

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
May 2014



April 12th recruiting team at J. E. Rice Hardware in Manassas.  
(L-R) Joel Chase, Terry Bursey, Robert Punihaole, Ron Link, Steve Meade and Lou Filippone.

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**VIETNAM VETERANS  
JOIN US FOR A 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
COMMEMORATION EVENT**

**JUNE 22, 2014**

**A BARBEQUE AT VFW POST 7589  
9304 CENTREVILLE ROAD  
MANASSAS, VIRGINIA  
1100-1400**

**FREE FOR VIETNAM VETS!**

## From the Editor



I've been spending considerable time visiting Posts around the state in my campaign to become the next Department Surgeon. So far the receptions have been good and the folks I

speaking with are enthusiastic about my campaign. Only time will tell. What I noticed at many of the Posts I visited is they have a good turnout at their meetings. One Post in Southwest Virginia had over 50 comrades attend and another small Post right here in Northern Virginia had over 30. These Posts are definitely active and respected in their communities and their members are enthusiastic about what they are doing.

We at Post 7589 are not doing badly but we could always do better. I regularly see only about a dozen or so Comrades attending Post meet-

ings. This is your Post and your ideas count. Please make an effort to attend our meetings and offer your suggestions (and help if you can) on what your Post should be doing in our community.

You'll find that your ideas count and might just help us improve our effectiveness as a Veterans' Service Organization. You'll also meet new people and enjoy the camaraderie.

Thanks to everyone for your support.

*Rick Raskin*

## From the Commander



As the year draws to a close, there are many things for which I'm thankful and I want to express my appreciation to those who made Post 7589 a success.

First, I want to thank all those Comrades and Auxiliary members who have worked tirelessly at making our Bingo a success: Pete Slusher and Ken Lion for making sure the Bingo paper is properly distributed; Joel Chase, Paul Chase, Steve Meade, Wayne Moore, and Pete MacLeod for working the floor and selling pull tabs; Phil Smith and Warren Ewell

for calling. I especially want to thank Ladies Auxiliary members Janet Raskin and Kay Yeager for working the snack bar and Mary Corkhill for her enthusiastic calling back numbers and selling additional Bingo paper, and Rick Raskin for managing the Bingo program. I thank each and every one of you and really appreciate your efforts.

Paul Chase: I want to thank you for your visitations to the veterans at Birmingham Green. This is what we as veterans are about; Veterans helping Veterans. I really appreciate your devotion to this cause.

Joel Chase: Your efforts rewriting and digitizing the Acts of Valor awards which our service members received for their heroic acts during enemy conflicts. This is something which should not go unnoted. Joel spends countless hours and has rewritten hundreds of citations. His efforts are greatly appreciated.

Jerry Martin: The efforts you took to ensure that Merle Hancock received

the Silver Star for his heroic act of valor during World War II. Also, your weekly service to the community food pantry is another example of your dedication to our community. Additionally I want to thank you for taking the helm of the Veterans Day parade committee to ensure that Manassas still honors those who served.

To the Ladies Auxiliary: I want to thank and express my pride on having one of the most active Auxiliaries within the Department. The dedication to the Comrades of Post 7589 should not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated. Without our Ladies Auxiliary, the Post would not be as successful as it is.

Pete MacLeod: I want to thank you for chairing the Youth Committee, organizing all the events of the Post, and making our Buddy Poppy Drives successful. Also, our Veterans in the Classroom programs are very successful, mainly because of your dedication to this endeavor.

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## Auxiliary President's Report



We would like to thank the students for their artwork submitted for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. I'm very happy to report we had 12 entries from three High Schools this year. We want to congratulate Ms. Elizabeth Chung for placing first. Her art work has been forwarded to the Department Scholarship Chairman for judging. The winner at the State level will have their entry forwarded to National Headquarters in Kansas City. The winner at the National level receives a \$10,000 scholarship. You can view her entry on the web site [www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org).

Elections for 2014-2015 were held at our April meeting. Installation for will be on May 5th with the new Officers taking their positions after the Department Convention in June. Your Ladies Auxiliary officers are:

- President - Mary Corkhill
- Sr. Vice President - Ginger Harvey
- Jr. Vice President - Patricia Sutton
- Secretary - Ann Mitchell
- Treasurer - Elanor Doczi
- Chaplain - Carol Cullen
- Conductress - Janet Raskin
- Guard - Patsy Gough
- Trustee 1 - Janet Raskin
- Trustee 2 - Ginger Harvey
- Trustee 3 - Yvonne Sullivan
- Patriotic Instructor - Diane Zalenski
- Historian - Diane Zalenski

We will be having a fundraiser at Noodles & Company on May 15th from 4pm to 9pm. This fundraiser will assist the Veterans and their family. Please come and join us for dinner.

