

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
April 2017



Recruiting at Centreville Giant on March 24 yielded 6 new members. (L-R) Pete MacLeod, Ed Fishpaw, Joel Chase and District 8 SVC Geoff Lyster. Not Pictured are Eric Cruz, Lou Filippone, Robert Punihaole and Rick Raskin who also participated in the event.

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CANNON NEWS—2015 National VFW Publications Silver Award
2013, 2014 and 2015 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for
Most Outstanding Post Publication/Newsletter, VFW Department of Virginia

Commander's Message

Pete MacLeod



My mind goes back to March, 2012 and the VFW National Legislative Conference in Crystal City. I attended as a member of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans National Committee. There was a surprise announced for the Tuesday night supper where all the state delegations sit together. No one seemed to know what was up. Then limousines began arriving around 6:00 pm and a huge cheer went up from the VFW members gathered outside the hotel. It was going to be a night to honor the Wounded Warriors back from Iraq and Afghanistan.

These veterans had paid the terrible price of trying to dodge the explosive devices planted all around those two countries, many deliberately aimed at U.S. troops and hoping to inflict maximum damage. Most of the badly wounded veterans came straight from the hospitals located at the time in Bethesda and Washington. Most were missing body parts. I sat next to a young soldier who had lost both arms and both legs in Iraq. What do you say? He had artificial limbs but he had a fulltime caretaker helping him. I was at a loss. Almost nothing seemed appropriate to discuss. What you did long ago in Vietnam seems trivial compared to what this young guy had been through. You're scared to death of saying the wrong thing.

I shouldn't have worried. This young veteran from Loudoun County did most of the talking and you know what he wanted to talk about? Getting a job. It seems despite the horror inflicted on his body, he was

ready to move ahead and begin working and already had a line on a high tech civilian job in the area. He wanted advice about companies, salaries, etc.

Naturally he would have to overcome obstacles most of us never have to think about but he was ready to do that. All I could do was admire his guts and determination and wonder if I ever could have faced up to the challenges in front of him.

This hero was not unlike most newly discharged veterans. My observations over the years would confirm that the vast majority of veterans, upon return from overseas deployment, want to get back into American society and the world of work as quickly as possible. They want a good job!

Even if education and degrees are the goal, and despite the excellent GI Bill now in effect, most veterans need at least a part time job to make ends meet while attending school. Sometimes help and advice in finding a job is not available.

Quartermaster Rick Raskin recently returned from his travels as a state line officer with about a dozen copies of the excellent *USA Today* Veterans Affairs special edition. Over 30 pages of the edition are dedicated to jobs, education and training for armed services members returning to the civilian world. Some of the ads are just as informative as the articles. Websites, emails and good old fashioned 800 phone numbers are plentiful. So if something interests you, there is the opportunity to do further research.

There is a section on starting your own business with interviews featuring veterans who have done just that. There is franchise information, information about how your military skills can lead to a civilian career and a list of the best colleges. In other words a wealth of information!

See Quartermaster Raskin or myself and we will see you get some time with one of these copies.

I want to thank master recruiter Geoff Lyster of VFW Post 9835 in Warrenton for helping us pick up six new members at our Recruiting Drive at the Centreville Giant on March 24. Watching Geoff in action shows you why he has had so much success recruiting new members for the VFW. Here is his secret: when he approaches a potential recruit he gets the man or woman to talk about themselves and doesn't start spinning stories about his own service. He asks question after question about the potential new VFW member's military experience. Before you know it, Geoff is sitting down with the veteran helping him or her fill out the VFW application form.

Now it isn't as simple as that. It takes practice and the right attitude. Even Geoff probably fails 4 out of every 5 times. But if you stay with it, as he did outside the Centreville Giant, pretty soon you have 6 new VFW members!

I want to thank our comrades who helped with recruiting for over four hours.: Rick Raskin, Eric Cruz, Ed Fishpaw, Lou Filippone, Joel Chase, Robert Punihale, and Geoff Lyster from Post 9835.

