

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
June 2018



State Junior Vice Commander Rick Raskin and State Junior Vice President Marcia Semones visited the VFW National Home for Children on May 18-19 for an orientation and conference.

A cartoon illustration of a chef with a white hat, glasses, and a blue shirt, holding a cleaver in his right hand and a small American flag in his left. He is standing next to a red grill with a white flame. The entire illustration is enclosed in a black rectangular border.

Join us on Sunday, June 10 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm for our anniversary BBQ. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and all the fixings.

Vets are encouraged to bring memories of their service. We will have tables in the Post home to display their mementos.

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CANNON NEWS—2015 & 2018 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

Commander's Message



Peter MacLeod

As I write this, we are in the midst of Buddy Poppy season at Post 7589. The Poppies of course are the VFW's Memorial Flower and have been since 1922. As such, the poppies represent those who have given their lives in combat for their country. The VFW makes a point of distributing the poppies at Memorial Day events and at Veterans Day events in the Fall, although they can be distributed at any time of the year.

If you read the May, 2018 edition of the VFW magazine you know that Buddy Poppy distribution is one of the Memorial Day activities encouraged by VFW Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman. He calls it a way to connect with the local community. He is correct!

I would say it has brought home to me, over and over again, the essential decency of most American citizens. In 16 years of taking part in this activity with our Post in the Manassas area I have yet to hear a criticism from anyone about what we are doing. Oh, there are the people that will just refuse the Buddy Poppy and look straight ahead and keep on walking, but they are in the distinct minority. Even those who choose not to make a donation will often stop and chat awhile. Some of our newer U.S. citizens do not know what we are doing but usually they smile and nod once you explain.

The money we collect goes to Veterans Services and Post Senior Vice Commander Ron Link is always quick to point out that 100 percent of the money collected by the VFW and American Legion goes directly to veterans in need with no "middle man" or overhead. We are all volunteers!

During every series of Buddy Poppy drives we have at least one unforgettable incident. This year's occurred outside the Stone Road Giant Grocery in Centreville. Ron Link and I observed a well dressed man take his large load of groceries, put them in his car and then turn around from a good distance and see the Post 7589 Buddy Poppy set up. It was sunny, hot and humid, near 90, but he walked the distance and gave us a very generous donation. He barely said anything except that he had not

served in the military himself. He then walked back to his car. Now you can make up your own theory about who he was and why the generosity to an organization he seemed to have no connection with. But he kind of symbolized the type of person who keeps us going out there year after year. People reach into their wallets or purses and make a donation to help veterans. Some probably can easily afford to donate but I am sure many have to weigh the decision. Almost to a person, they will say something to the effect of, "thank you for your service." Because of tough logistics, we were pushed to an out of the way position at Stone Road and people had to go out of their way to make a donation. In 4 hours we collected nearly \$400.00. So many people made the decision that the VFW and veterans in general, were worth donating to.

This would be a "feel good" story but there are clouds on the Buddy Poppy horizon. I have been organizing the Buddy Poppy drives at Post 7589 since 2003. There have been some disturbing developments that do not bode well for the future of Buddy Poppies, at least the way they are distributed now. High end grocery stores, in most cases, forbid any kind of solicitation around their stores. At many Giants last November we found ourselves competing with Salvation Army Bell Ringers due to an agreement at the corporate level. There just seems to be a tremendous increase in not-for-profits of all types wanting to do soliciting and this wears down customers and causes bigger and bigger scheduling hassles for store managers. Post 7589 and the Auxiliary can fill pages telling you of the problems and road blocks that have to be navigated every Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Many old standbys are no longer even in play. You would be depressed if I showed you the paper work it takes to get four hours outside a Food Lion in Manassas. One "big box" store in Manassas recently strung along a Post 7589 comrade for a month and then told him "merger arrangements" at the corporate level would put off a soliciting decision for six more months!

Smaller communities seem to have an easier time because of the close relations that are more natural in small towns. Maybe that is the key: Work harder at good relations all year long. Some would say "digital - on line distribution" should be tried. But that removes the human connection! We also have to get more participa-

tion from the Post membership! When I began organizing things in the early 2000's we would average 4 to 6 comrades at each Buddy Poppy event, sometimes 8 to 10 comrades would show up. That is no longer the case. In the end it will be up to the Post membership to decide the future of the Buddy Poppy distribution.

