

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
May 2015



Post 7589 Scout of the Year Royce Picot (Troop 670) receives his award from Post Commander Ron Link (L) and SVC/Youth Chair Pete MacLeod.

In This Issue:

- Post & District Elections
- Post Paving Project
- Patriotic Art Winner
- Vietnam Wall —These are amazing and heartbreaking facts!
- VFW Action Corps
- VFW Calls New VA Appropriations Bill ‘Bad for Veterans’

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

Post Commander's Report

Ron Link



It has been a busy two months for the Post. The 1st stage of the parking lot has been completed with approximately 60% of it paved and the rest covered with millings. It really makes a difference...no more mud tracked into the building; more room for parking; and the overall enhancement of the Post. Thanks to Rick Raskin, Joe Burns, and Wayne Moore for overseeing this project.

BINGO is really doing well. Attendance is up and so is revenue. We could always use help and the pay is great (*Coffee and Donuts*).

Rentals are going *"through the roof"*, thanks to Wayne and Rick handling this part of the business.

We have started having **"office hours"** at the Post (*or as Paul Chase says "CQ" duty*). It is staffed Monday thru Friday from 1100 to 1300 and 1400 - 1600 on Tuesdays. It's working. We could always use more help so we could expand our hours. Any volunteers who would like to *'stand a watch'*, please contact Rick.

Membership:

We have exceeded the 100% membership goal for the year. However, retention is still a problem and we need your help on this. If you have not renewed for this year...please contact Rick or myself. We will be calling our Comrades who have not renewed to ask them to do so.

The way to go is the **Installment Life Program**. We have about 15 to 20 of our Comrades in this program. Our Post will purchase a **VFW cover** for any member that signs up for a life membership, once the entire balance is paid. The Post will order your cover and present it to you at a membership meeting. (*This is a Post 7589 original*) See Ron or Rick for details.

Upcoming Events

- 6 June Post Anniversary BBQ and Vietnam Veteran's Celebration. It is also the anniversary of D-Day
- 11 - 14 June VFW Department of Virginia Convention in Williamsburg
- 18 - 23 July VFW National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA
- 15 August District Eight Meeting at Post 7589

We hope to see you at the Post BBQ. It is always a good time to meet fellow Comrades. It's always amazing to hear a couple of Comrades tell each other where they served and find out they were in country at the same time and served in sister units. It's a small world.

As always **Essayons**¹

Ron

¹ With the support of professional French Military Engineers, our young Army Corps of Engineers was created during America's War for Independence. Today, that French heritage is still seen within our Engineer Corps. The language of the Engineer - "abatis," "gabions," "fascines" and "pontons" -- has its roots in 18th century France. Even the motto of the American Engineers, "ESSAYONS," is French for "Let us try." <http://www.150th.com/history/essayons.htm>. Ed.

MAY 16
Saturday 1-5 pm

ARMED FORCES DAY

Old Town Manassas Pavilion
 9201 CENTER ST, MANASSAS, VA 20110

LIVE MUSIC
FOOD & FUN!

NOVA VETERANS ASSOCIATION
 NOVAVETS.ORG

COME OUT TO CELEBRATE AND HONOR OUR MILITARY COMMUNITY & The Launch of Your Northern Virginia Veterans Association!

Ladies Auxiliary President's Report

Mary Corkhill



The members of VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7589 would like to thank the students for participating in the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest again this year. I'm very happy to announce the winner, Ms. Lily O'Keefe, a senior from Osbourn Park High School for her first place entry. Her artwork has been forwarded to the Department Scholarship Chairman for judging. The winners at the Department level will have their artwork forwarded to VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, MO to compete with the first place winners from the other 50 Departments. **CONGRATULATIONS** to Ms. O'Keefe and we wish her the best of luck at the Department level.

