

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
April 2023



RICK RASKIN

On March 11, Mark Ackerman heads the 63 member contingent in taking the Oath of Obligation at the institution of Post 12218 in Haymarket. Mark is the new Post's Judge Advocate. See additional photos on Page 8.

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**CANNON NEWS**—2015, 2018, 2020 & 2021 National VFW Publications Award Winner  
2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for  
Most Outstanding Post Publication/Newsletter, VFW Department of Virginia

## Commander's Message



**Wayne Moore**

### Armored Reconnaissance Squadron (ARS) says 'Goodbye' to fallen heroes!

By Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs October 10, 2007

MUQDADIYA, Iraq (Oct. 7, 2007) -- "This loss cuts deep and is still extremely painful for all of us," said Lt. Col. Keith Gogas, commander of 6-9 Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, about the death of five of his Soldiers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.



**Lt. Col. Keith Gogas, commander of 6-9 ARS, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, renders one last salute to his Soldiers during a memorial ceremony.**

"Today, we celebrate their life and accomplishments and remember how they touched our lives," Gogas said at the memorial ceremonies held at Forward Operating Base Normandy, outside of Muqadadiya, Iraq, Oct. 6 and 7.

Pfc. Christopher McCloud, Cpl. Todd Motley, Cpl. Jonathon Rivadeneira, and Staff Sgt. Terry Wagoner, all from Troop B, 6-9 ARS, died from wounds received in combat, Sept. 14. Staff Sgt. Kevin Brown, Troop A, 6-9 ARS, died from wounds received in combat, Sept. 25.

Many Soldiers from 6-9 ARS attended the memorials for the chance to say their last goodbyes and render one last salute to their fallen comrades.

"[McCloud, also known as 'Tex' by his fellow Soldiers,] came to me with a great outlook on life and strong family values," said Sgt. Justin Patterson, Troop B, 6-9 ARS. "He was motivated. The first training exercise we took him on; he did great. No one would have ever known he was fresh out of basic [combat training].

"On his first mission, after eight hours of house searches, searching 75 houses with another 20 to go, I turned to Tex and said, 'Hey new guy, you alright'" Patterson said. "He looked at me and said, 'Hooah yeah, sergeant. This is what I signed up for.'" Tex was full of motivation and a positive attitude," he continued. "Some people are just natural Soldiers, born warriors.

"Cpl. Motley was my gunner, but he was a brother, my friend and he will always be a part of me," said Patterson. "The most motivated Soldier I knew; I never had to worry if I had Motley on my team. I knew he was fully capable to pick up and drive on in my absence.

"I'm blessed to have [Rivadeneira, 'Riva' to his friends] as a Sol-

*(See Commander on page 3)*

## Auxiliary President



**Mary Corkhill**



Easter traditions and symbols have evolved over time, though some have been around for centuries. The

most prominent secular symbol of the Christian holiday, the Easter bunny, was reportedly introduced to Americans by the German immigrants who brought over their stories and an egg-laying hare. The decoration of eggs is believed to date back to at least the 13th century, while the rite of the Easter parade has even older roots. Other

traditions, such as the consumption of Easter candy, are among the modern additions to the celebration of the early springtime holiday. Easter Sunday is April 9, 2023.

During the March 5th VFW Legislative Conference, the themes for 2023-2024 Voice of Democracy (**What are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?**) and Patriot's Pen (**How Are You Inspired by America?**) were announced. We will be starting our promotion for both contests in the coming months.

There are two importation events scheduled for April. The Auxiliary 7589 election on the 10th with PDP Lorrie Allen Smith installing the new Officers. The District meeting at Culpeper Post 2524 on Saturday, April 15th starting at 10:00 AM. There will be an audit before the meeting and election of new District officers is on the agenda. Department President Fred Jennings is scheduled to attend.

The Auxiliary will be hosting several events in May. An Italian dinner for the comrades on May 1st at 6:30 p.m., a pizza party for the children after the flag retirement event on May 6th and with the Post, two Wreath laying ceremonies at the Manassas Veteran Memorial (8:30 a.m.) and Francis Cannon's grave (9:00 AM) on May 29th. Please plan to attend all the events.

It's that time of the year when the Auxiliary is getting ready for the Department Convention. We would like to thank the Post for their support and the Buddy Poppies donated to complete our display. Just a reminder of the two candidates running for Department Guard: Cara Buckley and Nancy Kearney. We wish both candidates the best of luck.



From the National VFW Home website: "Since its founding, the VFW National Home has grown from an old frame farm house to a sprawling campus with playgrounds, parks areas, and multiple buildings, including single-family homes, and community center and gymnasium, child care facility, guest lodge, chapel, and administrative offices." The email to sign up for a life membership of \$50.00 is: <https://vfnationalhome.org/you-can-help/membership/>.

