

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
June 2019

NOTICE: On July 1 all expired annual members will be removed from our email list.



Mary Corkhill

Manassas area Scouts gather at the Manassas Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day

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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



Wayne Moore

Comrades,

Our Memorial Month

As stated, the month of May had participating comrades and auxiliary members very busy.

Throughout the month comrades and auxiliary members conducted several days of Buddy Poppy distribution at locations in Centreville, and Manassas. The passing out of Buddy Poppies provides the Post an opportunity to be out and about in the community, meeting and greeting people of all ages. This allows us to educate the community on the reason we give and not sell the poppies while reminding them of those we should honor and appreciate. In return, the Post collects and welcomes any offers that help us to continue helping other veterans in need.

Another important activity is the gathering of several Scout groups along with veterans at the Manassas Veterans Memorial where one of Manassas own explained to the youngsters the importance of remembering and recognition of Manassas native sons.

After completion of the ceremony at the Memorial, the group walks over to Manassas Cemetery where our Post namesake is laid to rest. Our Chaplain says a prayer and the Scout's disperse into groups to place American flags at the head of each veteran at rest.

However, as we continue to move forward, let's not be remiss in somber remembrance of our former comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

I often reflect on my time in the military and try to fathom the conditions which those who preceded me endured for patriotism and our way of life. To all of them, "I salute you," and as I remember your service, honor, and commitment, it is with heartfelt sincerity that our best regards are expressed to your family and love ones.

IT IS A DONE DEAL:

All comrades were informed of the pending merger between Posts 7589 and 1811. All formalities were met, and I am happy to say that the consolidation was approved as of May 15, 2019. Department Quartermaster Tom Gimble presided over the procedural process, and the election of officers for 2019-2020 took place. I am happy to relate that new members from Post 1811 were duly elected as officers within Post 7589 ranks. Most importantly, we gained comrades who are ready and willing to step up and go to work on improving the Veterans of Foreign Wars and our community. "BZ"

Veterans of Foreign Wars of Virginia State Convention

Our State Convention will convene on June 13 -16, at the Renaissance Hotel, in Portsmouth, VA. I perceive this to be a milestone for Post 7589, as our Quartermaster Rick Raskin will become 2019-2020 Department Commander. Our Post and its' comrades continue to do great work within the VFW at large and our communities.

It is my opinion that our Post will receive other accolades as well. We made All-State and obtained a 100% recruitment campaign. Junior Vice Commander Lou Filippone and his youth committee comrades recognized and presented Veterans of Foreign Wars Awards to eight deserving high school students that participate in Navy JROTC, Air Force ROTC and the Civil Air Patrol. I am extremely proud to be a member of this organization doing the work we do for veterans and our community.

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill

A Chaplain's Alert from Department Chaplain Carol Vangi: Senior Vice President Marcia Semones had another stroke and needs everyone's prayers. After her stay in the hospital and rehab facility, she is

currently at home. It is still uncertain if she will be able to attend the Department Convention. Information will be forthcoming. Please keep Marcia in your thoughts and prayers for a complete and speedy recovery.



It is with a heavy heart and sadness that I have to report the untimely passing of Past Department President Linda Bond who went to her heavenly home on May 9, 2019 surrounded

by her loving family. Per Linda's request, there wasn't a visitation or public funeral services. A private graveside service was held at the Place of Peace Columbarium, Bristow, VA. For anyone who met and knew Linda, she was a person you would never forget. She was the Department President during the 2017-2018 Auxiliary year. She had visited our Post and Auxiliary on several occasions. She will be totally missed.

The Auxiliary would like to welcome the comrades from Manassas Park Post 1811. We want to thank Post 1811 members for their support over the years and look forward to working together for a better future for our veterans. If there is anything you need from the Auxiliary members, **PLEASE** let us know. We are here for you.

I would like to thank the comrades and the Auxiliary members for a successful 2018-2019 year. We have accomplished a lot this year from Wreaths Across America,

(Auxiliary President Continued on page 3)

(Auxiliary President Continued from page 2)

Buddy Poppy drives, special meals for the veterans, assisting with events for our community, and the youth with their different educational programs. To all the individuals who participated along with your dedication to this organization, it allowed us to complete our mission for our veterans and their families. Again "THANK YOU".

The 7589 Auxiliary members wish to thank Past District President Lorraine Allen Smith for the honor of installing the 2019-2020 Officers. The new officers will take their positions after the Department June Convention.

Our flag retirement was well attended by several Scout troops. I would like to thank Marshal Williams from Troop 670 and a member of 7589 Auxiliary for his instructions on flag etiquette. There were a lot of flags that were retired.

Our Buddy Poppy Display was completed at Elanor Doczi's house with the assistance of Cookie Cullen, Elanor, Cindy McIntyre, Ann Mitchell, Johnnie Lynn Stever, Ellie Smith, Yvonne Sullivan and myself. Since the Buddy Poppy display is to be a surprise before Saturday, June 15th, we will provide pictures next month. Also, I want to thank Cookie Cullen and Yvonne Sullivan who assisted me in the Buddy Poppy drive on Saturday, May 25th and Sunday, May 26th at the Giant in Westgate. Thanks ladies, you are awesome.

The Memorial Day ceremony at the Manassas Veterans Memorial was attended by several Scout troops. After the wreath laying ceremony at the memorial, the group traveled to the Manassas cemetery to lay a wreath at Francis Cannon's grave site and replace flags on the other veterans grave sites throughout the cemetery.

The Department Convention will be June 13-16, 2019 at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, Portsmouth, VA. This annual year-end event is held to celebrate the achievements of the Department Auxiliaries & Posts by accepting awards for the 2018-2019 year. I wish Post 7589 and its Auxiliary the very best. The Department President's Luncheon will be

on Friday, June 14th at 11:30am. In lieu of a banquet, a reception/dance (free to all members attending the Convention) is 6pm - 10pm in the Holley I-VII rooms on Saturday, June 15th. **Note:** There are changes to the upcoming Department line. Information will be reported in July's



article.

