

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
June 2020



JOBLO.COM

In This Issue:

- 2020-21 Post Officers Elect
- **CANNON NEWS** wins third Silver Award
- Virginia Eagle Scout of the Year
- Post's Patriotic Art Winner for 2020
- Post Membership Statistics
- Upgrade to Life membership - receive a \$50 gift certificate
- Guidelines for Conference Call
- The Cold War Museum
- VFW Kicks Off Annual Youth Scholarship Competitions
- A Great Submarine Story

NOTICE

The June 1 Post meeting will be held via conference call.

Start time 7:30 PM

Dial-in number:

(425) 436-6330

Access Code: **805920#**

See Guidelines on Page 7

CANNON NEWS—2015, 2018 & 2020 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,

Understandably, we won't pay homage to Fallen Servicemembers this Memorial Day. However, I would ask if you haven't please pause for a minute to remember our predecessors. June is here and I reflect on D-Day and those who landed at Normandy and the work entailed in their getting to the beach. Having drafted, coordinated, and participated in several

Naval/Marine Amphibious Landings, I know the preparation and difficulty in obtaining success. I am always in awe of the accomplishment of the men and women that preceded me. The ships and equipment were nowhere as capable as those used today and getting to the beach was more arduous than the enemy awaiting them. Here is an excerpt from the landing process in 1944:

The Undertaking of a Naval Amphibious Landing

June 6, 1944 - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France. Operation Overlord took months of planning and involved 1,527,000 soldiers in 47 Allied divisions along with 4,400 ships and landing craft and 11,000 aircraft. The Germans had about 60 divisions spread along with France and the Low Countries. American forces landed on two western beaches, Utah and Omaha, while British and Canadian troops landed farther east on Gold, Juno, and Sword beaches. By the end of the day, 150,000 Allied soldiers and their accompanying vehicles had landed with 15,000 killed and wounded.

The invasion of Normandy was without question the most important battle fought in western Europe in the Second World War. The Allies' success in landing their troops and securing a beachhead on June 6, 1944, doomed Hitler. The landings at Anzio only a few months earlier had shown that success was by no means certain. Amphibious landings were inevitably extremely risky operations. Years of careful planning — and a certain amount of luck at the last moment — led to the Allied victory in Normandy.

Allied strategists meeting in Washington in May 1943 set a date for the cross-channel invasion of France as of May 1, 1944. Due to a shortage of landing craft, however, the invasion date would be postponed from May to June 1944. Planning for the invasion had been going on since 1942. The raid at Dieppe had provided an early and disastrous dress rehearsal. The fighting in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy had taught the Allies valuable lessons. If there was one lesson above all that the Allies had been forced to learn, it was not to underestimate the abilities of their enemy.

The Allies had decided in July 1943 that the Cotentin peninsula

(See Commander on page 3)

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill

BULLETIN: Due to the coronavirus, all events that were scheduled have been cancelled until further notice.

The 7589 Auxiliary members wish to thank Department Commander, Rick Raskin, for the honor of installing the 2020-2021 officers. The new officers will take their positions after the one day Department Convention on June 27, 2020.

I want to take this opportunity to “Thank” the comrades and members of the Auxiliary for their participation for 2019- 2020 year. Some of the things we achieved were: Wreaths Across America, Buddy Poppy drives, working with the hospitals and nursing homes, the youth in their different educational contests and assisting the community with their projects. Even though we are in quarantine and have the stay at home orders from the Virginia governor, we are still working for the Veterans and their families.

Since we are not able to have a normal convention, the Department has started to post, on the Department Facebook site, some of the awards from the different programs.

Congratulations to the first place recipient, Ellie Smith, for receiving the “**Outstanding Hospital Volunteer Award**”. Next, Betty Gimble, the Mentoring for Leadership Chairman, posted her awards. The recipients were: 1st, Debbie Weekley (8644), 2nd, Joey Smith (6975) and 3rd, Mary Corkhill (7589). Auxiliary 7589 also received an award in Legislative for promoting the VFW Priority Goals and nominating the Hospital Volunteer.