There are several individuals or family members facing medical issues, illness, hospitalization and/or have gone to their Heavenly home. Please keep them in your prayers.

Respectfully,  
Mary Corkhill  
VFW Auxiliary President

(Commander from page 2)

dier, and I believe his platoon was blessed to have him as their medic," said Cpl. Jesus Reyes, 6-9 ARS. "Riva never took his job lightly; he had made up his mind to become an Army doctor. To take care of Soldiers...was a privilege.

"Riva was a good Soldier, but more than that, he was a good man," he continued. "He had a good smile, a helpless curiosity, and a hardy laugh.

"He was our best friend," said Capt. Brice Roberts, Troop B, 6-9, about his Wagoner, whom he called "Sparky."

"I really think we could have conquered the world with 'Sparky' at our side," Roberts said. "He could do any job in the troop. He would do it all throughout this whole deployment, without any complaints and he did it well.

"I will never forget how proud we were to have Sparky finally command the Bradley, leading Soldiers into combat, and how proud he looked every day.

"'Bandit' Troop will never be the same without him," he said. "As a cornerstone for this Troop, his knowledge, experience, and laughter got us through this long, difficult deployment. Only time will tell how [we will] fare without him."

"He was a Cavalry trooper that went out and did his best every day, always trying to make Iraq a better place for those that live here," said Capt. Michael Tanaro, commander of Troop A, 6-9 ARS, about Brown.

"Staff Sgt. Brown cared deeply for his Soldiers and he led them from the front each and every day," he continued. "He did his best to make sure they were trained and prepared for every mission. Most of all, he wanted each of them to be successful, not just in the Army, but in all aspects of their lives."

"Anyone who knew Staff Sgt. Brown will tell you he was a deeply religious man who loved his family and fellow troopers," said Gogas. "He was that NCO whom everyone felt comfortable talking with and the one you could count on, no matter how difficult the situation is, or how tough things were at the time.

"He was the one who always stayed calm and never complained,"



he said. "We all respected him, loved him and we will all miss him."

As the ceremonies drew to a close, each Soldier took the chance to say one last goodbye to their comrades.

"Motley, my friend, my brother; have no worries," said Patterson. "Your family is my family. You have so many friends who love you and do anything to help take care of your family. We love you.

"Tex, my brother, you will be severely missed," he continued.

"We love you and miss you."

"You guys are one in a million," Patterson said, trying to hold back his tears. "I can only hope to get Soldiers like you again. I guess that's why the man upstairs called on you."

"Cpl. Rivadeneira, I have to tell you, I was proud of all the decisions you made when it was all on you," said Reyes. "I was proud to say you were one of my medics, and I'm prouder still to have served with you.

"I love you, and Riva," he said. "I will always have your back."

"I will forever miss Sparky," said Roberts. "I know he's in a better place right now, looking down on us and keeping us safe, and drinking coffee to his heart's content.

"We all love you, Sparky," he said. "God bless you."

"He was truly a dependable man, a professional NCO and a backbone of the Army," Tanaro said about Brown. "He was one of the best men I've ever known.

"God bless you and God bless America," he said.

"These heroes have had an effect on each and every one of us, and we're all better for having known them," said Gogas. "We will get through this, but we will never forget our fellow brothers, Cavalry troopers, and friends."

**In Memoriam of the Iraq War, and 15 years since saying goodbye to friends and comrades whose lives were lost on the field of battle! May their souls find lasting peace and their families' burdens lightened with the passage of time. The memories still dance in the darkness of my mind while watch-**

## Youth Committee Update



Lou Filippone

Greetings to everyone from the Youth Committee. We hope all is well with everyone. We held our last meeting on 16 March at the Post. Comrade Peter MacLeod and Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill participated by phone. Those in attendance were Comrades Alex and Tina Bliem and myself. The agenda discussed was a lengthy one with a busy meeting.

First and foremost, I must announce that Comrade Paul Chase passed shortly after our meeting. Words cannot express our feelings of loss and sorrow over his departure. He was active in the Youth Committee, displayed incredible generosity with the Paul Chase Youth Fund he funded and established and will be sorely missed as we go forward. He was my mentor in the VFW and I will never forget him.

We are tying up a few loose ends with our essay contest winners. John McGraw, our Department VOD winner from Seton School and sponsored by our Post, received another scholarship at the National Awards Ceremony on 6 March in Crystal City. We are extremely proud of John for his excellent standing throughout the competition all the way up to National. He is a spectacular young American, from a beautiful family, who has dealt with adversity and flourished. He will go far in life and we wish him much success. In addition to all the VFW awards he has received we will also be honoring Seton School for their support and sponsorship of John and the Voice of Democracy Program. Adjutant Ron Link has produced certificates for all the Post Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen runner ups. Comrade Peter MacLeod is in the process of distributing the certificates to the students.

