CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589 Manassas, Virginia June 2022



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cadet Nick Perfetti receives the AFJROTC award from Pete MacLeod and Mary Corkhill on May 12 at Unity Reed High School

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CANNON NEWS—2015, 2018, 2020 & 2021 National VFW Publications Award Winner 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

Ukraine Revisited:

The ungodly acts of tyrants and/or alliances with "want to be tyrants" lust for power, wealth, and domination hold the world witness to unjustified and untold atrocities, yet again. The havoc and devastation leave no one untarnished though some remain hidden for the present. All of us should ponder "would Ukraine be embroiled in war and

destruction; would Putin have invaded knowing the enemy could better defend itself had it not been for self-serving greed?"

Today as the world appears to have lost its' equilibrium, nothing new to when morals, ethics, and humanity give way to greed and power with the complacency of those entrusted to mediate its' delicate balance. In modern times, one needs to look no further than World War II for examples of human shortsightedness.

Huge Food Supplier to the World:

Ukraine is a major supplier of grain and fertilizer to the world and Covid 19 created a noticeable shortage. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has caused a ripple effect across the world, worsening the global food crisis. Since Feb. 24, the war has caused a disturbance to the world's supply chains by driving up the cost of fuel and creating a scarcity of grains and fertilizer. "2022 is likely to be the worst year from a food crisis and global hunger and starvation perspective," Dr. Rajiv Shah, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, said in April. "More so than any year since World War II."

History:

Between the years 1933 and 1945, Hitler and Stalin while enemies brought about the demise of over 14 million noncombatants. Bloodlands a book written by Timothy Snyder revealed the mass murder in Central and Eastern Europe by the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. Most of the deaths occurred outside of death camps and during the Holocaust.

Today the region would encompass Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, the Baltic States, and the western fringe of Russia. Nazi Germany was credited with twice as many deaths as the Soviet Union, however, the similarities of the totalitarian regimes reinforced the destruction and suffering inflicted.

It must be noted that their goals conflicted, but the two regimes shared a common politics of tyranny that brought about catastrophes while casting blame elsewhere. Often the death of million created the illusion of winning giving justification to policies far perceived outcomes. Hitler's vision of racial supremacy and

(See Commander on page 3)

Auxiliary President





On June 6, 1944, at the height of World War II, the allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy to fight the German troops in what became known as D-Day. Operation Neptune, as it

was formally designated at the time, started the effort to liberate France from German occupation and was the largest invasion by sea in history. The United States played a big part in the planning and execution of the operation, so

many Americans like to commemorate the victory on June 6 every year. However, D-Day is not recognized as a public holiday in the United States.



On **June 14** all across the United States, people commemorate Flag Day. This day celebrates the birthday of the United States flag, which was first adopted on June 14, 1777. This day also coincides with the U.S. Army's Birthday, founded on June 14, 1775. Flag Day is not a public holiday in

the United States; schools and businesses run on normal hours.



Father's Day as we know it today was the idea of Sonora Dodd, a woman whose father, a widower, raised her and her five siblings by himself. When Mother's Day became a popular holiday in the United States, Dodd thought that there should be a similar day to honor

fathers and fatherhood. In 1910, she campaigned for the day with her local church, the YMCA and the government. Initially, she suggested June 5 as the day to hold the celebration, her father's birthday, however the third Sunday of June was deemed more appropriate for the observance of Father's Day. On June 19, 1910, the first official Father's Day was celebrated in the state of Washington. Every year on the third Sunday of June, Father's Day is celebrated in the United States. It is a day to commemorate fathers and the crucial role they play in people's lives, from childhood through to adulthood.

The Department Convention is scheduled for June 9-12 at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk in Portsmouth, VA. The National Convention is in Kansas City, Mo from July 16-23.

Almost a century ago, the VFW National Home for Children began as a place where families left behind by war could remain together. Today, the National Home has evolved to meet the changing needs of America's military and veterans' families. PLEASE purchase a life membership for \$50. The email for signing up for a life membership is: https://vfwnationalhome.org/you-can-help/membership/. Thank you for the support.