My three year tenure as Commander of VFW Post 7589 will come to an end at the June state VFW Convention. It has gone pretty fast! Some ups and downs but I learned a lot and am not sorry I gave it a shot! I want to thank all who helped me get through the maze of responsibilities. Quartermaster Rick Raskin and Senior Vice Ron Link were especially helpful. But many comrades who showed up in cold weather to direct traffic, stand outside hardware stores and put up tables and chairs, you know who you are, earned my respect and gratitude as well. I also want to thank the Auxiliary under the leadership of Mary Corkhill for their help on a large number of projects.

You have a strong man in Wayne Moore taking over now as Commander and he has an incredible military background and has done an awesome job as Post 7589 Building Manager. You would be hard pressed to find anyone with comparable credentials for this job.

If I were to point to one event in the past three years I am proudest of it would be the 70th Anniversary celebration of the Post held in June of 2016. Credit for the success of the event goes straight to the Anniversary Committee that organized it. It was stunning to listen to and see the very first Post 7589 Commander from 1946, John Gregory. But I thought the highlight of that evening was the excellent speech given by then State Commander, the late Doug Keller. He hit all the right notes in a strong reminder of how the VFW played a big part in the lives of all returning GI's from World War II to today. Keller also looked to the future and said the next 70 years of VFW Post 7589 will be as important as the last 70 years! The late *Manassas Observer* reporter Bennie Scarton Jr. devoted an entire article to the Keller speech. Another highlight was former Post 7589 Commander Jerry Martin's speech on the history of Francis Cannon and a little about Francis Cannon the man in addition to Francis Cannon the soldier who gave his life for his country. All in all, a shining evening!

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill

I would like to “thank” Youth Committee Chairman Lou Filippone and Commander-Elect Wayne Moore for the opportunity of allowing me to attend the three local high school JROTC Changing of Command ceremonies.

Lou and I attended Battlefield High School and presented AFJROTC Cadet Colonel Sydney King with the VFW Bronze Medal and Certificate on April 30th. On May 3rd, Lou and I attended Osbourn Park High School and presented NJROTC Cadet Christopher Doughery with the VFW Navy Junior ROTC Bronze medal and certificate. On May 15th, Wayne and I attended Stonewall Jackson High School and presented AFJROTC Cadet 1st Lt. Michelle Bautista with the VFW Bronze medal and certificate. Thank you again.

During our May monthly meeting, the Post & Auxiliary held a joint installation of the 2018-2019 Officers. On behalf of the Auxiliary membership, I would like to thank Past Department President Cathy Graham for installing us. We would like to congratulate the new Officer of the Post as well. The new Officers will take their positions after the Department Convention in June.

A special thanks to Cookie Cullen, Elanor Doczi, Ann Mitchell and Yvonne Sullivan for assisting me with the Buddy Poppy Display. Since the Buddy Poppy display is to be a surprise before Saturday, June 16th, we will provide pictures in next month’s news article. It looks marvelous and I look forward to having it do well at the Department Convention. Thanks ladies, you are awesome.

It was a very warm day for the Auxiliary Buddy Poppy drive which was held on May 26th and 27th from 9-3 (both days) at the Centreville Giant in the Centreville Plaza at 14125 St Germain Dr., Centreville, VA. The funds collected will go to assist our veterans and their family. We look forward to your assistance again in November when we will again have a Buddy Poppy drive on Veterans Day. The Memorial Day ceremony May 28th at the Manassas Veterans Memorial was at-

tended by several Boy, Cub and Girl Scout troops. After the wreath laying ceremony, the group traveled to the Manassas cemetery to lay a wreath at Francis Cannon’s grave site and then replace flags at other Veteran’s graves throughout the cemetery. Donuts and water were served to the Children after the flag replacement.

