

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

Manassas, Virginia

June 2013



Post Chaplain Joel Chase with the Purple Heart he received after 43 years. (See Page 7)

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Commander's Report



Good News & Bad News...

THE GOOD NEWS...This is the 3rd year in a row the Post has achieved 100% membership. Thanks to all who have recruited new members.

The BAD NEWS...Last June 30th, we had 145 annual dues-paying members. Only 107 have continued their membership in VFW.

The support of the VFW is very crucial. **WHY?**

On the National Level:

The VFW campaigned and lobbied Congress to give the Veterans Administration the full budget at the beginning of the fiscal years. This allows the VA to establish and treat the needs of our veterans in a timely and efficient manner. It also allows the VA to set-up new programs and acquire the equipment for the programs. We need to take care of our veterans.

On the State Level:

We lobbied the Commonwealth for property tax relief for those veterans who are 100% disabled. **IT WORKED**, Governor MacDonald sign the bill into law.

It is numbers which are important when we lobby for ***Veteran Entitlements***. Please consider renewing your membership.

Congratulations to District 8. It has been years since District 8 Posts have all attained 100% membership. Congrats also to District Commander Rick Raskin.

Finally, long overdue recognition: The Army has awarded Comrade Joel Chase a second Purple Heart for injuries incurred in Vietnam.

Sincerely,

Ron

Auxiliary President's Report



During the May 6th joint monthly meeting, we were honored to have several guests in attendance; the Ladies Auxiliary National Guard, Dee Guillory and three of the five students from Osbourn Park High School who participated in our Patriotic Arts Contest. The students were presented a certificate and a gift from the Auxiliary. Congratulations to 1st place winner Elizabeth Chung, 2nd place Olivia Smith, 3rd place Anna Pashigrdis and tied for 4th place, Kateyn Donnelly and Johnathan Ulrich.

We had a joint installation for the new Post and Ladies Auxiliary Officers during the May 6th meeting. We want to thank National Guard Dee Guillory for installing the Auxiliary 7589 Officers, and I want to personally congratulate the elected and appointed Officers for the upcoming year.

I would like to thank the following individuals who participated in our Yard Sale on Saturday, May 18th: Cookie Cullen, Nancy Dazzo, Elanor Daczi, Patsy Gough, Dawn Moore, Valerie Nealey, Yvonne Sullivan and Kay Yeager. Despite it being a rainy day, we had a very good turnout from the public and we would like to thank them as well. Our next Yard Sale will be scheduled in September. Please come and join in the fun.

The Ladies Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Drive was held at Wellington Giant on Saturday, May 25th from 9am-2pm. The members in attendance were Cookie Cullen, Patsy Gough, Janet Raskin and Mary Corkhill.

Memorial Day activities started around 8:30am with the laying of a wreath at Manassas Veterans Memorial. Immediately following, another ceremony was held at the Manassas Cemetery for Francis Cannon and with assistance from all attending, new flags were placed at each Veteran's grave.

A Post Housewarming & Anniversary BBQ/Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 2nd from 12:00 to 3:00 pm to celebrate the new look of the

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Service Officer's Report



Hello Comrades,

It is time to submit for your annual clothing allowance with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). If you use and/or continue to use a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (Example: knee or back brace) or medication because of a service-connected disability, and its use results in damage to your clothing, you should:

- Complete VA Form 10-8678, Application for Clothing Allowance
- Identify on the form each appliance or medication you use because of a service-connected disability that results in damage to your clothing, and
- Immediately submit the complete form to the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service (121), at your local DVA Medical Center (VAMC).

VA Form 10-8678 can be found on the VA forms page at <http://www.va.gov/forms/> or on our Post website: <http://www.vfw7589.org> . If you have trouble locating the form or need assistance please call 1-800-827-1000 or call one of our Post Veteran Service Officers at:

Wayne Moore 1-703-361-5554 Email: mgr7590@verizon.net

Stephen Meade 1-703-408-0875 Email: SO2-7589@hotmail.com

The Virginia Department of Veterans Affairs will be having their Service Officer (SO) back on a regularly scheduled date & time at the Post beginning in June. The schedule will be posted shortly.

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.

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. Thank you.

Steven M. Botello

Post Service Officer

Veteran of Foreign Wars Post # 7589

(Office) 1-703-659-0849

(FX) 1-703-991-0677

Email: SO7589@verizon.net

Korean War 60th anniversary

VFW Washington Weekly
May 17, 2013

Plans are being set to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, July 27. Thousands of veterans from across the nation, as well as representatives from other UN nations, are expected to be present at the Korean War Memorial for the 9:30 a.m. ceremony. The event will be broadcast live, and VFW Posts are encouraged to share in the commemoration by hosting "Pancakes for Patriots"-type events to honor and help educate local communities about the service and sacrifices made by so many of our VFW members and their families. The current June/July issue of VFW Magazine is dedicated to Korean War veterans, plus highlights our \$600,000 donation towards building their national memorial---tops among all veterans' organizations. More information regarding how your Posts can help share the day will be provided as the anniversary draws nearer.