On May 23rd, the District held a teleconference to elect and install officers for 2020-2021. **Congratulations** to the newly elected officers and for everyone participating in this event. When it is time for the organization to resume its normal activities, you will be informed of the upcoming events.



MARY CORKHILL



YVONNE SULLIVAN

Since our Memorial Day events were cancelled, Yvonne Sullivan, Janet Raskin and I placed Wreaths at the Veterans Memorial and Francis Cannon's grave site.

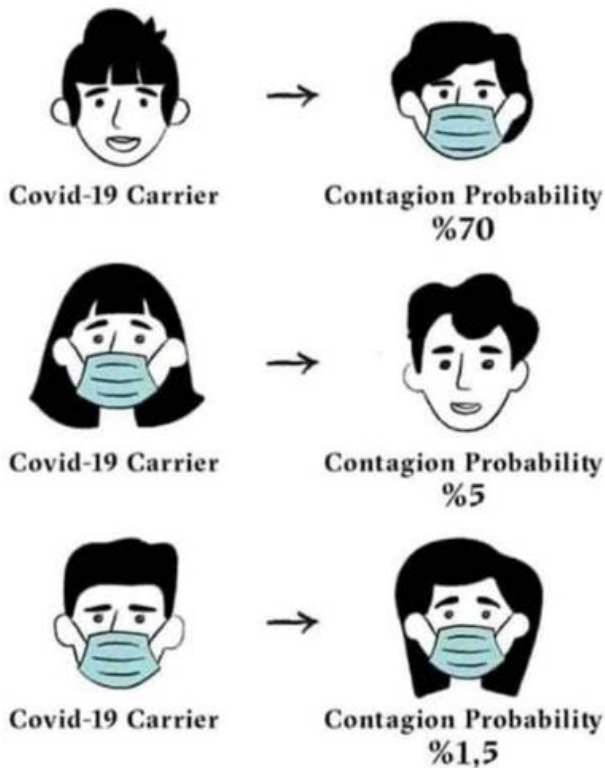
During these uncertain and challenging times, please remember to keep everyone who is facing medical issues in your prayers. Your safety is our top priority so **PLEASE** stay safe.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
VFW Auxiliary President

(Commander from page 2)

of Normandy offered the best location for the invasion. The Germans, who had 3000 miles of coastline to defend, did not know where the invasion would come. They put up their heaviest defenses in the Calais region of the French coast. Nazi leaders disagreed on the most likely site for the invasion and on the strategy for the employment of their forces. This lack of unity in the German comm would prove a great weakness.

Soldiers were confined to their quarters, then shipped to "concentration areas" near ports and airfields from which they would depart. For security reasons, they were not told their ultimate destination. When they were safely at sea, they would finally be told they were headed to Normandy. Every man who boarded a ship or plane for Europe was given a letter from Eisenhower with his order of the day.



WEAR IT

...wear mask...save lives...

From the State Commander

As this year ends, I want to say how rewarding it has been for me to lead the Department in the past year. It has truly been a great experience which seems to have passed by in a flash. Previous State Commanders told me it would, and they could not have been more right. We have been through unprecedented times which none of us could have envisioned. We will get through this pandemic and we will be stronger.

I would like to thank A/Q Ken Wiseman, PDC Tom Gimble and Chief of Staff Tommy Hines for their guidance and support. I would also like to thank the rest of my staff and my District Commanders for the work they have done. Lastly, thanks to all the Comrades who have worked tirelessly to make Virginia stand out in the VFW. We are highly respected at National.

Let us not overlook our Auxiliaries. They have been providing support for what activities we could do and have been a critical part of our successes. Cooperation with them is essential and goes without saying. They have often been the motivating factor in getting things accomplished. It has been a pleasure for me to work closely with President Marcia Semones. She and I truly did "Communicate for Success".

My slogan "Communicate for Success" has taken on a meaning far more than what I could have imagined. I am glad to see that, given the challenges we faced, you have all found creative ways to keep the organization functioning. Our use of conference calling and video platforms has enabled us to continue to meet and get the business of the VFW done. Look to the National By-laws Study Group to propose significant changes based on what we have learned during this difficult time.