In the past, I have informed you of how and why the American flag is celebrated on June 14th. This information needs repeating. On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation deeming **June 14th** as National Flag Day. President Wilson stated that he selected this day because "It is the anniversary of the day upon which the flag of the United States was adopted by the Congress as the emblem of the Union" and he wrote, "On that day we rededicate ourselves to the nation, 'one and inseparable' from which every thought that is not worthy of our fathers' first vows in independence, liberty, and right shall be excluded and in which we shall stand with united hearts." So please don't forget June 14th as a special day for our National Flag. Our independence and unity, as a nation, is represented by our flag. The flag has become a powerful symbol of Americanism and is flown proudly. Please fly your flag to show your patriotism.

The not-for-profit Wreaths Across America (WAA) organization has provided us with the opportunity to have another fundraiser for our organization's needs along with helping WAA gather sponsorships for wreaths. This year's event is scheduled for December 14 at Quantico National Cemetery. This is our major fundraiser and we are requesting your support. Sponsorships are \$15 per wreath and for every wreath sponsored, \$5.00 comes back to the Auxiliary.

Sponsorship forms can be printed from our website at www.vfw7589.org or 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 www.wreathscrossamerica.com and remember to include our **Sponsoring Group ID No. VA0040P and Cemetery ID No. VAQNCT. THE DEADLINE is November 30.**

The mission of the National Home for Children is to provide families of veterans, active-duty military and members of the VFW and Auxiliary the opportunities for growth and development in a nurturing community. Families are welcomed to this small-town community where they may live for up to 4 years. They work to identify what they need and want to accomplish, during which time they are provided: Education, Housing, Daycare, Basic Needs, Recreation and Case Management. The family can be one or both parents with one or more children. Emotional wounds, financial stress, fractured family relationships, hopelessness and more can often be the outcome for families with a parent serving our country now or from earlier generations.

It is that time again when we are starting another year of collecting coupons for our veterans overseas. So far we have collected \$6,590.85. Thank you for your assistance during last year's coupon campaign. Just a reminder that the coupons are good for six months after the expiration date here in the States. Please assist us with this task for our veterans and thank you so much for your support.

Please remember Linda Bond's family and Marcia Semones in your prayers along with Auxiliary members and their family facing medical issues. We do wish you all a speedy recovery.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill
VFW Auxiliary President



Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone

since our last monthly report.

Greetings to everyone from the Youth Committee. We hope this newsletter finds you all well and ready for summer. We had an extraordinarily busy month packed with activities and events. Allow me to review all that has transpired since our last monthly report.

Our last meeting was held on 16 May 2019 at the Post and was attended by Comrades Tina and Alex Bliem, Paul Chase, Peter MacLeod, Roger Nicol, Kelly Williams, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, and myself. The meeting was very productive and engaging. The main topic discussed concerned our new Scouting program which originated with Post 1811. The Scout units we now sponsor are Cub Scout Pack 1372, Boy Scout Troop 1372, Girl Scout Troop 1372, and Venturing Crew 1372. Various fundraising events for the Scout Troops were discussed. It was also suggested that the Scouts are always looking for volunteer hours and that we might allow them to help out at our Post with various projects and activities. We are tentatively planning a welcoming pizza party for the Scouts some weekend in August and will have more information on this event as details are finalized.

Since our last report Peter and Jean MacLeod completed the task of awarding all of last year's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contestants with a certificate and pen from our Post. I would like to extend a big thank you to both of them for this undertaking and let them know that their hard work is greatly appreciated. In the next few months we will be resuming our efforts with local area schools for this year's contests. It's hard to believe that it's already that time again.

As mentioned in the May newsletter we had several JROTC and CAP Cadet VFW awards presented last month. Commander Wayne Moore, Comrades Paul Chase, Peter MacLeod, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, and myself participated in some or all of the ceremonies. The Battlefield High School winner was Air Force JROTC

Cadet 2Lt Vivian Greer; from Osbourn Park High School the award went to Navy JROTC Cadet Joseph Slezak. The Stonewall Jackson High School recipient was Air Force JROTC Cadet 1Lt Aryan Mizid and the final awards were presented to Cadet Captain Evan Heidenrich and Cadet CMSgt Gabe Hoback from the Prince William Composite Squadron of Virginia Wing Civil Air Patrol. We congratulate all these fine Cadets and are extremely proud of them.

Our 11 May Flag Retirement Ceremony was a resounding success and was well attended. It is estimated that approximately 1000 to 1200 flags were retired and all who participated enjoyed the ceremony and learned a great deal about the American Flag. Last weekend was also quite busy with Memorial Day Services involving VFW and Auxiliary members and Scouts. Services included activities at the Veteran's Memorial, the Francis Cannon Memorial, and ended with flag placements at veterans graves at the Manassas Cemetery.

Please join us at our next Youth Committee meeting at our Post on Thursday, 20 June 2019 at 7:00 PM. Nothing is more rewarding than volunteer service for our VFW, especially when we inspire and motivate America's youth through patriotism. We hope to see you there.