Stolen Valor Act headed to President

VFW Washington Weekly
May 24, 2013

The VFW is applauding Congress ... for passing the Stolen Valor Act of 2013, introduced by Rep. Joe Heck and Sen. Dean Heller, both from Nevada. H.R. 258 was passed overwhelmingly in the House on Monday [May 20] by a vote of 390-3, and the Senate passed its companion, S. 210, Wednesday night [May 22] by unanimous consent. The legislation now heads to the White House for the president's signature. VFW National Commander John Hamilton said Congress followed the roadmap laid out by the U.S. Supreme Court when they overturned the original Stolen Valor Act last year. In their writings, the high court suggested any future legislation had to be narrower in focus than just to penalize people for simple lying, which they ruled as protected speech in a 6-3 decision. "Now the new language is bullet-proof," said Hamilton, "because the focus is on the intent to profit from the lie, to obtain

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money, property or something of a tangible benefit, which is what combat artists have been doing throughout history.” Not every combat award is covered, but the ones most worn by wannabe heroes will be protected once the bill becomes law. VFW advocates were able to reach all 100 Senate offices in record time after the House passed their bill, encouraging the Senate to take action. It is because of you that the Senate bill passed so quickly! Read about the VFW’s reaction at [http://www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/2013-Articles/Stolen-Valor-Act-Passes-Congress!/. To send a thank you to your Senators, click here. <http://capwiz.com/vfw/issues/alert/?alertid=62685126>.](http://www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/2013-Articles/Stolen-Valor-Act-Passes-Congress!/)

Memorial Day Buddy Poppy drives net record donations.

*By Rick Raskin
Quartermaster*

This year the Post conducted Buddy Poppy drives at three different locations. On Thursday, May 23 we were at the Gainesville Giant during which time we met many people, distributed over 500 Buddy Poppies and received over \$625.00 in donations. Saturday we gathered at Pitkin’s Hardware located in the Woodbine Shopping Center off of Route 234. Again we met many people and gave out hundreds of Buddy Poppies. Saturday’s donations exceeded \$350. Sunday was at the Wellington Giant where we netted almost \$600.

The nearly \$1600 in donations that we received are earmarked for our Relief Fund and may only be used for specific purposes as defined in the VFW and Post By-laws.

Thanks to all the comrades who donated their time for this worthwhile effort.



**Francis Cannon Post 7589
P.O. Box 10206
Manassas, VA 20108**

Comrade receives award after 43 Years

*By Joel Chase
Post Chaplain*

It was 14 June 1970 on Firebase David in the Republic of Cambodia at 0300 hrs. I was a platoon leader with the 1st Air Calvary Division and charged with defending four bunkers on the perimeter. One of the multiple trip flares my guys had put out went off and the guard on duty fired a single shot at what he saw move, but there was no return fire. We went to 100% alert and attempted to search the area but dense fog obscured our vision and no further sightings could be made under mortar illumination for nearly half an hour. However, one of my guys standing next to me spotted something and pointed to it saying it looked like an NVA and suddenly said "he's going to shoot"! All I saw was the muzzle flashes but he had aimed too low and the rounds skimmed off the berm and grazed my head. The wounds were not serious but I was bleeding badly, so I ran to my bunkers checking my men and got on the radio to call in the preplanned mortars. Then I called my CO and gave him a report of the firefight that had erupted in my sector when a Chinese grenade blew me to kingdom come with nearly fatal injuries. I lay near death for nearly 2½ hours as the battle for the firebase raged until dawn and the enemy retreated leaving 28 KIA. My guys did a wonderful job that night and we lost zero KIA with 26 various wounded beating the NVA best at their own game. Unfortunately, due to the severity of my injuries from the grenade, I was unable to run the victory lap as the enemy withdrew and the sun came up, but I smile today when I read the after-action report from the Daily Log. My guys did good.

Five years ago I attempted to contact various Army Agencies to investigate the award of an Oak Leaf for my Purple Heart. I was told I needed two eye witnesses or a Doctor's report to substantiate the claim which I did not have. I wrote letters, and waited six months at a time only to receive negative responses with misinformation, lost records and just being ignored. A Senate inquiry rattled swords but got no action. Sometimes my inquiries were directed to the wrong Agency or Department, but they never bothered telling me they had no authority in the matter, so I just spun my wheels in six month intervals or more without making progress. While my evidence did not fit the perfect mold for the award,

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Summary of VFW Post 7589/Ladies Auxiliary Youth Committee meeting of 5/16/13

*By Pete MacLeod
Youth Committee Chair*

The meeting began at 7:00 pm with Dawn Schueller Moore, Rick Raskin, Robert Punihaole, Ron Knowles and Pete MacLeod in attendance. Commander Ron Link attended the later part of the meeting.