Due to no fault of our own most of the community events we had planned have had to be cancelled or postponed. I am proud to see that many of you have found creative ways to march on and continue, albeit in a limited fashion. Good work!

Congratulations to the 49 Posts who achieved All-State by May 8. Your Post's award check should have arrived, and you will receive your other awards at your first District meeting. Notwithstanding, All-State remains open without the monetary award until June 30. Please continue to try and achieve this prestigious designation for your Post. The Department is always focused on exceeding 100% membership.

I hope to see many of you at our State Convention on June 27 at Mechanicsville Post 9808. A lot depends on Governor Northam's phased reopening orders and how many can be in the room at the same time, but 9808 is a big Post with several meeting rooms. We will make it happen.

Finally, I offer my congratulations and support to the incoming team of line officers. I know that they will continue making Virginia one of the best Departments in the VFW.

Stay safe, stay well, and my best to all for our continued success.

Rick Raskin
Commander
VFW Department of Virginia
2019-2020



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee hopes this newsletter finds all Comrades and their families safe and healthy at this time. This has been another slow month for the Youth Committee as well as our whole organization due to the Pandemic. There isn't much to report because of the holding pattern we are all in, but fortunately we should all be reemerging and resuming our normal activities very shortly as the restrictions are lifted.

We held a Zoom meeting on Thursday, 21 May 2020 at 7:00 PM. Those who participated were Comrades Alex and Tina Bliem, Dave Mattingly, Peter MacLeod and myself. As previously stated in last month's newsletter we continue to postpone or cancel several Youth Committee events until Phase II of the reopening when more than ten people are allowed to assemble. Those events postponed or cancelled include the Spring Flag Retirement Ceremony, the Post and District Scout of the Year Awards ceremonies, the JROTC and CAP Awards Ceremonies and, unfortunately, the Memorial Day Flag Placements with our local Scout units.

We are all optimistic and looking ahead to better times when our lives can return to normal and we are allowed to provide the services and hold the events we are so accustomed to. In the meantime there appears to be a silver lining with regard to our student essay contests. As you know Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year contests usually begin in the late summer and conclude with Post judging in early November. Since the Virginia schools have been closed until at least September most of our students are resorting to online learning

and have more available free time. We are taking advantage of this and contacting schools, teachers and students through social media such as Facebook. The interest level appears to be quite high and we are optimistic about recruiting a higher number of participants than last year. We are also targeting JROTC programs and home school organizations.

Lastly, my Orthodontic office is always soliciting my patients and handing out applications. We feel we have quite a head start on our contests now as compared to past years. Remember our contest themes for 2020 are *"What is Patriotism to Me"* for Patriot's Pen and *"Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?"* for Voice of Democracy. The deadline for essay submission is 31 October 2020 so if you know of any middle or high school students interested in winning scholarships please contact us and we will get the student an application.

Our next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 18 June 2020 at the Post at 7:00 PM. In the event the restrictions are still in effect we will resort to a Zoom meeting as we did last month. Either way we look forward to having you join us and participate with the Youth Committee mentoring and guiding the next generation of Americans. In the meantime stay safe and healthy and take the necessary precautions to help eradicate COVID -19.

With best regards,

Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

2020-21 Post Officers Elect

Date of election April 6, 2020

Commander	Wayne Moore
Senior Vice Commander	Lou Filippone
Junior Vice Commander	Bobby Knight
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Chaplain	Ron Knowles
1 Year Trustee	Pete MacLeod
2 Year Trustee	Tina Bliem
3 Year Trustee	Dave Mattingly
Adjutant	Ron Link
Service Officer	Ron Link
Judge Advocate	Bobby Knight
Surgeon	Alex Bliem

Winners of VFW Publications Contests Announced

CANNON NEWS wins third Silver Award

KANSAS CITY, Mo.— VFW has announced the winners of the 2020 National Publications Contest. Four years ago, the contest changed significantly to encourage more participation. This created two new categories: Best 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 played no part in judging the entries.

