

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
April 2019

NOTICE: On July 1 all expired annual members will be removed from our email list.



L-R: Jill Lynch and Dan Boyer - Virginia National Legislative Committee Representatives, Commander in Chief B J Lawrence, Virginia Department Commander Ken Wiseman, Department Surgeon Eddie Reasor and Pat Burrows (Post 3219) at the Legislative Conference in Washington DC on March 6.

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Post Membership Statistics



CANNON NEWS—2015 & 2018 National VFW Publications Silver Award
2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for
Most Outstanding Post Publication/Newsletter, VFW Department of Virginia

Commander's Message



Wayne Moore

In March 2019, our National Commander, B.J. Lawrence journeyed to Washington D.C. to address a special joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees and delivered the

VFW's Priority Goals focus for 2019 and the need for congressional oversight of the VA's implementation of the VA Mission Act.

VFW 22 Million Veterans strong and growing!

2019 VFW Priority Goals Budget

- Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process and end sequestration.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- Ensure the POW/MIA Accounting mission is fully funded. Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.

Health Care

- Properly implement the *VA MISSION Act of 2018*.
- Reduce the number of service members and veterans who die by suicide.
- Preserve the integrity of TRICARE.
- Modernize VA and DOD health IT systems.
- Strengthen health care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injuries (TBI).
- Expand gender-specific programs and competencies.
- Research and effectively treat health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Prevent the increase of pharmaceutical copayments and remove copayment requirements for preventive medicines.
- Research the efficacy of medical cannabis.
- Expand telehealth services.
- Make nursing home eligibility part of

the VA health care benefits package. Keep community care reimbursement rates competitive with private health insurance.

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs

- Properly implement the modernized appeals process.
- Consider treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Establish presumptive disability compensation benefits for hearing loss, tinnitus, TBI, and for health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Increase burial allowances to account for inflation and include spouses' information on all headstones.
- Authorize more than one adaptive automotive grant for disabled veterans.
- Reform the Gulf War Illness Disability Benefits Questionnaire.
- Transfer the control of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery to NCA.
- Update regulations and laws governing claims to account for digital claims processing. Expand VA wartime benefits to early Vietnam veterans.

Education, Employment and Transition Assistance

- High-quality and sustainable education benefits.
- Strong employment and training programs.
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment services throughout their lifetime.
- Small business development opportunities.
- Civilian credentials or academic credit for military training.
- Hiring preferences in the civil service and with large government contractors.
- National veteran's treatment court advocates.
- Education and training in new and expanding career fields.
- Timely and improved transition assistance including access to programs for veterans after they leave military service.
- Affordable housing and wraparound

services to avoid homelessness.

- Equitable education benefits for dependents regardless of where they live. Improved character of discharge review and appeals procedures.

Military Quality of Life

- Increase military base pay comparability with private sector wages.
- Protect and improve on-base quality of life programs.
- Ensure that military housing is safe and free of toxic substances.
- End the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.
- Eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset.
- Increase the government's Thrift Savings Plan contribution.
- Eliminate sexual assaults in the military.
- Establish the Armed Forces University. Improve stability and support for military families.

National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA

- Expand partnerships with host nations and private/public organizations to achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Secure America's borders.
- Preserve the all-volunteer force. Maintain a substantial military presence in the Republic of Korea.

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill



BULLETIN: On March 22nd, Department Senior Vice President Marcia Semones was

taken to the hospital with a stroke which was a clot in the Basal Artery of the brain stem. They successfully removed the blood clot. On March 26th, an email from the Department Chaplain Carol Vangi stated that she received the following information from Department President Patty Baskett: "Amazing news, Marcia's son is on his way to the hospital to bring her home. Yes she is going home!!! She will be receiving home health care as well as physical therapy. Spread the word. Thank you for all the prayers!!"

Just a reminder, the election for 2019-20 officers will be held at the Post on Monday, April 1st during the monthly meeting. The May 6th general meeting, will start off with a dinner at 6:00 PM, followed by a joint meeting at 7:00 PM which includes an award ceremony for the Post's Scout recipient and installation of new officers for the Post and Auxiliary. The Post and Auxiliary will retire to their own meetings at 7:30 PM. The newly elected officers will take their positions after the Department Convention in June. Please consider holding an office for your Auxiliary. We have some interesting projects planned for the coming year. Please come and join in the mission of assisting veterans and their families.