Please mark your calendar for the Post’s 72nd anniversary event on Sunday, June 10, 2018 with a BBQ luncheon from 11am to 2pm. The meal will be provided by the Post and a cake will be provided by the Auxiliary. Please come and join in the celebration.

Our annual fundraiser with the not-for-profit Wreaths Across America (WAA) organization is now underway. It has provided us the opportunity to raise funds for our organization’s needs along with helping WAA gather sponsorships for wreaths. As in past years, we are working to place more wreaths than ever before on veterans’ graves at Quantico National Cemetery on December 15, 2017. This event grows every year so you have to get to the cemetery early in order to get a parking space. We ask for your support because this is a major fundraiser for us. Sponsorships are \$15 per wreath. Sponsorship forms are included at the end of this newsletter and can also be printed from our website at www.vfw7589.org. You can also contact Ginger Harvey at 571-641-5350 or gchl130@aol.com. To learn more about WAA or to pay for your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/> and remember to include our Sponsoring **Group ID No. VA0040P** and **Cemetery ID No. VAQNCT. DEADLINE is November 30, 2018.**

The Department Convention will be June 14-17th and reservations are made directly with the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel by calling (757) 673-3000. Room Rate (single/double) is \$125.00 + tax. Check-in time is 4:00pm. This annual year-end event is held to celebrate the achievements of the Department Auxiliaries & Posts by giving awards for the year. I wish 7589 Post and Auxiliary the very best at the upcoming convention. The Department President’s Luncheon will be on Friday, June 15th. As in years past, there will **NOT** be a banquet. We will have a reception/dance from 6-10pm with music provided by a DJ.

Free admission to all members attending the convention. **Note:** Vicki Butler is a candidate for Department Guard. She is requesting your support.

Time is running out to make your reservation for the National Convention in Kansas City, MO from July 21-25, 2018. National President Dee Guillory will be turning over the position of National President to Sandi Kriebel at the end of the Convention. There are three Western Conference candidates running for the position of National Guard. They are: Joyce Bilyeu from California, Leeann Lam from New Mexico and Carla Martinez from Utah.

The National President’s Celebration will be held in Hanover, MD from September 6-9, 2018. Please mark your calendar for the 6th Annual Celebrating America’s Freedom Event (CAFÉ) at Gettysburg National Military Park on September 8, 2018 at 11:00 am. There will be a bus provided from Hanover, MD for this event. Information is on the National website at <https://vfwauxiliary.org/> under events.

Thank you to all the individuals who participated in our coupon drive this past year. We have started collecting coupons again this year. Please bring them to the Post so we can send them to our veterans overseas. Thank you so much for your support.

Please keep any 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.

Happy Father’s Day to all the Fathers.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
VFW Auxiliary President



Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone

I would like to extend a big welcome to all of you from the Youth Committee. I hope you all had a very enjoyable and rewarding Memorial Day weekend. The level of activity for the Youth Committee during the month

of May was pretty moderate due to the time of year and because of all the Memorial Day activities which overshadowed the Youth Committee agenda. Most notably, VFW Bronze Awards were presented to Junior ROTC cadets at the following schools:

- Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Virginia on Monday, 30 April 2018. The Air Force JROTC award ceremony began at 7 PM and both myself and Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill presented the VFW Bronze Award to Cadet Colonel Sydney King.
- Osbourn Park High School in Manassas, Virginia on Thursday, 3 May 2018 at 6 PM. Again, both myself and Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill were the presenters and the Navy JROTC recipient was Cadet Christo-

pher Dougherty.

- Lastly, Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas, Virginia on 15 May 2018 at 2:30 PM. Junior Vice Commander Wayne Moore and, again, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill presented the VFW Bronze Award at the Air Force JROTC ceremony to Cadet First Lieutenant Michelle Bautista.

We still have another Award ceremony to participate in with the Civil Air Patrol in Manassas sometime in June. Details will be announced on this event as they become available.

We are currently in the process of contacting our schools for the 2018 Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year programs. We're getting an early start this year in hopes of recruiting more applicants with advanced notice to the local schools. We are reaching out specifically to English, History, and Military Science instructors where we feel we will get more participation and support.

