

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
May 2013



Memorial Day 2012: Past Department Commander Charlie Absher and Post Commander Ron Link were honored to present the VFW Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery.

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COMMANDER'S REPORT



To Our Ladies Auxiliary:

Words cannot express the appreciation and the gratitude for the "Eagle" given to me during our Joint Installation of the Post and Auxiliary officers last night. Opening the gift and seeing the Eagle, I was completing overwhelmed.

I just want to say Thank You.

Thanks to National Auxiliary Guard **Dee Guillory** who installed the Ladies officers for 2013-2014. It was very impressive to see their ritual for officer installation.

Good Luck to the entire Auxiliary 7589 officer team in the upcoming year.

I am also very proud of the Patriot Art contest which the Auxiliary sponsors. This year's entries were simply outstanding. Kudos to the Ladies for an outstanding program.

Comrades:

Thanks to Past Post Commander **Stephen Meade** for installing the elected Post officers for 2013-2014.

Your Post Officers for 2013-2014 are:

- Commander: Ron Link
- Senior Vice Commander: Pete MacLeod
- Junior Vice Commander: Steve Botello
- Quartermaster: Rick Raskin
- Judge Advocate: Stephen Meade
- Surgeon: Warren Ewell
- Adjutant: Travis Nelson
- Chaplain: Joel Chase
- Trustee 3: Dave Crowder
- Trustee 2: Rod Gillette
- Trustee 1: Mike Guttman
- Service Officer: Steve Botello
- Officer of the Day: Robert Punihaole
- Historian: Paul Chase

We look forward to a successful year. Again, we are going to have a joint planning committee to ensure the success of our programs.

Thanks to All
Ron

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT’S REPORT



I want to thank all those who attended the Ladies Auxiliary fundraiser at **Noodles & Company** on April 11th. Meeting and dining with good friends was a treat.

Thank you again for supporting this fundraiser for the Ladies Auxiliary.

We had five entries from Osbourn Park High School for our Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. We **Congratulate** Ms. Elizabeth Chung on placing first. Her art work has been forwarded to the Department for judging. You can view it on the Post 7589 website www.vfw7589.org.

Elections for the 2013-2014 were held at our April meeting. Installation will be on May 6th with the new Officers taking their positions after the Department Convention in June. They are:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| <i>President</i> | - | <i>Mary Corkhill</i> |
| <i>Sr. Vice President</i> | - | <i>Carol Cullen</i> |
| <i>Jr. Vice President</i> | - | <i>Dawn Moore</i> |
| <i>Secretary</i> | - | <i>Ann Mitchell</i> |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | - | <i>Elanor Doczi</i> |
| <i>Chaplain</i> | - | <i>Patricia Sutton</i> |
| <i>Conductress</i> | - | <i>Renee Bramer</i> |
| <i>Guard</i> | - | <i>Patsy Gough</i> |
| <i>Trustee 1</i> | - | <i>Yvonne Sullivan</i> |
| <i>Trustee 2</i> | - | <i>Janet Raskin</i> |
| <i>Trustee 3</i> | - | <i>Ginger Harvey</i> |
| <i>Patriotic Instructor</i> | - | <i>Diane Zelanski</i> |
| <i>Historian</i> | - | <i>Dawn Moore</i> |

The Auxiliary **Yard Sale** on May 18th will be from 7 am-2 pm. We will be taking donations on Friday, May 17th from 4-7 pm at the Post. Our **Buddy Poppy** Drive will be on May 25th from 9-2

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SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT



Hello Comrades. We are pleased to let you know the Virginia Department of Veterans Affairs will be having their Service Officer (SO) back on a regularly scheduled date & time at the VFW beginning the end of May. We have spoken to them and they now have a new SO in their Fairfax office and we are negotiating the schedule now. Once we have it agreed upon it will be posted out to all.

In addition we have two VFW Post Service Officers in training here; Wayne Moore and Stephen Meade. They are ready to assist you, so please feel free to contact them at:

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

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

We are also currently partnering with the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans to hold a Veterans Benefits Fair in September 2013. As more information develops we will put it out for everyone.

Our goal is simple. We want to take care of all our veterans with the greatest level of service that our resources will allow.

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

Need help with filing VA claims?

