC, (doing business as Old Southern Brass) falsely claimed that certain company products were manufactured in the U.S, and that the company was veteran-operated and donated 10 percent of its sales to military service charities.

The FTC’s complaint against the company, first announced in December 2023, said that the company made numerous claims that its products were “Made in USA,” but in spite of such claims, many of the company’s products were wholly imported from China or contained significant imported content. The company falsely claimed various forms of affiliation with the U.S. military, including being veteran-operated and contributing a portion of proceeds to military charity groups, according to the complaint.

The final order requires the company to pay \$150,000 to the FTC, stop making false claims, and comply with specific requirements relating to future country-of-origin claims. The order also includes a monetary judgment of \$4,572,137.66, which is partially suspended based on the defendants’ inability to pay the full amount.

The Commission vote to approve the final order was 3-0.

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

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

Post 7589 Service Officer

Monti Zimmerman

703-223-2211



Veterans Crisis Line

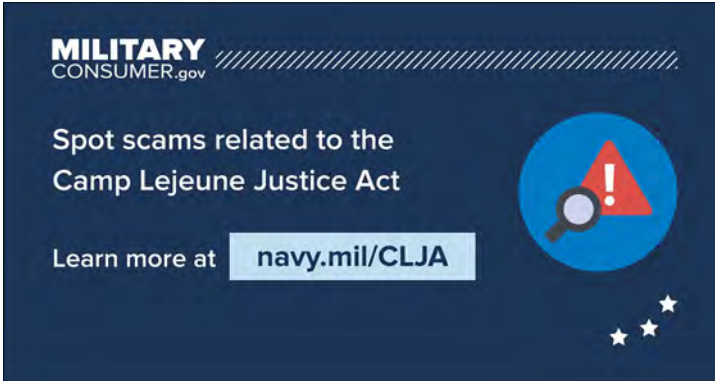
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

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

Filing a Camp Lejeune Justice Act claim? Here's how to spot and avoid scams

By Terri Miller

Consumer Education Specialist, FTC-January 10, 2024



MILITARY
CONSUMER.gov

Spot scams related to the
Camp Lejeune Justice Act

Learn more at navy.mil/CLJA

The Department of Justice and the Navy will never ask you to pay to file a disability claim. Want to know who will? Scammers. Keep scammers away from your personal information — and your money — while you're applying for relief.

The [Camp Lejeune Justice Act](#) (CLJA) lets veterans and their families file for benefits if they were previously exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. It's free to file a claim but scammers don't want you to know that. They might call you promising to help you file your claim (for a fee) — but they're really just after your personal information and your money. Whether you've already filed a claim or [plan to file](#) one soon, you might hear from a scammer. Slow down and remember these steps to spot and avoid their tricks:

- Don't trust anyone who contacts you claiming to be from the DOJ or the Navy. Scammers try to sound real with official-sounding names and titles. Don't share any information with them. Instead, get the person's name and position, then call the Camp Lejeune Claims Unit (CLCU) at (757) 241-6020 to verify.

Only trust CLClaims@us.navy.mil — that's the Navy's official email address for the CLCU. Got a message from a different email address? It's a scam. Forward it to the CLCU.

- Never pay. If someone requests money or payment from you, it's a scam! The DOJ and the Navy won't do that.

- Communicate through your attorney. If you're represented by an attorney, the DOJ and the Navy will never contact you directly about your claim. Anyone who does is a scammer. Report them to your attorney and to the CLCU right away. Filing a CLJA claim with the Navy does not affect your VA disability claims.

Go to navy.mil/CLJA to learn more about the Camp Lejeune Justice Act.

Submitted by Gunny Lewis

I HAVE DONE THINGS
THAT HAUNT ME AT NIGHT
SO YOU CAN SLEEP IN PEACE

I HAVE BEEN AWAY
FROM MY FAMILY A LONG TIME
SO THAT YOURS CAN BE SAFE

I HAVE SACRIFICED
A LOT IN MY LIFE
SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE FREE

I HAVE DONE THESE THINGS
BECAUSE I HAVE SWORN AN OATH
TO MY COUNTRY

AND I WILL LIVE BY THIS OATH
UNTIL THE DAY I DIE
BECAUSE I AM AND ALWAYS WILL BE A

U.S. VETERAN

Delegate Briana Sewell introduces bill to address claim sharks

From HB 736:

240 A. No person shall receive compensation for preparing, presenting, prosecuting, advising, consulting, **241** or assisting any individual regarding any veterans' benefits matter before the U.S. Department of **242** Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Department of Defense, or the Department of Veterans Services except as **243** permitted under federal law.