Flag Retirement Ceremony Report

I would just like to give you a report on our most recent Flag Retirement Ceremony which was held at our Post on Saturday 11 May 2019. There were approximately 35 attendees present with the group consisting of Scouts, parents, Scout leaders, VFW comrades, and Auxiliary members. The following Scout Troops were represented at the event:

Boy Scout Troop 30 - 6 members
 Boy Scout Troop 670 - 3 members
 Boy Scout Troop 1372 - 7 members
 Girl Scout Troop 3630 - 2 members

The following members of Post 7589 and Post 7589 Auxiliary were also present and participated:
 Department Senior Vice Commander Rick

Raskin, Comrades Alex and Tina Bliem, Paul Chase, Peter MacLeod, Kelly Williams and myself. Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, Auxiliary members Janet Raskin, Donna Williams and Scout Marshal Williams

The ceremony began at 9:00 AM with a class on Flag Etiquette. The class was conducted by Scout Marshal Williams and lasted approximately 30 minutes. Marshal did an outstanding job of educating everyone present about flag history, protocol, etiquette, and actual flag retirement. The weather was cooperative with no rain or wind and with cool temperatures. Prior to the flag retirement a Pledge of Allegiance was recited and an historical overview and dedication to our flag was delivered by Comrade Peter MacLeod. The flag retirement commenced about 9:40 and lasted approximately one hour. Approximately 1000-1200 flags were retired which translates to about five barrels full. Each Scout placed flags in the fire multiple times until all the flags were consumed. After the ceremony refreshments were served and the event concluded at about 11:00AM.

I would like to thank everyone who participated and volunteered their time. A special thank you to State Senior Vice Commander Rick Raskin for his photography, Kelly and Donna Williams for their grommet ribbon preparation, Marshal Williams for his informative class, Peter MacLeod for providing all the rakes and shovels, hose, and for contacting the Fire and Police Department in advance of the event. I would like to give a big thank you to Paul Chase for participating and for wearing his Revolutionary War uniform to the event. Let me not forget Auxiliary members Jennifer Torres and Francine Filippone who spent much time corresponding with and contacting local area Scout Troops recruiting for this function. A final thank you to everyone else who lent a hand on Saturday, especially with the setup and cleanup.

With best regards,

Lou Filippone
 Youth Committee Chair

JROTC Awards

On May 1 Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and Comrade Paul Chase presented the VFW Post 7589 Air Force JROTC Medal and Certificate to Cadet Vivian Greer at Battlefield High School in Haymarket.



Submitted Photo

Cadet Joseph Slezak from Osbourn Park High School received the NJROTC Award at a ceremony on May 1. Attending from Post 7589 were Commander Wayne Moore, Comrade Dave Mattingly and Youth Chair Lou Filippone. Commander Wayne Moore was the guest speaker and gave a wonderful speech.

On May 1 Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and Comrade Paul Chase presented the VFW Post 7589 JROTC Medal and Certificate to 1LT Aryan Mizid at Stonewall High School in Manassas.



Submitted Photo



Submitted Photo

Mentors needed for Veterans' Docket

by Jerry Martin

The Prince William County Veterans' docket was developed to give veterans who have been charged with a criminal or serious traffic offense the opportunity to seek and participate in service connected treatment or other services that address service connected issues which led to the current pending charges.

Veterans would be allowed to participate in relevant services prior to final disposition of their charges. The docket is operated on the assumption that meaningful participation in service connected treatment programs will ultimately lead to the best possible outcome of the pending charges. A mentor program staffed by veterans is being developed to help guide participants through the process.

There is a need for veterans to volunteer as mentors. The Veterans' docket is held every 4th Monday at the courthouse in Manassas around 3:00 PM. Anyone wanting to see how the program works is invited to attend.

CAP Cadet Awards

At a ceremony on May 21 at the Manassas Armory our Post and Auxiliary presented Civil Air Patrol awards to two outstanding cadets. Attending from Post 7589 were Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, Comrade Paul Chase, and JVC Lou Filippone. Cadet Evan Heidenreich (below) received the Cadet Officer Award and the NCO Award was presented to Cadet Master Sergeant Gabe Hoback (bottom).



Submitted Photo



Submitted Photo

Posts 7589 & 1811 merge Final merger meeting held on May 6 Merger approved on May 15

By Rick Raskin

Following an exhaustive process that began several months ago, the merger of Manassas Park Post 1811 entered it's final step at the Post level with the Department led meeting on May 6. The purpose of this meeting was to approve and finalize details of the merged Posts. The Post will continue to be known as Francis Cannon VFW Post No. 7589 and meetings will continue to be held on the 1st Monday at 7:30 PM at 9304 Centreville Road, Manassas.

As part of the process, a new slate of officers was elected and installed by Department Quartermaster Tom Gimble who chaired the meeting:

Commander	Wayne Moore
Senior Vice	Ron Link
Junior Vice	Lou Filippone
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Chaplain	Ron Knowles
Trustee 1	Rod Burr
Trustee 2	Pete MacLeod
Trustee 3	Tina Bliem

The following appointments were made by Commander Moore:

Surgeon	Alex Bliem
JAG	Bob Knight
Service Officer	Mary Bojito

The merger paperwork was sent to the Department commander for his signature and forwarding to the Commander in Chief. The Commander in Chief approved the merger on May 15th. A Certificate of Charter will be issued ranking from the date of the older Post. In this case it will be Post 7589 which was originally chartered in June 1946.

The property of both Posts becomes the property of the merged Post and all past officers shall be entitled to rank as of date of service in their respective Posts.

We will also inherit three Scout troops that were sponsored by Post 1811. VFW involvement with the Scout troops will be a function of the Youth Committee and Alex Bliem will continue to be the liaison.

Post 1811 brings 160 members to our rolls increasing our membership to 585. Even with the increase in membership we will still remain in Division 3 for awards competition at National.

Scout awards and Auxiliary Installation—5-6-2019



JVC Lou Filippone with Scout of the Year winner Christopher Petrillo.



JVC Lou Filippone with Scout of the Year winner Ryan Bocompani.



Commander Wayne Moore presented Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill a certificate of appreciation for her support of the Post.



Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill presented gifts to District Secretary Lorraine Allen-Smith and Post Commander Wayne Moore.



