

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
July 2019

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The Winter COA scheduled for Blacksburg in January, 2020 has been moved to Portsmouth .



Ron Link

Past Commander in Chief John Smart administers the oath of office to newly elected State Commander Rick Raskin on June 15 at the State convention in Portsmouth, Virginia. While in the background Junior Vice Commander in Chief Hal Roesch snaps a photo.

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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

### The Celebration of Freedom

In May we memorialized the loss of our country's Fallen Heroes, in June we acknowledged the 75<sup>th</sup> year of D-Day, and July brings the celebration of this great nation's birth and its founding FREEDOM from Great Britain's rule and politics.

The Fathers of the Republic yearned for self-governance and to rid the colonies of kings, monarchs, and tyranny of the British crown and set about doing so in 1775. Roughly one year later, Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence. It is with reverence that I read what he penned; the wisdom, foresight, and hopes that America would someday live to exceed Britain's failed leadership. I would have loved to know how conflicted Jefferson must have been writing or hearing what he had written with such a great desire for freedom, humanity, and equality. The need for a nation deeply rooted in principles and ideas, that among its sovereign people are the basic rights of life, liberty, and property.

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

I lack the wisdom or eloquence of the Fathers of the Republic but do hold the Declaration of Independence and Constitution as two great writings. Conceptually, when/if implemented adequately with adherence, provide guidelines for building a sustained and robust nation. Since America's birth as a nation (except conflicts with Native Americans), she has touted and engaged on behalf of freedom around the world. From the Civil War to Afghanistan, the men and women who have worn the uniform of the Armed Forces seldom question the mission. We heed the call, often making the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of strangers we may never know in countries thousands of miles away.

A little-known fact about the warriors of the "greatest generation" is while 16 million men served 10 million or roughly two-thirds were draftees, (www.quora.com). However, in my opinion, what made them great was that men and women of that era strongly believed in patriotism. America's "military might" was revered throughout the world; the emancipator persona was created by those men and women who served. As the nation celebrates the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, I wonder how many of us genuinely appreciate and say a prayer for the soldiers still on foreign soil serving in harm's way. In my years of military association, I know of no one who is a fan of war but we took an oath and as such carried it out with honor. The other part of that equation is

*(Commander Continued on page 3)*

## Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill



Thank you to the members of the Auxiliary and Post for a successful 2018-2019 year. At the Department Convention in Portsmouth, VA, our

Auxiliary did very well in the different programs. The most important certificates came from National Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support for Distributing the Most "Thank You" Coins. At the Department level, placing first in the following programs with certificates and monetary awards were: Outstanding Auxiliary of the Year in Americanism, Veteran & Family Support (coins), Scholarship (for Ms. Sarah Kim's artwork), Buddy Poppy/National Home event and the Buddy Poppy Display. Several Department Chairs presented participation certificates to our Auxiliary. Since our Buddy Poppy Display placed first, it will be taken to Orlando, FL to compete at the National Convention in July.

**Congratulations** to Ms. Sarah Kim, from WT Woodson High School in Fairfax, VA, for placing first in the Department's Patriotic Art competition. Along with her receiving a certificate and monetary award, her art work was forwarded to National to compete with other Departments. You will be able to view her art work along with other Departments on the National VFW Auxiliary Facebook.



Department President Marcia Semones has implemented several changes this year. For the Department's School of Instruction, only the District President and Chief of Staff are scheduled to attend. It will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup> at the VFW Headquarters, 408 Lee Jackson Hwy, Staunton, VA.

VFW Post 3103 and Auxiliary will be hosting the 8th District meeting on August 18 at 2701 Princess Anne St, Fredericksburg, VA. Lunch will be served at 12:00 (Noon) and the joint meeting will begin at 1:00 PM. The first meeting of the District will have a School of Instruction and in attendance will be a Department Officer. This year, a **new** banner requirement states that the Auxiliary President, Secretary and Treasurer **must** attend this meeting.