Our Memorial weekend Buddy Poppy drive will be on May 24th from 9-2 at Giant in Wellington Shopping Center. Please contact me before May 16th to let me know what time you will be able to assist us during this drive. Contact me at [mcorkhill@comcast.net](mailto:mcorkhill@comcast.net) or 703-361-8950.

Mark your calendar for the Department Convention being held on June 5-8 in Williamsburg, VA at the Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center. This annual year-end event is held to celebrate the achievement

of the Post & Auxiliaries by accepting awards for the 2012-13 year. There will be an early bird parade for membership; a Chairman fair and the installation of your 2014-2015 Officers. There are two candidates running for Department Guard and three candidates for the National 6th District Council Member. They need your support.

I have been telling you for the past few months about the National Home for Children which provide 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 support them, we are collecting Campbell's soup labels. We are very happy to receive any labels from the public. Please bring them to the Post. Thank you

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



# Service Officer's Report



I would like to let our Post Comrades know of the real success we have been lucky enough to have this past month, a homeless veteran we assisted back in the fall here in Manassas. He is an Army veteran who somehow made it out here to Virginia with a military buddy from this area to look for work.

Well circumstances were such that this did not work out as he planned. He was severely injured while here in an accident and then his buddy kicked him out. I encountered him in this homeless situation and through some work and efforts from your VFW, the American Legion and DAV we got him back to his

home in Idaho safely.

But the help we provide keeps going on. We continued to stay in contact and helped him file his VA claim. We worked with him through the examination process and all of the administrative work. This past month he was awarded 50% disability with retroactive payments. He did not have a checking account and we also helped him with that.

His life has not quite yet fully turned around but now he has real hope. Even now we are still providing the guidance to help him think of himself as a real person and further himself to get his life back in order. Now... he no longer has to almost starve with no income.

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

Please feel free to contact our Service Officer Team at any time for questions, suggestions or other needs you may have at:

so7589@verizon.net or call us at 1-703-659-0849 or just pull one of us aside and tell us a suggestion of service that we can provide.

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

Wayne Moore 1-703-361-5554  
Email: [mgr7590@verizon.net](mailto:mgr7590@verizon.net)

Stephen Meade 1-703-408-0875  
Email: [SO2-7589@hotmail.com](mailto:SO2-7589@hotmail.com)

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

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

Thank you,  
**Steven M. Botello**  
Post Service Officer

**Need help with filing VA claims?**

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

**Post 7589**  
**9304 Centreville Rd.**  
**Manassas, Virginia**

**APPOINTMENTS PLEASE**  
**Walk-ins Accepted**

## Youth News and Notes



Veterans of VFW Post 7589 seem much in demand from schools these days. There is the film project with Northern Virginia Community College which should be completed soon, invitation to the Career Day at Baldwin Elementary School in Manassas and now students at Stonewall Jackson High School are working on class projects involving interviews with veterans.

Stonewall Social Studies teacher Blake Farrah called and says his students, 95-100 of them, are working

on oral histories of veterans in the Manassas area. It will probably involve students coming to the Post to do the interviews sometime in late May. Details will follow.

What a great Career Day at Baldwin Elementary on Wed., April 23! The format involved being in one classroom and having groups of students come in and spend 20 minutes talking with you. Just about the time you were running out of war stories, a new group would come in. These kids were sharp! I asked one group what they thought some of the advantages of a career in the military might be and a first grader proceeded to list free medical care, discounted groceries and a large pension if you stayed in long enough.

I used the big bag trick too. I reached, in pulled out a Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, an Army canteen, an Army Dress Cover, a Vietnam Jungle Hat, a map of Vietnam, etc. I showed them a Vietnam era Army dress uniform with

all the medals, ribbons, etc. You know what was the big attraction? The Army canteen!

Kudos to Doug Harhota of the Manassas Museum, Baldwin PTO President Kristin Keifer and Asst. Baldwin Principal Laura Goldzung for setting up the Career Day.

The Korean American Scholarship Foundation has scholarship money for relatives of Korean War veterans. Email [erc.scholarship@kasf.org](mailto:erc.scholarship@kasf.org) with questions, get applications at <http://www.kasf.org/eastern> Scholarship money is available for both high school and college for the 2014-2015 academic year.

The Youth Committee Yard Sale to raise money for our essay contest prize fund will be held on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014 from 7am to 2pm at the Post Headquarters. We are accepting donations of articles to sell right now!!! Please call 703 220-4545 Thanks!

### 2014 Voice of Democracy Theme

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

### 2014 Patriot’s Pen theme

“Why I Appreciate America’s Veterans.”