Another form of membership work going on at our Post is being conducted by Joel Chase's Membership Committee. This involves catching members leaving by the back door. In other words, not renewing. We use phone, email, texting and sometimes old fashioned snail mail to stop the drain on our membership numbers. I was amazed two weeks ago to send 4 emails to comrades whose memberships had lapsed and have all 4 email me back with legitimate reasons why they had not renewed!

Youth News and Notes

It was close, but the 2017 VFW Post 7589 Scout of the Year, Kyle Picot finished a strong second place in the judging for District 8 Scout of the Year. Unfortunately only the first place finisher advances to the state competition.

But Kyle is only in the 9th grade at

Brentsville High School so he can come back again next year with an even stronger presentation. His accomplishments are pretty awesome anyway.

Let's start with the fact that Kyle joined Boy Scout Troop 670 at Grace United Methodist Church in Manassas in October of 2012 and by November 29, 2015 he was an Eagle Scout! Kyle has done projects for

the Birmingham Green Assisted Living Center in Manassas. His Eagle Scout project involved building a pathway from the sidewalk at Birmingham Green to the bench, a distance of 19 feet through grass. Kyle is a member of the National Eagle Scout Association and National Youth

(See Youth on page 3)

(Youth from page 2)

Leadership Training program and he has joined Venturing Crew 616. He was also “tapped out” to be inducted into the prestigious “National Order of the Arrow” and attended the National Order of the Arrow Conference at Michigan State University.

In Boy Scout Venturing he has won several awards including “Messenger of Peace,” “The Venturing Award,” The Gold Medal for Community Service and was certified in CPR by the American Red Cross, all in the last year!

At Brentsville High Kyle is a member of the marching band and is taking advanced classes in Science and Math. He is also taking an Engineering Design course because of his interest in mechanics and engineering. He and his family attended the March 6 Post 7589 meeting at which time he was presented with his award. A pretty impressive list of accomplishments for this young man who is still in the 9th grade.

March 6 was the night we also honored our two VFW Post 7589/Auxiliary Teachers of the Year for 2016-17.

Ms. Megan McNulty, 5th grade Language Arts teacher at Mayfield Intermediate School in Manassas was honored as our K-5 teacher. She is well known for organizing the annual Salute to Veterans at Mayfield and is also the chair of the Language Arts Department. She also works with the Future Leaders of America and organizes career days. Her other activities include SOL Boot Camp Curriculum lead, Metz Middle School cheerleading coach, Mayfield Toys for Tots Collection Coordinator, and American Red Cross “Holiday Mail for Heroes.”

Our Teacher of the Year in Grades 6-8 is Ms. Erin Merrill, a 7th and 8th grade Social Studies teacher at Pennington Traditional School in Manassas. Ms. Merrill, who also topped the District 8 Teacher of the Year competition and will be competing for the state title, scores high marks for introducing her students to participation in government, which is perhaps the most important category for a VFW/Auxiliary Citizenship Teacher of the Year. Ms. Merrill promotes patriotism by having veterans come into her classroom and speak to students about America’s role in the wars of the past century. She even has her students annually

conduct research and design a new monument/memorial in honor of a major U.S. event in the post World War Two years. Ms. Merrill’s students are encouraged to research elections and voter information and attend School Board and Board of County Supervisor meetings to see how our local government really works. They also hold mock elections at Pennington School and take trips to regional courts each Spring. Good Luck to Ms. Merrill at the state judging!

Looking ahead to this Spring, Post 7589 will be honoring an Osbourn Park High School Navy Junior ROTC cadet with the VFW Bronze NJROTC Medal. Last year’s award recipient was Cadet Elise Dettmann.

Youth Chair Pete Macleod



Megan McNulty, Post 7589 Teacher of the Year (Grades K-5) at our awards ceremony on March 6, receives her award from Commander Pete MacLeod, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and Youth Committee member Lou Filippone.



