

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
March 2014



February 23: 8th District Commander Rick Raskin observes as Peter MacLeod, District 8 Youth Chair, presents an award to Peter Nosal, winner of the District 8 Patriot's Pen contest for 2013/14. Peter is a 6th grade student at Auburn Middle School and was submitted through Post 9835, Warrenton.

In This Issue:

- **COLA Penalty Removed for Most**
- **VFW Statement on Military Retiree COLA Vote**
- **Benefits Fights Not Over**
- **GMU to offer course on Vietnam this summer**
- **Celebrity Soldiers**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **New VFW Store website**

From the Editor



Have you visited your Post website lately? www.vfw7589.org

Its the best place to keep current with what's going on at your Post. We update it at least once a week, and often more frequently.

Recent additions include 14 new episodes of "Operation Freedom" the monthly veteran interview show broadcast on Comcast Cable and hosted by our own Steve Botello.

They are available to view online . Take a look...

Please contact me if you have anything you'd like posted or have any comments or suggestions.

Rick Raskin
qm7589@verizon.net

Commander's Report



Most are not veterans and have never experienced the long period of separation from family and friends. The long nights awake on an outpost, listening, thinking you hear something—to have your mind play tricks on you. Sleeping, eating and existing in a half water-filled foxhole. We were there...

...THEY WERE NOT!!!!

This year is an election year, it is time to hold those who are in office accountable to protect the rights of the veteran; to have their service-related medical conditions properly diagnosed and treated in a timely fashion; to have the financial needs

if warranted and not eliminated because another social program; not to have their retirement entitlements eroded; and most importantly, not just being ignored.

Look at the list of candidates. Do not vote because they are in office or a nice person, but because they will protect the veterans of yesterday, the young men and women of today, and those of the future.

Thanks for listening,

Ron

If it not Congress, then it the DoD! If it is not the Federal Government, then it is the Commonwealth of Virginia!

Eliminating Veteran's entitlements is an easy task for the elected officials.



Francis Cannon Post 7589

P.O. Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108

Auxiliary President's Report



We have four months before the end of the current Auxiliary year. Please assist us with some of the events we have planned. The schedule below will have additional events as they come before the floor. If you have any ideas for fundraisers we can do, please let me know. Also, if you know of any military family that needs assistance, we want to know about it. We are here for them.

March 31

Deadline for Arts and Department Program reports

April 7

Post/Auxiliary Meeting – 7:30 pm - Elections

April 19

Commander & President Homecoming at Mechanicsville at Post 9808

April 25

Setup for Yard Sale 4:00 – 8:00 pm
April 26

Yard Sale 7:00 am – 2:00 pm

April 27

District 8th Convention – Culpeper (2524) 1:00 pm – Elections



The Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest is under way. Brochures for this National contest have been distributed to the local High Schools. The deadline for entries March 31st. We welcome Home Schooled students as well. This is a Scholarship program and if the student places first at the national level, they will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. If you would like more information, please contact me at 703/361-8950 or by email at: mcorkhill@comcast.net.

All high school students are welcome to participate.

I would like to remind the members of the upcoming election in April for the 2014-2015 year. We have several positions that need to be filled. Please consider taking a po-

sition in your Auxiliary. The new officers will take their new positions after the Department Convention in June. We do want you to come to the meetings and be a part of a great organization.

The Auxiliary is planning another Yard Sale for Saturday April 26th. Donations can be received every Wednesday from 9-12 during Bingo and on the Friday during set up on April 25th from 4-8pm.

As always, please keep collecting the Campbell's soup labels for the VFW National Home for Children. We are very happy to receive any labels from the public. Please bring labels to the Post.

The Department President Laine Beckwith has been ill and I'm requesting each of you send her a Get Well card. Her address is 41 Kings Point Dr., Hampton, VA 23669.

And as always, for individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized, you are in our prayers.



Service Officer's Report



As we have all seen recently out of Washington our pay, benefits and retirement is being seen as something that can be taken away bit by bit by those in Washington.

Please take note of this and if you can contact your representative, Congressman or Senator, and tell them not to take away any veterans benefits.

We must fight together to keep what we have earned and that nothing is taken from us.

Your Service Officers exist to help you and your dependents receive every benefit you are entitled to. Please do feel free to contact and speak any of us so we can provide you with the help and assistance you may need.

If you know of anyone being provided home care of any type please consider advising them to contact us. They could be entitled to "Aid and Attendance". If you are a veteran in a care facility where you must have direct care or if perhaps you are home bound and receiving direct care please consider filing for this benefit.