Please pray special prayers for the following individuals. Dana Zank, her son's passing, Lorrie Allen-Smith and Ellie Smith, family members in the hospital, Ann Mitchell and Cindy McIntyre with medical issues. Also include any individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill Auxiliary President

VFW mourns the passing of Allen 'Gunner' Kent

Gunner would have turned 81 on July 3



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (May 19, 2022) – It is with a heavy heart, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) announces the passing of past VFW National Commander and Adjutant General, Allen "Gunner" Kent.

Gunner was elected VFW National Commander at the organization's 95th

national convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1994. After his term, he served as the Veterans Service Organization Liaison in the Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C., until being appointed the VFW Adjutant General in 2005. He would hold this position until his retirement in 2013.

Gunner was on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps from 1958 until 1982. He served with the 17th Interrogation and Translation Team, 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions in Vietnam in 1967-68, as well as a six-month assignment with an Army advisory group. He also participated in Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of U.S. personnel from Saigon on April 29-30, 1975.

During his military service he received a Bronze Star with Combat V, Navy Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal with four stars, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, as well as several unit commendations, citations and foreign decorations.

His VFW activity began in 1968 when he joined Post 2811 in Gainesville, Florida. He served as chairman of the Americanism Committee, vice chairman of both the National Legislative and National Security and Foreign Affairs committees, and was named All-American Post and Department commander. He was also selected as Arizona's 1979 "Young Vietnam Veteran of the Year."

Gunner was a Gold Legacy Life member of VFW Post 9972 in Sierra Vista, Arizona. He was also affiliated with the American Legion, AMVETS, Military Order of the Cootie, Marine Corps Mustang Association, Marine Corps League, Marine Corps Intelligence Association, Marine Corps Interrogator Translator Association and Vietnam Veterans of America.

Gunner left an indelible mark on the VFW, working tirelessly on behalf of America's veterans, service members and their families. He will be dearly missed.

VFW Virginia mourns the passing of Past State Commander Margo Sheridan



Margo led the Department of Virginia in 2012-13

Past VFW Virginia State Commander Margo Sheridan passed away in South Carolina on 4/27/22. Margo had transferred her membership after moving to Myrtle Beach.

At this time no other information is available.

(Commander from page 2)

settler colonialism while Stalin's communist ideology led to starvation, imprisonment, and murder of innocent men, women, and children in camps.

Mr. Snyder pointed out that despite being foes they collaborated and goaded each other into killing Ukrainians, Poles, Belarusians, Jews, and Czechs. That is until 1941 when Hitler decided to invade the Soviet Union.

Hitler's Reich and Stalin's Regime left a swarth of destruction with neither man seeming to have any redeeming qualities. In today's world that behavior would pale in comparison to modern technology in the hands of a callous demented individual (s).

This note in the way does Mr. Snyder's "Bloodlands" justice, however, provided me with a base on which I can build and understand the depths man would go in hopes of self-adulation. Putin's Russia is not an epiphany, he has a goal, playbooks, and the money to buy cronies.

Excerpts adapted from "Bloodlands" by Mr. Timothy Snyder

Youth Committee Update



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee hopes this newsletter finds all our members well and enjoying the warmer weather. We held our last meeting on 19 May at the Post. Those in attendance were Comrades Alex and Tina Bliem, Peter MacLeod, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and myself. Most of the meeting concentrated on the Flag Retirement Ceremony held Saturday, 21 May at our Post. Due to a work obligation I could not attend, however the event was

conducted by the rest of the Youth Committee staff and was very successful. Since this was a makeup date our attendance was a bit lower, consequently it was decided to postpone the Auxiliary sponsored pizza party for our Scouts until the next flag retirement on 9-11. As usual a special thank you goes out to my Youth Committee staff and our very own Troop and Pack 1372 for making this another terrific ceremony. Let me not forget to thank the Post Auxiliary for generously donating brand new yard tools and hoses for our flag retirement ceremonies. No longer will Peter MacLeod have to transport rakes, shovels, hoes and hoses to and from the event.