Elections for 2015-2016 Officers were held during our April meeting. At the May 4th monthly meeting, the 8th District President, Sheila Hunter will install the 7589 Officers and after the June Convention they will take their new positions. Your new Ladies Auxiliary Officers are:

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

Congratulations also go out to the new 8th District Officers for the 2015-2016 Auxiliary year. President Sheila Hunter has been re-elected for another term. The next District meeting will be held Saturday, August 15, 2015 at 1:00pm at Manassas Post 7589. We will be hosting the event so **Please** come and show your support.

Please come and join us for our annual Spring Yard Sale on May 16th from 7am-2pm. We are taking donations now until Friday, May 15th from 4-8pm. If you would like for someone to pick up your donation, please call me at 703/361-8950. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Our Memorial Day weekend Buddy Poppy drive will be on Friday, May 22nd from 9am-2pm at Giant in the Wellington Shopping Center. Please contact me before May 21st to let me know what time you will be able to assist during this drive. Remember the funds raised will go toward assisting our Veterans and/or

their families. Contact me at mcorkhill@comcast.net or 703-361-8950.

The Department Convention will be June 11th -14th in Williamsburg, VA at the Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center. This annual year-end event is held to celebrate the achievements of Posts & Auxiliaries by accepting awards for the 2014-15 year. There are some important changes in the convention agenda this year. The installation for Department Officers will be on **Saturday, June 13th** and there **will not be a banquet**. The scheduled agenda for the convention will include a Joint Opening Session & Memorial service, Thursday night awards, President's luncheon, an early bird parade for membership, a Chairman/program fair and the installation of Department 2015-2016 Officers. There are two candidates running for Department Guard. They need your support.

I have been telling you for the past few months about the National Home for Children. They 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** so they can purchase a new bus. We are very happy to receive the labels from the public. Please bring them to the Post. Thank you in advance.

Please keep Dana Zank (informed she has cancer), Diane Zalenski (very sick for 3 weeks) and Department Conductress Linda Bond (surgery on April 11th) in your prayers and any individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized. If you know of anyone who needs some assistance, please let us know. We truly care.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill

Ladies Auxiliary President



Youth News and Notes

Pete MacLeod—Youth Committee Chair



A big congratulations to Cadet Jessica Harris, a Junior at Osbourn High School in Manassas. She will receive the VFW Bronze JROTC Medal at a Change of Command and Awards Assembly at 1800 Hours (6:00 pm) on May 11 in the Osbourn Park High School Auditorium. Representatives from sponsoring Post 7589 will be present. According to Senior Naval Science Instructor James Ogawa of the Navy Junior ROTC unit at Osbourn Park, Cadet Harris is a cross-enrolled student from Osbourn HS and has made the time to enroll in the Navy program at Osbourn Park HS because her high school has no such program. She is an athlete at Osbourn as a member of the Girls Track and Field team and as a Varsity Cheerleader which today means being proficient in Gymnastics. Mr. Ogawa says this young woman has “impeccable character and integrity.” We are proud to present her with this year’s VFW JROTC award.

VFW Post 7589 headquarters was the scene in April of work by 8th graders from All Saints School in Manassas who are producing a Vietnam War project. The students have been interviewing members of Post 7589 who are Vietnam veterans. And the questions have been good and challenging too! Like “if you had it to do over again, would you serve over there?” Or, “What was your proudest moment in Vietnam?” “Did you make friends with any of the Vietnamese people while you were there?” One of the students had a paper with 25 neatly typed questions. A big thank you to Post 7589 Chaplain Joel Chase for helping me out with this project and Joel’s story of being wounded should be heard by everyone. And thanks to the 3 All Saints students who represented their school very well: Vincent Dibisceglie, Noah Hackerson and Noah Roussel.

