

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
July 2014

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*Pete Slusher (2nd from left) with an outstanding haul of aluminum tabs for donation to the Shriner's Boston Burn Center. Pictured L-R Warren Ewell, Joel Chase and Paul Chase. See Page 7.*

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## *In This Issue:*

- ... **CANNON NEWS** wins award for 2nd year
  - ... Post celebrates Vietnam Veterans with a BBQ on June 22
  - ... Pictures from the Department Convention
  - ... Manassas Ballet is offering free tickets on November 7
  - ... Post Expands Aluminum tab collection
  - ... Legacy Life Membership
  - ... VFW Calls for Mexican Travel/Product Boycott
  - ... VFW Member Selected to Receive Medal of Honor
  - ... Upcoming Events
- 

**CANNON NEWS**—2013 and 2014 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Most Outstanding Post Publication/Newsletter, VFW Department of Virginia

## From the Editor — CANNON NEWS Honored Again



receiving this prestigious honor.

Each month we try to publish articles on what your Post has been doing as well as activities within the Department. We also include articles of interest to our audience and updates on legislation affecting the veteran

CANNON NEWS was honored for the second year in a row as the best VFW Post publication in Virginia. The Clair B. Poff award was presented on June 5 at the Department convention in Williamsburg. I was proud to receive this award for the Post and am grateful for the contributions many of you have made towards us receiving this prestigious honor.

community. On another note, I was unsuccessful in my campaign to become the Department surgeon but the election was the closest they have ever had. A mere margin of approximately 16 votes out of over 700 cast kept me from winning. Based on that and, the many comments I received after the election, I have decided to run again next year. I will officially announce my campaign in the August edition of the Department of Virginia General Orders. I would like to thank all of those who supported me this year and hope you will see fit to continue your support next year.

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Yours in Comradeship,

Rick

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## From the Commander



**WOW!!!!**

If you missed the “Welcome Home” ceremony for our Vietnam veterans on Sunday, June 22, you missed one of the best ceremonies this Post ever held. Over 70 persons attended and welcomed home approximately 35 Vietnam veterans. There are so many people that were responsible for the celebration. The committee

consisting of **Peter MacLeod, Joel Chase, and Paul Chase** put on a spectacular celebration. Also Comrades Lou Filippone, Robert Punihaole, and Terry Bursey assisted in the set up, food preparation, and ensuring all visitors were greeted and felt at home.

**Special kudos to our Ladies Auxiliary.** Mary Corkhill, Janet Raskin, Nancy Dazzo, and Cindy McIntyre did a good first-class job setting up the hall and making everyone feel at home. Without the ladies assistance, the comrades could have never put on such a great ceremony. Thank you Mary, Janet, Nancy and Cindy.

### Upcoming year:

There are many activities planned for the upcoming

year. We are aiming to once again make Post 7589 an All-State Post. In order to do that, we’re going to need a lot of assistance. Recruiting, Retention, Community Service, and last but not least our Youth Programs are all important to make All-State for 2014 – 15. As John Hamilton, past Commander-in-Chief, stated during his term—Comrades are the most important people in our organization. Commanders, Quartermasters, Vice commanders and Trustees are just a title. This means we need our Comrades to help and guide us through the year in order to once again put 7589 on the map.

One of the ways the Comrades can help is by informing Rick or I any time you perform a Community Service, anything to do with Americanism, Hospital Visits, or assisting a veteran. Either Rick or I will report this activity to the Department. *Reporting is the lifeblood of our Post.*

Recruiting is another important factor in making the Post stronger. If you know someone who you think is eligible and you need assistance; don’t hesitate to ask Steve Meade, Rick Raskin, or myself to assist you. We would be happy to assist you in recruiting the prospect and ensure you get the proper credit and kudos. Really, recruiting is probably the easiest task we as Comrades have to do. All we have to do is just ask. If they want to

*(Commander—Continued on page 9)*

# Auxiliary President's Report



During the Awards ceremony, at the Department Convention, the Auxiliary received the exciting news that Ms. Elizabeth Chung from Osbourn Park won first place in the Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest for 2014. Her art work was forwarded to National. The Auxiliary is so proud of her and all the students who participated in this year's contest.

to thank Ms. Nancy Dazzo, Ms. Janet Raskin, Ms. Cindy McIntyre and Ms. Jean MacLeod for assisting with the setting-up the food and the clean-up. Also, thanks to Ms. Ginger Harvey for communicating with the guests. This was a great way to meet the Veterans and get to know everyone who attended.