The winning publications in each category are:

Best Magazine

Grand Award:
Texas VFW News
Dan West, Editor

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

Feature Article
Grand Award:
“History Class In A Box?”
Bryant, The Daily World
Aberdeen, Wash.

Silver Award:
“Two Mon Valley Veterans Use
Pittsburgh Warriors Hockey Action
to Ice Wounds”
Michael P. Mauer
VFW Department of Pennsylvania,
Homestead, Pa.

Bronze Award:
“Showing The Way”
Mark Klaas, Auburn Reporter
Federal Way, Wash.

Department Publications

Large Frequency (printed 5+ times per year)

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

Silver Award:
Pennsylvania VFW News
David Sandman, Editor

Small Frequency (printed 1-4 times per year)
Grand Award:
Illinois VFW News
Barbara Wilson, Editor

Silver Award:
Michigan Overseas Veteran
Stacey Roberts, Editor

Bronze Award:
Gopher Overseas’r
Melody Shryock, Editor

District/Post Publications

Large Frequency (printed 5+ times per year)

Grand Award:
Post Chatter (Post 7591)
Pat Ryan, Editor
Department of Wisconsin

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

Bronze Award:
Charles R. Knaeble VFW Post 494
Lesley Kurke, Editor
Department of Minnesota

Small Frequency (printed 1-4 times per year)
Grand Award:
Hough-Pontius Post 3701 Report
Stacey Roberts, Editor
Department of Michigan

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

Bronze Award:
VFW Post 10406 and Auxiliary Official
Newsletter
Allen W. Kochenderfer, Editor
Department of Wisconsin

Virginia Eagle Scout of the Year

Post's Patriotic Art Winner for 2020



State HQs is pleased to announce that Noah P.B. Ventura has been selected as the 2020 VFW Scout of the Year!

Noah is a member of Troop 1509 and Venture Crew 1022 and is from Alexandria. Sponsored by VFW Post 7327 in Springfield (10th District), Noah is an excellent Scout and making Eagle is not where he stopped! Making Eagle in 2017, Noah has also earned Silver Palm, Double Gold Palm, and Double Bronze Palm meaning he has TONS of Merit Badges!

Noah's Eagle Scout project was to build, paint, and replace the 19 signs on Woodmarsh Trail in Mason Neck Park. The project is noted by the park to be one of the hardest done there and was one passed over by many other Scouts because of the logistics involved and time needed. Once completed, the project took 10 months and nearly 400 hours of work.

Noah has been honored by Congress on four separate occasions for his public service. Additionally, he is a leader in his recently established Venture Crew and he helps to mentor those who have no previous Scouting experience in areas. He is active in his Catholic Church and is known to be a mentor to those other Catholic Scouts and Venture Crew members he serves with.

Noah will receive a \$500 cash prize and a plaque. His packet has been forwarded to National HQs.



**Ms. Malaika Campbell, 17
Stonewall Jackson High School
Manassas, VA**



Patriotism

For my piece I chose to re-create a picture of my great grandfather who was a Tuskegee Airman. For most of the piece, I used oil pastels because of their bright color and lasting impact. I did this to visually express the influence his legacy has had on my family and I, and the key role that his patriotism has played in that impact. The influence of his service is both in respect to my appreciation of the United States' forces and the way we incorporate that patriotism into our daily lives. Both of my parents are veterans of overseas campaigns so my sister and I have witnessed and experienced the importance of their service throughout the numerous trials in our lives. From having to move from state-to-state, to contending with their shifting work schedules in order to serve our country, we each have had to contribute in different ways in order to support each other and balance our differences. Although there were numerous times where that balance was difficult to achieve, my parents made sure to explain to us the importance of working together. I took what I saw in the original black and white images and created a vibrant, updated representation of that past era of the Greatest Generation. Both my great-grandfather and my parents each faced their own struggles when trying to achieve their goals, but they have demonstrated great levels of patriotism throughout their lives that I admire deeply.

Post Membership Statistics



Annual members...

Upgrade to Life membership and receive a \$50 gift certificate for the VFW store.