Unfortunately, due to bad weather and other commitments from some of our Youth Committee members the May Youth Committee meeting was cancelled. No make up meeting was called because of

the slow period for our committee each May. Our next Youth Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 21 June at 7 PM at the Post. In the upcoming months the Youth Committee's activities will accelerate as we approach Veterans Day and consequently we will require more assistance from our members. We strongly encourage you to attend our meeting and sign up with the Youth Committee. There is nothing more rewarding than working with America's youth and ensuring that patriotism and Americanism are instilled in this next great generation of young Americans. Stay well. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

With best regards,
Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

2019 Youth Essay Themes

Voice of Democracy:
"Why My Vote Matters"

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

JROTC awards presented at local high school ceremonies



JVC elect Lou Filippone & Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill presented Cadet Colonel Sydney King the VFW Bronze Certificate and medal at Battlefield High School AFJROTC awards night on April 30.



Lou and Mary with Cadet Christopher Dougherty after receiving the VFW Navy Junior ROTC Bronze certificate and medal on May 3, 2018 at Osbourn Park High School.



VFW Auxiliary President, Mary Corkhill, Cadet 1st Lt. Michelle Bautista & Lt. Col, USAF (retired) Darryl Roberson

2018-19 Post Officers

Commander	Wayne Moore
Senior Vice Commander	Ron Link
Junior Vice Commander	Lou Filippone
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Chaplain	Ron Knowles
Judge Advocate	Steve Meade
Surgeon	Terry Bursey
1 Year Trustee	Terry Bursey
2 Year Trustee	Pete MacLeod
3 Year Trustee	Mary Bohito
Adjutant	Charlie Montgomery
Service Officer	Steve Meade



Installation of Post officers—April 7, 2018

2018-19 Auxiliary Officers

President	Mary Corkhill
Senior Vice President	Janet Raskin
Junior 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
Historian	Patsy Gough
Historian (Book)	Dana Zank



Installation of Auxiliary officers—April 7, 2018

Memorial Day ceremony

Scouts from several organizations were on hand to participate in our Memorial Day ceremony and flag placement event.

Following a ceremonial wreath laying at the Manassas Veterans' Memorial the group placed flags on veterans' graves at the Manassas Cemetery.

Commander Pete MacLeod led with opening remarks at the memorial followed by a benediction by Post Chaplain Ron Knowles.

The Post replaces flags every Memorial Day and Veterans Day so that the nearly 70 flags we place are always in good repair.



CANNON NEWS wins silver award in National VFW publications contest.

Second time Post 7589 has won an award

I am pleased to announce that Cannon News has been awarded 2nd place in the VFW annual publications contest. Each year the VFW holds a publications contest for Departments, Districts and Posts. This year is the second time we submitted a newsletter and the second time we have won. The first time was in 2015.

Cannon News is only as good as you, our members help to make it. Thanks to Commander Pete MacLeod for his excellent and thoughtful articles; Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill for keeping the members apprised of Auxiliary activities through her monthly column and to Junior Vice Commander Lou Filippone for his monthly updates on youth activities and membership status.

Special thanks to Auxiliary Senior Vice President Janet Raskin for the many hours spent reviewing copy and making sure it has proper syntax and is grammatically correct.

I'd also like to thank Joel Chase and Paul Chase for their frequent contributions.

Together we, as a team, made this newsletter something to be admired throughout the entire VFW community.

Respectfully,

Rick Raskin
Editor

VFW Friends of Freedom

If you are not already a member of the VFW's online community, please visit www.vfw.org and look for the gold banner that says "Find Out What's Happening" to sign up.

As a member of the VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit www.vfw.org/vfwatwork and click on "**Read VFW success stories**" to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans' rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation.

Check back often to see newly posted stories!

Free VFW Home, etc. stamps
Contact quartermaster@vfw7589.org
If you are interested.



Comrade Joel Chase selected for Montana antelope hunt

The VFW Magazine features articles about hunts sponsored in part by the VFW for pheasants, deer, turkey and antelope in Montana and Colorado. Typically, four hunters are chosen from the applicants submitting information. This year's hunt will be for antelope at Doonan Gulch Outfitters in Broadus, Montana Oct. 4th - 9th who also pays for some of the food, lodging, licenses and other expenses.