The Fall Jubilee will be Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 10 AM-5 PM in Manassas, VA. As in years past, the Post and Auxiliary will participate in this event and would like some assistance in providing the public information about our organization. We will also providing gifts for the children. Please come and join in the fun.

The National Convention will be held in Orlando, FL from July 20-24. The incoming National President Peggy Haake's

*(Auxiliary President Continued on page 3)*

*(Commander Continued from page 2)*

while being away from home is no fun, it must be crystal clear that a war fought on American soil would make 9/11 pale in comparison. The loss of lives and catastrophic collateral damage could put our country back into the dark ages.

As we partake in festivities, light fireworks and celebrate freedom (your right) it is essential to remember the humanity and rights of others; others you once offered your life in defense of and deemed a worthwhile cause. The men and women of the military represent the nation which in itself is a multicultural, racially diverse collective with varied ideas. The bond of a common fate often brings strangers together at times making a lasting friendship. Dependence on that stranger so different from oneself, usually brings about mutual respect as can happen in war. Even enemies have been known to display compassion on the battlefield.

As a nation of immigrants, with love of country let us celebrate the inclusiveness of all who contributed to the development of this nation, strive to improve on the legacy of the forefathers' anticipation of a United America. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, my prayer will be for all to understand that a nation divided has two choices; either implode or be consumed by a higher entity. May whomever you deem a Supreme Deity bless your celebration of another year of Freedom, Justice and Equality in these United States of America.

## BK<sup>®</sup> Franchisees Kick Off July Fundraiser for the VFW

*Donations will support the VFW's Unmet Needs program*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (June 28, 2019) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) is pleased to announce participating BURGER KING<sup>®</sup> franchisees are set to kick off their summer fundraiser to benefit the VFW's Unmet Needs program.

Starting on July 1, patrons are encouraged to visit any of the [nearly 850 participating BURGER KING<sup>®</sup> restaurants](#) located throughout 31 states and donate \$1 or more to the VFW's Unmet Needs program upon checkout. Donations will be accepted until the end of the month.

Established in 2004, the Unmet Needs program assists service members and military families experiencing financial hardship by providing financial assistance grants toward basic life necessities like rent, mortgage and utility payments.

Since 2007, BURGER KING<sup>®</sup> franchisees and their customers have contributed more than \$6 million to Unmet Needs, which has provided more than \$11.3 million in aid to more than 10,000 struggling military and veteran families since its inception.

*(Auxiliary President continued from page 2)*

Homecoming Celebration will follow the National Convention on July 25 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, FL. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) will be at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii on February 20, 2020 at 10 AM.



For several years, this Auxiliary has held their annual fundraiser with the not-for-profit Wreaths Across America (WAA) organization. Working together provides us the opportunity to raise funds for our organization's needs and assists WAA in gathering sponsorships to place wreaths in cemeteries for our veterans. This year's event will be December 14 at 12:00 (Noon) at Quantico National Cemetery. A sponsorship is \$15 per wreath with \$5 returning to the Auxiliary. This being our major fundraiser, we are asking for your support. Order forms are included on our website at [www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org), or you can also contact the Program Chairman Ginger Harvey at 571-641-5350 or [gch1130@aol.com](mailto:gch1130@aol.com). To learn more about WAA or to pay for your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/> and remember to include our **Sponsoring Group ID No. VA0040P and Cemetery ID No. VAQNCT. DEADLINE** is November 30. Thank you in advance for your support.

The theme for both Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen is "What Makes America Great". The Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Contest recognizes outstanding teachers. All three contests **Deadline** is October 31. The award celebration is scheduled at the Post on December 1 at 4:00 PM. The Auxiliary will provide refreshments.