VA DVS AGENT SERVICE WILL RESUME SOON.

IN THE INTERIM PLEASE CONTACT OUR POST SERVICE OFFICER FOR CLAIMS ASSISTANCE.

**Steve Botello
703-659-0849**

POST OFFICERS FOR 2013-14

Commander	Ron Link
Senior Vice	Pete MacLeod
Junior Vice	Steve Botello
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Judge Advocate	Steve Meade
Surgeon	Warren Ewell
Trustee 3	Robert Crowder

VFW STATEMENT ON DISTINGUISHED WARFARE MEDAL

WASHINGTON (April 15, 2013) — The Pentagon announced today [April 15] that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has cancelled the creation of the Distinguished Warfare Medal, and instead will create a new device to affix to existing medals to properly recognize drone operators, cyber warriors and others who are making a tremendous real-time impact on battlefields far away.

John E. Hamilton, national commander of the 2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and its Auxiliaries, said the right decision was made. “The VFW is appreciative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for their review, and commends Secretary Hagel for taking this issue on so early in his tenure. This decision will clearly keep medals that can only be earned in combat in their high order of precedence, while providing proper recognition to all who support our war-fighters regardless of their distance from the fight.”

The shape of the new device, the medals it can be affixed to, plus award eligibility, are expected to be determined within the next 90 days.

COMRADES SPEAK ON “OPERATION FIRST RESPONSE”

By Joel Chase

On April 18th, Comrades Steve Botello and Joel Chase attended a fundraising event at the Black Horse Inn in Warrenton at the request of the local Chamber of Commerce. The mission of "Operation First Response" is to support our nation's wounded, injured and critically-ill heroes and their families with personal and financial needs. Services are provided from the onset of injury, throughout their recovery period and along their journey from military life into the civilian world. Financial aid varies as each case is based on individual needs ranging from rent, utilities, vehicle payments, groceries, clothing, and travel expenses. Comrade Botello spoke to the group about what the VFW does specifically to support the Wounded Warrior Program that opened the eyes of the group to understand how members of the VFW continue to serve other veterans somewhat behind the scenes.

ANNUAL MEMBERS — PLEASE RENEW SOON

We are asking our unpaid annual members to renew their membership as soon as possible. An issue on the horizon is a pending dues increase next year. If passed at the National Convention, dues will increase by \$10.00.

Any member who needs financial assistance with their renewal is encouraged to contact the Post Quartermaster at 703-361-5554 (leave a message) or email: qm7589@verizon.net.



Francis Cannon Post 7589

P.O. Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108

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at Giant in Wellington Shopping Center. If you can assist in both or ether event, please let me know.

The National Home for Children provides housing and support services to struggling military and veteran families from across the nation at their 70 acre campus in southern Michigan. In order to assist we are collecting the Campbell's soup labels. We are very happy to receive any labels from the public. Please bring them to the Post.

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

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
Ladies Auxiliary President

AMERICAN LEGION POST 10 OPEN HOUSE TO INCLUDE VFW

The open house is scheduled for May 18. We'll be having a recruiting table inside the reception hall where we can show off our stuff. Lots of other organizations will also be there, including the DMV who will offer services, including registration for Veteran ID Cards.

There will be outside activities for adults and children. Food will also be available in the pavilion.

We would be grateful if you could volunteer an hour or two to help out with our booth or other support of the event.

This is an excellent opportunity for our Post to get out and meet the community and recruit new members.

Mark your calendar!

2013 SCOUT OF THE YEAR

By Stan Hunter

The 2013 winner is Theresa McCabe submitted by Post 1503. Theresa is the holder of the Girl Scout Gold Award and also has an outstanding school record.

Her gold award project involved planning and implementing an early childhood project for her elementary school's preschool program by designing and creating literacy and motor skills materials for the programs. She customized wooden blocks, wrote children's books, and created flannel board sets to go with a variety of stories.

She is the daughter of two military parents and war veterans. When her mother was sent to Afghanistan for a year leaving 7 children behind she took on many tasks of the home including care of younger siblings, cooking and cleaning to help support her family remaining at home. At the same time she maintained her school work and community efforts.

Her application is being forwarded to National VFW for judging. We will recognize her at the Department Convention in June.