Commander Wayne Moore received an addition for his collection of militaria from the Auxiliary.



District Secretary Lorraine Allen-Smith proclaimed Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill duly installed for the 2019-20 year.

Flag education & retirement ceremony — May 11



Flag education class was held prior to the retirement ceremony.



Marshal Williams conducted the training.



Past Commander Pete MacLeod opened the retirement ceremony.



The Pledge of Allegiance preceded the destruction of unserviceable flags.



Approximately 1200 unserviceable flags were burned one at a time.



Comrade Paul Chase in his Revolutionary War regalia, assisted.

2019 Memorial Day weekend activities

Poppies, Memorial Ceremony, Flag Placements and visits to Assisted Living

State SVC Rick Raskin and Janet Raskin visit Southwest Virginia



Jean MacLeod

Rod Burr, Paul Chase & Pete MacLeod distributed Buddy Poppies at Centreville Giant



Jean MacLeod

Paul Chase receives a donation for a Buddy Poppy



Pete MacLeod

Ron Knowles at the Memorial Day Service at Caton Merchant House Assisted Living



Submitted Photo

Mary Corkhill with Scouts at the Manassas Veterans memorial



Mary Corkhill

Scouts helped to place flags on veterans' graves at the Manassas Cemetery



Mary Corkhill

Scouts at the Manassas Veterans memorial



Janet Raskin

State SVC Rick Raskin at the VFW veterans memorial at Post 4667 in Marion, VA



Rick Raskin

Janet Raskin with two of the many friends she and Rick have made in Marion



Carroll County Gazette

Rick Raskin (R) and Chief of Staff Tom Hines (2nd from L) recruiting with the gang from Hillsville Post 1115

VFW Secures New Eye Care Benefit for Members

VFW members can now save even more on quality prescription eyewear

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (May 13, 2019) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is proud to announce it is again expanding its member benefit offerings by teaming up with [Eyemart Express](#) to offer members and their families a 20 percent discount on prescription eyewear including glasses and sunglasses.

For nearly 30 years, Eyemart Express has been offering unique styles and quality frames with its focus on providing affordable, quality prescription eyewear without compromise. As one of the nation's leading optical retailers, it provides shoppers with the fastest production of glasses in the industry with more than 199 stores nationwide, each equipped with in-store labs for the convenience of same-day glasses.

The VFW and Eyemart Express have made it easy for veterans to enhance their vision and their look. VFW members and their families can visit any Eyemart Express location, and simply show a valid VFW membership card to take advantage of the special discount. Members who have made an in-store purchase can shop for eyewear online at [EyemartExpress.com](#) and receive a 30 percent discount.

Taking their support of America's heroes beyond prescription eyewear, Eyemart Express is also making a \$10,000 donation to the VFW Unmet Needs program to help aid military and veteran families in financial need.

"Many veterans have experienced hardships away from their families while serving overseas," said Michael Bender, chief executive officer at Eyemart Express. "The Eyemart Express donation to the VFW Unmet Needs program will help alleviate some of the stresses at home and allow veterans to focus on spending time with loved ones."

"The VFW is proud to work with companies like Eyemart Express, who are not only willing to provide excellent services to veterans at a discount, but to go the extra mile and provide them with the assistance and support they need to get through the tough times that serving our nation can cause," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence.

-vfw-

Inspector General Warns Public About Social Security Advisory Board-Related Scam

Posted on May 17, 2019 by Andrew Cannarsa, OIG Communications Director

The Social Security IG, Gail S. Ennis, is warning the public about a new variation of increasingly common government employee impersonation scams, this time involving the Social Security Advisory Board. The Advisory Board has reported that individuals are receiving scam phone calls displaying the board's phone number on caller ID. The callers are reportedly attempting to obtain personal information, including Social Security numbers. If you receive this type of call, you should not engage with the caller or provide personal information or money in response to requests or threats.

These callers are employing tactics similar to impersonation schemes involving the IRS, SSA, and the SSA OIG. Inspector General Ennis advises that callers may use a variety of false scenarios or threats to obtain personal information or payments, often requested through gift cards or prepaid debit cards. However, the Social Security Advisory Board typically does not contact the general public to request personal information over the phone. Moreover, government employees will never threaten you to obtain personal information or payments. In those cases, the call is fraudulent, and you should just hang up.

"This caller-ID spoofing scheme has unfortunately evolved to include the Social Security Advisory Board, but it is the same type of scam, attempting to mislead people by using the trusted name of Social Security," Inspector General Ennis said. "I encourage everyone to alert your family and friends about how common these scams are, and to be very cautious when speaking with unknown callers, even if you recognize the caller ID."

Inspector General Ennis urges the public not to provide sensitive information over the phone or internet unless you are certain of who is receiving it. You should also never wire money or add money to a prepaid debit card to pay for any official government service.

If you receive a suspicious call, you may report that information online at <https://oig.ssa.gov/report> or by calling (800) 269-0271, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern Time. You can also report these scams to the Federal Trade Commission through a new site specific to Social Security scams: <https://identitythefraud.gov/ssa>.