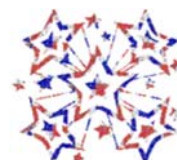
Over the years, the National Home has evolved to meet the changing needs of America's military and veterans' families. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the National Home's commitment to honor our nation's veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families. 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. To become a Life Member to the National Home for Children is only \$50.00.

Thank you for your assistance during last year collecting coupons for our veterans overseas. The donated coupons are good for six months after the expiration date here in the states. Please assist us with this task and thank you so much for your support.

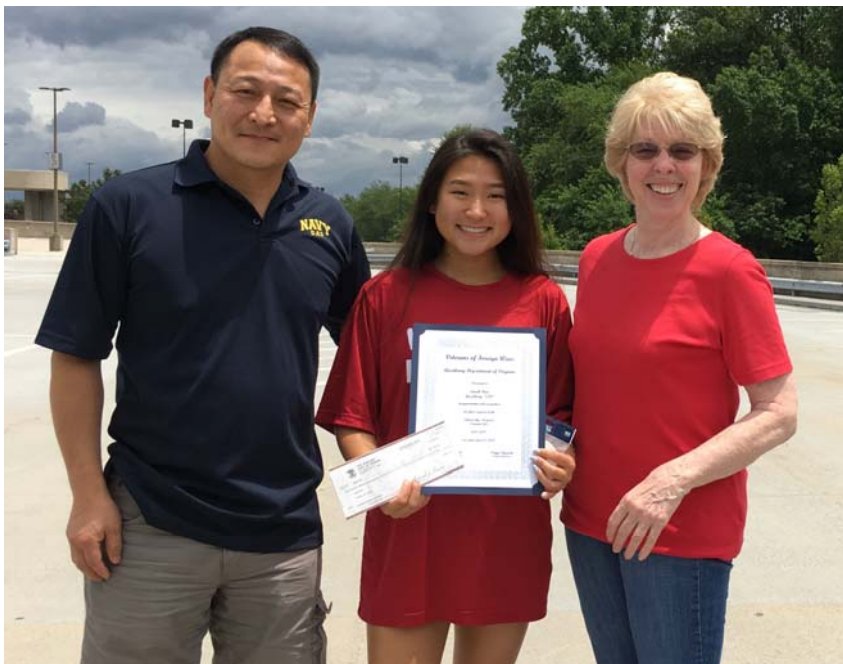
Please keep any individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers. We want to see you on the road to recovery. If you know of anyone who needs our assistance, please let us know.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill  
Auxiliary President







Submitted Photo



Sarah Kim, with her father Phil Kim, received a certificate for her Patriotic Arts winning entry from Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill

### Auxiliary 7589 Poppy Art



**VFW SERVES AS AN ANCHOR FOR ALL VETERANS**

An Anchor is a heavy weight that holds a ship in place. **An Anchor is a symbol of hope.** Sailors have been partial to the stability and strength the Anchor represents. It represents the safe end of a long journey and the VFW serves as an Anchor for our veterans. The VFW helps veterans navigate through the adversities and challenges they face. The VFW holds our veterans in place by helping them remain firm and steadfast during the uncertainty of life's trials and tempests. The VFW embraces our veterans and provides a solid foundation for tranquility and hope.

## Youth News & Notes



**Lou Filippone**

I would like to extend a big greeting to everyone from the Youth Committee and sincerely hope the summer is going well for everyone.

We held our last meeting on Thursday, 20 June at the Post.

The meeting was

attended by Comrades Alex and Tina Bliem, Paul Chase, Peter MacLeod, Roger Nicol, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, and myself. The main topics of discussion involved Scouting activities and our annual VFW essay contests. This time of the year is historically quiet for the Youth committee as we go through our Department and National Conventions and begin preparing for the essay contests in late summer.