A change is coming to the VFW Teacher of the Year competition in the next school year. Details are available at www.vfw.org, the national website, but basically the deadline for the teacher entries has now been moved to Feb. 15 while the student essay

competition will keep its November 1 deadline. This means we may have to have separate award ceremonies for the teachers and students at both the local and district level. I have mixed feelings about it: It will ease some of the deadline pressure in a busy November but it was always fun having the winning teachers and their families together with the student winners. If you want details, or want to print out an application for any of the contests, you can go to the national website and click on “Community” and then click on “Youth and Education.”

Now is the time to let us know about Middle Schools or High Schools that should be included in our essay competition in the Fall. And if projects with young people interest you, please come to our Thursday, May 21 Youth Committee meeting which gets underway at 1900 hours (7:00 pm) at the Post. The Youth Committee is made up of members of the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary.

Pete MacLeod, Youth Chair



Post 7589 Chaplain Joel Chase speaks about his Vietnam service with 8th grader Vincent Dibisceglie and his father.

2015—16 Essay Topics

Patriot’s Pen (Grades 6-8)

“What Freedom Means to Me”

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9–12)

“My Vision for America”

Notes from the trenches

Paul Chase



From knowledge comes power and action. In this article I will try to present what I have learned about "Sequestration" and what it will mean to veterans. It is complicated but I will try to present in understandable terms.

Sequestration came about by a Congressional Debt Ceiling Compromise called the Budget Control Act of 2011. It went partially into effect and then was halted for a period. It is scheduled to take full effect in the fall of 2015 unless it is amended. It calls for drastic cuts in Federal spending, especially the Department of Defense.

The General Accountability Office has indicated it is not necessary to implement it this fall. Congressional leaders are adamant they will not amend it. All the armed service chiefs say it will result in drastic manpower and equipment cuts. The Department of Veterans Affairs has been exempted, but veterans will still be negatively effected. Housing and Urban Development funding for homeless veterans will be gutted. Funding through the Department of Labor for job transition training for separating veterans will be gutted.

For too long our national leaders have lacked any serious budget discipline and have passed debt to following generations. I just read in the Washington Post that one of the costly "add-ons" to the F-35 airplane is to give it capability to deliver nuclear weapons. DOD is going broke over the costs of the F-35 which is way over schedule, far over budget and has serious performance problems. Giving it nuclear delivery capability is waste bordering on the criminal. We currently have unmanned Air Launched Cruise Missiles, Surface Launched Cruise Missiles and Undersea Launched Cruise Missiles all to the best of my knowledge with nuclear capability; so WHY DO WE NEED TO SPEND MILLIONS TO GIVE A MANNED FIGHTER NUCLEAR DELIVERY CAPABILITY?

DOD recently gave the Rand Corporation a research contract to determine whether cutting the commissary benefit would effect commissary use-age. Did DOD REALLY NEED TO SPEND MONEY TO DETERMINE USE-AGE WOULD ALL BUT DISAPPEAR?

Funding for the IRS is cut so the rich and famous and corporations can avoid their obligation to pay appropriate taxes. Funding has been cut for fraud investigators to root out Medicaid/Medicare abuse by lawyers, doctors and pharmaceutical companies and ineligible individuals. The list goes on and on.

Here is a list of what veterans can expect from sequestration:

1. The military commissary discount will be eliminated.

2. Military medical care will be slashed.
3. Thousands of dedicated service members who have endured multiple deployments will be involuntarily separated short of retirement to meet mandated force reduction levels.
4. The remaining active duty members will be deployed even more.
5. More veterans will be coming to the VFW for assistance.

So what can and should we do?

1. Pass on to the VFW National leaders our concerns.
2. Contact our elected representatives and express our outrage.
3. Go to the media with instances of government fraud and waste.
4. Vote for the kind of individuals who will fight fraud, waste, bloat and have the best interests at heart for those who have served our country so honorably.

Mary Corkhill



Post 7589 is blessed with leaders of exceptional dedication and abilities. One of these leaders is Mary Corkhill, President of the Post Ladies Auxiliary.