Please seek out and contact any of our Service Officers here at Post 7589 and ask about this. We will assist you in filing for this benefit with the DVA and see if you qualify for it.

Please also feel free to contact our Service Officer Team at any time for questions, suggestions or other needs you may have at: so7589@verizon.net or call us at 1-

703-659-0849 or just pull one of us aside and tell us a suggestion of service that we can provide.

Our number one goal is providing the best service to our veterans and their families. Please do not hesitate to speak to any of our Veteran Service Officers and find out just what they can do for you! They are:

Wayne Moore 1-703-361-5554
Email: mgr7590@verizon.net

Stephen Meade 1-703-408-0875
Email: SO2-7589@hotmail.com

Our goal is simple here. We want to take care of all our veterans with the greatest level of service that our resources will allow. Thank you for your service!

If you have any questions please feel free to reach us at our VSO phone line of: 1-703-659-0849 or Email: SO7589@verizon.net.

Thank you,
Steven M. Botello
Post Service Officer

Need help with filing VA claims?

VA DVS AGENT SERVICE
2nd & 4th THURSDAYS
0900 - 1500

Post 7589
9304 Centreville Rd.
Manassas, Virginia

APPOINTMENTS PLEASE
Walk-ins Accepted
703-359-1210

Youth News and Notes



Pete MacLeod, Youth Chair

It is not that often that young people remember to send a thank you letter after receiving an honor, prize or recognition from VFW Post 7589. A big exception arrived in the mail last month from local Scout of the Year Matthew Zackschewski , now a student at Penn State.

A graduate of Westfield High School, Matthew is majoring in Computer Science Engineering and has a goal of getting to Medical School. The path is not easy, getting accepted to medical school is extremely difficult and will involve

the MCAT exams Matthew’s Junior year at college. He has set his sights on Penn State’s Hershey Park Medical School and wants to become a medical doctor and he wants to incorporate his computer knowledge into his medical expertise. For instance, he has visions of designing and programming robots for use in surgery. He also has looked at the medical profession in different ways through his involvement in the National Youth Leadership Forum.

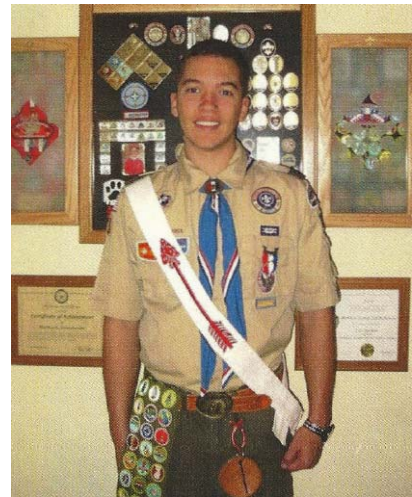
By now, you might be thinking that this guy is a hopeless nerd who does nothing but sit in the library and study and dream up grand plans. Well, as far as I’m concerned , if this guy is a nerd, I want to be one too! He not only has academic and medical ambitions, he is maintaining his religious convictions at Penn State. He joined the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center where on campus masses are held, and joined the choir there and plays the trumpet for the choir.

You must be wondering what Matthew did in high school? He graduated Magna cum Laude with a grade point average of 3.92, just short of perfect. Like many freshmen , he

struggled a bit during his just completed first semester at college. But what I liked, he tackled his hardest subject, Calculus II and got a 92 on his final exam.

And in the last paragraph of his letter to the Post he thanks us for his \$200.00 scholarship award and says that as an Eagle Scout he will continue to uphold the Scout Oath and Law and continue to give back to society.

You know what? I believe him and wish him all the luck in the world!



2014 Voice of Democracy Theme

“Why Veterans Are Important To Our Nation’s History And Future.”

2014 Patriot’s Pen theme

“Why I Appreciate America’s Veterans.”

COLA Penalty Removed for Most

Thanks in large part to VFW's grassroots advocates for bombarding their congressional offices with tens of thousands of phone calls and e-mails, Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation this week to eliminate the controversial one-percent COLA penalty on working-age military retirees. The House vote Tuesday was 326-90 and the Senate vote Wednesday was 95-3. The bill also

contained a grandfather clause that extends to those currently serving, provided they were in uniform prior to the end of 2013. The legislation does not, however, remove the penalty on all future retirees who entered the military after Jan. 1. Regarding future retirees, VFW National Commander Bill Thien said "the world will remain a very dangerous and unpredictable place even after

America ends its involvement in Afghanistan, and future military retirees will be required to serve just as long and perhaps sacrifice even more than their predecessors. It is in that regard that the VFW will continue to fight for a full repeal of the COLA penalty, and we hope that this week's vote continues that conversation."