This offer also applies to those signing up as life members or Installment Life when they complete their membership agreement.

Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office

9300 W. Courthouse Rd.
Suite 305
703-479-7437

Guidelines for Conference Call:

Start time 7:30 PM

Dial-in number:

(425) 436-6330

Access Code: 805920#

1. Attendees will announce themselves before the start of the meeting
2. Late joiners will be asked to identify themselves
3. The adjutant will verify attendees are members in good standing
4. The adjutant will verify a quorum
5. Members will identify themselves before speaking
6. Voting shall be by rollcall
7. Order of business will use the contemporary meeting format:
 - a. Call to order
 - b. Check dues cards [See 3 Above]
 - c. Roll call of officers
 - d. Read, refer membership applications
 - e. Read minutes
 - f. Quartermaster's report
 - g. Report of Service Officer
 - h. Report on Comrades or the families of Comrades in distress
 - i. Committee report(s)
 - j. Unfinished business
 - k. New business
 - l. Good of the Order
 - m. Submission of items as appropriate
 - n. Close meeting

The Cold War Museum®



Dear Cold War Veterans and Friends,

We hope that you, your family, and all your friends, are safe and well during these uncertain times. The COVID-19 epidemic continues to challenge all of us, including The Cold War Museum.®

Friday May 1st was the sixtieth anniversary of the downing of famous U-2 pilot Francis Gary “Frank” Powers over the Soviet Union. In remembrance of that fateful day, The Cold War Museum,® founded by his son, Gary Powers Jr., is conducting a fundraiser to enable this wonderful museum to continue its mission dedicated to preserving the history of the Cold War for future generations.

If your finances and other pressing needs allow, we would be most grateful for a financial contribution to help our wonderful museum continue to *influence the future by creating understanding of the past, through exhibitions of events that occurred in the Cold War Era.*

To donate by credit card you may click on this link: <https://www.givelocalpiedmont.org/organization/coldwarmuseum> or write a check to The Cold War Museum® P.O. Box 861526, 7142 Lineweaver Road, Vint Hill, VA 20187

In appreciation for your continued interest, here is a copy of our Winter Newsletter: ***THE COLD WAR TIMES*** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/c0r2oxwe80054af/CWM%20Newsletter%20Winter%202019-2020%20FINAL.pdf?dl=0>

Sincerely,

CHUCK WILSON *
Chairman, Board of Directors

The Cold War Museum® is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to advancing education, preservation and research on global, ideological and political confrontations between East and West from the end of World War II to the dissolution of the Soviet Union

* Chuck Wilson, a former U2 pilot, is a member of VFW Post 7916 in Occoquan, Va.— Ed.

VFW Kicks Off Annual Youth Scholarship Competitions

More than \$3 million in scholarships and awards are presented each year

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (April 28, 2020) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is now accepting entries for its 2020-21 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen youth scholarship competitions. The announcement comes just weeks after the VFW’s 2020 Legislative Conference concluded in Washington, D.C., where the top national winners of both contests were recognized.

Dedicated to encouraging a better understanding and appreciation of America, the VFW’s Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen essay competitions help foster patriotism among today’s youth. The programs also promote friendly competition and reward success with more than \$3 million in scholarships.

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition, with the theme “Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?” is open to all students in grades 9-12. Each state winner competes for the top national \$30,000 scholarship prize. More than 51,000 students competed in last year’s competition. Shruthi Kumar, sponsored by VFW Post 1581 in Omaha, Nebraska, was the 2020 national Voice of Democracy winner. Listen to her deliver her award-winning essay. <https://www.vfw.org/vfwdc2020>

Students in grades 6-8 can complete in the Patriot’s Pen competition by answering this year’s theme, “What is Patriotism to Me?” Entrants vie for the top award of \$5,000. Ruby Howe, sponsored by VFW Post 334 in Lake Orion, Michigan, took home the 2020 Patriot’s Pen first place prize among more than 138,000 student entries. Listen to her award-winning entry. <https://www.vfw.org/vfwdc2020>

Student entries, accompanied with a completed entry form, must be submitted to a local participating VFW Post. The deadline for both contests is **Oct. 31, 2020**. Read more about the competitions. <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

-VFW-

A GREAT SUBMARINE STORY

Thirty-nine years ago, an Italian submarine was sold for a paltry \$100,000 as scrap. The submarine, given to the Italian Navy in 1953 was originally the USS Barb . . . an incredible veteran of World War II service . . . with a heritage that should not have been melted away without any recognition.