Life Scout Ethan Williams is forging ahead with his Eagle Scout sign restoration project and is currently waiting for permit approval from the City of Manassas and the Architectural Review Board. I will be sure to announce his project's approval as soon we are notified. Alex Bliem has been in touch with a new Post member, Amber Evans, who is the Girl Scout Master of a brand new Girl Scout Troop 90147. The Post might allow her Troop to use our hall on off times. Naturally Troop and Pack 1372 are chartered by our Post and their needs come first, however we might be able to help out Amber's Troop and accommodate them.

Don't forget Memorial Day services, to include a memorial service at the Manassas Veterans Memorial and flag placements at the Manassas Cemetery. It is an annual event and will include Scout volunteers from Troop and Pack 1372. Please attend this solemn Memorial Day service if you are able to. Memorial Day is the most important day for all veterans and citizens giving us an opportunity to honor and respect those American Service members who made the ultimate sacrifice and died for our country. They must never be forgotten!

On 12 May Commander Wayne Moore, Comrade Peter MacLeod and Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill attended the Unity Reed High School AFJROTC Award Ceremony. They presented the VFW Bronze Medal and Certificate to Cadet Nick Perfetti. In addition, our Post participated in our third JROTC Award Ceremony Monday, 23 May at Osbourn Park High School. Comrade Dave Mattingly and Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill attended the event and presented the VFW Bronze Medal and certificate to NJROTC Cadet Jazlyn Alvarez.

The student essay contests and Teacher of the Year contest will soon be upon us. As you recall, the Patriot's Pen theme for 2022 is "My Pledge to Our Veterans" and the Voice of Democracy theme is "Why Is The Veteran Important?". Even though it is early in the season I want everyone to consider reaching out to area schools and teachers and help us recruit students and teachers for our programs. Historically our Post has always outperformed the other Posts in our District and has had good representation at the Department level. With your help this year should be no exception.

The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 16 June at the Post at 7:00 PM. We hope to see you there, so please join us. Please stay safe and healthy during the warm weather and keep hydrated.

With best regards, Lou Filippone Youth Committee Chair

PP & VOD Themes for 2022-23

The 2022-23 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Timothy M. Borland. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "Why is the Veteran Important?" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "My Pledge to our Veterans."

Scouting Report



Alex & Tina Bliem Post 7589 Scouting Representatives

This month the Scouts finished up some items that they have been planning for quite some time.

The Troops completed their Wilderness Survival camping trip. Here they learned how to build shelters, start fires, first aid, and other skills needed to survive in the wilderness. The Scouts also completed this during a cold rainy weekend. The Scouts continue to prepare for their weeklong summer camp.

As of this writing the Cub Scouts are currently out enjoying a family camping trip in the 90+ degree heat. The younger Cub Scouts typically do not go camping as often so when they do, they really enjoy it no matter what the weather throws at them.

Our oldest Scouts will be going on a 21-mile canoe trip down the James River over the Memorial Day weekend. The Scouts all had to pass a swim test since they will be in the water... Pictures in the next newsletter. Our crew spent some time tie-dyeing t-shirts which they will wear for an upcoming car wash fundraiser.

The Scouts performed a flag retirement ceremony on May 21st. They successfully and respectfully retired many flags. The next flag retirement should be on or near 9/11. This has been a yearly tradition that our Scouts began eleven years ago.

Thank you, Alex & Tina Bliem VFW Post 7589 Pack, Troops, Crew 1372



The Scouts on their Wilderness Survival camping trip.



A typical Wilderness Survival shelter built by the Scouts.



The Scouts prepare flags for retirement.



The Scouts respectfully retire unserviceable flags.