Patriotic Art contests were discussed. We are racing to the 31 March deadline for all contests. If you have any entries get them in to Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill as soon as you can. Remember the contests include the Patriotic Art contest, the Illustrating America contest and the Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue Anthem Singing contest.

Scouting activity this month was on the forefront. Below are the results of both the Post and District 8 Scout of the Year results:

### Post 7589 Scout of the Year Winners

- 1st Place: Kyle Houchin — BSA Troop 581
- 2nd Place: Cassandra Hummeldorf — GSA Troop 5194
- 3rd Place: David Nagashima — BSA Troop 924
- 4th Place: Zachary Sedmak — BSA Troop 670

### District 8 Scout of the Year Winners

- 1st Place: Eagle Scout Kyle Houchin  
Troop 581, Gainesville, Virginia  
Recruited by Post 7589
- 2nd Place: Eagle Scout Dylan Damer  
Troop 2020, Warrenton, Virginia  
Recruited by Post 9835

3rd Place: Eagle Scout Tyler Thompson  
Troop 1930, Bealeton, Virginia  
Recruited by Post 7728

We will be honoring our Post winners at an awards ceremony just prior to the 3 April Membership meeting at 7:00 PM. If you can come early and join us please do so. We are also recognizing our District winners at the District 8 meeting at Post 2524 in Culpeper on 15 April. The awards ceremony will begin at 10:00 AM and conclude right before the regular meeting starts. Please attend this ceremony as well if possible. Our SOTY Post winner Eagle Scout Kyle Houchin also won at District and will now represent us at the Department Scout of the Year Competition. Please be present and show our Scouts your support.

Alex and Tina Bliem have been working hard recently ordering supplies for Scouts in Troop and Pack 1372. As part of the Paul Chase Youth Fund, and in accordance with Paul's wishes, monies are available for approved Youth activities and causes. We are currently funding the supplies for our Scout units and are also trying to recruit and sponsor Scouts from economically disadvantaged families who might otherwise not be able to participate in Scouting because of financial hardship. If you know of any young people who demonstrate a genuine interest in Scouting and fall into this category, please let anyone on the Youth Committee know and we'll see if the child qualifies for funding.

Please don't forget about the upcoming Flag Retirement Ceremony scheduled for Saturday, 6 May at the Post at 10:00 AM. If you would like to participate please arrive no later than 9:30 AM to help with setting up. The event is well organized and runs very smoothly. Troop and Pack 1372, as well as other invited Scout units, conduct the ceremony. It should conclude around 12 noon and is followed by a pizza party for the Scouts and workers. Hopefully the weather will be cooperative since we have a lot of flags to retire.

Our first JROTC Awards Ceremony of the year is being hosted by Battlefield High School in Haymarket. SMSgt David Shuler, USAF (Ret) sent out an announcement and welcomes the Post's participation. The ceremony will be held on Wednesday, 26 April at the high school in Haymarket. A potluck dinner will be served at 6:00 PM followed by the awards ceremony at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in attending, please let anyone on the Youth Committee know and we'll notify SMSgt Shuler. We will have future JROTC award events this year at Unity Reed High School and Osbourne High School, as well as the Civil Air Patrol award ceremony in Manassas in the upcoming weeks. Information regarding these ceremonies will be released once we receive it from the organizations and schools.

Our next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 20 April at the Post at 7:00 PM. Please come by and join us. You'll be mentoring our next generation of young Americans and continuing Paul Chase's legacy.

With best regards,  
Lou Filippone  
Youth Committee Chair

## Scouting Report



**Alex & Tina Bliem**  
Post 7589 Scouting  
Representatives

In the month of March we saw our scouting units keeping themselves very busy. Each of our units keep preparing for a busy summer whether it be Summer Camp, Jamboree, World Jamboree, or a combination of them. We've seen numerous scouts completing merit badges and earning new ranks.

To begin with our younger cub scouts had fun with the yearly Pinewood Derby race. They had some good fast races and they had a great time watching their creations flying down the track. There were several of our older scouts there as well to help out with the derby and to have fun with the younger scouts. After the race they got to enjoy some drinks and snacks. At the following week's Cub Scout meeting our own commander got to enjoy some time with his grandson in a three legged race against the other families...fun times!

Our Crew spent an evening going over various painting techniques at our house. They all painted the same picture with very different outcomes. They spent several hours enjoying the time

together and learning another skill. They also had several other meetings to plan future outings and trips.