At the National VFW Legislative Conference on March 4, 2019, the recipients for the Voice of Democracy Scholarship and the first place recipient for Patriot's Pen received their awards from National Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence and National President Sandi Kriebel. Ms. Christine Troll, a senior home-schooled student from Somerset, PA, was named the 2018-19 Voice of Democracy first-place winner. Her speech on the theme, "Why My Vote Matters," won her a \$30,000 college scholarship. Mr. Daniel Rodriguez, a sixth-grade student from Nogales, AZ, was named the

2018-19 Patriot's Pen first-place winner. His essay on the theme, "Why I Honor the American Flag," won him a \$5,000 award. The National VFW has released the 2019-2020 theme, "*What Makes America Great*", for both the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen.

The National Auxiliary had their Mid-Year Conference in Tucson, AZ and installed Ms. Ann Pantelakos, from Connecticut, as the new National Secretary/Treasurer due to the resignation of Jan Passmore in December 2018. Also, the candidates running for National Guard from the Big 10 Conference are Ms. Brenda Bryant from Missouri, Ms. Lauri Dale from Minnesota and Ms. Sandra Uzell from Ohio. In July, at the National Convention, the Guard along with the other National Line Officers will be elected and installed for the 2019-2020 year.

The deadline for the National VFW Auxiliary American Creative Art Contest Patriotic Arts program passed on March 31st and I want to thank all the schools for their participation. I also want to thank the Comrades and Auxiliary members for their assistance and hard work in promoting this program. Last year, Auxiliary 7589 was very fortunate and honored to have our first-place winner come in first at the Department and fifth at the National level. This year, our first place winner's art work will be forwarded to the Department for judging. The Department's first place recipient's art work will be forwarded to National VFW Auxiliary Headquarters in Kansas City, MO. The judging will be done at the National Convention and the first-place recipient will receive a \$15,000 scholarship.

The 8th District Convention will be April 28th at Post 2524 in Culpeper, VA. Lunch will be served at 12:00 (noon) with the joint meeting starting at 1:00 PM. This is the election meeting for the new 2019-20 officers. The 8th District has a raffle for the District Veterans & Family Support Fund, so please bring a gift to donate. Please let me know if you will be able to attend. Just a reminder; the District 8 audit is before the meeting.



The Auxiliary will hold our annual Buddy Poppy drive on the Memorial Day weekend, Saturday,

May 25th and Sunday, May 26th at the Westgate Giant in Manassas. The time will be from 9am until 3 PM on both days. It's that time of year that we are starting to work on our Buddy Poppy display for the Department Convention. Last year we were honored to have our display place first at the Department and third at National. We would like for you to come and join the group in putting the display together. We have a lot of great ideas and would like to have your input as well.



I would like to thank the annual members for paying their 2019 dues by the December 31, 2018 deadline. Starting July 1st, we will have our annual membership drive for 2020 dues. Just a reminder; 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. You can pay your dues through the National VFW Auxiliary **MEDIA** or forward your \$20 to the Auxiliary Treasurer Elanor Doczi, 7415 Roxbury Dr., Manassas, VA 20109. As always, thank you in advance.

One of our fundraisers is collecting sponsorships for Wreaths Across America (WAA). We are starting our campaign several months early and are requesting a wreath sponsorship from you. This Auxiliary supports the WAA organization and will assist those laying wreaths at Quantico National Cemetery on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 12:00 (noon). For every \$15.00 wreath purchased \$5.00 come back to the Auxiliary. We have the sponsorship form available on-line so you can print it out. Thank you for your continued support.

As of July 1, 2018, the Auxiliary has collected over \$32,249.05 in coupons for our veterans that are serving overseas. Please assist us in this venture. You may drop your coupons off at the Post or give them to any Post or Auxiliary member. This is a great cause for our veterans and their families.

From the National Home website, "Since its founding, the VFW National Home for Children has grown from an old frame

(Auxiliary President Continued on page 5)

Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone

I extend a big welcome to all Comrades from the Youth Committee. We hope you are all settling into spring and are ready for warmer weather. The last Youth Committee meeting was held on Thursday, 21 March

at the Post. It was attended by comrades Paul Chase, Peter MacLeod, Roger Nicol, and myself. Please let me provide you with a report on the meeting's proceedings and on the month's activities

The Patriotic Art Contest, conducted by the Auxiliary, is now concluded since the deadline for all entries was 31 March 2019. High school students who submit artwork with a Patriotic theme in many different media compete for prizes and scholarships. In the past we have had some incredible entries from students demonstrating impressive artistic talent and patriotism. Judging is usually conducted at the April general membership meeting. Good luck to all of this year's contestants.

