

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
May 2018



Photo courtesy Mission BBQ

April 12: Post 7589 and Auxiliary presented a plaque and photo to Mission BBQ of Gainesville thanking them for their support of veterans in our community.

## *Post exceeds 100% membership goal!*

### *In This Issue:*

- Post and Auxiliary elections May 7
- Scout of the Year and Patriotic Arts winner
- VFW's 2018 POW/MIA Fact-Finding Trip
- Free tickets for the ballet "Colin: Son, Marine, Hero"
- Free chow at Mission BBQ
- Armed Services Arts Partnership
- No-talk phone scams

### Membership Statistics as of April 28, 2018

Last Year	Current	%
409	414	101.22

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

## Post Elections & Installation of 2018-19 Officers on May 7

The Post will hold elections for 2018-19 officers at the membership meeting on May 7, 2018. Nominations remain open until the election and any member in good standing may self nominate if so desired. The following comrades were nominated for office at the April meeting:

Commander	<b>Wayne Moore</b>
Sr. Vice Cdr.	<b>Ron Link</b>
Jr. Vice Cdr.	<b>Lou Filippone</b>
Quartermaster	<b>Rick Raskin</b>
Chaplain	<b>OPEN</b>
Trustee 3	<b>Mary Bohito</b>
Trustee 2	<b>Pete MacLeod</b>

Joel Chase was nominated for Chaplain but has withdrawn because he will be moving to Illinois. Ron Knowles has agreed to run for the office.

Following the election the newly elected officers will be installed in accordance with National By-Laws.

## Post 7589's Scout of the Year



Photo by Rick Raskin

Post 7589's 1st place Scout of the year Marcel Kaid with his parents and Youth Committee Chair Lou Filippone at our award ceremony on April 2.

## Auxiliary 7589 Patriotic Art Contest winner for 2017-18

**1<sup>st</sup> Place - Catherine Henebery (18)  
Grade 12, Seton School, Manassas, VA**



### Brothers in Arms

“There is no greater act of love than to lay down your life for another.” Soldiers know that they live by this. These brave servicemen and women not only lay their lives down for their country, but for each other. Every soldier who fights for our country serves a vital role in keeping it safe, but sometimes these men and women reach a point where they find it hard to continue fighting. The soldier on the right has reached this threshold. He is in despair. Is it due to the loss of a friend or the traumatic stress of combat? To the soldier on the left, the reason does not matter. His brother is suffering. He holds back his own hurts temporarily to comfort his friend. The two soldiers are in black and white to reflect the despair and loss. The flag is colored to show how these sacrifices buy our freedom.



## Commander's Message



**Peter MacLeod**

Since I was a schoolboy, May has always meant "Memorial Day." I grew up in a very patriotic family and school. My father was a World War II Army Combat Engineer and, as a young 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, a recipient of the Bronze Star for supervising the building

of a bridge in the jungles of New Guinea while under enemy fire. I grew up in Marlborough, Massachusetts, a blue collar city, famous for its many shoe factories. The city had long honor rolls of those who died, or were missing, while fighting for their country going back to the Revolutionary War when the city sent a contingent of volunteers to Concord and Lexington. The honor rolls were placed right in front of City Hall and I looked at them for years. I attended Bigelow Elementary School (K-8) and our principal, Miss Loftus, led patriotic assemblies all year long, but Memorial Day was always special.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades at the school would walk the short distance to the downtown section of Marlborough, read speeches and sing songs at the "Grand Army of the Republic" monument dedicated to the city's Civil War dead. It always seemed to be warm and humid after a long, long, cold winter. A few years after these school days, the Vietnam War increased in intensity. About 30 miles away the anti-war movement took over Boston and Cambridge but Marlborough might as well have been on another planet. The city continued its tradition and sent more than its share of young men to fight in Southeast Asia, including me. I was lucky but I lost several high school friends to the Vietnam War including a teammate on the high school track team and a guy from the neighborhood that I spent years playing baseball with.

Memorial Day began as "Decoration Day," on May 30, 1868, just three years after the end of the Civil War, the bloodiest of all America's wars. The truth was that so many men had been killed and injured that there was hardly a family, North or South, that had not been touched by death. The holiday was first observed to decorate graves of the Union fallen with flowers,

wreaths and flags. General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic issued a proclamation that the holiday would commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers. Today, Memorial Day is observed to remember those men and women who died while serving in the armed forces of the United States.

For years Memorial Day was observed on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May no matter what day of the week it would fall on. But in the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1971, Congress ordered it to be observed on the last Monday in May. The PBS website brings us back to the 1800's to mention that Ohio Congressman James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery during that first nationally observed Decoration Day paying tribute to the 20,000 Union and Confederate bodies that were buried there from the Civil War. After the speech, PBS says that more than 5,000 people fanned out across the cemetery to decorate each grave.

Here is part of what Congressman Garfield said that likely was the inspiration to decorate each grave:

*"We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."*

Think of those words as we and the Scouts place flags on the graves of veterans in the Manassas Cemetery on May 28. Try and be there and be part of the local tribute to the fallen.

Just as Arlington was part of Decoration Day in 1868, it is very much a part of today's holiday. Each year Memorial Day is celebrated at the cemetery with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each and every grave. Traditionally the President or Vice President lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Several thousand people attend the ceremony each year.

This Memorial Day you will also have a chance to pay tribute to a group of veterans (mostly World War Two and Korea) at Caton Merchant House assisted living cen-

ter in Manassas. Our Post will be conducting a special ceremony there at 1:30 PM on May 28, Memorial Day. Please attend and help us honor these special men and women.