244 B. No person shall receive compensation for referring any individual to another person to prepare, **245** present, prosecute, advise, consult, or assist such individual regarding any veterans' benefits matter **246** before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Department of Defense, or the Department of **247** Veterans Services.

[See the supporting JLC Position Paper on page 8.](#)

Note: HB736 has unanimously passed committee votes — ED

Gloucestershire foundry cast first WW1 memorial for US

A vast 60ft (18m) long memorial created at a foundry in Gloucestershire is to be installed near the White House in Washington, later this year.



The vast 25 tonne bronze is America's first national memorial to US servicemen who lost their lives in World War One

The 25 tonne bronze is America's first national memorial to US servicemen who lost their lives in World War One.

Depicting one soldier's journey through the Great War, it has taken Pangolin Foundry in Stroud and American sculptor Sabin Howard around 10 years to create.

Actor Kelsey Grammer, a project supporter, said it was "breath taking".

To create the "epic" work, actors were over flown from the United States, dressed in period clothing and posed in front of banks of cameras.

The resulting 3D images were then created in foam and clay and sent back to the US to be sculpted from life.

The sculptures were then shipped back to Stroud to be cast in bronze.

Mr Howard, who has described the work as "large, vast and epic", said he has "not taken a Christmas break".

"We're getting there, it's now a matter of days. It's been four and a half years and now I can count the days to the end," he said.

He added that the piece "should not be a glorification of war".

"I'm a pacifist and this [piece] should be about how we rise to the potential of who we can be as a species."

Pangolin Foundry director Rungwe Kingdon, said he was "really happy" with how the casting had come out.

"What a project, what a project," he said.

"We're now planning the installation in Washington which is obviously a mission in itself."

American actor Kelsey Grammer, who lives near Bristol, has lent his support to the project, said the "monument is breath taking".

"It captures the dignity of the mission the people who fought in that war, were carrying in their hearts," he said,

"The people that they left, the people who served, the trauma that they endured and the legacy that it left behind."

The sculpture will be erected and unveiled in Washington DC later in the year.



Each figure featured in the memorial took hundreds of hours to create



Actors dressed in clothing from the period posed in front of banks of cameras to create 3D images



American sculptor Sabin Howard, describes the work as "large, vast and epic"



The sculpture will be erected and unveiled in Washington DC later in the year



VFW National Veterans Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan speaks at a VFW press conference in front of the VFW Washington Office on Nov. 14 on Capitol Hill. She on behalf of VFW called on the Department of Justice to investigate unaccredited agencies, which VFW has dubbed "claim sharks," that require veterans to pay fees for their disability claims services.

VFW Says Don't Pay for Your Benefits

VFW Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento issued a powerful statement to veterans in November: Don't Feed the Sharks.

Sarmiento's message refers specifically to what VFW has dubbed "claim sharks," which are unscrupulous individuals or companies charging hefty fees to supposedly assist veterans with their VA claims. This is illegal and needs to be stopped, Sarmiento said.

"The bottom line is this: predatory claim shark companies are engaging in illegal activities," the Chief said. "There is no gray area here, no matter how much money they want to throw at it. Their

"The VFW is determined to stop predatory claim sharks and we are eager to serve alongside you in this fight."

VFW Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento

latest collusion is a desperate attempt to avoid accountability."

During a VFW press conference on Nov. 14 on Capitol Hill, VFW National Veterans Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan called on the Department of Justice to investigate unaccredited agencies that require veterans to pay fees for their disability claims services.

"The harm that unaccredited claims agents have caused veterans and survivors has been significant," Keenan said. "Several

[unaccredited claims agents] are even sponsoring veteran events and sporting events. They are doing everything they can to appear legitimate, while scamming people out of their benefits."