We are pleased to report our winners for this year's VFW Scout of the Year Contest. Post 7589 recently held judging on Sunday, 3 March. The judges present were Senior Vice Commander Ron Link and Past Commander Peter MacLeod. The judging was very close with only a five point margin separating both winners. Eagle Scout Christopher J. Petrillo was awarded first place. His Eagle Scout project involved paver renovation and building a reflection sanctuary at Holy Trinity Church in Gainesville. The project was beautifully documented and photographed. Our second place winner was Eagle Scout Ryan Bocompani. Ryan's Eagle Scout project involved rebuilding and painting seven picnic tables and building two wooden trash receptacles for Brentsville District High School. Ryan also provided us with an impressive application and we are extremely proud of both our winners. Christopher and Ryan will be recognized at an awards ceremony preceding the 6 May general membership meeting.

It is worth mentioning that Eagle Scout Christopher J. Petrillo also took first place at the District Eight Competition. District



Eagle Scout Christopher J. Petrillo

judging was held on Saturday, 16 March, again at our Post. The judges present were Commander Tai Mamea from Fredericksburg Post 3103, and Comrades Dave Mattingly and Roger Nicol from our Post. Comrade Stan Hunter, the District Scout Chair and myself presided over the judging. Christopher is now eligible to compete in the Department judging and we hope for his continued success. Again a razor thin margin separated first and second place. We are so very proud of all our Scouts and expect even more candidates next year when we merge with Post 1811 who has a very active Scouting program. Christopher and the second place winner, Eagle Scout Peter C. Nosal from Post 9835, will be recognized at the District Eight Awards Ceremony on Sunday, 28 April in Culpeper.

We are still wrapping up our Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy applicants from last year. Past Post Commander Peter MacLeod is currently sending out a certificate and pen to all 2018 applicants and we thank him for this undertaking. We will be resuming our recruiting for 2019 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year Programs in the early summer and would welcome any support the membership could give us.

Due to a conflict with the Scouting Jamboree we find it necessary to

reschedule our flag retirement ceremony which was originally scheduled for Saturday, 27 April at our Post. Once an alternate date has been selected you will all be notified. It will most likely be on a Saturday in May. Please let the Youth Committee know if you want to participate in this event. Area Scouts will be invited and the ceremony, along with the class on flag etiquette, is always a rewarding and gratifying experience.

Lastly, each year the VFW recognizes area high school JROTC and CAP cadets with the VFW Cadet award. The award recognizes one exemplary Cadet from each high school or CAP Squadron and is presented to the Cadet at their awards night by a VFW member and Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill. We usually participate with the following high school JROTC and CAP programs:

- Battlefield High School Air Force JROTC
- Stonewall High School Air Force JROTC
- Osbourne Park High School Navy JROTC
- Prince William Composite Squadron of Virginia Wing Civil Air Patrol

We have a tentative date for the Battlefield High School ceremony of 1 May. Other dates and times for the ceremonies will be released as they become available. Please let us know if you would like to join us in recognizing these distinguished Cadets at their award ceremonies.

The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 18 April at 7:00PM at our Post. Please join us and reap the rewards of helping mentor our youth through the VFW.

Until next month stay healthy and active.

With best regards,
Louis Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.

The 2019-20 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief William J. "Doc" Schmitz. The Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen theme will be **"What Makes America Great."**

(Auxiliary President: Continued from page 3)
 farm house to a sprawling campus with playgrounds, park areas, and multiple buildings, including single-family homes, a community center and gymnasium, child care facility, guest lodge, chapel and administrative offices. Over the years, the National Home has evolved to meet the changing needs of America's military and veterans' families. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the National Home's commitment to honor our nation's veterans and active-duty military by

providing help and hope for their children and families". We would like to see individuals from this Post become a life member for \$50.00.



Our deepest sympathy goes out to Ms. Betty and Ms. Tricia Arnett for the loss of their husband/father who went to his heavenly home on February 26th. Also Ms. Elanor Doczi, who had a medical procedure done on March 21st, came through it successfully. Please remember other members and/or

their family who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers.

Respectfully,
 Mary Corkhill
 VFW Auxiliary President



District 8 raffle — win a Life or Legacy Life membership

District Eight is holding a fundraising raffle. The tickets are only five dollars each and the winner will receive a VFW Life Membership, a Legacy Life Membership, or an upgrade in Legacy Life status (bronze to silver; silver to gold, etc.) up to \$400.00.