I want to thank Trustee and Junior Vice Commander-elect Lou Filippone for being the driving force behind Post 7589's successful effort in reaching 100% Membership this Spring. Filippone, the chair of the Membership Committee, drove us all over the finish line with phone nights and on site recruiting. His enthusiasm and hard work put us over the top. Thanks to Rod Burr, Charlie Montgomery, Commander-elect Wayne Moore and the Post 7589 Quartermaster Rick Raskin for being part of the effort.

**2019 Youth Essay Themes**

Voice of Democracy:  
**"Why My Vote Matters"**

Patriot's Pen:  
**"Why I Honor the American Flag."**

## District 8 elects officers for 2018-19



Pete MacLeod

District 8 officers for the 2018-19 year were elected and installed at the April 22 District Convention in Culpeper. Commander—Geoff Lyster (9835), SVC—Charles Bush (3103), JVC— Monte Zimmerman (1811), Quartermaster—Ron Link (7589), Chaplain—Wayne Robinson (7728), Surgeon—Todd Taylor (3103), 2 Year Trustee—Dave Mattingly, 3 Year Trustee Tai Mamea (3103) and Adjutant—Jeff Dumbroff (9835). State JVC Rick Raskin performed the installation ceremony.

## Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill

What a year it has been for the VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest winners. Again, we were honored to have as our first place recipient Ms. Catherine Henebery, (18), 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, second place went to Ms. Regina Terrieri (18), Grade 12, third to Ms. Kathryn Dealey (15) Grade 10, and Honorable Mention to Ms. Rosie Hall (18) Grade 12. All the winners attend Seton School. There were 27 entries this year from 2 different schools. We **CONGRATULATED** all twenty-seven students for their participation. The first place recipient's art work was forwarded to compete at the Department level. We wish her the best of luck.

Every April the Auxiliary holds elections for their new officers. They will be installed before our May 7<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting by the installing officer, PDP Cathy Graham. The 2018-19 Auxiliary 7589 officers are: President - Mary Corkhill, Sr. Vice President - Janet Raskin, Jr. Vice President - Cindy McIntyre, Secretary - Ann Mitchell, Treasurer - Elanor Doczi, Chaplain - Carol Cullen, Conductress - Debbie Baxter, Guard - Patsy Gough, Trustee 1 - Jan Germain, Trustee 2 - Yvonne Sullivan, Trustee 3 - Janet Raskin, Patriotic Instructor - Diane Zalenski and Historian - Patsy Gough & Dana Zank (Book). After the Department's June convention the new officers will take their positions.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the 8th District held its elections for the 2018-2019 Officers. President Sheila Hunter was re-elected for another term. Congratulations. We wish success to her and her officers for

the coming year.



For anyone who wishes to participate in making the Buddy Poppy display, we will be meeting at Elanor's house on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at noon. Please give me a call if you would like to assist in this project.

Our Memorial Day weekend Buddy Poppy drive has been scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm for both days at the Giant in Centreville. Just a reminder that the funds raised will go towards assisting our Veterans and/or their families. Contact me at mcorkhill@comcast.net or 703-361-8950 if you would like to assist us with this drive.

The Post will celebrate its 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. They are planning a BBQ and need assistance in setting up the room and providing food for the event. If you can assist in any way, please call the Post at 703/361-5554 and leave a message.

The Department Convention will be held at Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel in Portsmouth, VA on June 13-17, 2018. Please make your reservations directly to the hotel at 757/673-3000. Room rate (Single/Double) is \$125.00 + tax. Deadline for reservations is May 14, 2018. CHECK-IN TIME is 4:00 pm. Everyone looks forward to this annual Department year-end event. It celebrates the achievements of both the Posts & Auxiliaries by presenting awards for the 2017-18 year. There will be a reception/dance from 6-10pm for all members attending the convention. A special note: Vicki Butler is a candidate running for Department Guard. She needs your support.

Now is the time to make your reservation for the National Convention in Kansas City, MO from July 21-25, 2018. The National Sr. Vice, Sandi Kriebel (from Maryland), will be installed as the new 2018-19 National President at the end of the convention. We are looking forward to her leadership.

Sandi Kriebel's Homecoming Celebration will be September 6-9, 2018 at The Hotel at Arundel Preserve, 7795 Arundel Mills Blvd, Hanover, MD. Please come and participate in fellowship and fun.

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) will be held at Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, PA on Saturday, September 8, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

All year, we have been collecting coupons for our veterans overseas. We wish to "Thank You" for your donations. At this time, we have collected \$76,536.75. We have surpassed our amount from last year's \$31,232.73. Thank you so much for the support.

Auxiliary Guard, Patsy Gough, had knee replacement surgery on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Please keep her and other individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers. If you know of anyone who needs some assistance, please let us know. We truly care.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill  
VFW Auxiliary President



## Youth News & Notes



**Lou Filippone**

Greetings to all of you from the Youth Committee. There was a lot of activity for us in April. The Scout of the Year first place winner, Eagle Scout Marcel Kaid from Bristow, VA, was presented with his certificate and award at the

general membership meeting on 2 April 2018. Scout Kaid also placed third at the District 8 Scout of the Year judging. Our second place winner was Eagle Scout Howard Malc, from Oakton, VA, who received his certificate and award on Saturday, 14 April 2018. Both Scouts have quite a list of accomplishments and are examples of great American youth providing our country with a bright and promising future.