Our two troops took a weekend ski trip up to Hornell, NY. There they stayed with the local VFW Post 2250. The post provided the lodging and food for the weekend and our troops provided a service project to the post. During the day and evening the scouts and adults enjoyed the ski slopes at Swain. This was a great trip for them and they finally got to see some real snow again.

At one of the upcoming meetings I will be distributing a gift to each of our older scouts. One of our comrades made a very generous donation to our youth fund and one of his requests was that every one of our scouts receive a tactical backpack, a survival kit, and a small sewing kit. I have all of the items and will be working with our units to get them together, hopefully at the post, to pass these out and to explain why they are receiving them.

Thank you and be safe,

Alex & Tina Bliem  
VFW Post 7589  
Pack, Troops, Crew 1372

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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

April 22, 2023, Post 2447, Edinburg, VA

[https://VFW\\_VA\\_100\\_Edinburg.eventbrite.com](https://VFW_VA_100_Edinburg.eventbrite.com)

June 3, 2023, State Convention Portsmouth

[https://VFW\\_VA\\_100\\_Portsmouth.eventbrite.com](https://VFW_VA_100_Portsmouth.eventbrite.com)

August 26, 2023, Post 8163, Clarksville

[https://VFW\\_VA\\_100\\_Clarksville.eventbrite.com](https://VFW_VA_100_Clarksville.eventbrite.com)

September 16, 2023, Post 1264, Roanoke

[https://VFW\\_VA\\_100\\_Roanoke.eventbrite.com](https://VFW_VA_100_Roanoke.eventbrite.com)

September 23, 2023, Post 4667, Marion

[https://VFW\\_VA\\_100\\_Marion.eventbrite.com](https://VFW_VA_100_Marion.eventbrite.com)

## Obituary for Paul Alan Chase

Comrade Paul Chase passed away on March 17 following a short illness. He was active in the Post with youth affairs and also founded the Post's aluminum tab recycle program which was featured in the VFW Magazine.

PAUL ALAN CHASE (AGE 81 )  
LT COL USAF (Ret)



Paul A. Chase Lt Col USAF (Ret) died on 03/17/2023 in Haymarket, VA surrounded by his four sons. Born in Bridgeport, CT, he and his two brothers and two sisters moved to Washington Depot, CT in 1960. He graduated from Elizabethtown College with a degree in History in 1964.

He entered the USAF in 1966 and served for the next 23 years as a Personnel Officer. In 1974 Paul received a master's degree in History from Central CT State University. His overseas assignments took him to Vietnam

and Turkey. He ended his career as the DOD Director of Agent Orange and Post Traumatic Disability research and disability claims.

He subsequently worked for government contractors researching health issues for military personnel, finally retiring in 2011. Paul spent his post retirement years doing community service work for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7589 in Manassas and Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution SAR.

He was a serious student of the American Revolution and considered himself fortunate to be a direct descendant of five patriots who fought for the American cause. In 2017 he authored a book on Revolutionary War terms and topics. In 2017 he was named the Virginia SAR Color Guardsman of the Year and was a finalist for the outstanding Volunteer of the year for the Manassas InterService Club Council.

Paul married his high school sweetheart Elsa immediately after their graduation from college in 1964 and was the proud father of four sons: Peter, Michael, Steven and Mark. He [was] buried with Military Honors at the Quantico National Military Cemetery next to his wife of 58 years, Elsa L. Chase.

Fellow Comrades and Auxiliary members,

It is with great sadness that we recently learned about Comrade Paul Chase's passing. This is a true loss for Paul's family, our Post and our country. He was a selfless individual who cared about Veterans, our youth and the future of the United States.



Paul Chase visiting with Frederick Filippone at Birmingham Green in 2012. Photo from November 2012 Cannon News.

Members of the VFW and the Auxiliary are motivated to serve for many different reasons. In my particular case it is because of Paul Chase. My father was a WW II veteran who passed in 2014. During the last four years of his life, he was cared for at Birmingham Green Nursing Home in Manassas. My family

and I would visit him several times each week right up until the time of his death in February, 2014. After his funeral I received a sympathy card from an unknown person. The card was from our Post, expressed the membership's sympathy, mentioned that my dad was visited weekly for most of his time at Birmingham Green and was signed by Paul Chase. In the following weeks I reached out to Paul and Rick Raskin. I was deeply touched by Paul's kindness and after meeting him at my office learned about the wonderful mission of the VFW. Rick was also present that day and I immediately joined as a Life Member. Almost ten years later I can honestly say I have never had the pleasure of working with a finer group of people or a more noble organization.