We are now sponsoring Boy Scout Troop 1372, Girl Scout Troop 1372, Venturing Crew 1372, and Cub Scout Pack 1372 as a result of our merger with Post 1811 from Manassas Park. Two of the most recent activities being planned by the Boy Scouts are a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Wednesday, 11 September at 7:00 PM at our Post and a pizza party on Monday, 23 September at 6:00 PM also at our Post. The party is being held to welcome the Scouts and will be followed by a Court of Honor Ceremony at 7:00 PM. Other Scout events are scheduled and will be announced as they draw near.

Peter MacLeod informed the Committee that the Memorial Day Activities, which

Boy Scout Troop 670 participated in this year, were covered in the press and articles were featured in Inside NOVA and the Manassas Observer newspapers and also on the Inside NOVA online site.

We are gearing up for the 2019 Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year contests and are in the process of ordering brochures and contacting area schools. The Post deadline for all three contests is 31 October. Let me tell you that seems like it's far off, but will be upon us in the blink of an eye. For those of you who are not familiar with our contests here is a brief rundown;

— Patriot's Pen gives 6th, 7th, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students an opportunity to express their opinion on a patriotic theme and compete for awards and prizes. Awards can be given at Post, District, and Department levels. The Department winners compete for \$54,000 in awards at the national level. The first place national winner receives a \$5000 award and an all-expense paid trip to Washington D. C., where they tour the city.

— The Voice of Democracy competition provides high school students the opportunity to write and record an essay on a patriotic theme and compete for more than \$ 2.1 million in college scholarships and incentives. Department winners receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. and compete for \$155,500 in scholarships, first place receiving a \$30,000 scholarship. This year the VFW is trying something new and are simplifying our two essay contests. Both Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy share a common theme, "What Makes America Great".

— Our Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Program annually recognizes the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach at least half of the school day in a classroom environment and promote America's history, traditions and citizenship education effectively. Teachers also compete on the Post, District, Department, and National level. National prizes include a \$1,000 award for the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 grade teachers, a \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school, plaques, and an all-expense paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention. [Home school teachers are also eligible as long as they are State certified. — Ed]

In order to recruit applicants for these contests we are currently contacting local area schools, home school organizations, school principals, and JROTC programs at local high schools. I also heavily advertise these programs and recruit in my Centreville and Gainesville Orthodontic office waiting rooms. If any of our members know of students, teachers, and schools who are interested in participating, please contact me or anyone else on the Youth Committee as soon as possible.

Our next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 18 July at 7:00 PM at the Post. We welcome your interest and participation and hope to see you there. Working with our kids is truly one of the most enjoyable aspects of being in the VFW.

With best regards,  
Lou Filippone  
Youth Committee Chair

# The 2019-20 theme is for both essay contests is:

## *“What Makes America Great”*



## Legislative Update



Monti Zimmerman

H.R. 299 - Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 Passed the House unanimously on May 14th, 410 to 0. It passed the Senate without amendment by voice vote unanimously. It went to the President's Desk on June 19th. It will be law with or without Presidential signature by June 29th. It provides of all Navy veterans who served within the 12-mile territorial waters of Vietnam from January 9, 1962 to May 7, 1975 for those veterans with certain types of medical conditions related to Agent Orange exposure. Additionally, for those who served in or near the Korean DMZ between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971. Also for children born with spina bifida for those who served in Thailand between January 9, 1962 to May 7, 1975.

2020 NDAA in Senate has an amendment that will separate the SBP/ DIC offset. The Senate vote is coming soon. This provision currently affects approximately 65,000 military widowed spouses who have paid into the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) (a paid-in military insurance program that provides up to 55% of the retiree's military pension to the spouse after death which currently is offset, dollar-for dollar by the Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC), a Veterans Administration benefit that is paid to the spouse of a veteran who dies from a service related medical condition. The amendment separates the two programs and allows each to be paid to the widowed spouse in full.

### State of Virginia

The Virginia Military Survivor and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) program has been expanded to include the spouse and qualified children (before their 30th birthday) of veterans rated 90% or 100% by the Veterans Administration to qualify for free in-state tuition starting July 1st, 2019. The program can be applied for on-line at the Virginia Department of Veteran Services under the acronym VMSDEP.