The Patriotic Art Contest was judged at the general membership meeting on 2 April 2018. The contest was conducted by Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and the Auxiliary. There were numerous entries and they were all quite impressive, with some incredible artistic talents on display. The judging was done by the VFW membership in attendance that evening. The Patriotic Art Contest winners were as follows: First place was Catherine Henebery, second place was Regina Terreri, third place was Kathryn Dealey and honorable mention was Rosie Hall. All the winners are from Seton School. The first place was forwarded to the Department for judging. We should find out the final results in June at the convention.

Post 7589 held its latest flag retirement ceremony on Saturday, 14 April 2018 at 9AM. Scouts were present from six different Scout units. Boy Scout units in attendance were Troop 1865 from Fairfax, Troop 30 from Centreville, and Troop 670 from Manassas. Girl Scouts present were from Troop 3630 in Centreville. Cub Scouts were also present from Pack 127 in Centreville and Pack 1355 in Manassas. Life Scout Marshal Williams conducted the Flag Education class which lasted approximately one hour and did a fantastic job. Marshal is the son of Comrade Kelly Williams and Auxiliary member Donna Williams from our Post. The actual flag retirement began at about 10 AM and lasted for about 30 minutes. Ashes from the flags were buried after the ceremony. As usual,

the police department and fire department were alerted in advance about our ceremony. Approximately 36 Scouts were in attendance and the flag retirement ceremony was a big success. Most importantly, Scouts learned about the proper handling, display, and retirement of the American flag. It was done safely and professionally and, I am proud to say, without any incidents, fires or injuries. I would like to thank the following members of our Post and Auxiliary for participating in the ceremony: Commander Peter Macleod, Quartermaster Rick Raskin, Junior Vice Wayne Moore, Comrade Terry Bursey and, from the Auxiliary, President Mary Corkhill, Senior Vice President Janet Raskin, and Auxiliary member Jean Macleod.

[See pictures on page 6]

Post 7589 will present VFW Junior ROTC Cadet awards to the winning Cadets at the following high schools on the following dates:

- Battlefield High School, in Haymarket, VA, on Monday, 30 April 2018 at 6 PM. The award recipient is Cadet Colonel Sydney King.
- Osbourn Park High School, in Manassas, VA, on Thursday, 3 May 2018 at 6PM. The award recipient is Cadet Colonel Christopher Dougherty.
- Stonewall Jackson High School, in Manassas, VA, on Tuesday, 15 May 2018 at 2:30PM. The name of the award recipient is not yet available.

We will also be presenting a VFW award to the winning Cadet with the Civil Air Patrol in Manassas sometime in June of this year.

We are currently planning our 2018 Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year programs and will be contacting area schools very shortly. Historically, we wait until the end of summer to do this but feel we will have better exposure and participation if we make contact earlier in the year. More to come on these programs in the upcoming months.

Lastly, the World War I Centennial Education Program is currently being formulated. As previously stated, it will be implemented during the Veterans Day week activities with our speakers program in the local schools.

Our next Youth Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 17 May 2018 at 7 PM. All VFW members interested in instilling patriotism and Americanism in our

youth are invited to join us at this meeting. Your attendance and participation will be greatly appreciated and will be quite rewarding as you help promote our values with our next generation. We wish you good health and hope to see you at the next meeting.

With best regards,  
Lou Filippone,  
Youth Committee Chair

## Membership Committee Report

Greetings to all Comrades. We were quite busy this month for membership with our 30 April deadline to reach 100%. Commander Peter Macleod, Quartermaster Rick Raskin, Comrade Rod Burr, and myself met on Wednesday, 11 April and Wednesday, 18 April for purposes of contacting members for renewal of their memberships. In addition to these scheduled call nights individual members also made calls during the week on their own time. I am proud to say we made 100% by Friday, 20 April 2018 and at this time are well above our goal. This qualifies us for All State and for a cash award to our Post at the Department convention in June in Portsmouth. District 8 also attained 100% during this period.

We also had a very successful recruitment at the Nation's Gun Show at the Dulles Expo Center over the weekend of 20 - 22 April 2018. We signed up, renewed, and transferred over 36 members for the VFW. It was a great event for us.

Upcoming events for membership include our Buddy Poppy Drives on Memorial Day Weekend, the local Manassas Car Show at the Burger King in May, and possibly some events at Cabela's and Mission Barbeque in Gainesville.

One final thought: I am currently looking into the Student Veterans Association at the Manassas NOVA campus for possible recruitment. Information about these events will be released as they become available. Anyone interested in participating in our membership activities please speak to me personally. We would greatly appreciate all your participation.

With best regards,  
Lou Filippone,  
Membership Committee Chair



April 14: Flag education and retirement at the Post



Scouts from Troops 670 of Manassas, 30 and 1865 of Centerville



Marshal Williams conducts flag education



Proper flag etiquette with Marshal Williams and Eagle Scout Howard Malc from Troop 1865



Flag Retirement with Boy Scout Troops 670, 30, 1865, Girl Scout Troop 3630 Centerville, Cub Scout Packs 1355 and 127



# From the



## Grave Robber Historian Sentenced

The VFW was one of only two organizations invited by the federal government to speak at the sentencing hearing of Antonin DeHays, a French historian and archivist, who over a five-year period sold more than 430 World War II items he had stolen from the National Archives. Representing the other organization — the National Archives — was Archivist of the United States David Ferriero. Stolen were 297 dog tags and 136 other items, to include ID cards, a Bible, photos and personal letters. The items were originally obtained from the bodies of dead or captured Americans, mostly as the result of military aircraft crashes in Nazi-held territory. The Germans kept meticulous records, which were later seized by the Allies after the war. On Monday, U.S. District Court Judge Theodore Chuang in Maryland sentenced DeHays to 364 days in prison for the theft of government records and ordered him to pay more than \$43,000 in restitution to the unwitting buyers who purchased the stolen goods. Said VFW spokesman Joe Davis, “DeHays isn’t just a thief, he’s a grave robber who abused the professional courtesies extended to fellow historians as a means to steal for personal gain.” About 95 percent of the stolen items have been recovered so far.