The selection was done by the VFW Headquarters based on candidate service records of those who submitted applications. The criteria included disabilities, military decorations and other factors.

One of this year's honorees for the antelope hunt is Joel Chase of Post 7589 in Manassas, VA. Joel is really "pumped" about the hunt and will report back afterward with his pictures and experience. Joel is a "Life" member of Post 7589 and was retired from the military on 100% disability as a result of injuries sustained while acting as a platoon leader with the 1st Air Cavalry Division during the Cambodian incursion in 1970.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do something Joel would probably not have done on his own except for the generosity of the VFW and Doonan Gulch outfitters to recognize veterans. We are NOT forgotten...

Winners of Publications Contest Announced

Winning publications showcase the best of the best

May 1, 2018

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. has announced the winners of the 2018 National Publications Contest. Two years ago, the publications contest underwent significant changes to encourage continued participation. The contest's reorganization created two new categories: Magazine and Best Feature Article. This year's competition retained those changes.

Two non-VFW-affiliated journalism professionals served as judges for the competition. This is designed to guarantee impartiality and objectivity in the judging. To reiterate, VFW staffers play no part in judging the entries.

The winning publications in each category are:

Magazine

Grand Award:
Texas VFW News
Roy Grona, Editor

Silver Award:
NC VFW The Leader Magazine
Russ Chambers, Editor

Best Feature Article

Grand Award:
"Feather in her cap"
Andrea Brown, The Daily Herald
Everett, WA

Silver Award:
"Delegates' Action Addresses Smoking Issue"
David Sandman, Pennsylvania VFW News
Department of Pennsylvania

Bronze Award:
"VFW Member Receives French Legion of Honor Medal"
Wanda Butler, NC VFW The Leader Magazine
Department of North Carolina

Department Publications

Large Frequency (printed 5+ times per year)

Grand Award:
Wisconsin VFW News
Marla J. Morgan, Editor

Silver Award:
The Oregon VFW News
Sue Piper, Editor

Small Frequency (printed 1-4 times per year)

Grand Award:
Illinois VFW News
Barb Wilson, Editor

Silver Award:
Pennsylvania VFW News
David Sandman, Editor

Bronze Award:
Virginia Veteran
Rick Raskin, Editor

Iowa Voice
Linda Jones, Editor

District/Post Publications

Large Frequency (printed 5+ times per year)

Grand Award:
Greenwood Memorial VFW Post 5864 Newsletter
Steve Milbourn, Editor
Department of Indiana

Silver Award:
Cannon News (Post 7589)
Rick Raskin, Editor
Department of Virginia

Bronze Award:
VFW Post 10818 Monthly News
Ron Ramos, Editor
Department of Wisconsin

Small Frequency (printed 1-4 times per year)

Grand Award:
VFW Post 4495 Quarterly Newsletter
Anthony Durbin, Editor
Department of Illinois

Silver Award:
VFW Post 1177 Newsletter
Les Flores, Editor
Department of Virginia

Bronze Award:
VFW Post 2016 News
Ski Iworsky, Editor
Department of Massachusetts

House VA Committee Passes Blue Water Navy Act

Restoring eligibility, expanding benefits long overdue

WASHINGTON (May 8, 2018) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is saluting the House Veterans Affairs Committee for passing H.R. 299, the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017*. The VFW-supported bill, which must still be approved by the full House and Senate before going to the president, would restore benefits to thousands of Vietnam veterans, expand inclusive dates to those who served along the Korean DMZ, and benefit children born with spina bifida due to a parent’s exposure to Agent Orange-related herbicides in Thailand.

“The VFW salutes the bipartisan leadership of House VA Committee Chairman Phil Roe and Ranking Member Tim Walz for getting this bill through committee,” said VFW National Commander Keith Harman, who served in Vietnam as an Army helicopter crew chief and door gunner with the 101st Airborne Division

Once passed into law, H.R. 299 will restore VA benefits to some 100,000 Blue Water Navy veterans who had their disability eligibility taken away in 2002 after regulatory changes. It will also require the VA to contact those veterans who had filed claims that were later denied. Those veterans could be eligible for retroactive benefits.