The schedule for the next three months is posted below. Of course this is subject to change. This will give you an idea of what we are planning and maybe you can plan your schedule to attend any of the events.

We are still collecting the **Campbell soup** labels for the National Home for Children. They provide housing and support services to struggling military and veteran families from across the nation. We want to continue assisting them in purchasing a new van. If you wish to help, please bring the labels to the Post.

The Auxiliary of 7589 was awarded 2 National awards and several awards from the Department. I wish to thank all the sisters who worked on the Buddy Poppy display. We came in first in our category and I will be taking the display to National in July. Ladies, you **ROCK** and I hope your continued participated will take this Auxiliary to new highs in the coming year.

As always, for individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized, you are in our prayers. **Please** let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you.

Respectfully,  
Mary Corkhill  
Ladies Auxiliary  
President



I would like to think Pete MacLeod for a wonderful day of celebrating the Vietnam Vets on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were a lot of new faces and a great turn out. I also want

July 7	Post/Auxiliary Monthly Meeting 7:30pm
July 8	Attending a Birthday Party for 102 years old Vet (2:00 pm)
July 17	Youth Committee Mtg. – 7 pm – Post
July 18-23	National Convention in St. Louis, MO
Aug 4	Post/Auxiliary Meeting – 7:30 pm
Aug 17	District meeting/9835, Warrenton Post 1:00 pm
Aug 21	Youth Committee Mtg. – 7 pm – Post
Sept 8	Post/Auxiliary Monthly Meeting 7:30pm (Inspection)
Sept 11	9/11 Memorial Buddy Poppy - Distribution to public
Sept 12	Set-up for Yard Sale for Youth Committee 4-7
Sept 13	Youth Committee Yard Sale – 7-2
Sept 18	Youth Committee Mtg. – 7 pm – Post
Sept 19	POW/MIA Ceremony – 5 pm – Manassas Veterans Memorial
Sept 20	Department Council of Administration (Charlottesville) 9am

## Youth News and Notes

By Pete MacLeod, Youth Chair



Now is the time to get young people interested in entering essays in the 2014-2015 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competition. You don't have to wait for school to start. Applications are available and can be printed directly from the [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) website. We will have dozens of the application- brochures from National at Post

7589 by late July but you can print the applications off the website right now! It is also time to start thinking about teacher of the year candidates. We have three levels: Grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. All that is necessary is to fill out the form (again, available on the National VFW website) and write an essay nominating a classroom teacher. Deadline for the VFW/Ladies Auxiliary education contests is November 1, 2014.

We also have official letters from the Manassas City and Prince William County school systems allowing Post 7589 and Ladies Auxiliary representatives to go into the county and city schools and talk with teachers, principals and students about entering the contests this Fall.

If you need a copy of the letter, I have them and can give you one. Remember, you do need the principal's approval for a whole class of students to enter the contests but individual students from anywhere in Virginia can enter on their own by submitting the essays directly to Post 7589.

What an experience being interviewed by students from the Stonewall Jackson High School Social Studies classes of Blake Ferreira and Edward Pell. May 29 was such a great day at Post 7589 with those young people sitting at tables talking to veterans about their war experiences. And then in an amazing display of thoughtfulness, Mr. Ferreira sent a picture of his students with thank you letters to each veteran who took part.

VFW Post 7589 was proud to award Cadet Cari Rozsi, of the NJROTC unit at Osbourn Park High School, the VFW Bronze JROTC Award for 2013-2104. James Ogawa, the Senior Naval Science Instructor at Osbourn Park, nominated Ms. Rozsi. We hope to present the award to Ms. Rozsi at a ceremony in August.

### Important Youth Dates ahead:

Thursday, July 17 at 7:00 pm: Monthly Youth Meeting at the Post

Saturday, Sept 13, 7am to 2pm : Youth Yard Sale at the Post



*Stonewall Jackson High School Social Studies classes of Blake Ferreira and Edward Pell*

## Post celebrates Vietnam Veterans with a BBQ on June 22

*By Pete MacLeod—Senior Vice-Commander*

It was a truly great day Sunday June 22! Any time you can get that many veterans and their families together to celebrate it is a great day. The problem is that Vietnam Veterans should have been greeted and thanked like that back in the 60's and 70's. But better late than never.