VFW Statement on Military Retiree COLA Vote

WASHINGTON (February 12, 2014) — "The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States thanks all our supporters in the House of Representatives and Senate for taking quick action to repeal the one-percent COLA penalty on working-age military retirees. The Senate today followed yesterday's House passage of a bill to eliminate the penalty for current retirees and everyone serving in uniform prior to the

end of 2013, should they choose to remain until retirement eligible. The legislation does not, however, remove the penalty on future retirees who enter the military after Jan. 1, 2014.

"The world will remain a very dangerous and unpredictable place even after America ends its involvement in Afghanistan, and future military retirees will be required to serve just

as long and perhaps sacrifice even more than their predecessors. It is in that regard that the VFW will continue to fight for a full repeal of the COLA penalty, and we hope that this vote will continue that conversation."

WILLIAM A. THIEN
Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.



Benefits Fights Not Over

The COLA penalty was a surprise provision in last December's Bipartisan Budget Agreement. More surprises could come in March, when the administration releases its fiscal year 2015 budget recommendations. Back in August 2011, the VFW unveiled its 10 for 10 Plan, which were 10 DOD/VA programs that we believed were under threat of elimination or reduction to help pay for (then) 10 years of war. Below are the 10 programs, which are still on the radarscope based on present-day budget battles, the deficit, the continued threat of sequestration, and the recommendations to be made next year by the Military Compensation

and Retirement Modernization Commission:

- Change the 20-year military retirement plan to resemble civilian plans.
- Increase healthcare premiums for military families and retirees on TRICARE.
- Increase pharmaceutical fees for military families and retirees.
- Reduce COLA increases.
- End government subsidies to military commissaries.
- Eliminate DOD elementary schools stateside.
- Eliminate DOD tuition assistance programs for service

members.

- Eliminate presumptive service-connected conditions for disabled and ill veterans.
- Lock out or increase fees for VA Priority Group 7 and 8 veterans.
- And lower or freeze military pay, similar to the recent three-year (FY 2011-13) freeze for federal civilians

Become a VFW Action Corps member today and help us stop the government from balancing the budget on the backs of veterans, service members and their families. Join us at: <http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>

GMU to offer course on Vietnam this summer

My name is Kristin Wood and I am working on a faculty led study abroad program to Vietnam and Myanmar this summer, run through George Mason University. The course title is "Visualizing a Post-Conflict World" and it uses visual journalism to explore the aftermath of conflict.

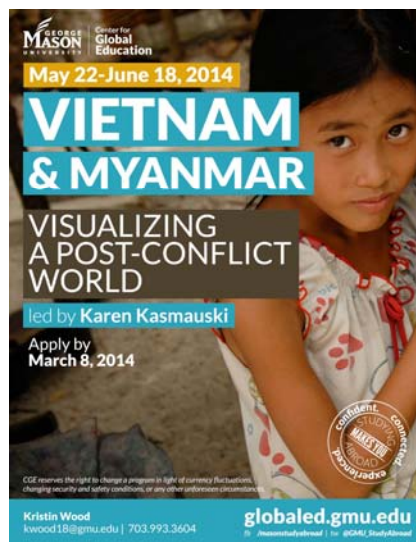
Students on this program will be learning a lot about the Vietnam War and visiting important sites from the

war, as well as visiting a children's center that is supported by an American veteran group. I thought this program might be interesting for Vietnam veterans or their family members, to see at first hand the long journey of recovery from the war in Vietnam, with its environmental and human costs that are still felt today.

The course is 6 credits and it takes place throughout Vietnam and My-

anmar from May 22-June 18. Non-students are also welcome to come on the program.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have. I have attached the program flyer and you can find more information, including the program itinerary, on the website [here](#). If you think the members ... might be interested in the program, I would really appreciate if you could share this information with them.



How many people today have any idea who these men were that served and entertained us?

Sterling Hayden, US Marines and OSS. Smuggled guns into Yugoslavia and parachuted into Croatia.

James Stewart, US Army Air Corps. Bomber pilot who rose to the rank of General.

Ernest Borgnine, US Navy. Gunners Mate 1c, destroyer USS Lamberton.