### Announcements

Monti Zimmerman serves as the co-chair of the Ft. Myer Retiree Activity Council. The Ft. Myer Retiree Appreciation Day will be October 4th from 8 AM to 3:30 PM for all military retirees in the local area at the Ft. Myer Community Center. For any additional information contact Monti at [zoomeruw@gmail.com](mailto:zoomeruw@gmail.com).

DAV Chapter 10 is very proud to host an upcoming DAV Veterans Information Seminar that will feature DAV National Service Officers (NSO) from the DAV Roanoke NSO Office. At the seminar they will discuss facts which will strengthen knowledge and understanding regarding VA benefits and VA services.

Saturday, July 27, 2019  
 9:30 A.M. till 11:00 A.M.  
 Fairfax County Government Center-Board Auditorium  
 12000 Government Center Parkway  
 Fairfax, VA 22035

## Comrade Joel Chase visits and works bingo

"Recognize the Comrade with Rick? Joel Chase moved to Chicago a year ago and made a brief visit on June 4th and we quickly put him to work. He loved seeing all his many friends and we put him to work! We were very short handed and worked him hard. We wish he could stay longer. Best of luck Joel and Dorothy and come back again soon!"



Paul Chase



**BINGO WORKERS NEEDED  
 WEDNESDAY MORNINGS  
 AT  
 POST 7589**

**WE WILL TRAIN YOU  
 PLEASE BE THERE BY 8:00 AM**

# Rick Raskin becomes State Commander

A milestone for our Post; we have our first State Commander to come from the original Post 7589 (the late Jerry Jonas, a former State Commander, was a member of Post 1811). Rick was elected by unanimous ballot on June 15 at the state convention held in Portsmouth Virginia.

Rick was installed by past Commander in Chief John Smart (1999-2000). Junior Vice Commander in Chief Hal Roesch was also on hand to witness the ceremony as was former National Chief of Staff Carl Kalin.

In his acceptance speech Rick spoke of how the Department has advanced in using technology over the past several years and subsequently improved communications within. He stressed that the Department is here to help, not criticize; that the Department will work with Districts and Posts and if needed dispatch personnel to assist.

He plans to hold at least 2 membership roundups and will continue to hold Schools of Instruction at all 13 Districts.

Virginia is well respected throughout the entire organization and he forecast we will have another exceptional year.



Ron Link

Janet Raskin caps State Commander Rick Raskin



Ron Link

After capping Janet does the pinning ceremony



Ron Link

Rick delivers his acceptance speech



Pete MacLeod

(L-R) Rick Raskin, John Smart, Ken Wiseman, Hal Roesch and Carl Kalin



At the State Convention Post 7589 gets lots of awards and a new State Commander



All-State CDR Wayne Moore (7589)



Maggie Myers presents an award to Mary Corkhill



All-State CDR Monti Zimmerman (1811)



Powerhouse Gaming's \$13K donation to the Auxiliary



Posts 7589 & 9835 at the awards ceremony



Department President Patty Basket, Past National President Evelyn McCune and State Commander Ken Wiseman



Past Commander in Chief John Smart Installs the Department Officers



Past National President Dee Guillory



## Why a Credit Freeze Is a Better Choice

by Bob Knight  
 Post 7589 Judge Advocate Elect  
 Originally published in May 2015 — Reprinted by request—

Source: <https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/what-s-the-difference-between-a-credit-freeze-and-a-credit-lock.html>

The credit bureaus tend to market credit locks as faster and more user friendly than credit freezes, but in most cases putting a freeze on your credit at all three agencies is the best way to protect yourself. Here's why.

