

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
June 2014



Pete MacLeod greets a veteran at our Buddy Poppy drive on May 23 as Robert Punihaole observes. See story on Page 6.

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From the Editor



We are at the end of our 2013-14 membership year and 3 of 6 Posts in the 8th District have achieved 100% or greater membership. Unfortunately Post 7589 is not one of them.

Since the institution of subscription dues this past January there is no need to hold your renewal or application until the beginning of the new year on July 1st. Anyone who renews an expired membership or signs on as a new member gets 365 days of membership from the date your application is processed by National, usually the day after you submit your application online. Mails take longer.

So, all you unpaid members out there, and I know there a bunch of you, please renew your membership now if you haven't already done so.

Remember, the VFW is only as effective as our membership strength. As a member of the State Legislative Committee I can attest that many of the entitlements we have been able to win and preserve are due directly to our strength in numbers. When I meet with our elected officials they listen.

Thanks to all who have supported me as District 8 Commander these past 4 years.

Rick

VA Secretary Announces Resignation

'CHANGE WILL NOT COME EASY TO THE VA, BUT CHANGE IT MUST'

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States said [the May 30th] resignation of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki is in the best interests of the nation's veterans.

"The VFW was the first major veterans organization to call for an independent investigation and, if warranted, for the dismissal and criminal prosecution of those employees involved with gaming the system," said William A. Thien, the national commander of the 1.9 million-member VFW and its Auxiliaries. "Throughout the political firestorm of the past several weeks, the VFW remained steadfast in supporting an independent investigation and calling for full accountability in this

matter — especially for those in Congress, who for years have turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to the concerns of America's Veteran Service Organizations.

"Change will not come easy to the VA, but change it must, and the VFW will absolutely be part of its evolution, just as we were in the years leading up to and after we helped to create it," said Thien. "The new secretary will inherit a host of ongoing challenges, but he or she must immediately identify and fix what's broken, to hold people accountable to the maximum extent of the law, and to do whatever is necessary to help restore the full faith and confidence of veterans in their VA,"

he said. "Members of Congress have an equal responsibility to put their individual political agendas aside and do what they were elected to do. The VFW will never tolerate politics as usual when it comes to the proper care and treatment of our nation's heroes.

"Secretary Shinseki is an American patriot, an honorable man whose personal integrity and commitment to duty and to others is above reproach," said the VFW national commander. "We support his decision to resign, because the outside calls for his resignation were overshadowing the crisis in healthcare issues veterans face, and that is what's most important."

Auxiliary President's Report



fundraiser later this summer. Meeting and dining with good friends is always a treat. Thank you again for supporting this fundraiser for the Ladies Auxiliary

Thank you to the students for their participation in the Auxiliary's Young Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Out of twelve entries this year, we want to congratulate Elizabeth Chung from Osbourn Park High School for placing first. You can view her artwork on the Post 7589 website.

With the 2013-2014 year coming to a close on June 30th, I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to the members of the Ladies Auxiliary and Post for their assistance and participation during the year. The ladies would like to thank Rick Raskin for installing the new Auxiliary Officers for the 2014-2015 year. The installation was held during the joint session on May 5th at the Post Home.

We had a great turnout for our fundraiser at Noodles & Company on May 15th. Due to late communication from Noodles & Company, they would like to assist us with another

Another "Thank You" goes out to Janet Raskin for taking my place during the Memorial weekend. Janet, you along with Yvonne Sullivan and Patsy Gough did an outstanding job with the Buddy Poppy drive held on May 24th at Giant in Wellington Shopping Center. The next Buddy Poppy drive will be held on Veteran's weekend in November. Please come and join us.

We wish Ron Knowles the best for the future without his beloved Betty. If there is anything you need from the members of the Auxiliary, please let us know. We love and

care about you.

Congratulations to the new Officers of the 8th District. The District Officers along with all Department Auxiliary Officers will take their positions after the new Department President is installed during the June convention. We are looking forward to the 2014-2015 year.

I have talked about the National Home for Children for months. They provide housing and support services to struggling military and Veteran families from across the nation. We collect Campbell soup labels to assist them in purchasing a new van. We are happy to receive any labels from the public. Please bring the labels to the Post.