Kyle Picot, Post 7589 Eagle Scout of the Year



Erin Merrill, Post 7589 Teacher of the Year (Grades 6-8)

POST ELECTIONS
April 3
Membership Meeting
7:30 PM

Auxiliary President



The members of the Auxiliary would like to thank the Comrades of Post 7589 and Ms. Cindy McIntyre for their surprise generous gifts to purchase a new Auxiliary banner. As of August 2015, the National VFW Auxiliary changed their name and all the items for the Auxiliary has to reflect the new name. Again, thank you.



The Department of Virginia was honored to have the National President Colette Bishop make her official visit from March 8-10th in the Richmond area. When she arrived, she was treated to lunch at a Mexican restaurant before she was taken to Berkeley Plantation. Our tour guide gave us a brief history of Berkeley Plantation which began in 1619 when settlers observed the first official Thanksgiving in America. We were informed that General Daniel Butterfield composed the familiar tune "Taps," and that it was first played by his bugler.

Upon the completion of our tour at the Berkeley Plantation, we escorted National President Colette to the hotel in Mechanicsville, VA. The entourage then left with President Colette for Battlefield VFW Post 9808 for dinner. We were joined by State Commander Tom and PDP Betty Gimble along with VFW Department Membership Chairman Tom Hines. The evening ended with gifts given and the National President speaking to the group. On Thursday, March 9th, the shuttle bus (owned by VFW Post 9808), and their VFW motorcycle group



began a tour of Richmond with a drive down Monument Avenue to the Virginia War Memorial. After the tour at the War Memorial, National President Colette and Department President Shema Peppers placed a wreath at the statue entitled *Memory*. After our tour of the Virginia War Memorial, we traveled to McGuire VA Medical Center and its campus which included Fisher House, Polytrauma Transitional Rehabilitation Center, the primary Polytrauma wing at the VA hospital and Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center. Our last stop of the day was at Glen Allen Post 10657 in Glen Allen, VA for dinner. National President Colette left Virginia the morning of March 10th for her next official state visit.

The election for 2017-2018 Officers will be held on Monday, April 3rd during the monthly meeting. The newly elected officers will take their positions after the Department Convention in June 2017. Please consider holding an office for your Auxiliary.

We are planning another Yard Sale on Saturday, May 6th from 7am – 2pm. We will be taking donations on Friday, May 5th from 4pm – 8pm. If you plan on doing a little spring cleaning and want to unload your items, we will be glad to take them off your hands and will also provide a tax receipt if requested. Thanks in advance for your donations.

I would also like to remind the members who have **NOT** paid their 2017 dues, you have until June 30th to do so. If your 2017 dues are not paid by that date, you will **NOT** be a member of the VFW Auxiliary and you will have to reapply for a new membership. Your time as a member will have to start over. As I stated last year, if you let your membership lapse and are subsequently diagnosed with cancer, you will not be eligible for the Cancer grant during and after the one year waiting period. Please pay your dues of \$20 for 2017 to the Auxiliary Treasurer Elanor Doczi, 7415 Roxbury Dr., Manassas, VA 20109. Thank you in advance.

The deadline for the National VFW Auxiliary American Creative Art Contest Patriotic Arts program has passed. I would like to thank the Comrades and Auxiliary members for their assistance in promoting this program. I will report the results in next

month's news article. Our first place winner's art work will be forwarded to the Department for judging. If the art work is selected first place at the Department level, it will be forwarded to National VFW Auxiliary Headquarters in Kansas City, MO for judging. Last year, Virginia was honored to have placed second at National. Just a reminder that the first place winner at the National level will receive a \$10,000 scholarship.

The 8th District meeting will be April 23rd at Post 2524 in Culpeper, VA. Lunch will be served at 12:00 (noon) with the joint meeting starting at 1:00pm. This is the election meeting for the new 2017-2018 Officers. Please let me know if you will be able to attend. Just a reminder of the audit before the meeting.