**Credit freezes** are regulated by **state law**. **Credit locks**, on the other hand, are governed by **a contract between you and the credit bureau**. Contracts often have terms that aren't favorable to the consumer, like arbitration clauses that prevent you from participating in a lawsuit. Also, if a thief fraudulently accesses your credit file while a freeze is in place, you'll have better protection against liability under state law. Ultimately, state law will provide you with stronger protections than a contract that the credit bureau drafted. Also, as of September 2018, federal law regulates credit freezes as well.

Credit freezes might be less expensive. **Freezing and lifting a freeze is free**, which is obviously cheaper than having to **indefinitely pay Experian's high monthly fee for a credit lock**.

**The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a U.S. government agency that makes sure banks, lenders, and other financial companies treat you fairly states the following:**

**What does it mean to put a security freeze on my credit report?**

**Answer: A security freeze prevents prospective creditors from accessing your credit file.**

Creditors typically won't offer you credit if they can't access your [credit reporting file](#), so a **security freeze**, also called **a credit freeze**, prevents you or others from opening accounts in your name. Security freezes can be useful in preventing an [identity thief](#) from opening a new credit account in your name.

Only a limited number of entities can see your file while a freeze is in place, including:

- Creditors of accounts you currently hold
- Certain government entities like child support agencies
- Companies that you've hired to monitor your credit file

### Free Security Freezes

**Under a federal law effective September 21, 2018**, you can freeze and unfreeze your credit record for free at the three nationwide credit reporting companies – Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax. The federal law requiring free security freezes does not apply to someone who requests your credit report for employment, tenant-screening, or insurance purposes. Other credit reporting companies, for example employment or tenant screening companies, might charge a fee to place and lift a security freeze

based on your state laws.

**You can place a "freeze" on your credit file at any time, but you must contact each credit reporting company. For more information, visit the nationwide credit reporting companies' websites or call the numbers below:**

Equifax: [Take control of your Equifax® credit report](#) (800) 685-1111

Experian: Security Freeze (888) 397-3742  
 TransUnion: Credit Help, (888) 909-8872

### Security Freeze Notice and Timing

A nationwide credit reporting company must place a security freeze within 1 business day of your request if made by telephone or secure electronic means. If the request is made by mail, the security freeze must be placed no later than 3 business days after receiving the request.

A nationwide credit reporting company must send you a written confirmation of the security freeze no later than 5 business days after the security freeze is placed. They must also tell you of how to remove the security freeze.

The nationwide consumer reporting company's webpage must also allow you to request a security freeze, an initial fraud alert, an extended fraud alert, and an active duty fraud alert.

### Temporary Lift of Security Freeze

Upon your request, the security freeze can be removed free of charge. The security freeze will be removed no later than:

- 1 hour after receiving the request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means
- 3 business days after receiving the request by mail

You also have the option to lift the freeze temporarily for a period of time specified by you, free of charge. The same time periods above apply to a temporary removal of your security freeze.

### Security Freeze for "Protected Consumers"

Federal law provides protections related to credit records and identity theft for "protected consumers" under the age of 16 and incapacitated persons or persons for whom a guardian has been appointed. Persons with authority to act for these protected consumers can request a security freeze.

Additionally, if the nationwide credit reporting company does not have a file on the protected consumer at the time the security freeze is requested by the parents or guardians, the company will create a record in order to freeze the record for the "protected consumer." This record of the "protected consumer" may not be used for credit purposes and may only be used to freeze the record to protect against identity theft.

## Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Drovis, S.)

Release No: 19-096 June 7, 2019



WASHINGTON-- The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Seymour P. Drovis, 24, of Cook County, Illinois, killed during World War II, was accounted for on Sept. 4, 2018.

In July 1944, Drovis was a member of Company A, 105<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, engaged against enemy forces in Achugao Village, Saipan Island, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The division sustained heavy casualties during one of the largest Japanese “banzai” attacks of WWII. A soldier reported seeing Drovis fatally shot on July 7, 1944.