97th ANNUAL CONVENTION
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
RENAISSANCE PORTSMOUTH-NORFOLK WATERFRONT HOTEL
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA
JUNE 13 – 16, 2019

Eugene Chavis
Convention Chairman

Kathy Goodall
Convention Vice Chairman

Tentative Subject to Change

**Thursday,
June 13, 2019**

11:00 AM	NOON	COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING	PORTSMOUTH IV
NOON	4:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	PORTSMOUTH FOYER
12:30 AM	1:30 PM	VIRGINIA VETERANS FOUNDATION MEETING	PORTSMOUTH IV
2:30 PM	4:00 PM	JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICES	PORTSMOUTH V-VIII
6:00 PM	9:00 PM	JOINT PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	PORTSMOUTH V-VIII

**Friday,
June 14, 2019**

8:00 AM	5:00 PM	REGISTRATION, VFW	PORTSMOUTH FOYER
9:00 AM	11:00 AM	JOINT OPENING SESSION	PORTSMOUTH V-VIII
11:30 AM	2:00 PM	COMMANDERS CLUB LUNCHEON	PORTSMOUTH I, III
2:30 PM	5:00 PM	BUSINESS SESSION (NOMINATION OF STATE OFFICERS)	PORTSMOUTH IV
8:00 PM	1:00 AM	VFW RIDERS DANCE (OPEN TO ALL)	HOLLEY BALLROOM

**Saturday,
June 15, 2019**

7:30 AM	8:30 AM	PAST STATE COMMANDERS/PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST	HOLLEY BALLROOM I-III
8:30 AM	10:30 AM	REGISTRATION, VFW	PORTSMOUTH FOYER
9:30 AM	11:00 AM	BUSINESS SESSION	PORTSMOUTH IV
11:00 AM	1:00 PM	ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	PORTSMOUTH IV
NOON		VFW RIDERS BIKE SHOW	GARAGE TOP FLOOR
1:00 PM	3:00 PM	MOC SCRATCH	MADISON
3:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW RIDERS MEETING	AMPHITHEATER
6:00 PM	10:00 PM	RECEPTION/ DANCE – DJ	HOLLEY BALLROOM

**Sunday,
June 16, 2019**

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	JOINT DEVOTIONAL SERVICE	MADISON
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	NEW DISTRICT COMMANDERS SCHOOL	AMPHITHEATER
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DISTRICT COMMANDER'S SCHOOL	AMPHITHEATER

Registration \$3.00 (All VFW members are required to register in advance as delegates from their Post)
FRIDAY VFW RIDERS DANCE: (Open to all members) \$10.00 per person

**HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS MANDATORY FOR ALL-STATE COMMANDERS AND QUARTERMASTERS TO RECEIVE
THEIR TRAVEL STIPEND. ROLL CALL WILL BE TAKEN.**

SATURDAY RECEPTION/DANCE WILL BE FREE TO ALL ATTENDING THE STATE CONVENTION

Bottles will be permitted in the ballroom during Fridays dance. The hotel will furnish ice and mix.

HOSPITALITY ROOMS

State – Commodore Room ** Second District – Tenth District –

MEMORANDUM

From: Hal Roesch,
Junior vice commander in Chief

May 24, 2019

Re: 2019 POW/MIA Fact-Finding Trip

Overview

I departed CONUS on March 9, 2019, for a fact-finding trip to Thailand and Vietnam to observe and learn more about search and recovery operations that help determine the fate of missing and unaccounted-for American service members and civilians from the Vietnam War. I was accompanied by Adjutant General Kevin Jones and Bob Wallace, the Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office. This was my and Kevin's first such trip, and it proved to be a very educational experience that we will never forget. We returned to CONUS on March 22, 2019.

Prior to our departure, we were briefed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) at their headquarters in Arlington, Va. During the briefing we discussed the recovery site we would be visiting in Vietnam. We learned that VFW leaders had visited the same site over the past two years, but this time new information obtained from a member of the unit moved the actual helicopter crash site to a nearby hill. This new information was learned at a Special Operations Conference.

We agreed that leading up to and during our National Convention in Orlando we will urge our members to bring forward any information they may have on missing Americans, as well as missing Vietnamese soldiers. DPAA staff attending our convention will then evaluate the information. We believe this extra push will benefit the overall Full Accounting Mission.

We spoke with many service members during the trip, told the VFW story, and talked about the many programs we provide to service members, veterans and their families. We explained our Veterans Service and Legislative programs, and how they benefit service members and veterans. Most of them were unaware of our Unmet Needs and Help a Hero Scholarship programs. We were also pleased to recruit nine new members for the VFW during the trip, three of whom as life members. Continuing to tell our story about who we are, what we do, and who we do it for, sells our

VFW to potential members. For more information on DPAA, go to <http://www.dpaa.mil/>.

Thailand

In Bangkok we started our visit by having lunch with VFW Department of Pacific Areas Junior Vice Commander Ken Stein and a number of District 5 members. Those who reside overseas have unique challenges that we in CONUS do not face, so it was very informative to hear their concerns about health care and mail delivery, as well as their membership challenges. It is reassuring to meet these members who reside, so far, from the flagpole and to listen to their dedication to the VFW. And I am proud to say both District 5 and the Department of the Pacific are also well over 100 percent in membership, too.

The following day, Air Force MSgt. Brianna Oberg, a VFW life member and IT/Communications specialist for DPAA Detachment 1, escorted us over to her headquarters, which is located inside the U.S. Embassy compound. MSgt. Oberg, who was filling in for her commander and deputy commander who were out on travel, was scheduled to depart the next day to provide IT/Comms support to a sister Detachment in Vietnam.

Detachment 1 is responsible for recovery operations in Burma, Cambodia, India and Thailand, in addition to their support functions for Detachment 2 in Hanoi, Vietnam, and Detachment 3 in Vientiane, Laos. They are DPAA's forward-based, regional air, logistics and support hub for the POW/MIA accounting mission in Indo-Pacific and Southeast Asia.

There are 741 still unaccounted-for Americans in Burma, 48 in Cambodia, 399 in India and 4 in Thailand. The challenges the Detachment faces in the countries they deal with are remote sites, aging witnesses, terrain changes, government bureaucracies and political situations out of their control.

We next met with Peter Haymond, Charge d'Affaires, and members of his embassy staff for an open discussion about the U.S.-Thai relationship, and economic and political situations.