Legislative Report



Monti Zimmerman

There is still no Virginia State Budget so no movement on the income tax deduction, the gas tax reduction, or the elimination of the grocery tax. The JLC is considering four issues for next year (no particular order):

1. A constitutional amendment to make permanent and equitable with the other categories, the property tax exemption for surviving spouses of those who died on active duty, not killed in action. A resolution proposing that VFW VA co-sponsor the consti-

tutional amendment with The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) will be presented at the State Convention. (See Page 7)

- 2. An increase in the income tax deduction for serving Virginia National Guard members from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year and an increase from 0-3 to 0-5 for eligibility. This was last updated in 1994
- 3. An exemption to make state park admission free for Virginia National Guard member.
- 4. Remove the \$400 burial fee for a spouse of a military member to be buried in a state veterans cemetery.

Commissioner's Corner



Not only does the month of May mean warmer, longer days and the appearance of spring flowers, this month is also filled with many events and commemorations of importance to us at the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and to the veterans and families that we serve.

For example, May is National Military Appreciation Month and National Military Caregivers Month. May 6 was Military Spouse Appreciation Day and May 8-14 was National Skilled Nursing Care Week. Here at DVS we make a point to show appreciation to the dedicated team members who provide care to the residents of our state veterans care centers as we also acknowledge the contributions of the thousands of military spouses who back up those men and women on active duty.

On May 14, we celebrated the birthday of the Virginia National Guard and May 21 is Armed Forces Day celebrating the contributions of all those who serve or have served in all branches of our US military.

Memorial Day is Monday, May 30. DVS again will host inspirational ceremonies at four locations across the Commonwealth to honor and remember the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice and the families they left behind while defending our Nation over the past nearly 250 years – from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terrorism and beyond.

The Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony will be held for the 66th consecutive year at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond. Similar ceremonies will be held at our DVS state veterans cemeteries in Amelia, Dublin and Suffolk. I hope you and your family can attend one of these ceremonies. A complete schedule for each of these ceremonies including the speakers and other participants is included in this edition of *DVS eNews* and available at www.dvs.virginia.gov.

There are truly many special events and commemorations during this month. Yet none is more important than the one day we Americans set aside each year to never forget those heroes who died to protect our great Nation and the freedoms we enjoy but too often take for granted.

As always, thank you for your interest in Virginia veterans and this agency. We appreciate your feedback. Please continue to send us your ideas and suggestions as to how we can better serve you – our Virginia veterans and your family members. We never lose sight of our mission to ensure that this Commonwealth is the best state in America for veterans to *Live, Work and Thrive*.

Daniel Gade, PhD, Commissioner Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Winners of Publications Contest The VFW congratulates all of this year's winners

CANNON NEWS wins Bronze Award — Ed.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (May 16, 2022) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has announced the winners of the 2022 National Publications Contest. More than five 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 play no part in judging the entries.

The winning publications in each category are:

Best Magazine

Grand Award: California Veteran Roger Meier, Editor

Silver Award: Texas VFW News Lupita M. Perez, Editor

Bronze Award: *The European Gazette* Lee R. Wolverton, Editor

Best Feature Article

Grand Award:
"A Gesture of Gratitude"
Sarah Kocher, St. Cloud Times
VFW Post 428 in St. Cloud. Minn.

Silver Award:

"Final Flight Ends Adventurous Career for Illinois Army National Guard Aviator"

Barb Wilson, Illinois VFW News

Department of Illinois

Bronze Award:

"West Mifflin VFW Members Earn Top Surgeon Awards at State Convention"

Michael P. Mauer, *The South Hills Mon Valley Messenger* Department of Pennsylvania

Department Publications

Large Frequency (printed 5+ times per year)

Grand Award:

Wisconsin VFW News Marla J. Morgan, Editor

Silver Award: Pennsylvania VFW News Cory Angell, Editor

Small Frequency (printed 1-4 times per year)

Grand Award:

*Illinois VFW News*Barb Wilson, Editor

Silver Award:

Iowa Voice Newspaper Linda Jones, Editor

Bronze Award:

Department of South Carolina Sentinel Bill LaMonte, Editor

District/Post Publications

Large Frequency (printed 5+ times per year)

Grand Award:

Watch On The Rhine News (Post 27) Lee R. Wolverton, Editor Department of Europe

Silver Award:

Greenwood VFW Post 5864 Newsletter Steve Milbourn, Editor Department of Indiana

Bronze Award:

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

Small Frequency (printed 1-4 times per year)

Grand Award:

VFW Post 2016 News Ski Iworsky, Editor Department of Massachusetts

Silver Award:

Veterans of Mount Prospect Illinois (Post 1337) John DeGroot, Editor Department of Illinois

Bronze Award:

Waverly VFW Post 1272 Newsletter D. Bruce Pahlm, Editor Department of Massachusetts

Proposal for a Constitutional Amendment to Expanded Real Estate Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses

WHEREAS, the 2022 the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) had an initiative to expand real estate tax relief to include spouses of military service members who died in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Legislature passed legislation that relegated authority whether or not to implement this deduction to individual localities; and

WHEREAS, some local jurisdictions chose to not grant the tax exemption; and

WHEREAS, some eligible surviving spouses would therefore be ineligible; and

WHEREAS, the only way to correct this would be to codify the tax exemption through a constitutional amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) will introduce a JLC agenda item for such an amendment;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Virginia join MOAA as a co-sponsor of the proposed constitutional amendment.

Submitted by: Richard Raskin Past State Commander JLC Representative

Another phishing attempt — check where a reply would go... If you get emails like this delete them, do not respond.



FTC says credit repair operation was a scam

By Seena Gressin

If your credit isn't as good as you'd like, a company that promises to boost your credit score by hundreds of points in as little as 45 days might seem like the perfect answer. That's the result that a business called The Credit Game claimed it could deliver with "credit piggybacking" and other credit repair services. But according to the FTC, The Credit Game took people for a ride.

"Credit piggybacking" is where a person who wants to raise their credit score pays a credit repair company to be added as an "authorized user" to a credit card account of someone with a higher credit rating. However, the person becomes an "authorized user" in name only and does not get actual access to the account. The idea is that they can improve their credit by "piggybacking" on the good credit of a stranger, who gets a fee for letting their account be used for the sham.

But it is a sham. And, in its complaint against the operators of The Credit Game (formerly called Wholesale Tradelines), the FTC says it was just one of many illegal practices the defendants used to bilk cash-strapped people out of hundreds and even thousands of dollars for credit repair services that were ineffective, undeliverable, or flat-out illegal.

Among other things, the complaint alleges the defendants charged people before delivering on their credit repair promises, which is illegal for credit repair companies to do. And it alleges they claimed their services were "guaranteed," but routinely refused to give people refunds.

What's more, the FTC says, the defendants pitched a bogus business opportunity that they falsely claimed would let people make millions by operating their own credit repair companies. According to the complaint, the defendants urged people to use their government COVID-19 benefits — stimulus checks and child tax credits — to buy the supposed opportunity.

If you're thinking about paying for credit repair services, read Fixing Your Credit FAQs at https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/fixing-your-credit-faqs to learn how to spot a credit repair scam. Effective credit repair takes time, but anything a credit repair company can do legally, you are able to do yourself at little or no cost. If you'd like a hand, your local credit union, university, or military personal financial manager may be able to recommend a non-profit credit counseling program that can help.

Submitted by Gunny Lewis

Aluminum Tab Collection Update



At our general membership in May Comrade Paul Chase reported that he had taken about 75,000 aluminum tabs to the Shriners. While he was there we gave him another 50,000 that we had collected bringing the total to 125,000. To date the Post has donated over 3,000,000 tabs which when melted down and formed into ingots provides much needed funding to the Shriner's Burn Center for Children.