In September 2013, two Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command anthropologists (JPAC, a predecessor to DPAA) recovered possible osseous remains and material evidence from a burial feature on Saipan. The location correlates to where Drovis’ unit fought during the banzai attack. The remains were recovered by JPAC Central Identification Laboratory anthropologists and by a Japanese non-governmental organization, Kuent[a]i, working in conjunction with the Japanese government, and in cooperation with a local archeological firm, Swift and Harper Archaeological Research and Consulting, and the Japanese Historic Preservation Office<sup>1</sup>. The remains were subsequently sent to the DPAA laboratory for identification.

To identify Drovis’ remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence.

DPAA is grateful to the Japanese non-governmental organization, Kuent[a]i, working in conjunction with the Japanese government, and in cooperation with a local archeological firm, Swift and Harper Archaeological Research and Consulting, and the Japanese Historic Preservation Office for their partnerships in this recovery.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died during the war. Currently there are 72,708 service members (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II. Drovis’ name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, in Honolulu, along with the others missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For family information, contact the Army Service Casualty office at (800) 892-2490.

Drovis will be buried Oct. 16, 2019, in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C.

For additional information on the Defense Department’s mission to account for missing Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at [www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil) or call (703) 699-1420/1169.

<sup>1</sup> The Historic Preservation Office cited in this article is in the Saipan authority and is not part of Japan — Yukari Akatsuka, KUEN-TAI-USA

## Graves of 30 US servicemen found on Pacific WWII battlefield

HONOLULU (AP) — A nonprofit organization that searches for the remains of U.S. servicemen lost in past conflicts has found what officials believe are the graves of more than 30 Marines and sailors killed in one of the bloodiest battles of World War II.

A team working on the remote Pacific atoll of Tarawa found the graves in March, said Mark Noah, president of History Flight.

The remains are believed to belong to Marines and sailors from the 6th Marine Regiment killed during the last night of the three-day Battle of Tarawa.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency expects to pick up the remains and fly them to Hawaii next month, said Dr. John Byrd, director of agency's laboratories. Military forensic anthropologists will then work to identify them using dental records, DNA and other clues.

More than 990 U.S. Marines and 30 U.S. sailors were killed in the 1943 Battle of Tarawa, after the U.S. launched an amphibious assault on the small island some 2,300 miles (3,700 kilometers) southwest of Honolulu.

Marines and sailors quickly encountered Japanese machine-gun fire when their boats got stuck on the reef at low tide. Americans who made it to the beach faced brutal hand-to-hand combat.

The U.S. military buried its men in makeshift cemeteries where they fell. But Navy construction battalion sailors removed markers for these graves when they hurriedly built runways and other infrastructure to help U.S. forces push farther west across the Pacific toward Japan.

History Flight has recovered the remains of 272 individuals from Tarawa since 2015, when it began excavating under a contract with the Defense Department, Noah said. He estimates there are at least another 270 to be found.

Tarawa is now part of the Republic of Kiribati. Its government allowed History Flight to demolish an abandoned building in its latest search. Many of the graves were underneath it.

A large number of graves also are below the water table, meaning History Flight workers must pump water from the site each day to excavate.

Byrd said the Army Graves Registration Service excavated some of Tarawa's temporary cemeteries in the late 1940s but left behind parts of individuals during this process.

History Flight is now thoroughly excavating these gravesites, leading them to find some partial remains that have been matched with those already buried as "unknowns" in a national cemetery in Honolulu. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency dug up these remains in 2017 to make additional identifications.

The agency has identified more than 100 individuals excavated from Tarawa and the Honolulu cemetery since 2015.