Mary became eligible as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW by virtue of her late husband, Thomas Corkhill from Janesville, Wisconsin who was a Vietnam Veteran. After twelve years in the Air Force he ended his military career and took a job with DOD until his passing in July 1992. She became a member of the Ladies Auxiliary Post 1503 in 1998 in Dale City and held multiple positions there. She transferred to Post 7589 in February 2010 and has been President of the Ladies Auxiliary there since 2011.

Mary has also been Senior Vice President at the 8th District and has also held multiple positions at the Department Level. She has been a tireless and effective fund raiser through the Buddy Poppy program and a dedicated weekly Post Bingo staffer and is also active in the Junior Girl's and Family support programs.

Mary comes from a large family of veterans. Her father was a WW II veteran, two of her seven brothers are veterans and her father-in-law was at Pearl Harbor when it was bombed by the Japanese. She has two sons one of who served in Desert Storm in the U.S. Air Force.

Her biggest joys are her two grandsons and one granddaughter.

Mary, we honor and treasure your dedication as a leader in Post 7589.

Post & District Elections

Post 7589

At the general membership meeting held April 6 the following comrades were elected for the forthcoming membership year:

Commander	Pete MacLeod
Sr. Vice	Ron Link
Jr. Vice	Ryan Proctor
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Chaplain	Joel Chase
Trustee 3	Steve Meade

The following appointments were made by incoming commander MacLeod:

Adjutant	Paul Chase
Service Officer	Steve Botello
Judge Advocate	Steve Meade
Surgeon	Warren Ewell
OD	Robert Punihaole

Installation of the incoming officer team will be at the general membership meeting on May 4. The new officers will assume their roles immediately following the Department Convention in June.

District 8

At the April 12 District 8 Convention held at Post 2524 in Culpeper, the following comrades were elected:

Commander	Ron Link	(Post 7589, Manassas)
Sr. Vice	Geoff Lyster	(Post 9835, Warrenton)
Jr. Vice	Charles Bush	(Post 3103, Fredericksburg)
Quartermaster	Steve Meade	(Post 7589, Manassas)
Chaplain	Russ Claar	(Post 7728, So. Fauquier)
Surgeon	Stan Hunter	(Post 9835, Warrenton)
Trustee 3	Rick Raskin	(Post 7589, Manassas)

Incoming commander Link made the following appointments:

Adjutant	Jeff Dombroff (Post 9835, Warrenton)
Service Officer	Steve Botello (Post 7589, Manassas)
OD	Robert Chichester (Post 9835, Warrenton)

Post Paving Project

By Joel Chase

The paving of the driveway and parking area is complete. While

the cost of paving the driveway was paid for by Post funds, paving the parking area is NOT and will be paid for from Post member donations. The contractor offered a “no-brainer” discount price for the parking area because the equipment was already in place.

This project has vastly improved the esthetic appearance of our property, enhanced rental value while reducing the wear and tear of the tile floor inside the hall.

Some comrades have already generously stepped up to the plate but many have not. This is not a situation where 5% of the members should pay for this work. We need to have everyone pitch in and make a donation large or small.

A list of contributors will appear in the next issue of Cannon News without mention of amounts donated to the cause.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Please send your donation to:

VFW Post 7589
PO Box 10206
Manassas, VA 20108-0668

An acknowledgement letter will be sent by return mail.
Ed



Post 7589 Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Arts winner Ms. Lily O'Keefe, a senior at Osbourn Park High School.

Vietnam Wall —These are amazing and heartbreaking facts!

Contributed by Gunny Lewis

A little history most people will never know. Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 57 years since the first casualty.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam ..

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam ..

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia.

I wonder why so many from one school?

8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest . And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam . In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.