NJROTC Award Ceremony at Osbourn Park High School 23 May 2022



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mary Corkhill, Cadet Jazlyn Alvarez and Dave Mattingly

JLC Report

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations met in Richmond on May 12. The body reviewed the results of the JLC initiatives presented in the past legislative session. Of note, the

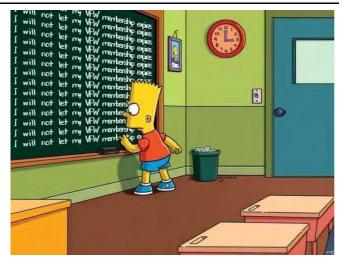
initiative to protect color guard firing parties from prosecution was signed into law by the Governor. Also, the proposed tax relief for spouses of military members who died in the line of duty was passed with modifications that allows jurisdictional option on whether to implement the tax relief. The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), that introduced the legislative agenda, will be drafting a proposal to amend the Constitution of Virginia to make the tax relief mandatory. As the VFW JLC representative I will propose at our State Convention that we partner with MOAA in support of this initiative.

VDVS Commissioner Danial Gade addressed the body with an update of VDVS operations and the status of programs. VDVS is also willing to present service officer training as part of their outreach program, an opportunity I am investing for our Winter Council meeting in January 2023.

Several proposals are being considered for the 2023 legislative initiatives including: increased funding for suicide prevention, waiver of spousal internment fees in state cemeteries, tax relief for veterans O5 and below and the constitutional amendment mentioned previously. Veteran tax relief figures prominently with Commissioner Gade's saying to veterans that it is important that they remain living in Virginia; "Stay/Work/Thrive".

I am pleased to announce that Post 9808 Quartermaster Joanne Smith has accepted the position of VFW JLC alternate. I look forward to working with Joanne to make our JLC involvement notable.

Rick Raskin
Past State Commander
VFW VA JLC Representative







2022-23 Post Officers

2022-23 Auxiliary 7589 Officers

Commander	Wayne Moore	President	Mary Corkhill
Senior Vice Commander	Lou Filippone	Senior Vice President	Ellie Smith
Junior Vice Commander	Bobby Knight	Junior Vice President	Cindy McIntyre
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin	Secretary	Ann Mitchell
Chaplain	Ron Knowles	Treasurer	Elanor Doczi
1 Year Trustee	Tina Bliem	Chaplain	Cookie Cullen
		Conductress	Janet Raskin
2 Year Trustee	Dave Mattingly	Guard	Patsy Gough
3 Year Trustee	Chris Morgan	Trustee 1	Yvonne Sullivan
Adjutant	Ron Link	Trustee 2	Jan Germain
Service Officer	Ron Link	Trustee 3	Janet Raskin
Judge Advocate	Bobby Knight	Historians	Patsy Gough Yvonne Sullivan
Surgeon	Alex Bliem	Patriotic Instructor	Lorri Allen Smith



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Upcoming Events

June 6	Post Meeting — 7:30 PM		
June 14	Auxiliary meeting at 2:00 PM (in person & teleconference available)		
June 9—11	State Convention — Portsmouth		
June 16	Youth Committee — 7:00 PM		
June 18	Post Anniversary Cookout — 2:00 PM		
July 11	Auxiliary meeting at 2:00 PM (in person & teleconference available) Post Meeting — 7:30 PM (Instead of July 4)		
July 16—21	National Convention, Kansas City, MO		
August 1	Post Meeting — 7:30 PM		
August 8	Auxiliary meeting at 2:00 PM (in person & teleconference available)		
August 20	District 8 SOI & Meeting — King George — 9:00 AM — Meeting follows SOI		



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Bob Good	5th District	202-225-4711		
Ben Cline	6th District	202-225-9681		
Abigail Spanberger	7th District	202-225-2815		
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Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861		
Jennifer Wexton	10th District	202-225-5136		
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492		





CANNON NEWS

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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.