My pride in the VFW and the principles it stands for are shared by all of us. This is why we continue to work hard and sacrifice for Veterans. Paul Chase's concern and compassion for my father during his last days are what brought me to the VFW. For that, and for all of Paul's goodness, I thank him. When times became difficult and discouraging Paul would always lift up my spirits and re-energize me with the same remark, "Your dad is looking down on you and is so proud of you for what you are doing for our Post and for the Youth Committee. You are doing a great job. Keep it up"! He was a patriot, a friend, a comrade and a mentor and we should never forget him or his dedication to our cause. Due to his incredible generosity in his last days his name will live on through the Paul Chase Youth Fund which he funded and established. I know now both Paul and my father are looking down on all of us saying, "We are proud of you for all the great work you are doing for Veterans. Keep it up"!

Lou Filippone

Post elections to be held at the April 3 general membership meeting

2023-24 Post Officer Nominees

		Incumbent *
Commander	Wayne Moore	*
Senior Vice Commander	Lou Filippone	*
Junior Vice Commander	Bobby Knight	*
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin	*
Chaplain	Ron Knowles	*
1 Year Trustee	Dave Mattingly	
2 Year Trustee	Chris Morgan	
3 Year Trustee	Lamar Baker	
Adjutant	Ron Link	*
Service Officer	Monti Zimmerman	*
Judge Advocate	Bobby Knight	*
Surgeon	Alex Bliem	*

Nominations remain open until the election.



Members of VFW Post 7589

You are cordially invited to an Italian Dinner provided by the Auxiliary on

May 1, 2023 at 6:30pm



Post 7589 District 8 and State Voice of Democracy winner awarded \$1000 scholarship in VFW national competition



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Congratulations! Virginia's 1st place winner won an additional \$1,000 at the national level for his scholarship! L-R: State Commander Geoff Lyster, VOD Winner John McGraw and State Auxiliary President Fred Jennings.

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

District 8 gets a new Post — Western Prince William County Post 12218  
Installation ceremony held March 11 at Great Mane Brewery in Haymarket



BEN GUINAN



RICK RASKIN

State Commander Geoff Lyster



BEN GUINAN

Past Commander in Chief Hal Roesch, National Council member and Past State Commander Ken Wiseman and State Commander Geoff Lyster welcome the Post members



RICK RASKIN

The large contingent of Post members take the oath of obligation. The Post was instituted with a record 62 members



ROSANNE SKINNER WORRELL

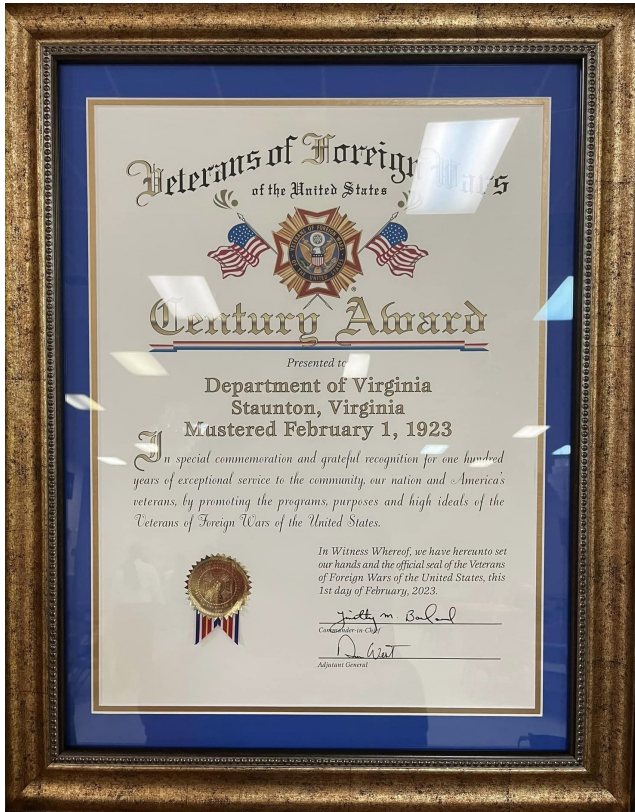
L-R: Mitch Rubenstein, Doug Hoffman, Mark Maggio, Gary Adams and Rick Raskin



## Department of Virginia 100th anniversary celebration — March 4

Commander in Chief Tim Borland spoke at a well attended ceremony. Accompanying Chief Borland were his line officers and senior staff who were in town for the annual VFW legislative conference and Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners. State Commander Geoff Lyster presided over the proceedings which were held at Dale City Post 1503.