The Auxiliary will hold a Buddy Poppy drive on Saturday, May 27th and Sunday, May 28th at Giant in Centreville, VA. The time will be from 9am until 2pm on both days. We are also working on a Buddy Poppy display for the Department Convention. Due to several events during April, we are looking at April 30th to meet at Ms. Elanor's house at 2:00pm if her schedule permits. If you would like to assist us in one or both events, please let me know at 703/361-8950. This is time for all of us to have some Auxiliary member time and assist our Auxiliary in our mission for the Veterans.

Since July, we have collected \$19,649.45 worth of coupons for the Veterans overseas. I would like to thank all the individuals collecting and bringing the coupons to the Post for us.

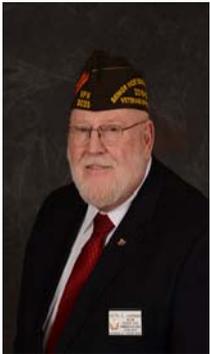
Please keep in your prayers, Darrell Bramer (Renee), John Doczi (Elanor) and John Sullivan (Yvonne) all husbands of our members, along with other members and/or their family who are ill or hospitalized.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill
VFW Auxiliary President



National SVCNC Keith Harman to visit Virginia



Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy has designated Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Keith E. Harman to represent the national organization at our Department Membership Roundup, April 09-14, 2017, throughout the State of Virginia.

Keith E. Harman was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 27, 2016, at the 117th VFW National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

Keith served in the U. S. Army from 1967 to 1969. He served in Vietnam as a crew chief and door gunner on UH-1 Huey helicopters. His decorations include the Air Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze service stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citations, and the Aircraft Crewmember Badge.

Keith joined the VFW in 1983 at Post 3035 in Delphos, Ohio, where he is a Gold Legacy life member. He has served in elected and appointed positions at Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as commander of the VFW Department of Ohio in 2004, where he achieved All-American status. On the national level, he has served on several committees, including chairman of the National Veterans Service Committee.

Our Roundup will begin at Post 9808 in Mechanicsville on Monday where we will meet Post members over breakfast. Over four days we'll make a circle tour of the State finishing at Dale City Post 1503 on Thursday.

The agenda for the Northern Virginia area includes Post 9760 in Berryville from 2:30— 4:00 PM and arrival at Post 1503 in Dale City at 5:30. Dinner is scheduled for 6:30PM. Members are encouraged to meet Keith at a Post in their area. For further information on accommodation please contact either Post 9760 or 1503.

The complete itinerary is listed in the April Department General Orders available at www.vfwva.org. Let's show Keith some real Virginia hospitality!

From the



Caregiver Benefits Legislation Introduced: Legislation was introduced [the week of March 6] in both chambers of Congress that would expand caregiver benefits to veterans who served before September 11, 2001. The Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act has received bipartisan support in the Senate from sponsors Senators Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Patty Murray, D-Wash., both of whom have received the VFW's Congressional Award. The bill has already received 25 bipartisan co-sponsors in the House. Additionally, Secretary of Veterans Affairs David J. Shulkin expressed support this week for the expansion of the program. This legislation is a major priority for the VFW and its Auxiliary. We will continue to monitor this legislation closely.

HVAC Advances Five Important Veterans Bills: On [March 8], the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a markup to consider five bills, all of which the VFW supports. The committee deliberated and advanced a bill to give the Secretary of Veterans Affairs increased authority to hold VA employees accountable for wrongdoing and poor performance. The committee also voted to pro-

tect veterans' second amendment rights and destigmatize mental health care by ensuring veterans who seek VA mental health care and require the assistance of others to manage finances are not reported to the no-sell list without proper due process. Also advanced is a bill to remove the secondary payer requirements under the Choice Program, so veterans no longer receive bills from Choice providers simply because they are covered by private health insurance. The bill would also prolong the program by authorizing VA to use funds that are due to expire in August 2017. The committee also moved a bill that would provide full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to veterans who have earned the Purple Heart, but were unable to complete 36 months of active duty. All five bills await consideration by the full House, which is scheduled to consider the accountability bill and other veterans' bills [in the following weeks].