The legislation marks a victory for other veterans and their families who suffer from conditions related to toxic exposures. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving along the Korean DMZ will have an earlier start date to encompass the timeframe when various defoliants were tested. The current start date of April 1, 1968, will be backed up seven months to Sept. 1, 1967. In addition, benefits will be expanded to include children born with spina bifida due to a parent’s exposure in Thailand. Coverage for this condition already exists for the children of Vietnam and Korean DMZ veterans. The new law will also require the VA to report on research being conducted on a broad range of conditions possibly related to service in Southwest Asia, which is important for future legislative efforts to create a list of presumptive conditions for veterans seeking VA health care and benefits.

“Toxic exposure is toxic exposure, and denying benefits to any veteran just because of time or location denigrates their service and marginalizes their suffering,” said Harman. “Agent Orange made Vietnam veterans sick. It made those stationed along the Korean DMZ and in Thailand sick — and many of their children, too. Toxic substances are also making many Southwest Asia veterans sick. This legislation is long overdue, but since there are no statutes of limitation when it comes to making things right for veterans, let’s get this bill passed and signed into law!”

-vfw-

All-State Posts and Districts announced

All-State Posts

Post	District	Post	District	Post	District	Post	District
8252	1	8529	3	647	5	3150	10
1211	2	9501	3	7854	5	5412	10
2894	2	9808	3	2447	7	7916	10
3160	2	10654	3	9760	7	10826	11
4411	2	10657	3	1811	8	1994	12
1426	3	5313	4	7589	8	5715	12
2239	3	7166	4	7728	8	8652	12
4639	3	7819	4	4667	9	1827	13
6364	3	8446	4	1503	10	8947	13

All-State Districts

10 12 13

From the



Congress Sends Historic VA MISSION Act to President: On Wednesday, May 23, with a vote of 92-5, the Senate overwhelmingly passed S. 2372, the *VA MISSION Act of 2018*. The VFW thanks the Senators who put veterans first and voted in favor of this important bill, which is the result of bipartisan and bicameral work by members of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs to improve VA health care, expand caregiver benefits to pre-9/11 veterans, fix the Choice Program, consolidate VA's confusing community care programs and improve VA's infrastructure to better serve veterans. The bill now heads to the White House. President Trump has announced he will sign it. The VFW thanks its members and supporters who wrote and called their members of Congress.

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 pediatric services at Womack Army Medical Center, medical treatment records for dependents and an implementation update concerning last year's National Defense Authorization Act. 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, must wait a full year to re-enroll and will also incur additional enrollment fees. As of May, there were still approximately 16,000 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.

Congress Makes Progress on Defense Authorization Bill: The House overwhelmingly passed its version of the Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The bill would provide a 2.6 percent pay raise for service members and includes many VA priorities, such as:

- Requires DOD to report and conduct outreach on exposure to burn pits.
- Grants disabled veterans access to commissaries and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facilities.
- Authorizes DOD to issue the Vietnam Service Medal to veterans who participated in Operation End Sweep.
- Requires DOD to design and produce a service medal for veterans exposed to radiation (Atomic Veterans).
- Requires DOD to publish information regarding the housing market around military installations.
- Prevents new mothers who are on active duty from being deployed.
- Requires an independent review of prosecutions and punishments that target sexual assault survivors, and many more.

The Senate also began consideration of its version of the NDAA under closed hearings. The NDAA now awaits consideration by the full Senate. Stay tuned to the Action Corps Weekly for updates on this important bill.

Legislative Wrap-up: On Monday, May 21, the House passed more than a dozen veterans bills, including several VFW-supported bills, such as H.R. 1972, *VA Billing Accountability Act*, which authorizes VA to waive copayment requirements when the veteran is not billed in a timely manner; H.R. 4958, *Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018*, which would provide a cost-of-living adjustment for VA compensation benefits; and H.R. 4334, *Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act of 2017*, which would require VA to submit reports on access to gender-specific care in the community and environment of care standards for women veterans. Read other bills passed by the House. In addition to the VA MISSION Act, the Senate passed the *Tribal HUD-VASH Act* which would ensure Native American veterans are able to access federal rental and housing assistance for homeless and at-risk veterans. The Senate also passed H.R. 4910, the *Veterans Cemetery Benefit Correction Act*, which would require the Department of the Interior to provide grave liners for veterans buried in National Park Service cemeteries. H.R. 4910 heads to the president's desk. All other bills must be considered by the other chambers of Congress.