## VFW-supported Bill to Expand Commissary Access Introduced

Representatives Daniel Lipinski, D-Ill., and Walter Jones, R-N.C., introduced H.R. 5467, the *Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018*, which is endorsed by the VFW and would allow veterans with a service-connected disability, Medal of Honor recipients, veterans formerly held as prisoners of war, and veteran caregivers to use commissaries and MWR programs.

## VFW-supported Bill to Improve Transition Assistance Program

Congressman Don Bacon, Neb., 2, introduced H.R. 5553 to improve DOD’s process to prepare service members transitioning to civilian life. The VFW-endorsed bill focuses on veteran homelessness, unemployment and suicide prevention for transitioning service members. The VFW has worked with VFW member Ryan Loya and VFW Auxiliary member Katherine Kostreva to advocate for this legislation. The VFW encourages grassroots efforts of veterans helping veterans as a way to continue serving after leaving military service.

## DHA MSO/VSO Working Group

The VFW participated in the monthly Defense Health Agency (DHA) MSO/VSO Working Group led by DHA Deputy Director Guy Kiyokawa. The meeting provided updates on service treatment record processing and modernization, TRICARE imple-

mentation, and upcoming changes to the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program which is set to end on Dec. 31, 2018. Also discussed was the importance of ensuring that beneficiaries who pay their premiums and fees by credit card have contacted their new regional contractor to ensure that their payment information is correct. Beneficiaries who fail to authorize or update their payment information with their new TRICARE contractor before May 31, 2018, will lose coverage and must wait a full year to re-enroll. As of March, there were still approximately 44,000 beneficiaries who have failed to update their payment information. If you are unsure of your current payment authorization status, please contact your regional TRICARE contractor at: <https://tricare.mil/ContactUs/CallUs/TROs>

## Search for New VA Secretary Continue

The nominee to become the next secretary of Veterans Affairs, Rear Adm. Ronny Jackson, withdrew his name from consideration yesterday. VFW Executive Director Bob Wallace said whoever is selected next to lead the department must be a proven and effective leader with management experience, someone who will hold themselves as well as their staff accountable for their actions. “There are many challenges facing VA today, as well as great opportunities to further enhance the health care and benefits our nation’s veterans have earned,” he said. “The VFW looks forward to discussing issues and opportunities with the new nominee, who must be ready to meet those challenges on day one. We also hope for a swift and bi-partisan confirmation process,” he said. “Once confirmed, the VFW looks forward to working with him or her to ensure VA remains the gold standard for veterans health care and the delivery of benefits. Our nation’s veterans deserve and will accept nothing less.”

## VFW Testifies on VA Life Insurance Programs

The VFW testified before the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs with regard to four life insurance programs managed by VA. VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Ken Wiseman offered the VFW’s recommendations to improve Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI), the SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection Program, Veterans Group Life Insurance, and Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance by expanding enrollment periods, increasing coverage amounts and protecting those who use the programs. The consensus of the committee members is that transitioning service members likely do not have life insurance on their minds when leaving military service, so longer enrollment periods and better information on available programs may help veterans make this important decision about getting coverage.





VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** National Officers, National Council of Administration, Department Commanders, Department Senior Vice and Junior Vice Commanders, Department Adjutants, and Past Commanders-in-Chief

**FROM:** BJ Lawrence, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

**DATE:** April 12, 2018

**RE:** 2018 POW/MIA Fact-Finding Trip

### Overview

On March 10, 2018, I departed on a fact-finding trip to Hawaii, Thailand, Vietnam and China with Bob Wallace, Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office. The purpose of the trip was to observe and obtain firsthand knowledge of POW/MIA search and recovery operations to help determine the fate of missing and unaccounted-for American servicemembers and civilians from the Vietnam War. We returned to CONUS on March 25, 2018.

### Hawaii

We started our trip by visiting the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's West Headquarters at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. This is the operational part of DPAA, and we were hosted by the DPAA Deputy Director, Navy Rear Adm. Jon Kreitz, and his staff, who provided us a detailed briefing and tour of their facility. I was most impressed by the size and capabilities of the forensic lab that identifies the remains of our missing.

America has 83,000 missing and unaccounted-for service members and civilians going back to World War II. Only 35,000 may be recoverable due to overwater losses, catastrophic explosions and aircraft simply disappearing off the radar scope. U.S. Pacific Command's area of operations accounts for 75 percent of the total missing.

The uncertain budget situation our military and the nation has faced has limited the operations of DPAA. This, coupled with the challenges of changing terrain, aging witnesses and circumstances of loss impacts their operations significantly.

DPAA is using more advanced technology and is expanding its public-private partnerships to increase operations, while always maintaining strict scientific standards. These partnerships are proving cost effective, productive and reliable.

Prior to departing DPAA, we arranged for VFW Programs to work with a local VFW Post to distribute \$75 gift cards to select recovery team members when they redeploy back to Hawaii. DPAA will set up a program to reward outstanding performers. We will begin with \$1,500 in gift cards and see how the program progresses. For more information on DPAA, go to <http://www.dpaa.mil/>.