HISTORY.NAVY.MIL

The U.S.S. Barb was a pioneer, paving the way for the first submarine to launch missiles and it flew a battle flag unlike that of any other ship.



WEARETHEMIGHTY.COM

In addition to the Medal of Honor ribbon at the top of the flag identifying the heroism of its Captain, Commander Eugene 'Lucky' Fluckey. And the bottom border of the flag bore the image of a Japanese train locomotive.

The U.S.S. Barb was indeed, the submarine that SANK A TRAIN!

July 18, 1945 In Patience Bay, off the coast of Karafuto, Japan.

It was after 4 A.M. and Commander Fluckey rubbed his eyes as he peered over the map spread before him. It was the twelfth war patrol of the Barb, the fifth under Commander Fluckey. He should have turned the submarine's command over to another skipper after four patrols, but had managed to strike a deal with Admiral Lockwood to make a fifth trip with the men he cared for like a father.

Of course, no one suspected when he had struck that deal prior to his fourth and should have been his final war patrol, that Commander Fluckey's success would be so great he would be awarded the Medal of Honor. Commander Fluckey smiled as he remembered that patrol. Lucky Fluckey they called him. On January 8th the Barb had emerged victorious from a running two-hour night battle after sinking a large enemy ammunition ship. Two weeks later in Mamkwan Harbor he found the mother-lode... more than 30 enemy ships.

In only 5 fathoms (30 feet) of water his crew had unleashed the sub's forward torpedoes, then turned and fired four from the stern. As he pushed the Barb to the full limit of its speed through the dangerous waters in a daring withdrawal to the open sea, he recorded eight direct hits on six enemy ships.

What could possibly be left for the Commander to accomplish who, just three months earlier had been in Washington, DC to receive the Medal of Honor? He smiled to himself as he looked

again at the map showing the rail line that ran along the enemy coastline.

Now his crew was buzzing excitedly about bagging a train!

The rail line itself wouldn't be a problem. A shore patrol could go ashore under cover of darkness to plant the explosives... one of the sub's 55-pound scuttling charges. But this early morning Lucky Fluckey and his officers were puzzling over how they could blow not only the rails, but also one of the frequent trains that shuttled supplies to equip the Japanese war machine. But no matter how crazy the idea might have sounded; the Barb's skipper would not risk the lives of his men.

Thus the problem... how to detonate the explosives at the moment the train passed, without endangering the life of a shore party.

PROBLEMS?

If you don't search your brain looking for them, you'll never find them. And even then, sometimes they arrive in the most unusual fashion. Cruising slowly beneath the surface to evade the enemy plane now circling overhead, the monotony was broken with an exciting new idea: Instead of having a crewman on shore to trigger explosives to blow both rail and a passing train, why not let the train BLOW ITSELF up?

Billy Hatfield was excitedly explaining how he had cracked nuts on the railroad tracks as a kid, placing the nuts between two ties so the sagging of the rail under the weight of a train would break them open. "Just like cracking walnuts," he explained. To complete the circuit [detonating the 55-pound charge] we hook in a micro switch... and mounted it between two ties, directly under the steel rail.

"We don't set it off . . . the TRAIN will." Not only did Hatfield have the plan, he wanted to go along with the volunteer shore party. After the solution was found, there was no shortage of volunteers; all that was needed was the proper weather... a little cloud cover to darken the moon for the sabotage mission ashore.

Lucky Fluckey established his criteria for the volunteer party:

- [1] No married men would be included, except for Hatfield,
- [2] The party would include members from each department,
- [3] The opportunity would be split evenly between regular Navy and Navy Reserve sailors,
- [4] At least half of the men had to have been Boy Scouts, experienced in handling medical emergencies and tuned into woods lore.