Since the claim sharks first emerged, the VFW has increased the pressure on these companies by passing legislation to crack down on their practices at the state level and is working to help veterans bring litigation against them. At the press conference, VFW expressed its support for the *GUARD VA Benefits Act of 2023 (S. 710)*, which would protect veterans from entities seeking to take their hard-earned benefits. If approved, the *GUARD VA Benefits Act* would reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited claims representatives who charge fees to veterans for filing a disability claim.

"This fight may get a little messy in the coming weeks," Sarmiento warned, "But the VFW is determined to stop predatory claim sharks and we are eager to serve alongside you in this fight."

Furthermore, VFW has trained its more than 2,300 VFW-accredited service officers on how to handle claim sharks. VFW will continue to seek out veterans who need help getting out of these predatory contracts.

For more than 100 years, VFW has worked tirelessly to advocate for veterans and their earned benefits. In the last year alone, more than 550,000 veterans received more than \$13 billion in benefits from VA through VFW's global network of VA-accredited service officers. Not a penny of this \$13 billion went to VFW. It all went to the veterans, as the law requires.

A flyer with information about claims sharks can be found on vfw.org. The direct URL for the flyer is: <https://vfw.org-cdn-a2jrnwdg.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/PACT-Act/Don-Feed-the-Sharks-One-Page-Print-Friendly.pdf>.



DON'T FEED THE SHARKS



DontFeedTheSharks.org

What is a "Claim Shark"?

- A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans with filing their VA benefit claims – this practice is illegal!
- Claim Sharks are not VA accredited, meaning they aren't required to adhere to the well-established professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation, so their advice can often be misleading or even fraudulent.
- Like a "Loan Shark," once you're in, you can't get out, and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating, no matter who does the work.

Some of their predatory practices are:

- Promising or guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase.
- Advertising expedited VA claims decisions.
- Requesting login credentials to access a veteran's personal information through secure VA websites like eBenefits or VA.gov.
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

Who are the Claim Sharks?

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Trajector Medical | • Patriot Angels |
| • Vet Benefits Guide | • Veteran Care Services |
| • Veterans Guardian | • VetComm |
| • VA Claims Insider | • VA Claims Academy |
| • Telemedica | • Vet Assist |

Veterans can protect themselves by:

- Always working with VA accredited representatives.
- Attending all exams ordered by VA.
- Not signing contracts.
- Not agreeing to fees or payments from future benefits.
- Not agreeing to pay for medical consultations or opinions.
- Not providing access to Protected Health Information or Personal Identifiable Information.

Who is NOT a Claim Shark?

- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like the VFW
- VA accredited claims agents
- VA accredited attorneys
- Attorneys assisting with Camp Lejeune lawsuits who do not charge excessive fees





101 N. 14TH ST., 17TH FLOOR
RICHMOND VA 23219

Air Force Association
Air Force Sergeants Association
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United States Army
Disabled American Veterans
Fifth Baptist Church Veterans Ministry
Fleet Reserve Association
Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.
Marine Corps League
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Order of the World Wars
Navy Mutual Aid Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Reserve Organization of America
Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
Student Veterans of America
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
Virginia National Guard Association
Women Marines Association
Wounded Warrior Project

Approved September 20,
2023

JLC Contact
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Rick Raskin
rraskin@vfwva.org

703-887-0076

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF
VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

JLC 2024-02

Stop Unscrupulous Firms from Exploiting Veterans

OBJECTIVE: Prohibit ‘Claim Shark’ companies from preying on veterans seeking to obtain or modify their VA entitlements.

BACKGROUND:

The State of New Jersey passed legislation making it a violation of the consumer fraud act for persons to receive compensation for advising or assisting or referring any individual to another person to advise or assist, with any veterans benefit matter, except as permitted by federal law.

Many of these companies propose contracts well beyond the scope of what the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) allows under law, which is clearly why these companies do not file powers of attorney, consulting agreements, or fee agreements with the VA.

Marketing practices of these companies are predatory by regulatory and consumer protection entities because promises of no-cost consultations or guarantees of increased benefits are hollow and do, in fact, come with fees attached – often in the form of a percentage of the veteran’s compensation.