**NATIONAL VFW IRAQ / AFGHANISTAN VETERANS
COMMITTEE MEETING, 3/3/13 IN ARLINGTON,
VIRGINIA**

By Pete MacLeod

The committee heard about the organization “Student Veterans of America” which now has more than a million members across the country with 750 chapters on college campuses. Local VFW chapters are urged to make contact with these students for potential membership and cooperation. Posts are also encouraged to help them find jobs by creating job lists in their local areas. Their website is www.studentveterans.org

VFW National Commander John Hamilton spoke to the committee and said 73 percent of these student veterans are eligible to join the VFW. He also said that surveys show 40 percent of Iraq/Afghanistan veterans know little about the new GI Bill. So information from local Posts to these young vets is invaluable. He recommended coordination with their states, which Post 7589 is already doing. He said there was also a problem with Iraq/Afghanistan veterans getting in-state tuition rates. The problem is that some of the veterans “officially” signed up in one state but have actually lived most of their lives in another. Some colleges and universities are giving veterans trouble getting in-state rates when they have lived 98 percent of their lives in one state but happened to enlist in another. This is one of the legislative points driven home to members of Congress during the legislative days on the hill from March 4-6, 2013.

Representatives of the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan spoke to the committee. Call 1-800-343-3200 if you would like information about the home or would like to contribute money. The home now has 6 vans and is working on obtaining a 7th. You can now obtain a life membership in support of the National Home.

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Shannon Brown, national committee member in charge of recruitment, spoke and recommended sending a postcard or making a phone call or sending email to every member of the Post alerting them to upcoming meetings. She said it was a lot of work but worth it if just two or three interested members, already on the membership books, started showing up at meetings and volunteering to work. She said this was a way of retaining members and getting members, already signed up, to become active. She said this could be especially effective for young Iraq/Afghanistan veterans. She said there is nothing like the personal touch in reaching out to veterans. Show you care!

And she emphasized every VFW member should always be carrying at least one membership application with them! Brown also said that tests continue with the new VFW "Recruiter APP" for Androids and I-phones and hopefully there will be a rollout at the National Convention in Louisville this summer.

The meeting was thrown open to ideas. And I told the approximately 85 members from around the country of Post 7589's efforts in the past few years to "adopt" local units serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, putting on parties and get-togethers for families of active duty personnel and our recruitment drives at local malls and stores. We also have an ongoing project to create a Power-Point presentation about the Post and Ladies Auxiliary to show to young people. I also told of our membership brochure and additionally recommended the VFW coordinate job lists among the various Posts to give younger and older veterans a list of jobs that might be available in local areas. There could be coordination with the state employment services and the local chambers of commerce to help vets get jobs! I submitted a six page proposal which I can send to any member, just email me at jeanandpeter-macleod@verizon.net

Ideas from other posts on recruiting Iraq/Afghanistan veterans:

Job Fair combined with a fun/family day either at the Post or a

neutral location. Get local businesses to take part, perhaps state employment agency, local colleges, and organizations. Email or snail-mail Post members to alert them. Make personal phone calls to get people to turn out.

Sponsor a touring basketball or softball team to make an appearance in a local community and combine with a family fun fair.

Set up a local food pantry at the Post to serve the entire community but can also serve veterans and veterans and active duty families in need along with the homeless.

Shannon Brown suggested a “listening” approach to recruiting. Listen to younger (and older) vets. What are they looking for? What would help them? What would make them want to become active in the Post? Talk to veterans about the long term advantages of VFW membership and about the many activities at not-for-profit organizations like the VFW. Brown said we should “sponsor” a member that we sign up. Make sure he or she gets to that first meeting. She recommended we call every member of the Post at least twice a year. She said emails are too easy to ignore.

She also recommended getting involved with a local USO. Most of these guys and gals served by the USO are going to become veterans someday and the USOs, (especially in the DC area) can use the help. A win-win situation! She said just providing a meal on a Friday night at a USO can win a VFW Post dozens of friends and potential members.

Update on the “virtual” VFW Post in Texas: Now have 450 members statewide. Technical kinks are still being worked out. But in a big state like Texas, where some members live 100 miles or more from the nearest Post, it is working. It is based in Austin and still being monitored by the national VFW.

Our next meeting of the National Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Committee is set for Louisville at the National Convention this summer.

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