PHOTOS FROM FACEBOOK



## VFW Storms Capitol Hill with legislative issues pertinent to veterans

PHOTOS FROM FACEBOOK

Last week [March 6-11] your VFW Legislative Team took the Hill and visited as many of our Virginia Legislative Delegation as possible to deliver the VFW message. We also attended Commander in Chief (CINC) Tim Borland's testimony before the Joint session of the Senate/House Veteran's Affairs committees. We had several office calls scheduled over three days and did cold calls on the offices we did not have appointments with. We also had a lot of help and it was greatly appreciated.

The entire time we were assisted by District 10 Commander Ben Guinan and Comrade Monti Zimmerman from Manassas. We also had attendance during some of our visits by State Commander Geoff Lyster, National Council Representative Ken Wiseman, State Auxiliary President Fred Jennings and State Auxiliary Chaplain Kelli Levitt. All of the additional people were a great asset and helped at times by adding their personal story to validate our priorities.

THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED OR ASSISTED IN ANY WAY - 'MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK' - NO ONE DOES IT ALONE!!

[We addressed] four items:

- 2023 VFW Legislative Priority Goals
- 2023 Talking Points for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress
- Claim Sharks Supplement
- Expeditionary Medal Talking Point

The Priority Goals are for the year and are on the VFW Web-

site. The talking points outlined our rationale and conversations we had with our Virginia Legislative delegation along with the late add talking point on the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM). The AFEM talking point was added following VFW CINC Tim Borland and VFW DC HQ Exec. Dir. Ryan Galluci's visit to Europe and several deployed locations in Eastern Europe where servicemembers are holding the line against further Russian aggression into NATO allied countries bordering Russia/Ukraine.

On the claim sharks issue. I have already had to talk a fellow VFW member out of using one of these 'Claim Sharks' this past weekend and direct them to the DAV (closer to them) in Texas where they live. The claim sharks are pushing back hard because these unregulated companies stand to lose a lot of \$\$\$ if they are forced by HR 1139 Guard VA Act into following rules, being held to a standard and facing penalties when they do not.

Please let me know if you have any questions and feel free to share this wider.

R/Tom

Thomas M. "Tom" Levitt II  
Member, National Legislative Committee  
Past All American/All State Post Commander  
VFW Chesty Puller Post 1503 Dale City, Virginia  
703-895-5070 c



State Commander Geoff Lyster, Legislative Committee members Jill Lynch, Monti Zimmerman with Representative Jennifer Kiggans' Legislative aide.



State Commander Geoff Lyster, National Council member Ken Wiseman, Legislative Committee members Jill Lynch and Tom Levitt

## VFW Names First Post-9/11 Veteran to Lead Washington Office

*The Iraq War veteran said he is optimistic about VFW's future*

**WASHINGTON (March 2, 2023)** — The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) made a historic move by selecting a post-9/11 veteran to head the VFW's presence on Capitol Hill. Ryan Gallucci is now the executive director of the VFW's Washington Office. He is the first post-9/11 veteran to hold the position.

Gallucci, a member of VFW Post 3150 in Arlington, Virginia, started as a VFW employee in June 2011. His past roles with the organization were as deputy executive director to the former executive director, Bob Wallace; National Veterans Service (NVS) director; NVS deputy director; and National Legislative Service deputy director.

Gallucci, a native of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, served in the Army Reserve from June 1999 to June 2007. He served in the Iraq War from 2003 to 2004 as a civil affairs sergeant with the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, where he received the Bronze Star for meritorious service and the Combat Action Badge. While still serving in the Army Reserves, he used his G.I. Bill benefits to attend college, interned as a public affairs specialist at the Naval War College, and earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from the University of Rhode Island. He leveraged his education and experience to become deputy communications director at the American Veterans (AMVETS) National Headquarters, before landing at the VFW Washington Office. Gallucci said he was "honored" to be selected by VFW Adjutant General Dan West, with the support of VFW Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland, for the position. Gallucci added that he knows he will play an important role in the organization and serve to "amplify" the voices of VFW members in Washington, D.C.

"With the historic signing of the Honoring Our PACT Act and the VFW's legacy of professional veterans' advocacy, the VFW has a unique opportunity to distinguish itself as the premier organization advocating for the interests of veterans, service members and military families in the years to come," Gallucci said. "The VFW team in our nation's capital will seize this momentum by pressing forward on veterans' issues while continuing to cultivate our relationships with Congress, VA, the Department of Defense and the White House."

During his time with the VFW, Gallucci was instrumental in the implementation of numerous veteran-focused initiatives. He has worked directly with Congress and federal agencies to craft and implement transition and education policies that benefited the veterans' community, such as in-state tuition protections for veterans and the redesign of the military Transition Assistance Program. He served as advisor, and later chairman, on the Secretary of Labor's Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach, providing feedback to the De-

partment of Labor and Congress on the employment needs of veterans and the efficacy of federal employment programs for veterans. Gallucci also established the VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship program, which offers exemplary student veterans the opportunity to learn about veterans' advocacy hands-on in Washington.