The U.S. Embassy in Thailand houses 49 different U.S. federal agencies and is one of the largest U.S. embassies in the world. Embassy staff work with U.S. military retirees and veterans on their issues, but one problem is they don't know how many American veterans reside in the country. Our relationship with Thailand is very strong, based on the number of U.S. corporations doing business in the country, which has a strong economy. Mr. Haymond and his staff emphasized their strong support for the DPAA mission.

We then hosted lunch for DPAA staff and four U.S. Marine security guards. They were all very pleased with being stationed in Bangkok and their quality of life programs. Their concerns ranged from benefits and the GI Bill to health care, and eventually transitioning into veterans' status. We

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took the opportunity to discuss the VFW and the many programs we conduct that directly benefit service members and their families. A few of the participants were already VFW members.

Our next stop was at Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group-Thailand, where we met with Army Col. Wayne Turnbull, who wears three hats as Senior Defense Official, Defense Attaché, and Chief, U.S. Military Advisory Group-Thailand. The mission of JUSMAGTHAI is security cooperation, the export of U.S. military hardware through the Foreign Military Sales program, and joint military exercises. They also house the support functions for military personnel based in Bangkok, as well as U.S. military retiree affairs. As a result of their long-standing relationship with the host country, U.S. forces are able to train throughout Thailand, as well as use military airports to refuel.

We discussed our many programs for service members, especially our Service Officers and how they assist transitioning service members and veterans with their VA claims. Before departing, we were given a tour and had the opportunity to meet one of their volunteers in the Retiree Affairs Office.

Our last stop of the day was with Captain Droulliard of the Region 3, U.S. Marines Security Guards. The region is responsible for Embassy Guards in East Asia and the Pacific. We had the opportunity to discuss the issues and challenges the Marine Security Guards face in the region.

Learn more about the U.S. Embassy to Thailand at <https://th.usembassy.gov/>.

Laos

The following day we flew to Laos where we were met by the Detachment 3 commander, Army Lt. Col. Roy Horikawa, and Casualty Resolution specialist Joshua Maskovich, who were our escorts in the capital city of Vientiane.

Our first meeting was with Deputy Chief of Mission Colin Crosby, as the ambassador was on travel. The meeting was very free flowing and informative. Unexploded ordinance and ongoing demining operations are a key to our relationship with Laos, which was heavily bombed during the Vietnam War, and from which an untold number of UXOs still remain. The DPAA mission is also very important to the relationship.

Due to government bureaucracy, U.S. companies wanting to do business in Laos have hurdles they must overcome. Health care is not what we are used to and the very ill are sent to Thailand for care. China is investing big in health care and in other areas, and as a result are gaining influence in the country. Some students are educated out-of-country, with Australia and New Zealand being countries they have ex-

change programs with, as well as China.

We tried to meet with the head of the Laos POW/MIA Committee, Ambassador Phomma, but were unable to do so due to scheduling conflicts.

We next received a detailed briefing on the work of Detachment 3, whose mission is the fullest possible accounting of 288 missing and unaccounted-for Americans in Laos.

Due to the terrain, helicopters are usually necessary to reach most sites. Weather is another factor that influences site work, as well as the number of UXOs that are in the vicinity of every site, and which must be located and removed before any excavation begins. These issues, coupled with aging witnesses and acidic soil, just add to the challenges the Detachment faces. The goal of the Detachment is to work themselves out of a job.

The Detachment does medical outreach to locals at sites which is a positive win for all. We had lunch with Detachment staff and four Marine Security Guards from the Embassy. There is not much to do in Laos so the Marines occupy themselves with exercise and other physical activities, as well as travel to Thailand. We took the opportunity to discuss the many programs we have that benefit service members and their families, such as Unmet Needs, Help a Hero Scholarships, and our Service Officers. We also explained our Legislative Advocacy and answered any questions they had. A very positive interaction with young Marines.

We next met with the Defense Attaché, Army Lt. Col. T.J. Bouchillon. Laos has a military strength of around 30,000 who perform primarily a homeland security mission using Vietnamese, Russian and Chinese equipment. The U.S. conducts some training for the Lao army, and we have a Military Medical Program that works on infectious diseases and pandemic threats. We also work with them on counter-narcotics issues to help prevent the flow of narcotics from China and Burma. The Lao military has no NCO corps, but the U.S. remains optimistic about their future.

Vietnam

The following day we traveled to Saigon where we met with Army CW2 Jose Colon Feliciano and his Research and Investigation Team. A RIT Team is comprised of 10-14 members who are primarily analysts and linguists. Their job is to research archives in the host nation (museums, government archives, etc.); investigate any Last Known Alive leads (still our number one priority); and obtain oral histories from host-nation military and governmental officials who may have more information about a particular region or battle. The RIT Team noted that the Vietnamese are very cooperative, and any time new information is obtained a new case is opened.

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Meeting with members of Detachment 2, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, at their headquarters in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Our next stop was Hanoi, where we were briefed by the Detachment 2 deputy commander, Marine Corps Maj. Shannon Ashley and his staff. The Detachment commander, Army Lt. Col. Adam Points, was at the recovery site we visited later that week.

There are currently 1,246 missing and unaccounted-for Americans in Vietnam. The challenges the Detachment face are underwater recoveries, weather, terrain, economic development, and aging witnesses. The goal is to increase the underwater investigations, identify new strategic partners, gain more access to the Vietnamese National Archives for case research, and cultivate new leads from American veterans of the Vietnam War.

Vietnam also performs unilateral site work under the supervision of Americans to ensure the integrity of the work. This is a force multiplier, as the U.S. gets more sites excavated during the year. In the past fiscal year, 10 sets of remains were repatriated with five positive IDs already.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of U.S. and Vietnamese working together on this humanitarian mission. Over the years, cooperation and trust has expanded and the remains of many American service members have been returned home.