We had an amazing attendance of over 70 people who enjoyed the camaraderie and good food. Almost 40 of those were Vietnam Vets. Based on comments received, they really enjoyed themselves. We also had 3 of them who were not VFW members opt to join our Post.

I just want to thank everyone for their help. Nothing like this works without a team effort and we certainly had one. Lou Filippone grilling all those hamburgers and hot dogs, Robert Punihaole and Terry Burseley seeming to be everywhere doing everything, Joel Chase and Paul Chase showing up early and greeting everyone who came through the door, Commander Ron Link and the rest of the Executive Board for coming up with the idea and providing leadership.

Quartermaster Rick Raskin for his help in purchasing food and doing the planning, Ladies Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill for leading so much of the food and hospitality effort and Nancy Dazzo and Janet Raskin of the Ladies Auxiliary working so many hours and knowing just how to do things right. My wife Jean MacLeod for bringing coffee, soft drinks and ice early in the morning.

Without all of you, nothing would have taken place!

I hope we can hold more events like this in the future, and build on what we established. I think it brings the Post together and also brings in people from the outside.

As a coincidence I received an email from a Comrade who is sending his check to renew his VFW membership for another year. Whether it had anything to do with the "Welcome Home," I don't know, but events like this seem to make good things happen!

Again, a big thank you to all,

*Pete*



*Vietnam vets and their guests socialize at the Post Home on June 22.*

# 2014 Department Convention — June 5—8, 2014



*Above: Rick Raskin accepts the Clair B. Poff award for best newsletter from Adjutant / QM Kim DeShano.  
Left: Mary Corkhill with the 2013-14 Auxiliary award banner.*



*Tom Gimble (Post 1503) speaks to modify a resolution during open discussion. The modification was accepted and passed by the membership.*



*Rick Raskin addresses the convention as Chair of the Resolutions Committee.*



*Mary Corkhill accepts an award from Irene Peters, Chair of the Youth Awards Committee.*



*(L-R) Eleanor Doczi, Mary Corkhill, Janet Raskin and Ginger Harvey.*



*(L-R) Robert Chichester (9835), Jim Martin (1503), Rick Raskin (7589), Stan Hunter (9835) and Geoff Lyster (9835)*



*Ladies Auxiliary 7589's Poppy Art won 1<sup>st</sup> Place and advances to National competition.*



*Commander Ron Link addresses membership on the status of the Department Military Services Programs.*



*Rick Raskin tends bar at the Commander's Club luncheon.*



*Outgoing Commander's Club President Ron Link officiates his final meeting.*



*2014-15 Department of Virginia Officers*

# Manassas Ballet is offering free tickets to "all military and veterans" for the November 7 performance of "Colin"

The Manassas Ballet is offering free tickets to "all military and veterans" for the opening performance of "Colin" on Friday, Nov 7.



After receiving much acclaim and national media attention with her original one act ballet, Colin debuts as an evening-length ballet accompanied by the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra.

Tickets for all military and veterans are free on opening night (Friday, Nov 7); accompanying tickets are 20% off. For the Saturday and Sunday shows, military and veterans are 20% off.

Friday, November 7 -- 7:30pm  
Saturday, November 8 -- 7:30pm  
Sunday, November 9 -- 3:00pm

TICKETS: at [www.hyltoncenter.org](http://www.hyltoncenter.org)  
or 888-945-2468

This poignant ballet tells the very personal story of Colin J. Wolfe, the Marine son of Manassas Ballet Theatre's artistic director, Amy Grant Wolfe, who lost his life in Iraq.

\$45, \$35, \$25, \$15  
(regular prices)  
[www.manassasballet.org](http://www.manassasballet.org)  
for information



*Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and Yvonne Sullivan with Elizabeth Chung, winner of the Patriotic Art contest for the second year in a row.*

## Post Expands Aluminum tab collection to benefit the Shriner's Boston Burn Center

*By Comrade Paul Chase*

For many years Comrade "Pete" Slusher has been collecting aluminum can tabs on an ad-hoc basis. I didn't know the significance of the tabs until I just did a little research.