With the help of Rick Raskin, the Power Point projector was set up and the committee was able to watch the revised Power Point presentation: "Welcome to VFW Post 7589" which was mainly put together by Dawn Schueller Moore over the past few weeks. (She used the base of writing and picture taking that had been put together by the committee over the past year.)

As the committee watched and made suggestions, a number of tweaks and rewrites were agreed to. Several photos were removed and several others added and a couple were moved to different places in the presentation. Dawn will work in consultation with Rick and we should have a finished product in a couple of weeks. We will also have a final written draft to present to the membership. This is a presentation which will introduce young people to our Post and Ladies Auxiliary. There is hope that from this, a presentation can be produced aimed at prospective new members. And also, perhaps a Power Point presentation with some of the battlefield experiences of the membership.

With flash drives we should be able to go into schools around Veterans Day or at other times in the school year and have three VFW members in three different classrooms showing the presentation. That is the hope anyway. This is also something we could show to scouting groups or other youth organizations that might visit the Post Home. The total running time for the presentation is between five and ten minutes. The person showing it can read the narrative but we also hope to produce a recorded version. There is time for questions at the end. When we have a final finished product we will email it to each committee member and also show the finished product at a monthly Post membership meeting.

I want to thank both Dawn Schueller Moore and Rick Raskin for their work with the committee on Thursday night and Dawn for her work on

this project over the past several weeks.

Committee members Pete MacLeod and Robert Punihaole were interviewed by students at All Saints School in Manassas about their Vietnam War experiences. We met with the students separately at the Post Home on 5/3 and 5/6 for about an hour each. The questions were excellent, some I had never been asked before. And we even got some follow-up questions via e-mail.

Following the suggestion by Building Manager Wayne Moore, we will attempt to have some kind of showing of the winning Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essays ready for our annual Post Picnic on June 2. We are trying to find an enclosed case or cabinet we can hang on the Post Home wall to permanently display the winning essays for visitors to read.

We continue to look for donations for the September 7 Youth Committee Yard Sale. Money from the Yard Sale goes to our essay contest prize fund. Call 703 220-4545 if you can donate something.

After much work and discussion on the Power Point presentation, the committee adjourned at 8:45 pm.

The next Youth Committee meeting will be at 7:00 pm Thursday, June 20 at the Post Home.

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there was clear evidence that I had been wounded twice in my records, but no Agency would agree. Out of frustration, I wrote a two page letter to a very high ranking officer in the military to plead my case. Five days later I got a phone call from him and he said he would personally take care of the matter. Two weeks later I received the OLC for the Purple Heart. That renewed my faith in our military to do the right thing to remember service members after they have separated or retired.

So my message to other veterans is this: If you have a veteran issue, don't give up, don't stop trying, don't take 'no' for an answer and take the word 'can't' out of your vocabulary. If all else fails, talk to another veteran who just might have a solution. We're here to help.

State Recruiter Class

There will be a State Recruiting class held October 5th & 6th at Post 9808 in Mechanicsville. National VFW is flying a person out to teach. There will be classroom training on Saturday and some hands on training on Sunday. If you are interested in attending please contact District 8 Commander Rick Raskin. The Department would like to have 2 people from every District attending. The Department will reimburse up to two members from each District who participate and are willing to become State Recruiters.

67TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC—JUNE 2, 2013



Be sure to join us on June 2nd for our 67th anniversary picnic.

Post and Auxiliary members, their families and guests are invited.

Bring a covered dish or dessert.

12:00 pm —3:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 2** Post Housewarming and Anniversary BBQ/Picnic
- June 12 - 16** State Convention - Williamsburg
- July 20 -24** National Convention - Louisville, KY
- August 3** School of Instruction— Post 3103, Fredericksburg
- August 26** District 8 Meeting - Post 7728 - Morrisville - 1300
- September 7** Youth Committee Yard Sale
- October 12** Auxiliary Yard Sale

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Post and the 67th Anniversary. The Post will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs and the members of the Post and Ladies Auxiliary will provide a Potluck dish. Please plan to attend this celebration and socialize with good friends.

The Department Convention will be held June 13 thru 16 at the Crowne Plaza Fort Magruder, Williamsburg, VA. We hope you will be able to attend.

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

Yours in Loyalty,
Mary Corkhill
Ladies Auxiliary President



A beautiful Memorial Day morning at the Manassas Veterans Memorial.



A solemn moment at the Francis Cannon gravesite, Memorial Day, 2013

Memorial Day 2013

Photos by Pete MacLeod



A Girl Scout helps Post 7589 members Warren Ewell and Rod Gillette with Flag Placement, Memorial Day 2013.

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