Ed McMahon, US Marines. Fighter Pilot. (Flew OE-1 Bird Dogs over Korea as well.)

Telly Savalas, US Army.

Walter Matthau, US Army Air Corps., B-24 Radioman/Gunner and cryptographer.

Steve Forrest, US Army. Wounded, Battle of the Bulge.

Jonathan Winters, USMC. Battleship USS Wisconsin and Carrier USS Bon Homme Richard. Anti-aircraft gunner, Battle of Okinawa.

Paul Newman, US Navy Rear seat gunner/radioman, torpedo bombers of USS Bunker Hill

Kirk Douglas, US Navy. Sub-chaser in the Pacific. Wounded in action and medically discharged.

Robert Mitchum, US Army.

Dale Robertson, US Army. Tank Commander in North Africa under Patton. Wounded twice. Battlefield Commission.

Henry Fonda, US Navy. Destroyer USS Satterlee.

John Carroll, US Army Air Corps. Pilot in North Africa. Broke his back in a crash.

Lee Marvin US Marines. Sniper. Wounded in action on Saipan. Buried in Arlington

National Cemetery, Sec. 7A next to Greg Boyington and Joe Louis.

Art Carney, US Army. Wounded on Normandy beach, D-Day. Limped for the rest of his life.

Wayne Morris, US Navy fighter pilot, USS Essex. Downed seven Japanese fighters.

Rod Steiger, US Navy. Was aboard one of the ships that launched the Doolittle Raid.

Tony Curtis, US Navy. Sub tender USS Proteus. In Tokyo Bay for the surrender of Japan.

Larry Storch. US Navy. Sub tender USS Proteus with Tony Curtis.

Forrest Tucker, US Army. Enlisted as a private, rose to Lieutenant.

Robert Montgomery, US Navy. George Kennedy, US Army. Enlisted after Pearl Harbor, stayed in sixteen years.

Mickey Rooney, US Army under Patton. Bronze Star.

Denver Pyle, US Navy. Wounded in the Battle of Guadalcanal. Medically discharged.

Burgess Meredith, US Army Air Corps.

DeForest Kelley, US Army Air Corps.

Robert Stack, US Navy. Gunnery Officer.

Neville Brand, US Army, Europe. Was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Tyrone Power, US Marines. Transport pilot in the Pacific Theater.

Charlton Heston, US Army Air Corps. Radio operator and aerial gunner on a B-25, Aleutians.

Danny Aiello, US Army. Lied about his age to enlist at 16. Served three years.

James Arness, US Army. As an infantryman, he was severely wounded at Anzio, Italy.

Efram Zimbalist, Jr., US Army. Purple Heart for a severe wound received at Huertgen Forest.

Mickey Spillane, US Army Air Corps, Fighter Pilot and later Instructor Pilot.

Rod Serling. US Army. 11th Airborne Division in the Pacific. He jumped at Tagaytay in the Philippines and was later wounded in Manila.

Gene Autry, US Army Air Corps. Crewman on transports that ferried supplies over "The Hump" in the China-Burma-India Theater. William Holden, US Army Air Corps.

Alan Hale Jr, US Coast Guard. Harry Dean Stanton, US Navy. Battle of Okinawa.

Russell Johnson, US Army Air Corps. B-24 crewman who was awarded Purple Heart when his aircraft was shot down by the Japanese in the Philippines.

William Conrad, US Army Air Corps. Fighter Pilot.

Jack Klugman, US Army. Frank Sutton, US Army. Took part in 14 assault landings, including Leyte, Luzon, Bataan and Corregidor.

Jackie Coogan, US Army Air Corps. Volunteered for gliders and flew troops and materials into Burma behind enemy lines.

Tom Bosley, US Navy. Claude Akins, US Army. Signal Corps., Burma and the Philippines.

Chuck Connors, US Army. Tank-warfare instructor.

Harry Carey Jr., US Navy. Mel Brooks, US Army. Combat Engineer. Saw action in the Battle of the Bulge.

Robert Altman, US Army Air Corps. B-24 Co-Pilot.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Pat Hingle, US Navy. Destroyer USS Marshall

Fred Gwynne, US Navy. Radioman.

Karl Malden, US Army Air Corps. 8th Air Force, NCO.

Earl Holliman. US Navy. Lied about his age to enlist. Discharged after a year when they Navy found out.

Rock Hudson, US Navy. Aircraft mechanic, the Philippines.

Harvey Korman, US Navy.

Aldo Ray. US Navy. UDT frogman, Okinawa.