Gallucci said he is excited about what the future holds for the VFW.

"This is no small task for the VFW, and as the first post-9/11 veteran to take up this position, I intend to carry forward this responsibility in a way that honors the 123-year legacy of our great American institution," Gallucci said.

He and his wife, Katie, reside in Annapolis, Maryland, with their daughters, Lily and Mia.





## National Home News for Our Friends at VFW Post #7589

The "gray days of winter" are nearing the end here at the National Home, and we have kept ourselves pretty busy. From assisting in moving in families from Texas and Utah, to saying goodbye to a wonderful family who've purchased a house in Georgia, we kept the fires burning, and the community we call Home has been quite active. Our Valentine's Dance was a great success, and it was fun to watch the parents and children enjoy shaking off the winter blues to some dance favorites.



We are growing daily, both in filling homes, and filling hearts. Families are working hard to increase their skills in relationships, parenting, budgeting, and time management. The safety and security provided by our Home and its like-minded community makes it easy to feel like you belong. The transition from a military lifestyle to a veteran/civilian lifestyle is much smoother when you're supported by others who've made the journey or who are walking the path with you.

Spring is just around the corner. I can smell the fresh cut grass, and May flowers in bloom by just thinking of it. There is so much planned for this summer that I can't wait for it to get here. Thank you, Comrades and Patriots, for all you do to make this magical place a success. We are blessed and grateful for all we are able to do to support our Veterans and Families, and that's all because of you. Happy Spring!

Michael Wilson, SPHR  
CSM, Army National Guard (ret)  
Executive Director  
VFW National Home

## Victories on Campus

A veteran who was living in his parent's basement with his two children, his wife had left him, and moved far away. He was wrongfully discharged from the Army due to some significant disabilities, though there were mistakes on his DD214.

A decorated combat veteran, struggled with PTSD, and other physical issues, he couldn't hold a steady job, and started and stopped going to college several times. Finally, he reached out to the VFW National Home through our website. After about 4 weeks, it was clear that this veteran and his children belonged here. After about 8 months he is working and going to college while he works on starting his small business. His children love the VFW National home and all the activities.

His DD214 was corrected, and he is now receiving his VA benefits. Though he is still working to become a better veteran, and citizen, he has a great destiny ahead, and is excited for his future. He has joined the VFW and looks forward to being part of his local post and supporting other veterans in need. His victories since coming to campus has motivated him to charge ahead and do all he can to be a good dad, support his children, and work towards a promising career.

The National Home's neighborhood is open to the families of actively serving military personnel, veterans, and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. The family can be one or both parents with one or more children.

As of March 4th, 2023 we have homes available in our community so if you know a family that could use our services, please encourage them to call 800-313-4200 or [contact us through our website.](#)





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



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



Choir, comprising military spouses from all branches of the military. Country singer and songwriter Donnie Isaac's, a combat Veteran, follows with his service story told through his music. Closing the concert is *America's Got Talent* Season 14 Top 5 Finalist, Voices of Service. Retired Master Sgt. Caleb Green, retired Staff Sgt. Ron Henry, retired Sgt. Maj. Christal Rheams, and retired Sgt. 1st Class Jason Hanna bring their powerful voices and message to this moving vocal performance.

CAMMO Voices uses its platform to increase awareness of what music can do for those coping with visible and/or invisible wounds. Feel the healing power of music infused with a message of hope and community. Experience the diversity and excellence that exists within our military and Veteran communities in this powerful performance by CAMMO Voices.

*George Mason University's Veterans and the Arts Initiative is a proud sponsor of this performance, providing **free tickets for Veterans and Servicemembers.***

This performance is appropriate for all ages.

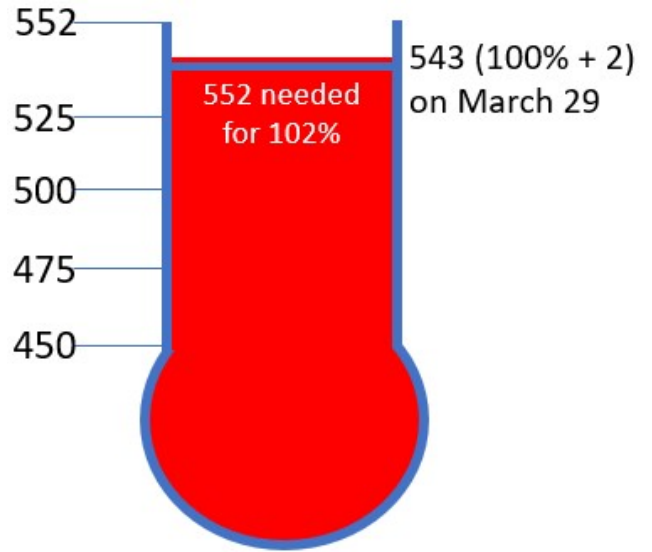
**Free for Veterans and Servicemembers with ID (up to two tickets each). Free tickets only available in person at the Hylton Center Ticket Office.**