Post Officers elected for 2014-15

Commander: Ron Link	Surgeon: Warren Ewell
Senior Vice Commander: Pete MacLeod	1 Year Trustee: Rod Gillette
Junior Vice Commander: Steve Botello	2 Year Trustee: Lou Filippone
Quartermaster: Rick Raskin	3 Year Trustee: Terry Bursey
Chaplain: Joel Chase	Adjutant: Pete MacLeod
Judge Advocate: Steve Meade	Lead Service Officer: Steve Botello

The officers elect will be installed at the May membership meeting and will assume their duties at the conclusion of the Department Convention.

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Over the past few years, we have grown from one school visitation to having many schools requesting our Comrades to be showcased.

One of the most overlooked tasks is the position of Service Officer. Our Post is very fortunate to have three; Steve Botello, Steve Meade, and Wayne Moore. Between them, they have logged countless hours serving the veterans of our community. Again, this is a fine example of Veterans helping Veterans.

Our Comrades also serve in various positions at the District, Department and National levels. At District, Rick Raskin, Steve Meade, and Peter MacLeod hold offices. At the Department level, Rick Raskin chairs the Resolutions Committee. Rick Raskin, Steve Botello, and Peter MacLeod serve on the Legislative Committee. Peter MacLeod also served on the National Iraqi – Afghanistan Committee.

Rick Raskin was very instrumental in bringing Posts into the digital age. He has refurbished and donated over 20 computers in the past few years to various Posts throughout the Department.

Many of our Comrades and Sisters are also serving in our community: for example on Monday mornings Phil Smith, Rick Raskin, Steve Meade, Mary Corkhill, and Wayne

Moore assist American Legion Post 10 with their Bingo session. Other Comrades are serving various VSOs: Steve Botello serves as Commander of the DAV; Jim Brock serves with the 40 and Eight; Jerry Martin, Jack Lilley, Russ Keating, and Fred Tompkins are serving on the Board of Directors for the Greater Manassas Veterans Day Parade and Robert Punihaole works with homeless veterans.

The dedication and service that each of our Comrades have done for our country, our community, the various organizations throughout our community and the service to our Post is why Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589 is a shining example of what the VFW is all about. NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS. I am proud to be a member of Post 7589.

For the upcoming year, I am pleased to announce we have a fine slate of elected officers ready to serve our Comrades. They are:

Ron Link	Commander
Peter MacLeod	Senior Vice
Steve Botello	Junior Vice
Rick Raskin	Quartermaster
Joel Chase	Chaplain
Rod Gillette	Trustee
Lou Filippone	Trustee
Terry Bursey	Trustee

At last year's National Convention the bylaws were changed to make

Judge Advocate and Surgeon appointed positions by the incoming commander. I have asked Steve Meade to serve as Judge Advocate and Warren Ewell as Surgeon. I will be asking other Comrades to serve in various appointed positions.

I want to thank you for the opportunity of allowing me to serve as Commander of our Post. It is a privilege to serve when so many of our Comrades are doing the work of the VFW. Our Post is well represented throughout the VFW and our community.

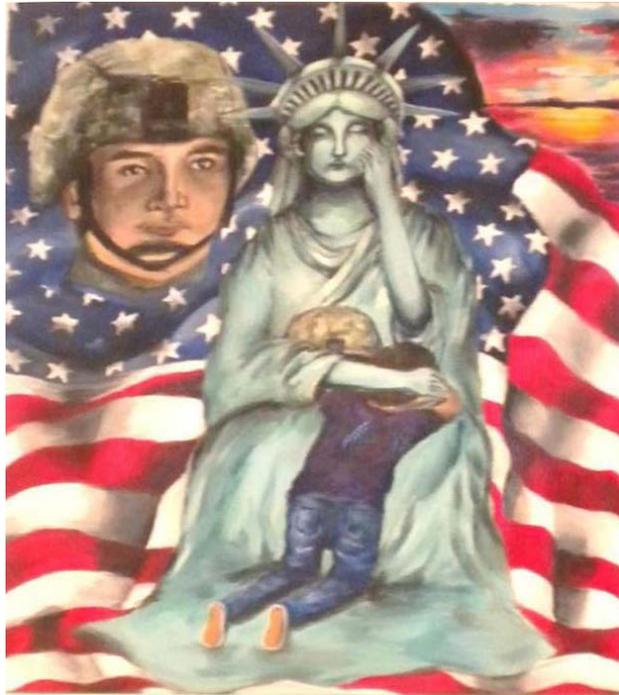
Thanks,

*Ron*

Special Note

I want to extend condolences to the Ron Knowles family for the loss of his wife Betty. She was a life member of our Ladies Auxiliary and served as Chaplain. Betty was very active in the community as a school teacher for over 30 years. She also taught the AARP's Defensive Driving course for 25 years.