Many of these companies often ask veterans for sensitive usernames and passwords for their eBenefits or VA.gov accounts. Such access would allow these companies to circumvent VA policies and cybersecurity access controls, permit access to veterans’ sensitive and restricted information, expose personal identifying information (PII) and protected health information (PHI) to unauthorized users and criminal elements, and potentially violate numerous federal consumer protection statutes.

DISCUSSION:

Veterans who believe they have been scammed have little recourse. Many of these contracts include binding arbitration clauses designed to compel payment. Some contracts go so far as to include clauses that prohibit veterans from disclosing terms of the agreements or even speaking negatively about a company or their experiences, without risking defamation litigation.

RECOMMENDATION: That the General Assembly propose and pass legislation similar to that passed by the State of New Jersey that prohibits these ‘Claim Shark’ companies from preying on veterans seeking to obtain or modify their VA entitlements. Further, that the new legislation add requirements for full disclosure by non-VA-accredited companies, as was required for VA-accredited companies in HB 2077 passed in 2023.

The Joint Leadership Council Day on the Hill — January 17 in Richmond



MITCH RUBENSTEIN

Student Veterans of America JLC Representative Katherine Martinez and VFW JLC Representative Rick Raskin



RICK RASKIN

Past Department Commander Tom Gimble (Post 1503) spoke about the state of charitable gaming at the JLC conference on January 17. Rick Raskin also spoke on pending legislation to ban Claim Sharks.



RICK RASKIN

JLC Members and guests attended the House of Delegates session



FROM KATHERINE MARTINEZ

The VFW and SVA were well represented at the January 17 Day on the Hill in Richmond.





2024 VA DISABILITY PAY CHART



CALCULATIONS BASED ON FINAL COLA RATE.



FINAL COLA RATE OF 3.2%	DISABILITY RATING									
	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
DEPENDENT STATUS										
Veteran Alone	171.23	338.49	524.31	755.27	1,075.16	1,361.88	1,716.27	1,995.11	2,241.91	3,737.85
Veteran with Spouse	N/A	N/A	586.01	838.29	1,178.37	1,486.40	1,862.11	2,161.04	2,429.25	3,946.26
Veteran with 1 child only	N/A	N/A	565.82	810.24	1,144.71	1,444.89	1,812.75	2,106.07	2,366.43	3,877.22
Veteran with 1 child and spouse	N/A	N/A	632.00	898.86	1,254.65	1,578.38	1,968.67	2,283.31	2,566.10	4,098.88
Veteran with spouse and 1 parent (no children)	N/A	N/A	635.37	904.47	1,261.38	1,586.24	1,978.77	2,294.53	2,579.56	4,113.51
Veteran with spouse and 2 parent (no children)	N/A	N/A	684.73	970.66	1,344.39	1,686.08	2,095.44	2,428.02	2,729.88	4,280.77
Veteran with 1 parent (no spouse or children)	N/A	N/A	573.67	821.46	1,158.17	1,461.72	1,832.94	2,128.51	2,392.23	3,905.11
Veteran with 2 parent (no spouse or children)	N/A	N/A	623.03	887.65	1,241.19	1,561.56	1,949.60	2,262.00	2,542.55	4,072.37
Veteran with spouse and 1 parent 1 child	N/A	N/A	681.36	965.05	1,337.66	1,678.22	2,085.34	2,416.81	2,716.42	4,266.13
Veteran with spouse and 1 parent 1 child	N/A	N/A	730.72	1,031.23	1,420.67	1,778.06	2,202.01	2,550.30	2,866.74	4,433.39
Veteran with 1 child and 1 parent (no spouse)	N/A	N/A	615.18	876.43	1,227.73	1,544.73	1,929.41	2,239.56	2,516.74	4,044.48
Veteran with 1 child and 2 parents (no spouse)	N/A	N/A	664.53	942.61	1,310.74	1,644.57	2,046.08	2,373.06	2,667.06	4,211.74

ADDITIONAL										
Each additional child under age 18	N/A	N/A	30.29	40.38	51.60	61.70	71.79	81.89	93.11	103.55
Each additional child over age 18 in a qualifying school program	N/A	N/A	99.84	133.49	167.15	199.68	233.33	266.98	300.64	334.49
Spouse receiving Aid and Attendance	N/A	N/A	57.21	76.28	96.47	114.42	133.49	152.56	171.63	191.13

Don't throw away your old laptop or computer.