The Vietnamese are asking for VFW assistance in providing information from our Vietnam veteran members about missing Vietnamese service members. We have over the years asked our members for any information they may have, and whatever we receive is turned over to DPAA to pass along to the Vietnamese for possible identification. We will continue to do so, as well as ask for the return of personal effects that may have been recovered from battlefields, such as diaries, wallets and photos. As mentioned previously, we will highlight the issue at

our upcoming National Convention.

We next traveled to the U.S. Embassy where we met with the Defense Attaché, Army Col. Tuan Ton, followed by a meeting with a number of Marine Security Guards and U.S. Ambassador Dan Kritenbrink.

Colonel Ton talked about the real, practical cooperation between the U.S. and Vietnamese militaries. We currently train Vietnamese in the U.S. and give their future officers knowledge of military operations as well as international relations. Former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis visited Vietnam twice while he was Secretary, which showed the importance of the relationship.

The Ambassador told us the partnership with Vietnam was very good and that Americans are very popular. Vietnam has concerns about China and their agenda, so they balance U.S. and Chinese relations. Vietnam is the fastest growing economy in Southeast Asia and tourism is big, as is U.S. investments. Half a million tourists visit Vietnam annually, and a number of them are Americans. The Vietnamese population is young and well educated. Transportation, energy and information technology are positives. We also discussed the fact that part of the relationship with the U.S. is funding to help clean up former Agent Orange sites around the country. This is seen by the residents as a very positive development.

The Marine Security Guards were very positive about their mission and their quality of life in Vietnam. We discussed the VFW and our programs.

We then had lunch with DPAA staff where we discussed in more detail their mission and challenges. One of the big challenges is their budget, which depends on politics. VFW has and will continue to advocate for proper mission funding no matter who controls the White House or Congress, because it is the right thing to do for our missing and unaccounted-for service members and their families.

Learn more about the U.S. Embassy to Vietnam at <https://vn.usembassy.gov/>.

Next we visited the Veterans Association of Vietnam and retired Lt. Gen. Nguyen Song Phi, Vice President, and retired Sr. Col. Tran Ngoc Dan, and a few of their members. A few years ago both individuals attended our VFW National Convention and both spoke very highly of that experience.

Their organization supports social events for veterans, and works with International Veterans Organizations as well as South East Asia Veterans organizations to share ideas. A major concern they raised was helping them to locate the remains of missing and unaccounted-for Vietnamese veterans. We explained the outreach we do and will continue to

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do.

We explained the VFW mission and the importance of the MIA mission to our members, and we pledged to share any information we obtain about their missing with them. They talked about the veterans' organizations they work with, UXOs and Agent Orange cleanup. We will continue the dialogue and follow up with another invite to a future VFW Convention.

Our next stop was at the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where we met with Le Chi Dung, Director of the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP). Mr. Le's dad was the first Vietnamese Ambassador to the United States and was involved in the visit VFW leadership made to Vietnam in 1991. We thanked him for the cooperation the Vietnamese Government provides DPAA, and discussed operations and the challenges we each face. The Director noted that President Trump had already visited Vietnam twice, as had Secretary Mattis.

He thanked the VFW for our annual visits to Vietnam, and he encouraged us to tell our membership about the level of cooperation the Vietnamese gives to this important humanitarian mission. He spoke very passionately about the mission and the responsibility that those of us alive have to resolve the fate of both missing American service members as well as missing Vietnamese soldiers.

Mr. Le asked for our assistance in locating missing Vietnamese service members and civilian personnel. We explained our program of requesting our members to bring forth any information they may have on missing Vietnamese soldiers and pledged that we will continue to ask our members for any information or artifacts that might help Vietnam recover their missing. He noted

that former American service members had recently given them information about a mass grave that assisted the Vietnamese with the recovery of a number of their former soldiers. In addition, we also discussed the Agent Orange cleanup, which is a positive for the relationship.

Our last meeting of the day was with Ambassador Nguyen Tam Chien, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Ambassador to the U.S., and President of the Vietnam-USA Society organization. The Ambassador is well known to VFW from his time in Washington, and his periodic visits to our Washington Office. We discussed U.S. businesses in Vietnam, the tourist/resort areas, and the MIA recovery site we were about to visit.

The next day we flew to Da Nang for a visit to an excavation site. Our first meeting in Da Nang was with the local chapter of the Veterans Association of Vietnam and with Navy Rear Adm. Jon Kreitz, the Deputy Director DPAA, as well as De-

tachment 2 leadership.

The purpose of the meeting was for the admiral to thank the local veterans for their support of DPAA missions. We also thanked them for their assistance and explained the importance of the MIA mission to the VFW, and that veterans working together can resolve any issue. We pledged to assist them in locating their own missing in any way we can.

The following day we traveled two hours west of Da Nang to a recovery site near Kham Duc, which is in Quang Nam Province. We were accompanied by Admiral Kreitz and Ambassador Kritenbrink.

At the site we learned that in April 1968 a helicopter crashed and burned with no survivors. Remains recovered at the time were of a Vietnamese and three Americans, who were identified by their dental records. One American soldier was not recovered, however, thus the excavation site. As noted previously at a Special Operations Conference, DPAA was informed by a member of the unit that after the helicopter crashed, it flipped, and that he felt the missing American could be on a hill next to the original excavation site.

The experience of visiting a site where a missing American may be located, and seeing firsthand the sincere dedication of the DPAA staff and Vietnamese working the site, is something hard to put into words. It's just a very moving and remarkable experience to watch these dedicated professionals, both civilian and military, at work. We had the opportunity to speak with each of the DPAA team members individually and as a group to thank them for the work they continue to do for missing service members and their families. And we were also able to share our VFW story.