The following day we visited with the commander of U. S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, Lt. Gen. David H. Berger, along with his senior leaders at Camp H.M. Smith. The command is always preparing Marines for the next fight, yet unpredictable funding is always a great concern because of its impact on combat readiness and training, and the civilian workforce, who are a vital part of the total team. We also discussed the impact of North Korea and China on MARFORPAC's mission, as well as relocating Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

We were given a command briefing on quality of life programs and once again the need for predictable funding was stressed, as were the challenges families face when their loved ones deploy, as well as mental health. We then had lunch with base leadership and had the opportunity to hear firsthand their concerns and challenges.

Our last visit of the day was to Kansas Tower, which allowed us to learn more about the installation from an elevated view. All the leaders we met were combat veterans, and they know firsthand the value of training and readiness, which is why predictable funding is key to their mission.

At all the briefings and meetings, we emphasized the many VFW Programs we have for servicemembers and their families and urged them to contact us with questions and where we can assist. For more information about U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, please logon to <http://www.marforpac.marines.mil/Unit-Home/About/>.

### Thailand

In Bangkok we met with U.S. Ambassador Glyn Davies. We had a very interesting and engaging conversation about the U.S./Thai relationship, about the many American companies operating in Thailand, and the fact that the Thai economy is so healthy that it is one of the richest countries in Asia. We also discussed North Korea and China.

The Ambassador emphasized his strong support—and that of the entire embassy—for DPAA and its mission. He also mentioned how the embassy reaches out to Americans living in Thailand to offer assistance, many of whom are veterans.



We next met with Air Force Lt. Col. Kyle Cone, commander of DPAA Detachment 1, which has operational responsibility for search and recovery operations in Cambodia, Burma and India, as well as provides logistical support to operations being conducted by Detachment 2 in Vietnam and Detachment 3 in Laos.

Challenges faced when operating in Burma and India are often extremely remote sites, terrain and aging witnesses, along with border issues that require approvals from different government agencies before any operations can start. Cambodia challenges include the above but add the lack of official records, which were destroyed during the brutal four-year reign of the Khmer Rouge. DPAA operations are currently suspended in Cambodia due to political issues. There are currently 420 Americans missing in India, 740 in Burma, and 48 in Cambodia. The losses in India and Burma are all related to World War II "Hump" missions. American losses in Cambodia are all Vietnam War related. We were joined at lunch by Detachment staff, where we were able to discuss their operations as well as our many VFW programs. Unpredictable budgets impact their operations, too.

We then visited the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group-Thailand, where we met with Army Col. Rocky Carter, who wears three hats as the Senior Defense Official, Defense Attaché, and as Chief, U.S. Military Advisory Group-Thailand. The purpose of JUSMAGTHAI is to enhance security cooperation, oversee the export of U.S. military hardware through the Foreign Military Sales program, and coordinate joint military exercises.

Thailand allows the U.S. military to access its training sites as well as its airports for refueling. The VFW and military retirees have office space at JUSMAGTHAI for assisting veterans and dependents. We discussed our many programs for service members, especially our Service Officers, and how they can assist transitioning service members with their VA claims.

Our last visit of the day was with Marine Corps Lt. Col. Scott Vasquez, Commanding Officer of U.S. Marine Security Guard Region 3, which protects every American Embassy and Consulate in East Asia and the Pacific. We discussed the challenges Marine Security Guards face in the duty locations they are charged with safe guarding.

The following day we had lunch with VFW Department of the Pacific District 5 Commander Ken Stein and a number of his members. We had a very interesting conversation about the challenges and opportunities for VFW members residing in Thailand. Learn more about the U.S. Embassy to Thailand at <https://th.usembassy.gov/>.

## Vietnam

In Hanoi we received a detailed briefing on the work of DPAA Detachment 2 by its commander, Army Lt. Col. Romel Pajimula and his staff, along with Mr. Kelly McKeague, Director of DPAA, who was in Vietnam on an official visit. Detachment 2 is responsible for search and recovery operations in Vietnam, where 1,598 Americans are still listed as missing and unaccounted-for.

The Vietnam mission faces many challenges, to include time, weather, terrain, aging witnesses, and economic development. The soil is also a challenge because of its acidity, which over time destroys bones, etc. We discussed underwater recoveries, and they suggested we may want to visit one of those missions on our next visit, as well as a Vietnamese-led recovery operation. A self-inflicted challenge is again the unpredictable funding and budgets coming from Congress, which do have significant impacts on mission accomplishment.

We next met at the U.S. Embassy for a country team briefing with Deputy Chief of Mission Caryn McClelland and a number of her staff, to include Army Col. Tuan Ton, Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché. We discussed the Vietnamese military, China and its relationship with Vietnam, the positive economic news in Vietnam, U.S. companies doing business in Vietnam, and human rights. Vietnam has a good workforce, but they are undertrained and underpaid. Over half the population is under 30 and they want more education. Colonel Ton also discussed Vietnamese veterans association, who we said we have not been able to develop a working relationship with. He said he would set up a meeting with them on our next visit.

Our final meeting at the U.S. Embassy was with Ambassador Daniel Kritenbrink, who emphasized his personal as well as the embassy's full support of the DPAA mission, calling it a very positive factor with the U.S./Vietnam relationship. The big topic of conversation was the recent visit of the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier to DaNang, along with the ship's 5,500 sailors. Some Vietnamese officials had the opportunity to spend a night aboard ship, and the sailors had the opportunity to visit DaNang. The visit was very positive for the relationship.

The Ambassador urged us to solicit information from our members concerning missing and unaccounted-for Vietnamese soldiers. We told the Ambassador we have done so many times dating back to the 1990s and will do so again. Vietnam has in excess of 300,000 missing soldiers.