For almost 15 years the Shriners have been collecting the tabs in support of their program to provide funds for the world class Boston Hospital burn treatment program. The hospital provides much of its burn services free to the needy due to the efforts of the Shriners. Funding for the Boston Hospital burn program comes from many sources but part of it, in no small way, comes from the Shriners selling the pure aluminum can tabs.

Aluminum can tabs are made of pure aluminum unlike the can itself. The value of the pure aluminum tabs is lost if they are recycled with the whole can. By snapping off the can tabs and getting them to the Shriners we can make a contribution to their wonderful program. All the significant funds the Shriners get from selling the pure aluminum tabs goes to the Boston Burn Clinic.

Pete has the contact to get the tabs to the Shriners. As a new Post Community Service initiative lets have everyone make a concerted effort to get the tabs from their aluminum cans to Post members at VFW events and at Bingo.

I'll keep a count and we'll publicize it in the Newsletter so we can see how we are doing from week to week month to month etc.

Pete tells me that two local kids were burned some time ago in Manassas in a tragic accident and were beneficiaries of the free Boston Burn Clinic program. This can be a case where a very little effort done by a whole lot of people can have a very big impact, so lets all go to work on it.

*Paul Chase*



*As of June 26 we have collected over 58,000 tabs towards our goal of 125,000. Keep 'em coming!*

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*(Commander—Continued from page 2)*

know what the VFW does, just tell him that ***NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS THAN THE VFW.*** You can tell them about the Post opening up the hall to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services; our Post has three qualified Service Officers; our Youth Committee touches the lives of over 500 students per year with programs like *Patriot's Pen*, *Voice of Democracy*, supporting *Youth Activities* in the community, and our own Post program *Veterans in the Classroom*.

Just remember our membership meetings are held at *Ron*

1930 on the first Monday of each month with the exception of September when it's held on the second Monday due to Labor Day. Some of the activities we will be doing this year are *Old Town Fall Jubilee*; the *Veterans Day Parade*; *POW MIA ceremony*; and in the first part of November our *Veterans in the Classroom*.

Please help us make 7589 the flagship Post of the Department of Virginia.

All the best

**LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:**

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

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

*What will your Legacy be?*

**VFW Calls for Mexican Travel/Product Boycott**

*VFW Action Corps Weekly, June 27, 2014*

VFW National Commander Bill Thien this week called for a nationwide boycott of travel and products from Mexico. The purpose is to apply economic pressure on the Mexican government to release Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi, who has been languishing away in a Mexican jail since he was arrested March 31 for allegedly crossing the border accidentally with three personal firearms that were legally registered in the United States but not in Mexico. Thien said the VFW twice asked President Obama to contact Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, but a phone call specifically about the Marine sergeant never took place. "This is about politics, and if my government won't do anything, then I guess we need to let the power of the purse take over," said the Chief. "No products, no travel, a total boycott ... then maybe a dialogue will start."

**VFW Member Selected to Receive Medal of Honor**

*VFW Action Corps Weekly, June 27, 2014*

America's newest Medal of Honor selectee is former Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Pitts, 28, a life member of VFW Post 8862 in Vicenza, Italy. He was assigned as a forward observed with Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, in Wanat, Afghanistan. On July 13, 2008, he and his fellow paratroopers fought off a force of more

than 200 enemy fighters who were attempting to overrun their observation post and vehicle patrol base. The Battle of Wanat is one of the deadliest of the war, with nine paratroopers giving their lives and 27 wounded. Read more at <http://www.armytimes.com/article/20140623/NEWS/306230052/Army-staff-sergeant-will-receive-Medal-Honor-valor-Wanat>.

## Upcoming Events

<b>July 7</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting - 1930</b>
<b>July 18 - 22</b>	<b>VFW National Convention - St. Louis, MO</b>
<b>July 17</b>	<b>Youth Committee Meeting—1900</b>
<b>Aug 4</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting - 1930</b>
<b>Aug 17</b>	<b>District 8 meeting—Warrenton</b>
<b>Aug 21</b>	<b>Youth Committee Meeting—1900</b>
<b>Sept 8</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting - 1930 (In lieu of Labor Day)</b>
<b>Sept 13</b>	<b>Youth Committee Yard Sale</b>
<b>Sept 18</b>	<b>Youth Committee Meeting—1900</b>
<b>Sept 19</b>	<b>POW/MIA ceremony—Manassas Veterans Memorial — 1700</b>



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