**The Center for American Military Music Opportunities (CAMMO)** joins with George Mason University's Veterans and the Arts Initiative to present a concert that honors our Servicemembers, their spouses, and families. CAMMO Voices comprises the world-renowned Voices of Service and American Military Spouses Choir, Tommy Stanley, Donnie Isaacs, and @Eaze. The emcee for the evening is standup comedian and combat-wounded Army Veteran Dewayne White.

The ensemble @Eaze kicks off the evening with their unique musical stylings and includes active duty, retired, and Veteran Servicemembers spanning our nation's Armed Forces. Tommy Stanley, Navy Veteran and NBC *Nashville Star* finalist brings his soulful rock voice to the stage. The evening-length celebration continues with *America's Got Talent* finalist the American Military Spouses



**ANNUAL MEMBERS  
PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**



**100% achieved on March 14**

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

### Legacy Life membership

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

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

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

**2022-23 Post Officers**

Commander	Wayne Moore
Senior Vice Commander	Lou Filippone
Junior Vice Commander	Bobby Knight
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Chaplain	Ron Knowles
1 Year Trustee	Tina Bliem
2 Year Trustee	Dave Mattingly
3 Year Trustee	Chris Morgan
Adjutant	Ron Link
Service Officer	Monti Zimmerman
Judge Advocate	Bobby Knight
Surgeon	Alex Bliem

**2022-23 Auxiliary 7589 Officers**

President	Mary Corkhill
Senior Vice President	Ellie Smith
Junior Vice President	Cindy McIntyre
Secretary	Ann Mitchell
Treasurer	Elanor Doczi
Chaplain	Cookie Cullen
Conductress	Janet Raskin
Guard	Patsy Gough
Trustee 1	Jan Germain
Trustee 2	Janet Raskin
Trustee 3	Yvonne Sullivan
Historians	Patsy Gough Yvonne Sullivan
Patriotic Instructor	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**



**30 Games Including:**

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

**WEDNESDAY MORNINGS**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**DOORS OPEN 7:30 AM**

**GAMES START AT 9:15 AM**

**SPECIAL**  
**BUY 2 BOOKS**  
**GET A 1/2 BOOK FREE**

Virginia Department  
of  
Veterans Services

Manassas Office

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

## Upcoming Events

April 1	Recruiting at Manassas 150th Birthday Party — Dean Park — 2-8 PM — Fireworks to follow
April 3	Post meeting — 7:30 PM
April 10	Auxiliary meeting — 2:00 PM
April 15	District 8 Convention — Nominations & Elections — Post 2524, Culpeper — 10 AM
April 20	Youth Committee meeting — 7:00 PM
May 1	Auxiliary will serve an Italian dinner at 6:30 PM Post meeting — 7:30 PM
May 6	Flag retirement — 10:00AM. A pizza party will follow for all attending.
May 8	Auxiliary meeting — 2:00 PM
May 11—13	National Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Event — National Mall
May 13	CAMMO Voices at Hylton Performing Arts Center — Veterans Free — Get tickets at the Hylton box office
May 18	Youth Committee meeting — 7:00 PM
May 19—21	Manassas Ballet Theatre Presents “Swan Lake” at the Hylton Performing Arts Center
June 1– 4	State Convention, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA; phone 757-673-3000. Room Rates are \$149.00 per night. Group name: “Virginia Department VFW & Auxiliary State Convention 2023”; Cut-off Date April 28, 2023.
June 5	Post meeting — 7:30 PM
June 12	Auxiliary meeting — 2:00 PM
June 15	Youth Committee meeting — 7:00 PM
July 22—27	National Convention — Phoenix, AZ



VIRGINIA SENATORS		
Mark Warner		202-224-2023
Tim Kaine		202-224-4024
VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVES		
Rob Wittman	1st District	202-225-4261
Jennifer Kagans	2nd District	202-225-4215
Bobby Scott	3rd District	202-225-8351
Vacant	4th District	202-225-6365
Bob Good	5th District	202-225-4711
Ben Cline	6th District	202-225-5431
Abigail Spanberger	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Jennifer Wexton	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492



# CANNON NEWS

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 We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.