Don Knotts, US Army, Pacific Theater.

Don Rickles, US Navy aboard USS Cyrene.

Harry Dean Stanton, US Navy. Served aboard an LST in the Battle of Okinawa.

Robert Stack, US Navy. Gunnery Instructor.

Soupy Sales, US Navy. Served on USS Randall in the South Pacific.

Lee Van Cleef, US Navy. Served aboard a sub chaser then a mine sweeper.

Clifton James, US Army, South Pacific. Was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

Ted Knight, US Army, Combat Engineers.

Jack Warden, US Navy, 1938-1942, then US Army, 1942-1945. 101st Airborne Division.

Don Adams. US Marines. Wounded on Guadalcanal, then served as a Drill Instructor.

James Gregory, US Navy and US Marines.

Brian Keith, US Marines. Radioman/Gunner in Dauntless dive-bombers.

Fess Parker, US Navy and US Marines. Booted from pilot training for being too tall, joined Marines as a radio

operator.

Charles Durning. US Army. Landed at Normandy on D-Day. Shot multiple times. Awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts. Survived Malmady Massacre.

Raymond Burr, US Navy. Shot in the stomach on Okinawa and medically discharged.

Hugh O'Brian, US Marines.

Robert Ryan, US Marines.

Eddie Albert, US Coast Guard. Bronze Star with Combat V for saving several Marines under heavy fire as pilot of a landing craft during the invasion of Tarawa.

Cark Gable, US Army Air Corps. B-17 gunner over Europe.

Charles Bronson, US Army Air Corps. B-29 gunner, wounded in action.

Peter Graves, US Army Air Corps.

Buddy Hackett, US Army anti-aircraft gunner.

Victor Mature, US Coast Guard.

Jack Palance, US Army Air Corps. Severely injured bailing out of a burning B-24 bomber.

Robert Preston, US Army Air Corps. Intelligence Officer

Cesar Romero, US Coast Guard. Coast Guard. Participated in the invasions of Tinian and Saipan on the assault transport USS Cavalier.

Norman Fell, US Army Air Corps., Tail Gunner, Pacific Theater.

Jason Robards, US Navy. was aboard heavy cruiser USS Northampton when it was sunk off Guadalcanal. Also served on the USS Nashville during the invasion of the Philippines, surviving a kamikaze hit that caused 223 casualties.

Steve Reeves, US Army, Philippines.

Dennis Weaver, US Navy. Pilot.

Robert Taylor, US Navy. Instructor Pilot.

Randolph Scott. Tried to enlist in the Marines but was rejected due to injuries sustained in US Army, World War 1.

Ronald Reagan. US Army. Was a 2nd Lt. in the Cavalry Reserves before the war. His poor eyesight kept him from being sent overseas with his unit when war came so he transferred to the Army Air Corps Public Relations Unit where he served for the duration.

John Wayne. Declared "4F medically unfit" due to pre-existing injuries, he nonetheless attempted to volunteer three times (Army, Navy and Film Corps.) so he gets honorable mention.

And of course we have Audie Murphy, America's most-decorated soldier, who became a Hollywood star as a result of his US Army service that included his being awarded the Medal of Honor.

One man from today's world comes to mind; Pat Tillman turned down a contract offer of \$3.6 million over three years from the Arizona Cardinals to enlist in the US Army after September, 11, 2001 and served as a Ranger in Afghanistan, where he died in 2004.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 3** Post general membership meeting—1930
- March 9** District 8 Meeting - Post 3103 - Fredericksburg—1300
- March 3** Post meeting—Nomination of officers for 2014-15—1930
- March 15** St. Patrick's Day Parade—TBD
- April 7** Post meeting—Election of officers for 2014-15—1930
- April 12** Recruiting Drive at J. E. Rice Hardware—0900—1300
- April 19** Department Commander's Homecoming— Post 9808, Mechanicsville
- April 27** District 8 Convention - Post 2524 - Culpeper - 1300
- May 5** Post meeting—Installation of officers—1930
- May 23 - 26** Memorial Day Activities—Poppies, Manassas Veterans' Memorial ceremony and flag placements on veterans' graves
- June 2** Post general membership meeting—1930
- June 5-8** Department Convention—Williamsburg
-

New VFW STORE Website

- one VFW sign-on for members*
- better search capabilities*
- simpler navigation*
- won't time you out*
- still at www.vfwstore.org*

Click here to check it out!

Call 1-800-821-2606 for assistance.