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

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
Ladies Auxiliary President.



Janet Raskin (R) assists as local Cub Scouts place a wreath at the Manassas Veterans Memorial.

Service Officer's Report



As many of you know the VA scandal is very much dominating the current news cycle. The VA Health Care System (VAHCS) was created and designed to provide the best possible healthcare available to the millions and millions of Veterans who have served our county honorably at some point in their lives.

I can tell you I have personally used the VAHCS for the past twenty-one years since my discharge and I can easily tell you some of the best care I have received and some of the worst care I have received is through the VAHCS.

I have met Healthcare professionals within the VAHCS that are second-

to-none in their dedication, professionalism and level of care for us as military veterans and then others I would not let them carve a Christmas turkey let alone touch me.

That said...please... demand the best healthcare available for all Veterans as well as a viable VA claims processing system for all veterans. We earned it and we deserve it. Push... push... push until they reform both these areas!!!

Item (2)...We are looking to fill the needs of service to our Veterans here in our area. Towards that goal we are looking to recruit and train two additional persons as Veteran Service Officers for VFW Post 7589. If you have an interest please contact either me or Stephen Meade and let us know.

It is a great job where you get to work with and help veterans from the Prince William County region with their VA claims, housing, vocational rehab, benefits and provide much needed help to those in need. Please think about it!

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

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

Our number one goal is providing the best service to our veterans and their families.

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

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

You may also contact Steve Meade directly: 1-703-408-0875 Email: SO2-7589@hotmail.com

Thank you.

Thank you,
Steven M. Botello
Post Service Officer

Need help with filing VA claims?

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

Post 7589
9304 Centreville Rd.
Manassas, Virginia

APPOINTMENTS PLEASE
Walk-ins Accepted



Comrades Merle Hancock (Top photo) and Bill Becker being interviewed by students from Stonewall High School on May 29th as part of their AP History project.

Donations from Buddy Poppies set record during Memorial Day weekend

We had a very good turnout of Comrades for the three Buddy Poppy events this Memorial Day weekend. Starting at the Centreville Giant on Friday we spoke with many folks and amassed a record \$1160 in donations. We also recruited two new members.

On Saturday we were at the Gainesville Giant but found the traffic to be extremely light. The manager had also double booked the store and we were faced with another group asking for food pantry donations. The same thing happened last Fall and we were restricted to one entrance.

This time they allowed the other group to be at both entrances while we were only present at one. Needless to say, our donations fell short of the average and we only collected \$280. However we did recruit a new member.

Sunday turned out to be much better. We were at the Woodbine Food Lion and staffed both entrances and also had no competing group. We met lots of folks and were able to get \$560 in donations and recruit another new member.

Many thanks to those who gave of

their time to assist: Terry Bursey, Joel Chase, Paul Chase, Eric Cruz, Warren Ewell, Lou Fillippone, Rod Gillette, Pete MacLeod, Ron Link, Robert Punihaole and Rick Raskin.

All of the money we receive from Buddy Poppies goes to our relief fund which is used only for charitable purposes. This is one reason your Post stands out as a community focused post. In 1997 Post 7589 was awarded the VFW Outstanding Community Service award.

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

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



As a trial attorney authorized to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Colonel Ed has offered to help homeless vets, as well as formerly homeless vets who have "boot-strapped" themselves hoping for a new life. The latter June not qualify

for a court appointed attorney and thus are once again stuck in the MATRIX.

(Quoting Colonel Ed: "Hopefully, my brothers and sisters are not still stuck in the MATRIX. If so, June

PEACE be with them and NAMASTE!")

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

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

Local Marine Veteran and Author to Speak and sign at Clarendon Barnes and Noble

Washington, D.C., 28 May 2014 – *The Lieutenant Don't Know*, Jeff Clement's first book, is a straightforward account of his combat experience as a US Marine Corps logistics officer and platoon commander in Afghanistan's Helmand Province. Tracing his training as a Marine, the book follows him and his platoon on treacherous combat logistics patrols across rugged terrain, weathering dozens of enemy attacks with improvised explosive devices, small arms, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. The platoon perseveres to provide vital supplies to friendly units across the battlefield. One of the first books about Afghanistan written by a Millennial (Clement is only 27), the book offers an important perspective.