Review of OIF, OND Chemical Warfare Exposure:

The Army is leading an effort to identify and evaluate service members and veterans who were potentially exposed to chemical weapons during their post-9/11 service in Iraq. The Army will review operational reports, medical records and other data to identify service members and veterans who were potentially exposed, and will contact them for telephone interviews. Veterans who believe they were exposed to chemical weapons during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation New Dawn, but have not been contacted by the Army, can call (800) 497-6261. To learn more, visit: <http://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/envirohealth/em/Pages/CWA.aspx>.

V-E Day 70th Anniversary

A ceremony to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day will be held at the National World War II Memorial in Washington on May 8 at 10:30 a.m. All WWII veterans are invited to attend and be recognized for their service and sacrifice. Representatives from the U.S. and allied nations will be laying wreaths, followed by a multi-aircraft flyover of vintage warbirds. The WWII Memorial has very few disability parking spaces, and street parking will be extremely limited since it's the tourist season and May 8 is a workday. Taxis to the memorial are plentiful and recommended, and the two closest Metro stations, Federal Triangle and Smithsonian, are both about a half-mile away. RSVP your attendance to the ceremony at: <http://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org/v-e-day-70th-anniversary>.

USS Oklahoma Unknowns to be Exhumed

The Department of Defense announced this week that the commingled remains of up to 388 unaccounted for sailors and Marines associated with the USS Oklahoma will be exhumed later this year for analysis that could lead to identifying most of them. On Dec. 7, 1941, 429 sailors and Marines were killed when Japanese torpedoes sank the ship during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Following the attack, 35 crewmembers were positively identified and buried. During salvage operations, the remaining crewmember remains were removed from the ship for eventual reinterment as unknowns in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the Punchbowl. The new disinterment policy applies to unidentified remains from other American cemeteries as well, provided a basic threshold of criteria is met. The policy does not,

however, extend to sailors and Marines lost at sea or to remains entombed in U.S. Navy vessels that serve as national memorials, such as the USS Arizona. Read more at: <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=128585&source=GovDelivery>.

Take the Military Family Survey

Blue Star Families has asked the VFW to help distribute their 2015 Military Family Lifestyle Survey to active-duty, Guard, Reserve and veteran families. The survey is now available online at: <http://bit.ly/2015VFW>. The data collected provides real-time feedback from military families on issues ranging from operations tempo to pay and benefits, stress, caregiving and employment.

VA Expands Choice Program:

VA has heard us loud and clear. You continually told us through surveys and direct inquires that measuring distance "as the crow flies" is not aligned with the realities of traveling to a VA medical center and asked that it be changed. Earlier this year, VFW National Commander John W. Stroud told the President of the United States, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Congress and the American public that the Veterans Choice Program should calculate distance "as the crow drives" not "as the crow flies." The concerns and advocacy of VFW members has led to a significant change, which will give nearly 300,000 veterans the opportunity to choose whether to receive their health care closer to home or travel to the nearest VA medical facility.

[Friday, April 24] VA announced it will change the way distance is calculated for the Veterans Choice Program from straight-line distance to driving distance. The change is effective immediately. The nearly 300,000 veterans affected by this change will receive a letter informing them that they are now eligible. If you believe you are eligible or did not receive a Choice Card in the mail, you can contact 1-866-606-8198 for more information.

This is one of two changes to the 40-mile rule VFW members seek. This change fails to address the travel burden faced by veterans who live within 40 miles (driving distance) of a VA medical facility, but are required to travel more than 40 miles to receive health care. In an opinion editorial to the Wall Street Journal, Commander Stroud wrote "It is absolutely unthinkable to expect any veteran to travel such distances for treatment, especially knowing that non-VA care is readily available much closer to home." The VFW will continue to advocate for the second change to be made. To read more about this change, visit: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2695>.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Read the Commander's OpEd at: <http://www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/2015-Articles/Wall-Street-Journal-OpEd--Unfinished-Repairs-at-Veterans-Affairs/>.