Also, I wish to extend condolences to the Galanti family for the loss of Phyllis Galanti, wife of Paul Galanti, Commissioner of the Virginia Department Veterans Services.



First Place—Auxiliary 7589 Patriotic Art Contest  
Elizabeth Chung \_ Osbourn Park High School

## Comrade Fishpaw offers Traffic Court assistance to homeless (and formerly homeless) veterans

COL (R) Edward Rinker Fishpaw - JD, Esq.- is a life member of VFW Post 7589. Residing in his hometown of Manassas, VA, "Colonel Ed" has started a part time law practice after retiring from government service. His practice focuses primarily on Traffic Court cases and normally involves reckless driving (speeding) and selected DUI cases. He does not normally handle accident cases as those are usually done by Personal Injury lawyers.



As a trial attorney authorized to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Colonel Ed has offered to help homeless vets, as well as formerly homeless vets who have "boot -strapped" themselves hoping for a new life. The latter may not qualify for a court appointed attorney and thus are once again stuck in the MATRIX. (Quoting Colonel Ed: "Hopefully, my brothers and sisters are not still stuck in the MATRIX. If so, may

PEACE be with them and NAMASTE!")

Colonel Ed will provide pro bono legal representation to these homeless and formerly homeless vets if he decides to accept their case. Colonel Ed says that he "Fights for his Clients" and will negotiate with the prosecutor and litigate these traffic cases in a trial court as needed.

For more information, contact Colonel Ed directly by non-confidential email at [edfishpaw@gmail.com](mailto:edfishpaw@gmail.com) or leave a short non-confidential message (up to 30 seconds) with your contact information at [703-335-5422](tel:703-335-5422).

## SVA Reaches One Thousand Campuses

On Wednesday [April 23], Student Veterans of America (SVA) announced that they now have over one thousand chapters on campuses across the United States. "We're thrilled to be reaching our goal of establishing over 1,000 chapters two years ahead of anticipation. We feel

this is a testament to the tide of veterans who are seeking higher education, and see the power and value of being involved with an SVA chapter," said SVA's President and CEO, D. Wayne Robinson. Since 2008, the VFW has partnered with SVA on several initiatives designed to ensure

student-veterans are provided the necessary support needed to access their education benefits and succeed in their chosen field of study. For more about SVA or to find a chapter near you, click here: <http://studentveterans.org/what-we-do.html>

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## Seeking Purple Heart Recipients

Close to 2 million Purple Hearts have been awarded since the medal was created in 1932, but the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor only has the names of 193,000 recipients in its

database. If you or a loved one received a Purple Heart, make sure to add your names to the Hall of Honor, along with photos and narratives of when, where and how the medal was

earned. For more information or to submit, go to <http://thepurpleheart.com/>.

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## VFW Calls Phoenix VA System a Failure

After reports that at least 40 veterans have died while awaiting care in the Phoenix VA Healthcare System, VFW National Commander Bill Thien said there is zero trust in leadership's ability to lead, much less to properly care for America's heroes. Phoenix allegedly kept two sets of waiting lists, only one of which is official and used to report average patient appointment waiting times to Washington. The VA requires its

medical facilities to provide care to patients typically within 14 to 30 days, depending on the availability and specialty required. According to CNN's report, the alleged secret waiting list tracks real appointment waiting times, which span far beyond 14 to 30 days; precious time seriously ill patients cannot afford. "If the allegations of veterans dying as a result of this internal process are true, then the individuals responsible

should be prosecuted criminally to the fullest extent of the law," said Thien. "The Secretary of Veterans Affairs needs to fire them all, then let the lawyers sort it out." Read more at <http://www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/2014-Articles/PHOENIX-VA-MEDICAL-SYSTEM-IS-FAILING-VETERANS/>.



<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>	
<b>May 5</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting — 1930</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Youth Committee Meeting — 1900</b>
<b>May 23 - 26</b>	<b>23: Poppies - Centreville Giant — 1500 - 1900</b>
	<b>24: Poppies - Gainesville Giant — 0900 -1300</b>
	<b>25: Poppies - Woodbine Food Lion — 0900 - 1300</b>
	<b>26: Memorial Day Activities: Ceremony at Veterans Memorial - 0830 Flag Placements at Manassas Cemetery — 0900</b>
<b>June 1</b>	<b>Flag Retirement at the Post — 1000</b>
<b>June 2</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting — 1930</b>
<b>June 5 - 8</b>	<b>Department Convention - Williamsburg</b>
<b>June 19</b>	<b>Youth Committee Meeting—1900</b>
<b>June 22</b>	<b>Welcome Home BBQ for Vietnam Veterans (Vietnam 50th Year Commemoration Event)</b>



Francis Cannon Post 7589

P.O. Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108