Tickets are available from District Eight Post Commanders.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the District Eight Convention on April 28, 2019 at Post 2524 Culpeper. Winners need not be present to win.

Support your District and the VFW while you generate new Legacy/Life members!

Dinner at the Post on May 6

Join us for dinner on May 6 at the Post prior to the Post and Auxiliary meetings. Scout of the Year award presentations and the installation of Post officers for the 2019-2020 membership year will be conducted prior to the start of the meetings.

- Dinner at 6:00 PM
- Executive Board Meeting at 7:00 PM
- Scout of the Year awards at 7:30 PM
- Post & Auxiliary installation of officers
- Respective meetings to follow.

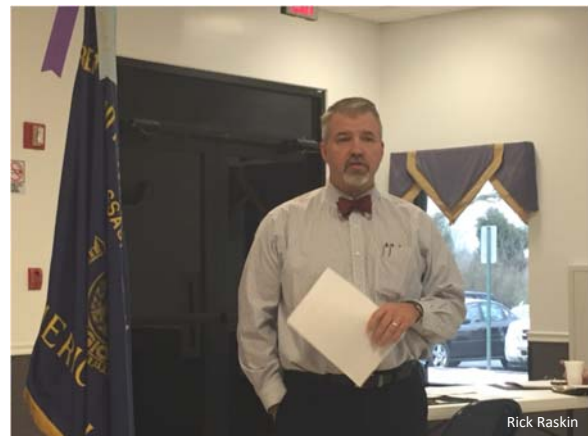
Mentors needed for Veterans' Docket

By Jerry Martin

The Prince William County Veterans' docket was developed to give veterans who have been charged with a criminal or serious traffic offense the opportunity to seek and participate in service connected treatment or other services that address service connected issues which led to the current pending charges.

Veterans would be allowed to participate in relevant services prior to final disposition of their charges. The docket is operated on the assumption that meaningful participation in service connected treatment programs will ultimately lead to the best possible outcome of the pending charges. A mentor program staffed by veterans is being developed to help guide participants through the process.

There is a need for veterans to volunteer as mentors. The Veterans' docket is held every 4th Monday at the courthouse in Manassas around 3:00 PM. Anyone wanting to see how the program works is invited to attend.



Judge William E. Jarvis speaks on the Veterans' Docket at American Legion Post 10 on January 19.

District 8 Education Awards, Post 7728—February 16, 2019



A full house at Post 9835



District 8 Auxiliary President Kathleen Bilger , District 8 Commander Geoff Lyster, Juliette Orr of Seton School, Second Place VOD and Lou Filippone, District 8 Youth Chair.



(L-R) District Teachers of the year, all from Post 7589: Retired Air Force Colonel Darryl Robinson, Air Force ROTC Instructor at Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas, Scott Cloud, Social Studies teacher at Ronald Reagan Middle School in Haymarket and Jenny Smith, 2nd Grade Teacher at Mantua Elementary School in Fairfax.



Elinor Lambert receives recognition as 3rd Place District 8 Winner. (L-R) Kathleen Bilger, District 8 Auxiliary President; Geoff Lyster, District 8 Commander; Elinor Lambert; Lou Filippone, District 8 Youth Activities Chairman. Photo courtesy Post 9835



Colonel Robinson accepting his award



Scott Cloud of Reagan Middle School in Haymarket

Gone from our Lingo:

Submitted by Gunny Lewis

Mergatroyd! Do you remember that word? Would you believe the spell-checker did not recognize the word Mergatroyd? Heavens to Mergatroyd!

The other day a not so elderly (I say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a *jalopy*; and he looked at her quizzically and said, "What the heck is a jalopy?" He had never heard of the word jalopy! She knew she was old ... But not that old.

Well, I hope you are *Hunky Dory* after you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology. These phrases included: *Don't touch that dial, Carbon copy, You sound like a broken record, and Hung out to dry.*

Back in the olden days we had a lot of *moxie*. We'd put on *our best bib and tucker*, to *straighten up and fly right.*

Heavens to Betsy! Gee Willikers! Jumping Jehoshaphat! Holy Moley!

We were *In like Flynn* and *Living the life of Riley*; and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a *Knucklehead, a Nincompoop or a Pill. Not for all the tea in China!*

Back in the olden days, life used to be *Swell*, but when's the last time anything was swell? *Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and pedal pushers.*

Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, *"Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!" or, "This is a fine kettle of fish!"* We discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent, as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind. We blink, and they're gone. Where have all those great phrases gone?