Congress Passes Legislation Honoring Vietnam War Veterans: The House of Representatives passed a bill which would amend the flag code to include National Vietnam War Veterans Day on the list of days that Americans should fly

the U.S. flag. March 29 of each year is the designated day. The bill, which cleared the Senate in February, now goes to the President's desk for signature.

Southeast Asia Fact-Finding Trip: VFW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman returned from a two-week POW/MIA fact-finding trip to Southeast Asia late last week in which he was able to meet with U.S. military and diplomats assigned to U.S. Embassies in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and the People's Republic of China, as well as host-country officials. He also visited an MIA recovery site west of Danang, Vietnam, to personally thank the 17 U.S. military and DOD civilians working hard on a 45-degree sloop and in 90-degree temperatures to recover and return a missing American soldier home to his family. It was the senior vice commander's first trip back to Vietnam since he departed it in 1969.

Meet Keith Harman when he visits Post 1503 in Dale City on April 13 at 5:30 PM. — Ed.

Moe Berg

When baseball greats Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig went on tour in baseball-crazy Japan, in 1934, some fans wondered why a third-string catcher named Moe Berg was included. Although he played with five major-league teams, from 1923 to 1939, he was a very mediocre ball player.



But Moe was regarded as the brainiest ballplayer of all time. In fact, Casey Stengel once said: "That is the strangest man ever to play baseball".

When all the baseball stars went to Japan, Moe Berg went with them and many people wondered why he went with "the team"

The answer was simple: Moe Berg was a United States spy, working undercover with the Office of Strategic Services (predecessor of today's CIA).

Moe spoke 15 languages - including Japanese. And he had two loves: baseball and spying.

In Tokyo, garbed in a kimono, Berg took flowers to the daughter of an American diplomat being treated in St. Luke's Hospital - the tallest building in the Japanese capital.

He never delivered the flowers. The ballplayer ascended to the hospital roof and filmed key features: the harbor, military installations, railway yards, etc.

Eight years later, General Jimmy Doolittle studied Berg's films in planning his spectacular raid on Tokyo.

His father disapproved and never once watched his son play. In Barringer High School, Moe learned Latin, Greek and French. Moe read at least 10 newspapers everyday.

He graduated magna cum laude from Princeton - having added Spanish, Italian, German and Sanskrit to his linguistic quiver. During further studies at the Sorbonne, in Paris, and Columbia Law School, he picked up Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indi-

an, Arabic, Portuguese and Hungarian - 15 languages in all, plus some regional dialects.

While playing baseball for Princeton University, Moe Berg would describe plays in Latin or Sanskrit.

During World War II, Moe was parachuted into Yugoslavia to assess the value to the war effort of the two groups of partisans there. He reported back that Marshall Tito's forces were widely supported by the people and Winston Churchill ordered all-out support for the Yugoslav underground fighter, rather than Mihajlovic's Serbians.

The parachute jump at age 41 undoubtedly was a challenge. But there was more to come in that same year. Berg penetrated German-held Norway, met with members of the underground, and located a secret heavy-water plant - part of the Nazis' effort to build an atomic bomb. His information guided the Royal Air Force in a bombing raid to destroy that plant.



The R.A.F. destroys the Norwegian heavy water plant targeted by Moe Berg.

There still remained the question of how far had the Nazis progressed in the race to build the first Atomic bomb. If the Nazis were successful, they would win the war. Berg (under the code name "Remus") was sent to Switzerland to hear leading German physicist Werner Heisenberg, a Nobel Laureate, lecture and determine if the Nazis were close to building an A-bomb. Moe managed to slip past the SS guards at the auditorium, posing as a Swiss graduate student. The spy carried in his

pocket a pistol and a cyanide pill.

If the German physicist indicated the Nazis were close to building a weapon, Berg was to shoot him - and then swallow the cyanide pill.



Werner Heisenberg - he blocked the Nazis from acquiring an atomic bomb.