We invited the Ambassador to visit the VFW Washington Office the next time he was in D.C. We could host an event with other VSO/MSOs so he could tell us about the continuing progress being made in Vietnam. He said he would work something out.

Next, we visited the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and met with Tran Thanh Tam, Deputy Director-General Americas Department, to discuss the MIA issue. We thanked him for the cooperation the Vietnamese Government provides DPAA and discussed operations and the challenges we each face.

The Deputy Director noted that President Trump has already visited Vietnam, as had Defense Secretary Mattis. He stressed that the VFW visits to Vietnam were very positive, and he encouraged us to continue them, so we can witness firsthand his country's cooperation on the MIA issue, and to see the challenges that go with the work.

We discussed the importance of the MIA mission and he asked for our assistance in locating missing Vietnamese service members and civilian personnel. He noted the political sensitivity in Vietnam for their own missing. We informed the Deputy Director

that the VFW will continue to ask our members for any information or artifacts that might help Vietnam recover their missing.

Our last meeting of the day was with Ambassador Nguyen Tam Chien, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Vietnamese Ambassador to the U.S., and President of the Vietnamese-U.S. Organization. The Ambassador is well known to VFW from his time in Washington. We discussed the MIA issue as well as American businesses in Vietnam. Learn more about the U.S. Embassy to Vietnam at <https://vn.usembassy.gov/>.

The next day we flew to DaNang for a visit to an excavation site with Lt. Col. Pajimula.

The site we visited was near Kham Duc in Quang Nam Province, a couple of hours drive from DaNang. The site was a helicopter crash that occurred in April 1968 with no survivors. Of the remains recovered afterwards, one was Vietnamese and three were American, who were identified by dental records. One American, however, was not recovered. DPAA has worked this site a couple of times already. In fact, it was the same site Commander-in-Chief Harman visited last year.

Words cannot describe the dedication of Army Capt. David Macaspac and his entire DPAA Team. I was so impressed by their commitment to the MIA issue, as none of them had served in Vietnam, much less were even born. Most were assigned to DPAA, but others volunteered to augment the recovery team. Mindy Simonson, the anthropologist in charge of the site, was a true professional. She explained how they determined where to excavate and what they were finding.

The recovery site was on a very steep hill. Accessing it was through a cut trail with very muddy sand bags used as steps. A light mist didn't make the hike any easier. At the top we met with the entire team, who explained their work. We had lunch hosted by their Vietnamese counterparts onsite. The opportunity to thank our troops in the field, was a very memorable experience.

## China

The following day we flew to Beijing, where we had meetings with U.S. Embassy officials and with representatives of the Office of International Military Cooperation from the People's Liberation Army.

Upon arrival at the U.S. Embassy we were met by Navy Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Tam, who was our escort. We started the day with the news that the U.S. was going to impose higher tariffs on Chinese products entering the U.S. That news was the beginning of our conversation with Jonathon Fritz, Deputy Chief of Mission. The trade issue is one that China has been getting away with for years, and the trade imbalance is unfair to the United States. China has been helpful with the North Korean issue, however. We discussed the relationship as a whole, along with U.S. companies doing business in China.

We next met with the Navy Capt. Thomas Henderschedt, Acting Defense Attaché, and that was followed by a meeting with a number of the U.S. Marine Security Guards. We discussed with the Captain the Chinese military capabilities as well as North

Korea's. At the MSG detachment, we discussed the VFW Programs that exist to assist service members and their families. A couple of the Marines were within a year of transitioning to civilian life, and we urged them to file a VA claim.

Our last meeting of the day was with representatives of the Office of Military Cooperation from the People's Liberation Army. Captain Henderschedt accompanied us to this meeting. The Chinese thanked us for our work on the MIA issue and offered their full support. We noted that more archival research was necessary, and they pledged to cooperate with DPAA.

The Chinese have just formed a Ministry of Veterans Affairs because China's military veterans protested and feel neglected. It was not clear what the Ministry's mission is just yet, but we offered to meet with their veterans on our next visit to discuss what the VFW does daily for veterans, service members and their families.

## Closing Comments

A special thank you to the dedicated men and women of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency for fulfilling a soldier's promise to never leave a fallen comrade on the battlefield. They are dedicated to the mission to resolve the fate of missing American service members in order to help bring closure to the families. We also thank the staffs at the Departments of Defense and State, who contributed immensely to the success of this trip.

The service members we had the opportunity to visit with are, without a doubt, America's finest. They are mission focused and always preparing for the next fight, should it become necessary.

At every meeting with military personnel we explained the importance of the VFW in preserving and expanding their benefits, and how the VFW can better assist them, from our Sports Clip/VFW Scholarship and Military Service Programs to our National Veterans Service Program.

Their concern for a predictable budget just highlights why Commander-in-Chief Harman has made ending sequestration his top legislative priority. The recently-passed budget agreement gives DOD at two-year break from sequestration, but without further Congressional action, our military and other critical national security programs will once again be facing draconian budget cuts.

A special thank you to Ken Stein, District 5 Commander, VFW Pacific Areas, and to his members for meeting us for lunch and discussing their concerns.

And a sincere thank you to Commander-in-Chief Harman for the opportunity to represent our VFW on this very educational trip.





MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE PRESENTS  
COLIN: SON, MARINE, HERO

**SERVICE NIGHTS**

Season-closing production offers free tickets to active duty, veterans, and first responders for run of show (25% off all accompanying tickets)

Use code **SERVICE** to get your free ticket on-line

[www.hyltoncenter.org](http://www.hyltoncenter.org)

May 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30, May 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30, May 20<sup>th</sup> 3:00



Hylton Performing Arts Center  
George Mason University  
10960 George Mason Circle  
Manassas, VA 20110

Contact MBT at 703-257-1811 or [info@manassasballet.org](mailto:info@manassasballet.org)  
[www.manassasballet.org](http://www.manassasballet.org)

COME CELEBRATE

# ARMED FORCES WEEK

**MILITARY APPRECIATION DAYS**  
FREE SANDWICH for all active duty service members and veterans.  
Thank You For Your Service.

	<b>ARMY</b> .....	MON, 5/14
	<b>MARINE CORPS</b> .....	TUE, 5/15
	<b>NAVY</b> .....	WED, 5/16
	<b>AIR FORCE</b> .....	THU, 5/17
	<b>COAST GUARD</b> .....	FRI, 5/18

AN INVITATION FOR ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY & VETERANS

**LUNCH WITH THE HEROES** ..... SAT, 5/19  
11:00AM-2:00PM  
Join us for a **FREE SANDWICH!** and be sure to arrive before Noon for our live National Anthem.

**MISSION BBQ**

Manassas Ballet Theatre closes their 2017-18 season with an original and very personal ballet, **COLIN: SON, MARINE, HERO**, in honor of Memorial Day.

MBT is proud to once again present the story of Artistic Director Amy Grant Wolfe's son Colin, who lost his life in Iraq to a roadside bomb in 2006.

**COLIN** debuted in November 2014 at the Hylton Performing Arts Center after Wolfe expanded her original one act ballet, gathering inspiration by interviewing Colin's commander and fellow Marines during the summer of 2014 and adding new layers to the original heart of the story. The ballet **COLIN** continues to evolve for this season's presentation as Wolfe incorporates new ideas she has worked on over the last three years to further enhance her story. An expanded Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra will showcase the original score by Mark Menza.

## MANASSAS VIKING FESTIVAL

Viking Reenactments  
Nordic Dancers of Washington DC  
Icelandic Folk Dancers  
Icelandic Sheep & Horses

Norwegian Fjord Horses  
Viking Village  
Blacksmith  
Vendors and Crafts  
Food & More

**Manassas Viking Festival**  
Saturday, May 12, 2018  
10 am to 5 pm  
Harris Pavilion & Manassas Museum Lawn  
Manassas, Virginia

*Come and join us and be dressed in your Viking best*

[manassasvikingfest@gmail.com](mailto:manassasvikingfest@gmail.com) or visit us on Facebook

## Armed Services Arts Partnership

Below, please find information once more regarding our upcoming **Storytelling Grad Show** and **Comedy Bootcamp Grad Show**, as well as new information regarding our **CHAW Workshop Series**, and **Sanctuaries Workshop**.

Because you are a part of an organization with which we are grateful to partner, I am reaching out to offer you and your team a 50% discount on our graduation performance tickets in the following courses:

### Storytelling Grad Show

**Overview:** After weeks of creativity, collaboration, and hard work in ASAP's and Story District's Storytelling 101, our veterans, service members, and military families will take the stage to tell their stories for the first time. Join us for a powerful night exploring the military, veteran, and human experience - all in the words of the individual's who have lived it.

- **When & Where:** Sunday, May 6th at Drafthouse Comedy Theater. Doors will open at 6:30PM, and the show will begin at 7:00PM sharp.

**Reserve Tickets:** Seating is first come, first serve, and general admission tickets (without your discount) are available online for \$10 and at the door for \$15. Tickets can be reserved at <https://www.classy.org/washington/events/dc-storytelling-101-graduation-show/e172476>

.The discount code is *PARTNER*. Please feel free to share this information with other folks within your organization.

### Comedy Bootcamp Grad Show

**Overview:** The Armed Services Arts Partnership invites you to an evening of laughter and community at our Comedy Bootcamp Graduation Show and Benefit. As the culmination of seven weeks of instruction, practice, and constructive feedback, 12 talented veterans, service members, and military family members will show off their newly developed, stand-up comedy skills.

- **When & Where:** Wednesday, April 25th at The DC Improv Comedy Club (1140 Connecticut Ave NW). Doors will open at 6:30PM, and the show will begin at 7:30PM sharp.

**Reserve Tickets:** Seating is first come, first serve, and general admission tickets (without your discount) are available online for \$20 and at the door for \$25. Tickets can be reserved at <https://www.classy.org/washington-dc/events/dc-comedy-bootcamp-graduation-show/e170866>

The discount code is *PARTNER*. Please feel free to share this information with other folks within your organization.

### CHAW Workshop Series

**What:** ASAP is partnering with the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (CHAW) to offer free workshops in the following areas at the following times:

- **Watercolor Postcards** (Saturday, May, 12th 1PM - 3PM)
- **Printmaking** (Saturday, June 9th, 1PM - 3PM)
- **Ceramics** (Saturday, July 14th, 1PM - 3PM)
- **Mixed Media Collage** (Saturday, August 4th, 1PM - 3PM)

**Where:** Workshops will take place at Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital in Washington, DC (921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20003)

- **Who:** The session is open to/free for all veterans, service members, military family members, and caregivers.