Long gone: Pshaw, The milkman did it. Hey! It's your nickel. Don't forget to pull the chain. Knee high to a grasshopper. Well, fiddlesticks! Going like sixty. I'll see you in the fun-

ny papers. Don't take any wooden nickels. Wake up and smell the roses.

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than *Carter has liver pills.* This can be disturbing stuff! (*Carter's Little Liver Pills are gone too!*)

Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth...

See ya later, alligator! Okidoki.

You'll notice they left out *"Monkey Business"!!!*

WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE FABULOUS 50'S and 60's... NO ONE WILL EVER HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY AGAIN .. WE WERE GIVEN ONE OF OUR MOST PRECIOUS GIFTS: LIVING IN THE PEACEFUL AND COMFORTABLE TIMES, CREATED FOR US BY THE "GREATEST GENERATION!"

Volunteers welcome to meet with students



ASKAVET™

Educational Tutoring

American Legion Post 10
9950 Cockrell RD
Manassas, VA. 20110

Saturday, April 13, 2019
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Contact: T.C. Williams
tcwilliams50@gmail.com
703.843.6385



Chasing Light

From Manassas City Connection—March 2019

Chasing Light is a new art/light/ music installation that will be held during the Manassas One Love Arts Festival on Saturday, April 27. It is not meant to be the kind of performance that folks sit and watch, but participate in.

Dallas artist Carmen Menza will produce the first-of-its kind 3D projected visual and music installation on the Manassas Museum lawn. Menza hopes that visitors will connect with others and says that participatory public art affords us the experience of making something beautiful with those around us and strengthening a sense of community. The multi-level art installation will include 3D projected visuals and **Chasing Light**, an original musical score created by Mark Menza, a Dallas composer and Carmen's husband.

Chasing Light, which Mark Menza wrote specifically for the City of Manassas, is a 21st century chamber piece that employs both recorded and live players and is juxtaposed. to electronic and sampled sounds. Because a strong central element of this work is improvisation--using elements of jazz, philharmonic, soundscape, and an electronic score- it lends itself to improvisation by musicians at the event. A copy of the musical score will be released prior to the event and musicians who want to participate on the night of the performance will be invited to join performers on stage. The music that community musicians perform will also trigger elements of the 3D light show and will continually transform throughout the evening. The projected visuals include abstract illuminated backgrounds and geometric objects created through camera shots and 3D software.

Mark Menza's work may be familiar to those who have attended Manassas Ballet performances of **Colin: Son, Marine, Hero**, an original work that reflects on the life of the Ballet's Artistic Director Amy Grant Wolfe's son Colin, who was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2006. Menza created the original musical score for the ballet, which premiered in 2013 to national acclaim. The Manassas Ballet ... [Premiered] Chasing Light at their March performances of **A Fantásque Evening** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center.

Spoken word artists and dancers are also invited to collaborate during the continuous performance. The underlying music will serve as a soundscape for those who perform spoken word and poetry as they are invited to take the stage alongside musicians and dancers throughout the evening.

Carmen Menza has works in several prominent public spaces including The McKinney Avenue Contemporary and the Aurora Light and Sound Biennial, both in Dallas. The Aurora event had more than 6000 visitors.

The second annual One Love Manassas Festival, which will be held April 26- 28, 2019, is designed to give artists a platform to perform, share their art, raise awareness, and inspire hope for the love of all artistic platforms. The three-day event features a juried art show, Manassas Reads- a literary arts event, performances by local musicians, a film showcase, a marketplace, panels and

workshops. Leading up to Chasing Light, weekend participants will walk to the Museum Lawn carrying light orbs in a parade of sorts called Turn on Your Light. Each orb will represent that individual's Celebration of Life through the arts.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts is sponsoring the Chasing Light installation. Visit www.facebook.com/onelovemanassas or www.onelovemanassas.com for more information or to see how you can participate in the event. For up-to-date information about One Love Manassas, text the word OneLove (all one word) to 703-888-777. You can opt out at any time.



COMCAST and *NOVEC* present

MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE in

SLEEPING BEAUTY

WITH THE MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE ORCHESTRA

May 17-19, 2019

Veterans receive discounted admission

Melaphoto LLC

The magical *Sleeping Beauty* is a fairy tale ballet with all the elements of a classic – a royal Princess, a Prince in pursuit, fairy godmothers, and of course an evil force at work! Join MBT and The Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra for this timeless story at the award-winning Hylton Performing Arts Center with both evening and matinee performances.

H HYLTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER | 703-993-7759 | www.hyltoncenter.org

MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE

Nation's Top Teachers Selected for VFW Award

The three recipients will accept their awards at the VFW's annual convention in July

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (March 26, 2019) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is proud to announce the top three teachers selected in its 2019 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award contest.

Each year, the VFW names one teacher from the elementary (K-5), middle (6-8) and high school (9-12) levels to receive the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Established in 1999, the award recognizes our nation's top teachers for their exceptional commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students by promoting civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism in the classroom. The award is named after former VFW National Commander John Smart and retired VFW Quartermaster General Larry Maher.

Bobbie Schamens, a fourth-grade teacher at Meadowview Intermediate School in Sparta, Wisc., was named the elementary school winner for her efforts in recognizing the service and sacrifice of her hometown's military families. Schamens' personal experience as a military spouse has helped her teach students civic responsibility, patriotism and proper flag etiquette. She organizes cards for military care packages and recognizes local military and veteran families with a military tribute case near her classroom. Schamens' students also visit the state capital to experience history and our government first hand.

Representing the middle school level is Anne Martin, a seventh-grade language arts and social studies teacher at Williams Middle School in Tracy, Calif. She was selected because over her 24

-year career, Martin has used her experience as a Gold Star family member to help her students and community better understand the sacrifices made by America's military and veteran families. Martin's work includes organizing school-wide campaigns to collect donations and thank you letters for deployed troops, and coordinating the school's annual Patriot Day celebration which includes a patriotic door-decorating contest. She also oversees the school's Associated Student Body elections, helping students understand and navigate the democratic process.

Kevin Wagner, an advanced placement history teacher at Carlisle High School in Carlisle, Penn., was chosen to represent the high school level for his dedication to honoring the memory of America's veterans. Through his "Silent Heroes" project, students explore the life and service of a local World War II veteran killed at Normandy and create a webpage preserving their legacy. Last year Wagner's project expanded to identify local Vietnam War veterans, leading to the construction of a Vietnam Wall of Honor which displays the names of more than 213 veterans and 10 flag cases in honor of the former students killed during the war.

"In all my years with the VFW, I've never come across a group of teachers more committed to recognizing the sacrifices of our service men and women while instilling America's younger generations with an appreciation and understanding of what patriotism really means," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "We're honored to recognize teachers like Bobbie, Anne and Kevin who help perpetuate the values and freedoms we hold so dear."

Each teacher will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Orlando, Fla., where they will each be presented with a \$1,000 award for professional development and \$1,000 for their school during the 120th VFW National Convention, July 20-24.



Bobbie Schamens
Meadowview Intermediate School
Sparta, Wisc.

Anne Martin
Williams Middle School
Tracy, Calif.

Kevin Wagner
Carlisle High School
Carlisle, Pa.

Upcoming Events

2019	
April 1	Executive Meeting 7 PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM (Elections)
April 12—14	Nation’s Gun Show Recruiting—Chantilly (District 8 covers Sunday)
April 18	Youth Committee Meeting 7 PM
April 28	District 8 Convention/Culpeper 2524/12 PM (Election)
April 30	Department Program Reports (Deadline)
May 6	Dinner 6 PM, Executive Meeting 7 PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM (Installations)
May 16	Youth Committee Meeting 7 PM
May 17—19	Manassas Ballet Theatre— <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> — Discounts for veterans.
May 25-26	Buddy Poppy Drives
May 27	Vet Day Activities/8:30 AM – Veteran Memorial 9 AM Manassas Cemetery
June 3	Executive Meeting 7PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
June 3	Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
June 7—9	Nation’s Gun Show Recruiting—Chantilly (District 8 covers Sunday)
June 13-16	Department Convention, Portsmouth, VA
June 20	Youth Committee Meeting 7 PM
July 1	Executive Meeting 7 PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
July 20-24	National Convention/Orlando, FL
July 26—28	Nation’s Gun Show Recruiting—Chantilly (District 8 covers Sunday)

The VFW National Home for Children



The VFW National Home for Children offers a once in a lifetime **opportunity** for military and veteran related families.

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

We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.


Most qualify to apply. Caring staff will help families to determine eligibility.

800-313-4200

A Great Place to Call Home!

Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office

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



KNOW YOUR VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE

Rob Wittman	1st District	202-225-4261
Elaine Luria	2nd District	202-225-4215
Bobby Scott	3rd District	202-225-8351
Donald McEachin	4th District	202-225-6365
Denver Riggleman	5th District	202-225-4711
Ben Cline	6th District	202-225-9681
Abigail Spanberger	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Jennifer Wexton	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492



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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.