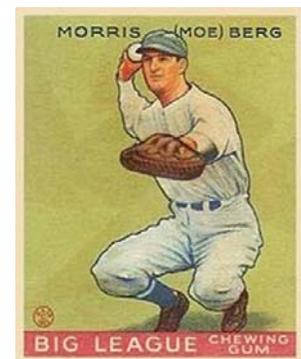
so he complimented Heisenberg on his speech and walked him back to his hotel.

Moe Berg's report was distributed to Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and key figures in the team developing the Atomic Bomb. Roosevelt responded: "Give my regards to the catcher."

Most of Germany's leading physicists had been Jewish and had fled the Nazis mainly to Britain and the United States. After the war, Moe Berg was awarded the Medal of Freedom - America's highest honor for a civilian in wartime. But Berg refused to accept it because he couldn't tell people about his exploits.

After his death, his sister accepted the Medal. It now hangs in the Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown.

Moe Berg's baseball card is the only card on display at the CIA Headquarters in Washington, DC.



Veterans of Operation Desert Storm
will be marching in the
2017 National Memorial Day Parade
Washington DC

Criteria

Active Duty US Military during Desert Shield or Desert Storm
(includes activated Guard/Reserve)

Dates

May 28 [mandatory meeting in Washington DC @ 8pm] May 29 [parade @
2pm]

Parade Uniform

Pants: 2 options

Desert Camo (chocolate chip) or light brown civilian khakis (long pants)

Note: if khakis are worn the color must closely match the light brown in the Desert Camo (chocolate chip)

Hat: (optional)

If a hat is worn, it needs to be the Desert Camo boonie.

Shirt: A special shirt is being designed for the parade participants.

Parade Route

The Parade Route is 1 mile long. We have limited spaces for Veterans to ride in a vehicle during the parade. These spaces are reserved for those who are physically unable to march in the parade.

Hotel Accommodations

Our Group hotel rates start at \$129.00 per night.

When you are confirmed for the parade you will be given the hotel details.

Register to March in the Parade

To inquire about marching in the parade contact Jill Etter

Parade2017@gmail.com

A project of
The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association
www.ndswm.org

“POT O’ GOLD” Member Drawing

Three (3) winners will be drawn and accompany the Commander-in-Chief on an all-expense paid trip to Ireland (Fall 2017) along with their spouse or guest.

For any new/reinstated member recruited between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017:

- You will receive one (1) chance for every five (5) new/reinstated members recruited
- You will receive ten (10) chances for every increment of 25 new/reinstated members recruited

➤ **Attention Post and District Commander:**

- ✓ You will receive ten (10) chances in recognition of 85%+ post and district retention

Drawing will take place **July 1, 2017**

- **All awards are non-transferable**



Upcoming Events

April 3	Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm — Election of Officers
April 10 –13	Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Keith Harmon visits Virginia
April 23	District 8 Convention -- Culpeper Post 2524 – 1pm — Nomination, Election and Installation of Officers
April 26	Executive Meeting – 12:30 (After Bingo)
May 1	Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm — Installation of 2017-2018 Post/Auxiliary Officers
May 5	Auxiliary Yard Sale Setup - 4pm to 8pm
May 6	Auxiliary Yard Sale - 7am to 2pm
May 27	Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Drive – 9am – 2pm / Giant in Centreville
May 28	Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Drive – 9am – 2pm / Giant in Centreville
May 29	Veterans Day Activities - 8:30am - Manassas Veterans Memorial
May 30	Executive Meeting – 12:30 (After Bingo)
June 3	71 st Post Anniversary (TBD)
June 5	Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm
June 15-18	Department Convention, Williamsburg, VA
July 22-26	National Convention-New Orleans, LA

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\$ 75.00 for each additional hour

*Friday & Saturday Nights minimum
Rental is 4 hours for \$400.00*

**SPECIAL RATES FOR
POST 7589 & AUXILIARY 7589 MEMBERS**

Contact: Wayne Moore 571-285-7904
Visit our website: www.vfw7589.org

Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office

9300 W. Courthouse Rd.



**VA DVS AGENT SERVICE
AT POST 7589
HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED**

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