House Committee Holds Hearing on VA Mismanagement

On Wednesday, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing investigating mismanagement allegations at the Philadelphia and Oakland VA Regional Offices. This was a heated hearing with whistleblowers describing their work conditions and alleged VA leadership wrongdoing, and VA officials describing what they are doing to fix the problems. To watch the hearing and read testimony, click here: <http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/philadelphia-and-oakland-systemic-failures-and-mismanagement>.

New Bill Would Expand Caregiver Benefits

On Wednesday [April 22], the VFW was on-hand for a press conference announcing the introduction of the Military and Veterans Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2015. Introduced simultaneously in both the Senate and the House by Senator Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Representative Jim Langevin (D-R.I.), this legislation would greatly enhance the support provided to family caregivers of veterans who were severely disabled in service. Currently, VA provides financial assistance, medical training, health care and other services to caregivers of severely injured Post-9/11 veterans. The Military and Veterans Caregiver

Services Improvement Act would greatly enhance this program by providing the same benefits to caregivers of severely disabled veterans of all eras, as well as by improving the current program in several ways. The VFW strongly supports the bill, believing that severely wounded veterans of all conflicts have made incredible sacrifices and that the family members who care for them are equally deserving of recognition and support. To learn more about the bill, visit Senator Murray's website by clicking here: <http://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/newsreleases?ID=60ae38cb-4368-4fd8-85a0-df335bcd25b1>.

Purple Heart Benefits

Now that Congress changed the law to expand Purple Heart eligibility to those wounded or killed in attacks motivated by foreign terrorist organizations, the Army announced it will extend all possible benefits to the military victims of the 2009 shooting at Fort Hood, Texas and outside a recruiting station in Little Rock, Ark. Among the benefits is payment of hostile fire pay for those Purple Heart recipients "killed, injured or wounded" in the attack, as well as combat-related special compensation for retired soldiers whose disability is attributable to an injury for which they were awarded the medal.

As always, we want to share your advocacy stories on the VFW Capitol Hill blog. To share your stories, either fill out our online form by clicking here: <http://www.vfw.org/Forms/Capitol-Hill-Blog-Submissions/>, or simply email photos and stories directly to vfwac@vfw.org.

To sign up new veterans' advocates, click here: <http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>.

VFW Calls New VA Appropriations Bill 'Bad for Veterans'

WASHINGTON (April 28, 2015) — The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States said the U.S. House of Representatives is set to penalize disabled veterans this week if it votes to reduce the Department of Veterans Affairs budget request by more than \$1.5 billion.

"The nationwide crisis in care and confidence that erupted in the VA last year was caused in many ways by a lack of adequate resourcing that only Congress is authorized to provide," said John W. Stroud, who leads the 1.9 million-member VFW and its Auxiliaries. "That's why the VFW is demanding that the House amend this bill to appropriate a funding level that fully funds VA."

In its current form, the fiscal year 2016 Military Construction and

Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill makes across-the-board cuts to all VA discretionary accounts, and drastically underfunds medical care, major construction and Information Technology accounts. Stroud said across-the-board cuts to discretionary spending is what Congress created back in 2011, but by another name, sequestration. Now the House wants to impose its own sequester on a federal department whose sole mission is to care for wounded, ill and injured veterans.

"The VA cannot fulfill its mission without proper funding, but the House for whatever reason now wants to ration care, eliminate infrastructure projects, and stop improving upon the programs and services that the VA was created to provide," said the VFW national commander. "This bill is bad for veterans and any vote for it is unconscionable, which is why we want veterans and advocates everywhere to get involved by urging their elected officials to fully fund the VA."

Make your voices heard [here](#).



Support
Hal Roesch
in his campaign for
National Junior Vice Commander in Chief

By purchasing a ticket to win this beautiful Henry 22 Long Rifle.
Tickets are just \$5.00 and there are only 1000 tickets.

Tickets will be available at the Post meeting on May 4th.