Hearing on Creation of VA Administration on Economic Opportunity: On Wednesday, May 23, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing to review a proposed restructuring of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Currently, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) oversees all economic opportunity benefits, such as the GI Bill, the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program, the Transition Assistance Program and the Home Loan Guarantee program. The proposed restructuring would keep the compensation and pension portion of VBA as is, and create a new division within VA that would oversee economic opportunity and transition programs. Subcommittee Chairman Jodey Arrington sees the value in exploring this restructuring if it would highlight and expand on certain benefits and programs that do not get enough attention within VA. The VFW supports H.R. 5644, the *VET OPP Act*, which would transfer critical benefits programs into the new Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

Hearing on VA VISN Restructuring: The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing on Tuesday to assess the governance structure of VA's Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISN). VA currently has 18 VISNs which were designed in 1995 to decentralize the Veterans Health Administration's budgetary, planning and decision-making functions to promote accountability and improve oversight of daily facility operations. Chairman Phil Roe, M.D., discussed the alarming failure by the VISNs and VA's Central Office to resolve problems at local medical facilities.

State Junior Vice Commanders & Junior Vice Presidents visit VFW National Home



May 18 — JVCs and JVPs gather at the Tribute Park for a group photo



Rick Raskin & Marcia Semones with JVC in Chief Doc Schmitz and National JVP Peggy Haake



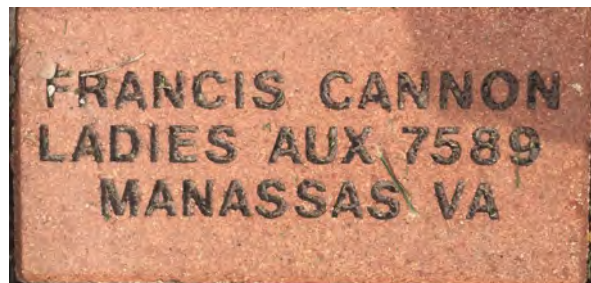
Rick Raskin & Marcia Semones



JVCs and JVPs from the Southern Conference at the WWII Memorial



The Virginia House



Commemorative brick from Auxiliary 7589

MAY 18, 2018

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GAZETTE

NEWS

VHP Updates Collections Policy, Launches Web Feature

The Veterans History Project (VHP) last week announced an update to its collection policy and launched an online “Experiencing War” website feature marking the 70th anniversary of the landmark order that abolished racial discrimination in the U.S. armed forces.

With the passing of the Gold Star Families Voices Act (H.R. 4511), Congress expanded the VHP mandate to allow Gold Star family members to contribute their own audio- or video-recorded interviews to enrich their veteran’s story. The project now includes oral histories recorded by Gold Star family members.

As stipulated by law, Gold Star families are “parents, spouses, siblings or children of members of the Armed Forces who became missing in action or who died as a result of their service during a period of war.” Sensitivity to the topic at hand precludes the participation of minors under the age of 18 as either volunteer interviewers or interviewees.

Oral histories and other materials from civilians who were government contractors, worked in wartime factories or worked for military-support programs like the United Service Organizations are outside the scope of VHP’s collection policy.

VHP refers donors of out-of-scope items to related repositories available at loc.gov/vets/relatedrepositories.html. Civilian collections previously accessioned will remain in the VHP collection.

In order to participate, veterans must meet the Department of Veterans Affairs’ criteria of having served in uniform for the U.S. military and been discharged or separated from service under conditions other than dishonorable.

The new web feature launched last week, titled “Equality of Treatment and Opportunity: Executive Order 9981,” highlights 15 digitized collections in the VHP archive, each of which includes the first-person narrative of an African-American veteran who served before, immediately after or during the process of desegregation.