The Vietnamese hosted lunch where we engaged with our hosts as well as the ambassador, the admiral and DPAA team members. We were informed that a tooth had been recovered at the site so hopefully the missing American has been located and will soon return to his loving family.

Closing Comments

Our sincere 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 true professionals dedicated to the mission. Their work helps bring closure to the families of our missing and unaccounted-for service members.

We are also very appreciative of the staffs at the Departments of Defense and State who worked this trip for us.

We had the opportunity to meet with a number of service members from all branches of the military. Each one was

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dedicated to their mission and to their service. We took the opportunity during every meeting to tell the VFW story and the many programs we have that benefit service members, veterans and their families. We also answered any questions they had. We had very positive meetings speaking with America's finest.

A special thank you to the members of District 5, Pacific Areas, and to Department Junior Vice Commander Ken Stein, for taking the time to meet with us and share their concerns.

This was truly a very positive, educational trip, and it helps keep the VFW in the forefront on the MIA issue. My sincere appreciation to Commander-in-Chief Lawrence for assigning us this trip.

Coming in June 2019!

Front Royal's VFW Post 1860 was destroyed by arson in 2015. Because of flood plain code requirements, our new Post home must be constructed on a 12 foot platform and there isn't nearly enough insurance funds to even get started! This raffle is just one of many fund raising efforts we are conducting to keep the Post viable. But, we need **your** support in promoting this raffle among your membership and community to make it successful.

PLEASE PASS THE WORD!!

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1860
1847 N. Royal Ave, Front Royal, Virginia 22630

2019 Ford F-150 4X4 or 2018 Ford Focus RAFFLE



The Colonel Samuel R. Millar Post 1860 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in partnership with Shenandoah Ford, want to help two lucky people celebrate. First number drawn has choice of vehicles, second number drawn takes the other one home!

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Sales are restricted to just **5000 raffle tickets!**

Tickets can be purchased online at www.VFW1860.org



Submitted Photo

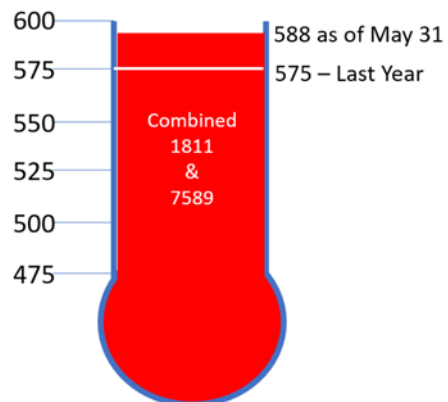
Wayne Moore & Monte Zimmerman recruiting at Tractor Supply on May 6.



Rick Raskin

District Secretary Lorraine Allen-Smith installed Auxiliary officers for 2019-20 on May 6.

Post Membership Statistics



KUENTAI-USA: Activity Report from Saipan

In May we went to Saipan to prepare for the joint memorial service that we plan to hold in July. There will be about 10 religious leaders who will come to do the ceremony, and 10 more Japanese volunteers who will participate to explore the caves and look for the WWII remains after the ceremony. They are all volunteers, so we greatly appreciate their passion to join us.

We had a meeting with HPO (Historic Preservation Office) which deals with WWII remains when they are discovered. HPO now has a new director who has known of our mission for a long time. She called all her staff to attend the meeting and asked if Kuentai has any problems on our current excavation project. So, we had a great discussion with her. Unlike the previous director, she is very cooperative and easy to talk to.



We stopped at over 40 offices and houses to deliver our invitation for the July memorial service. Luckily, a new Director was in the office and we told him about the event. He asked many questions about us and our project and promised to support our mission in any way his office could.



There is a casino and resort hotel that Chinese investors have been trying to build on a site where over 200 local native remains were found 3 years ago. A big typhoon came last October, and construction has been stopped. They do not have enough labor to continue the project.



We also went to the jungle to search the caves for WWII remains. One of the caves we found had human remains on the surface.



At another location, we found a cave with a small opening that had been sealed since the end of WWII. The entrance was so small that only a small person could go in, so it was me who went down alone! It turned out to be a human-made tunnel! When I got in further, there was a big room large enough for a hundred people.

There were no human remains on the surface but there were several rises that were possibly made by small rocks that fell from the ceiling as the result of a bomb. There might be human remains buried under those rises, so this needs to be investigated the next time we visit.

The next day, we went back to HPO's office to make a report about the tunnel we found. They appreciated our work to discover a new site that had never been investigated. We did not have a chance to go and check this time, but we were told that there were several pieces of human remains in the area where one Marine became missing. We plan to get pictures and coordinates and make a report to DPAA.

Our next trip is in July and we hope that our ceremony will be successful.

Upcoming Events

2019	
June 3	Executive Meeting 7PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
June 3	Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
June 7—9	Nation’s Gun Show Recruiting—Chantilly (District 8 covers Sunday)
June 13-16	Department Convention, Portsmouth, VA
June 20	Youth Committee Meeting 7 PM
July 1	Executive Meeting 7 PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
July 20-24	National Convention/Orlando, FL
July 26—28	Nation’s Gun Show Recruiting—Chantilly (District 8 covers Sunday)
August 5	Executive Meeting 7 PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
August 18	District 8 SOI & Meeting — Fredericksburg
August 29—31	Doc Schmitz Homecoming—Albany, NY
September 9	Executive Meeting 7 PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM (2nd Monday because of Labor Day)
September 14	Front Royal Post car raffle drawing — 2 PM Shenandoah Ford, Front Royal
September 28	Fall Council of Administration meeting — Staunton
October 7	Executive Meeting 7 PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
October 12	State Commander and State President’s Homecoming — Mechanicsville Post 9808
October 17—20	Southern Conference — Baton Rouge, LA

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.

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