TECH FOR TROOPS Bring it to the Post and we'll take it to **TECH FOR TROOPS.**

Sorry, we cannot take CRT monitors or Printers.

What T4T needs the most are laptops, desktop computers, tablets, and cell phones.

These devices go to in-need Veterans after data destruction.

T4T guarantees Data Destruction for all devices that could contain data.

INSIDENOVA PRINCE WILLIAM & RAPPAPORT ESTABLISHING PLACES present **MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE** MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE

in **CARMINA BURANA AND MORE!** with the **Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra & The Voce Chamber Singers**

March 8-10

PROMO CODE CARMINA20

at the **HYLTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER** Tickets: 703-993-7759 www.hyltoncenter.org
10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas, VA

manassasballet.org • info@manassasballet.org • (703) 257-1811

PRINCE WILLIAM Arts, Recreation & Tourism NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS MILLER TOYOTA ARTS PARTNER DOMINION Energy

INSIDENOVA PRINCE WILLIAM RAPPAPORT SPARK UVA Health BUCHANAN PARTNERS

Manassas Ballet Theatre is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, Prince William County, and the City of Manassas

Upcoming Events

February 3	District 8 Meeting — Post 9:00 AM, Post 12218 Haymarket, 6620 James Madison Hwy
February 5	Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
February 12	Auxiliary Meeting — 2:00 PM
February 15	Youth Committee Meeting — 7:00 PM
March 4	Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
March 8—10	Manassas Ballet Theatre presents “Carmina Burana & More” at the Hylton Center
March 11	Auxiliary Meeting — 2:00 PM
March 17—19	Auxiliary National President Carla Martinez visits Virginia
March 21	Youth Committee Meeting — 7:00 PM
April 1	Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
April 8	Auxiliary Meeting — 2:00 PM
April 18	Youth Committee Meeting — 7:00 PM

**SIGN UP TO JOIN
VFW ACTION CORPS**

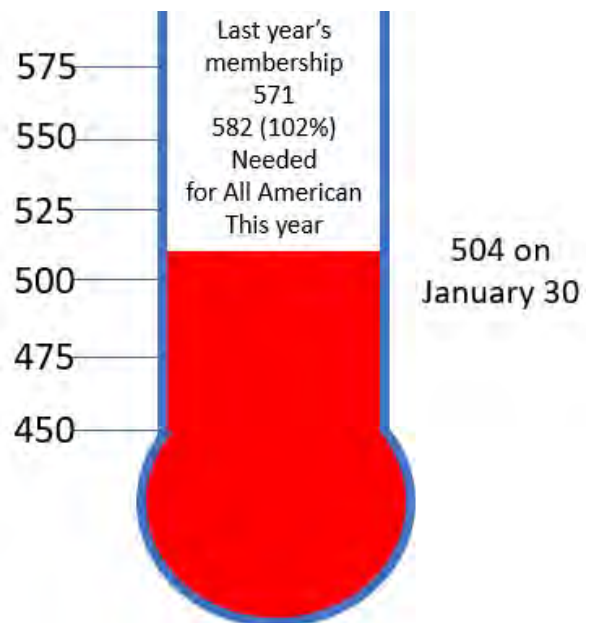
RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER
AND ACTION ALERTS

Use camera mode to scan code



or
Text “VFW” to 50457
or
Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



2023-24 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	Chris Morgan
3 Year Trustee	Lamar Baker
Adjutant	Ron Link
Service Officer	Monti Zimmerman
Judge Advocate	Bobby Knight
Surgeon	Alex Bliem

2023-24 Auxiliary 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	Janet Raskin
Trustee 2	Yvonne Sullivan
Trustee 3	Jan Germain
Historians	Jan Germain
	Patsy Gough
	Yvonne Sullivan
Patriotic Instructor	Lorrie 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.

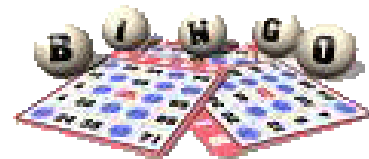
If you know of a family in your community that could use our help, please encourage them to call!

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



Virginia Department
of
Veterans Services

Manassas Office

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

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 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
Jennifer McClellan	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

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.
 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.