**Register:** To learn more and register, we invite you to visit <http://www.asapasap.org/chaw/>.

### The Sanctuaries Workshop

**What:** ASAP and The Sanctuaries are partnering to offer a workshop that will empower veteran artists to connect their art-making with the social causes that affect them so they can "make art with purpose." Specifically, participants will: (i) learn about how the arts have been used for social change in the past; (ii) explore strategic ways for using the arts to make social impact; (iii) reflect on the social issue that shape their own lives; and (iv) practice making art to address those social issues. By the end of the workshop, participants will have a deeper historical and strategic understanding of how the arts can make a difference, as well as a greater sense of clarity and confidence in the difference they seek to make in their own communities.

**When/Where:** Saturday, May 5th from 10AM- 4PM @ Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, 641 D St NW, Washington, DC 20004.

- **Who:** The session is open to/free for all veterans, service members, military family members, and caregivers.

**Apply:** To learn more and register, we invite you to visit <http://www.asapasap.org/sanctuaries/>

Dani Aron-Schiavone  
Program Coordinator  
Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP)  
<http://asapasap.org/>





## No-Talk Phone Scams

### Dialing deceivers don't need you to say anything to rip you off

by Sid Kirchheimer  
AARP Bulletin

Most [telephone scammers](#) rely on talk, getting you to pick up the phone so they can give their impersonations of IRS agents, noble fundraisers, tech-support saviors or grandkids in need. But with a new breed of telephone fraudsters, sometimes you don't even need to say "Hello" to get ripped off. Here's how some of these crooks may target you.

#### Call Center Fraud

There are scam artists who spend hours calling the customer service centers of banks, insurance companies and other institutions, posing as people like you, to try to access accounts. These crimes have more than doubled in the past year. "That's because reps only ask a couple of simple authentication questions — maybe your mother's maiden name or your Social Security number — before you can transfer money or do whatever," explains Ken Shuman of Pindrop, a company that provides antifraud services to call centers.

Scammers start by assembling information on you, stolen in [data breaches](#), purchased on the "dark web" or gleaned with a simple Google search. Then, working from boiler rooms (often overseas), they spend all day phoning different call centers to determine if you have accounts with those companies. With your data in hand, they can often answer the authentication questions that call centers ask.

ATM PINs are especially prized — and vulnerable, adds Shuman. He notes that there are only 10,000 possible combinations for a four-digit PIN. Unless a bank's system blocks calls after several tries — and some don't — there are scammers who call back 150 times a day, trying different PINs until they get it right. Then they immediately log in as you, change your PIN and take over your account.

#### Smartphone Swindles

An ever-growing segment of the 20 billion text messages sent each day are attempts at [defrauding people](#) through "smishing" (a word that combines the SMS technology that sends text messages and phishing, a ploy to coax confidential information out of you). Typically, a scam texter will fake a problem with one of your financial accounts and ask you for data. Or they might pitch low-cost mortgages or credit cards, or promise free gift cards. If you respond by texting back confidential personal information, your identity may be stolen. Millions of these smishing texts can be launched simultaneously.

Your best defense is to be stingy with your phone number. Scam

texts may result if you provide it to contests, say, or businesses. Mobile apps can also be to blame. When you install them, the fine print in the user agreement may grant permission to the app's developer to use or sell your phone number and sometimes even the numbers of your contacts. In one recently popular scheme, scammers get your contacts from mobile apps, then text you posing as people you know to seek money or ID-theft-worthy information, says Jonathan Sasse, marketing executive at First Orion, a digital security firm that provides the mobile app PrivacyStar.

One more important tip: Never follow a text's instructions to push a designated key to opt out of future messages. Instead, forward the questionable text to short code 7726, so [cellphone carriers](#) can block that sender. You can further bolster defenses against mobile scams — which have quadrupled in the past two years — with call-blocking apps such as Hiya, Truecaller, NoMoRobo and PrivacyStar.

#### Curiosity Cons

Knowing that you are likely to ignore unrecognized or private numbers on caller ID, today's crooks use software that allows them to display fake numbers that are hard to resist. Here are some variations.

- **The neighbor ploy** Your area code and prefix are displayed, so the call appears to be from a neighbor or nearby business. "Fewer people are comfortable blocking local numbers, increasing scammers' success rates," notes Jonathan Nelson of Hiya. And the fake number makes it hard for law enforcement to track.
- **The "Hey, there's a call from my own phone number" scam** It's hard to resist answering a call from your own number, which scammers can simulate. And they are able to get around any call blocking that you've set up.
- **The one-ring rip-off** Criminals sometimes program [auto-dialers](#) to make repeated calls to you, each disconnecting after just one ring. They know this might spur you into calling back the displayed number to complain. There's double trouble if you call area codes such as 268, 664 and 876. These are for Caribbean countries and other places that have high per-minute phone charges. One scam involves getting you to call one of those numbers, then getting you to hold through transfers that rack up your bill until a scammer gets on the line and starts a fraudulent pitch.



## Upcoming Events

<b>May</b>	
May 7	Post/Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM (Installation of officers)
May 25—27	Memorial Day Weekend—Poppies (TBD)
May 28	Memorial Day — Ceremony 8:30 AM — Flag Placements at Manassas Cemetery 9:00 AM
<b>June</b>	
June 4	Post/Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM
June 10	Post 72nd Anniversary BBQ—11 AM—2 PM
June 14 –17	State Convention—Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, Portsmouth
<b>July</b>	
July 2	Post/Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM
July 21—25	VFW National Convention—Kansas City, MO



### The VFW National Home for Children



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

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

We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.

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

**800-313-4200**

A Great Place to Call Home!



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Scott Taylor	2nd District	202-225-4215
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Donald McEachin	4th District	202-225-6365
Tom Garrett	5th District	202-225-4711
Robert Goodlatte	6th District	202-225-5431
Dave Bratt	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Barbara Comstock	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492

Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office



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