One featured collection is that of Frances Wills Thorpe, one of the first African-



Highlighted in the new VHP web feature: Frances Wills Thorpe (clockwise from top left), Odra W. Bradley, Reby Cary and Silas Gross.

American women commissioned as an officer in the segregated Navy Women’s Reserve (WAVES) during World War II. She overcame several race-related obstacles, including a delayed admission into the WAVES training program, which caused her to miss several weeks of critical instruction.

However, Thorpe, an educated woman, quickly caught up with her white counterparts and was able to graduate on time the following month. She later published a book recounting her experiences as a pioneering naval officer.

Another collection features the story of Maj. Gen. Harry William Brooks Jr., a career military officer who served in both segregated and integrated units during his time in the U.S. Army. Born

in the late 1920s, Brooks was no stranger to segregation.

When he enlisted in the Army, Brooks’ unit was divided by race, except during athletic events. When word first spread that U.S. President Harry Truman had signed the executive order, Brooks recalls, “Nothing changed. The units were not integrated and we kept doing the same thing.”

Nevertheless, Brooks’ distinguished service spanned nearly 30 years from the Korean War through the Vietnam War. He was the sixth black general flag officer in the U.S. Army.

“Equality of Treatment and Opportunity: Executive Order 9981” is available at loc.gov/vets/stories/ex-war-desegregation.html. ♦

Upcoming Events

June	
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
June 21	Youth Committee meeting—7 PM
TBD	2018—19 Planning meeting
July	
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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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



9300 W. Courthouse Rd.
703-479-7437

CANNON NEWS

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

Cannon News is emailed to Post and Auxiliary members with email addresses on file.

[\[Click Here\]](#) To be added to our email distribution.

Cannon News is also available on our website www.vfw7589.org

Editor: Rick Raskin

Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to quartermaster@vfw7589.org no later than the 28th of the month.

We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Tax ID: 20-8362270

Wreath Sponsorship Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, and national cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____
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 City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP _____
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Please make checks payable to:
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 PO Box 249
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 Question? Please Call 877-385-9504
 Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission to **Remember, Honor** and **Teach**

(To receive our FREE email newsletter)

****SORRY — WE CANNOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS****
 Please note that all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor Card" = If you wish to send a mailed honor card telling someone of your sponsorship, see "In Honor" section below. Card will not be mailed if the \$2 fee is not included.	\$2.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1500.00		
		Grand Total	

In Honor of:

Please provide email or "in Honor of" recipient mailing address so a card can be sent notifying them of your sponsorship in their honor, (if you have a specific message, please write it on the back of this sheet and we will include it.)

Email or Mailing address

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall. Please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided.

Branch of Service _____ Rank _____

State: _____

Location ID: **Quantico National Cemetery VAQNCT** Fundraising Group ID: **VA0040P**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash: _____ Total \$ _____ Date: _____

Total # Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____

MO \$: _____

Entered: _____

GEN:



SPONSOR A WREATH FOR A VETERAN'S GRAVE

Since 2007, Wreaths Across America carries out its mission **REMEMBER** the fallen, **HONOR** those that serve and **TEACH** our children the value of **FREEDOM** in part by placing wreaths on veterans' graves during the holiday season.

The **Francis Cannon Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589** is working with Wreaths Across America to help place more wreaths than ever before on Veterans' graves at **Quantico National Cemetery**. **Deadline Date is November 30, 2018.**

On **Saturday, December 15, 2018**, Wreaths Across America ceremonies will take place at over 1200 locations in the USA and beyond.

Sponsorships are \$15 each. We are participating because we think it is a great program and \$5 of every sponsorship will support the Francis Cannon Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589 directly so we may continue to assist veterans and families as well as our community.

PLEASE JOIN US -- All wreaths will be placed by volunteers on **Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 12 Noon at Quantico National Cemetery**. This is a moving experience that you should make part of your holiday tradition. With your help our local heroes will be remembered this Holiday Season. **How many sponsorships can we count on you for?**

For more information visit www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org, or call 877-385-9504.
You can also email infor@wreathscrossamerica.org