Clement will answer questions and sign books from 11am-1pm on Saturday, 7 June 2014 at the Barnes and Noble in the Clarendon Market Commons at 2800

Clarendon Blvd #500, Arlington, VA 22201.

This is the first book about the Marines' combat logisticians in Afghanistan. In our country's wars since 2001, the term "front line" has lost its meaning, and our opponents have continually attacked our forces on the long convoy routes that were vulnerable to the same kind of surprise attacks suffered by the Soviets in past decades, the British 150 years ago, and Alexander the Great 2,000 years ago.

Bing West, bestselling author of *The Village* and *No True Glory*, called the book "readable, honest and gritty account of the dangerous, exhausting labor that keeps 'The Green Machine' going."

Stan Mitchell, author of *Sold Out* and *Soldier On* called it "...one of the best war memoirs I've ever read...he pulls [it] together into a tight book that

moves fast...It's really a moving, inspiring work, that's enjoyable as hell, as well."

The Lieutenant Don't Know is available for order from clementjd.com, Amazon.com, and your local bookstore.

About The Author: Jeff Clement was born in Philadelphia, PA. After graduating from Georgia Tech with a degree in mechanical engineering, He commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, trained as a logistics officer, and completed back-to-back deployments with Combat Logistics Battalion 6 in 2010 and 2011. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife, Alison, and is currently a student at the Smith School of Business completing his MBA.

Author Contact Information
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Clementjd.com

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

Legacy Life Membership: This prestigious program is available to all Life Members. Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life Member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

<u>Enrollment Cost:</u> <u>Annual Payouts:</u>	<u>Post:</u>	<u>Department:</u>	<u>National:</u>
Levels: Gold - \$1200	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver - \$800	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

Membership Applications have been updated. Beginning January 1, 2014, members will have the option to enroll in two beneficial programs:

- VFW Autopay—renews your annual membership automatically!
- Life Installment Plan—automatic monthly payments option—with this option, there is no longer the need to complete a payment authorization form.

Once enrolled in either program, automatic payments are processed using the credit card information provided on the application. These are simply added options on the membership application. The traditional methods of signing up for both annual and life membership are still options as well.

***Also, please note the application asks for Dates of Service. That is the dates of your military service. Dates of overseas service are not required.**

**Check Appropriate Box(s) for
 Service, Qualifying Foreign Service
 and Membership Type.
 Complete other fields as needed.**



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

JUNE 22, 2014

A BARBEQUE AT VFW POST 7589

9304 CENTREVILLE ROAD

MANASSAS, VIRGINIA

1100—1400

OPEN TO ALL VETERANS & THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES

(DONATIONS ACCEPTED)

FREE FOR VIETNAM VETS!

Upcoming Events

June 1	Flag Retirement at the Post - 1000
June 2	General Membership Meeting - 1930
June 5 - 8	Department Convention - Williamsburg
June 19	Youth Committee Meeting - 1900
June 22	Welcome Home BBQ for Vietnam Veterans (Vietnam 50th Year Commemoration Event)
July 7	General Membership Meeting - 1930
July 18 - 22	VFW National Convention - St. Louis, MO
Aug 4	General Membership Meeting - 1930
Sept 8	General Membership Meeting - 1930 (In lieu of Labor Day)
Sept 13	Youth Committee Yard Sale

Post Officers 2014-15

Commander: Ron Link

Senior Vice Commander: Pete MacLeod

Junior Vice Commander: Steve Botello

Quartermaster: Rick Raskin

Chaplain: Joel Chase

Judge Advocate: Steve Meade

Surgeon: Warren Ewell

1 Year Trustee: Rod Gillette

2 Year Trustee: Lou Filippone

3 Year Trustee: Terry Bursey

Adjutant: Pete MacLeod

Lead Service Officer: Steve Botello



Francis Cannon Post 7589

P.O. Box 10206

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