FINALLY, Lucky Fluckey would lead the saboteurs himself.

When the names of the 8 selected sailors was announced it was greeted with a mixture of excitement and disappointment. Members of the submarine's demolition squad were:

- Chief Gunners Mate Paul G. Saunders, USN;
- Electricians Mate 3rd Class Billy R. Hatfield, USNR;
- Signalman 2nd Class Francis N. Sevei, USNR;
- Ship's Cook 1st Class Lawrence W. Newland, USN;

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

- Torpedoman Mate 3rd Class Edward W. Klingsmith, USNR;
- Motor Machinists Mate 2nd Class James E. Richard, USN; · Motor Machinists Mate 1st Class John Markuson, USN;
- Lieutenant William M. Walker, USNR.

Among the disappointed was Commander Fluckey who surrendered his opportunity at the insistence of his officers that as commander he belonged with the Barb, coupled with the threat from one that "I swear I'll send a message to ComSubPac if the Commander attempted to join the demolition shore party."

In the meantime, there would be no harassing of Japanese shipping or shore operations by the Barb until the train mission had been accomplished. The crew would 'lay low' to prepare their equipment, practice and plan and wait for the weather.

July 22, 1945 Patience Bay [Off the coast of Karafuto, Japan]

Waiting in 30 feet of water in Patience Bay was wearing thin the patience of Commander Fluckey and his innovative crew. Everything was ready. In the four days the saboteurs had anxiously watched the skies for cloud cover, the inventive crew of the Barb had crafted and tested their micro switch.

When the need was proposed for a pick and shovel to bury the explosive charge and batteries, the Barb's engineers had cut up steel plates in the lower flats of an engine room, then bent and welded them to create the needed digging tools.

The only things beyond their control were the weather.... and the limited time. Only five days remained in the Barb's patrol.

Anxiously watching the skies, Commander Fluckey noticed plumes of cirrus clouds, then white stratus capping the mountain peaks ashore. A cloud cover was building to hide the three-quarters moon. So, this would be the night.

MIDNIGHT, July 23, 1945

The Barb had crept within 950 yards of the shoreline. If it was somehow seen from the shore it would probably be mistaken for a schooner or Japanese patrol boat. No one would suspect an American submarine so close to shore or in such shallow water. Slowly the small boats were lowered to the water and the 8 saboteurs began paddling toward the enemy beach. Twenty-five minutes later they pulled the boats ashore and walked on the surface of the Japanese homeland.

Stumbling through noisy waist-high grasses, crossing a highway and then into a 4-foot drainage ditch, the saboteurs made their way to the railroad tracks. Three men were posted as guards, Markuson assigned to examine a nearby water tower. The Barb's auxiliary man climbed the tower's ladder, then stopped in shock as he realized it was an enemy lookout tower . . . an OCCUPIED enemy lookout tower.

Fortunately the Japanese sentry was peacefully sleeping. And Markuson was able to quietly withdraw to warn his raiding party.

The news from Markuson caused the men digging the placement for the explosive charge to continue their work more quietly and

slower. Twenty minutes later, the demolition holes had been carved by their crude tools and the explosives and batteries hidden beneath fresh soil.

During planning for the mission, the saboteurs had been told that, with the explosives in place, all would retreat a safe distance while Hatfield made the final connection. BUT IF the sailor who had once cracked walnuts on the railroad tracks slipped or messed up during this final, dangerous procedure . . . his would be the only life lost.

On this night it was the only order the sub's saboteurs refused to obey, and all of them peered anxiously over Hatfield's shoulder to be sure he did it right. The men had come too far to be disappointed by a bungled switch installation.

1:32 A.M.

Watching from the deck of the submarine, Commander Fluckey allowed himself a sigh of relief as he noticed the flashlight signal from the beach announcing the departure of the shore party. Fluckey had daringly, but skillfully guided the Barb within 600 yards of the enemy beach sand.

There was less than 6 feet of water beneath the sub's keel, but Fluckey wanted to be close in case trouble arose and a daring rescue of his bridge saboteurs became necessary.