From the beaches of Normandy, the snowfall of Korea and the jungles of Vietnam to the sands of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan, America's servicemen and servicewomen have led the charge in the fight to preserve freedom around the world. To honor those heroic marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen who sacrificed their lives in service to our country and to show our appreciation to all who answer the call of duty to preserve our liberty, we are proud to offer this commemorative Henry Golden Boy Military Service Tribute Edition of our legendary Golden Boy rifle.



MARBA - Manassas Airport Regional Business Alliance PRESENTS the

2015 MANASSAS AIRSHOW



50th Anniversary
Celebrating 50 years of flight excellence



SATURDAY MAY 2nd 10-4pm

FREE ADMISSION
Donations Accepted at the Gate

MANASSAS REGIONAL AIRPORT

For more information visit
ManassasAirshow.com




Experience HISTORY



Manassas, VA ★ **May 9-13, 2015** ★ Manassas Regional Airport

Join us for an unforgettable experience aboard one of the few remaining airworthy B-17s in the world. Visit B17.org or call 800-359-6217 for more information and to reserve your flight.

EAA Members: \$409 **Non-Members: \$449**
(Includes a FREE 1-year EAA Membership)

All THREE big WWII bombers – B-17, B-24, and B-29 – from the May 8 DC Flyover will be open for flights and tours at Manassas from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Saturday through Wednesday, May 9-13, 2015! Daily admission of \$15 for adults, \$5 for students 6-17 (kids under 6 are free!) includes cockpit tours of ALL THREE bombers during their non-flying hours.

The above prices are for advance bookings only. A 2 day payment plan is available. Flights purchased on site are \$400 for EAA members and \$475 for Non-members. Outside the 17 hour location, the discounted price is no longer available for that time.

© 2014 Experimental Aircraft Association, Inc. "Keep 'em Flying" - Revenues from the B-17 tour help cover maintenance and operations costs for Albatross Overcast.

Hosted by EAA Chapter 186 

**VA DVS AGENT SERVICE
AT POST 7589**

**2nd & 4th Thursdays
0900- 1500**

You may also visit the Fairfax office.

**11198 Lee Hwy., Ste. D4
Fairfax, VA 22030**

703-359-1210

VFW Hall



- Available for:**
- Baby Showers
 - Birthday Parties
 - Business Meetings
 - Family Reunions
 - Wedding Receptions



Public Rental Rates
\$200.00 for the 1st two hours
\$ 75.00 for each additional hour
*Friday & Saturday Nights minimum
 Rental is 4 hours for \$400.00*

SPECIAL RATES FOR POST 7589 & AUXILIARY 7589 MEMBERS
 Contact: Wayne Moore 571-285-7904
 Visit our website: www.vfw7589.org

Upcoming Events

- May 2** **2015 Manassas Airshow — Manassas Airport — 1000—1600**
- May 4** **General Membership Meeting — 1930**
- May 16** **Armed Forces Day Celebration — Harris Pavilion, Manassas — 1300—1700**
- May 22—25** **Memorial Day Weekend Activities**
22: Poppies at Centreville Giant
23: Poppies at Tractor Supply
24: Poppies at Woodbine Food Lion
25: Ceremony at Manassas Veterans Memorial (0830) Flag Placement at Manassas Cemetery (0900)
- June 1** **General Membership Meeting — 1930**
- June 6** **Post Anniversary BBQ and Vietnam Veteran's Celebration**
- June 11—14** **VFW Department of Virginia Convention — Williamsburg, VA**
- July 6** **General Membership Meeting — 1930**
- July 18—22** **VFW National Convention — Pittsburgh, PA**



CANNON NEWS

The official publication of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US
Francis Cannon Post No. 7589
P.O. Box 10206
Manassas, VA 20108-0668

Please visit our website at www.vfw7589.org

Editor: Rick Raskin
Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to gm7589@verizon.net
Please send photos as attachments and not imbedded in your article.
We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.