1:45 A.M.

The two boats carrying his saboteurs were only halfway back to the Barb when the sub's machine gunner yelled, 'CAPTAIN!' There's another train coming up the tracks! The Commander grabbed a megaphone and yelled through the night, "Paddle like the devil!", knowing full well that they wouldn't reach the Barb before the train hit the micro switch.

1:47 A.M.

The darkness was shattered by brilliant light . . . and the roar of the explosion! The boilers of the locomotive blew, shattered pieces of the engine blowing 200 feet into the air. Behind it the railroad freight cars accorded into each other, bursting into flame and adding to the magnificent fireworks display. Five minutes later the saboteurs were lifted to the deck by their exuberant comrades as the Barb eased away . . . slipping back to the safety of the deep.

Moving at only two knots, it would be a while before the Barb was into waters deep enough to allow it to submerge. It was a moment to savor, the culmination of teamwork, ingenuity and daring by the Commander and all his crew. Lucky Fluckey's voice came over the intercom. "All hands below deck not absolutely needed to maneuver the ship have permission to come topside." He didn't have to repeat the invitation. Hatches sprang open as the proud sailors of the Barb gathered on her decks to proudly watch the distant fireworks display.

The Barb had sunk a Japanese TRAIN!

On August 2, 1945 the Barb arrived at Midway, her twelfth war patrol concluded. Meanwhile United States military commanders had pondered the prospect of an armed assault on the Japanese homeland. Military tacticians estimated such an invasion would cost more than a million American casualties.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Instead of such a costly armed offensive to end the war, on August 6th the B-29 bomber Enola Gay dropped a single atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. A second such bomb, unleashed 4 days later on Nagasaki, Japan, caused Japan to agree to surrender terms on August 15th.

On September 2, 1945 in Tokyo Harbor the documents ending the war in the Pacific were signed.

The story of the saboteurs of the U.S.S. Barb is one of those unique, little known stories of World War II. It becomes increasingly important when one realizes that the [8] eight sailors who blew up the train near Kashiho, Japan conducted the ONLY GROUND COMBAT OPERATION on the Japanese



HISTORY.NAVY.MIL

homeland during World War II. Members of the sabotage team pose with the Ships flag (The train mission is noted at the center bottom of the flag)

Eugene Bennett Fluckey retired from the Navy as a Rear Admiral, and wore in addition to his Medal of Honor . . . [4] FOUR Navy Crosses . . . a record of heroic awards unmatched by any American in military history.] In 1992, his own history of the U.S.S. Barb was published in the award-winning book, THUNDER BELOW. Over the past several years proceeds from the sale of this exciting book have been used by Admiral Fluckey to provide free reunions for the men who served him aboard the Barb, and their wives.



EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Upcoming Events

June events may be postponed or cancelled due to Corona Virus restrictions. Check your email for change notifications.

June 1	Executive Meeting – 7:00 PM
	Post/Auxiliary Teleconferences — 7:30 PM
June 18	Youth Committee Meeting — 7 PM (Zoom meeting if Covid-19 restrictions are still in effect)
June 27	State Convention— Post 9808, Mechanicsville — Registration starts at 7:30 AM
July 6	Executive Meeting – 7:00 PM
	Post/Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM
July 16	Youth Committee Meeting — 7 PM
August 3	Executive Meeting – 7:00 PM
	Post/Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM
August 20	Youth Committee Meeting — 7 PM
August 27-30	National Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch’s Homecoming, Portsmouth, Virginia
September 14	Executive Meeting – 7:00 PM
	Post/Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM
September 19	District 8 School of Instruction — 9:00 AM & Meeting to follow — Post 2524, Culpeper

KNOW YOUR VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE

Rob Wittman	1st District	202-225-4261
Elaine Luria	2nd District	202-225-4215
Bobby Scott	3rd District	202-225-8351
Donald McEachin	4th District	202-225-6365
Denver Riggleman	5th District	202-225-4711
Ben Cline	6th District	202-225-9681
Abigail Spanberger	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Jennifer Wexton	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492



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.