## Upcoming Events

<b>2019</b>	
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)
July 27	DAV Veterans Information Seminar — <b>9:30 A.M.</b> — Fairfax County Government Center
August 5	Executive Meeting 7 PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
August 17	Auxiliary SOI — State HQ Staunton
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 <b>(2nd Monday because of Labor Day)</b>
September 11	Troop 1372 Flag Retirement Ceremony
September 14	Front Royal Post car raffle drawing — 2 PM Shenandoah Ford, Front Royal
September 23	Pizza party welcoming the Scouts to our Post followed by Court of Honor Ceremony
September 28	Fall Council of Administration meeting — Staunton
September 27—29	Nation’s Gun Show Recruiting—Chantilly (District 8 covers Sunday)
October 5	Manassas Fall Jubilee 10:00 AM—5:00 PM
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.

800-313-4200

A Great Place to Call Home!

### Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office

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

**Post 7589 members can enjoy 2 complimentary beverages  
courtesy of Commander Wayne Moore**

**What's Cooking in the kitchen at AL Post 10?**

**Monday—Friday 11 AM-2 PM  
Saturday and Sunday 12-4 PM**

**JULY LUNCH SPECIALS**

Mon July 1	Baked Ziti	Wed July 17	Meatball Sub
Tue July 2	Short Ribs	Thu July 18	Egg or Chicken Salad
Wed July 3	Ham Steaks	Fri July 19	NY Strip Steak
Thu July 4	<b>Chef's Choice</b>	Mon July 22	Baked Pork Chops
Fri July 5	NY Strip Steak	Tue July 23	Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce
Mon July 8	Anniversary Chicken	Wed July 24	Shrimp Salad Cold Plate
Tue July 9	Taco Salad	Thu July 25	Cold Cut Sub
Wed July 10	Cold Cut Sub	Fri July 26	NY Strip Steak
Thu July 11	Fried Bologna	Mon July 29	Crab Cake Sandwich
Fri July 12	NY Strip Steak	Tue July 30	Fried Chicken
Mon July 15	Meatloaf	Wed July 31	Chili Dog
Tue July 16	Chicken or Tuna Salad Cold Plate		

**July Dinner Menu**

**Wednesday Nights 5-8 PM**

**Wings & Ribs & Post Special Menu**

**Friday Nights: 5:30 - 7:45 PM**

**Saturday Nights: 6-8 PM**

Fri July 5	Seafood Dinner
Sat July 6	Garlic Cheddar Chicken Breast
Fri July 12	Seafood Dinner
Sat July 13	Cajun Chicken Pasta
Fri July 19	Seafood Dinner
Sat July 20	Prime Rib Dinner
Fri July 26	Seafood Dinner
Sat July 27	Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce

**Steaks available on Saturday except July 20**

**July Entertainment**

**8 PM - 12 AM**

Fri July 5	Wild Bill Karaoke
Sat July 6	Wild Bill Karaoke
Fri July 12	Linda Bradshaw Karaoke
Sat July 13	Linda Bradshaw Karaoke
Fri July 19	Wild Bill Karaoke
Sat July 20	Wild Bill Karaoke
Fri July 26	Josie & Terry Karaoke
Sat July 27	Josie & Terry Karaoke





### **Blue Water Navy Act Now Law:**

The president signed the VFW-championed Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 into law Tuesday evening. It now restores VA benefits to thousands of Vietnam veterans who had their disability eligibility taken away in 2002 after arbitrary regulatory changes. For Korean DMZ veterans, it provides an earlier start date to encompass the timeframe when various defoliants were tested — from April 1, 1968, to Sept. 1, 1967. The new law expands benefits to children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure in Thailand, coverage that already exists for the children of Vietnam and Korean DMZ veterans, and it requires the VA to report on research being conducted on a broad range of conditions possibly related to service in Southwest Asia. "The VFW is proud to have helped lead the charge to return benefits to these deserving veterans and to expand existing benefits to dependent children," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. The VA has yet to update its webpages to reflect the new law, but veterans and their families can still learn more about VA benefits associated with Agent Orange exposure, and about spina bifida birth defects related to exposure.

### **Women Veterans Taskforce Roundtable:**

VFW Department of Maryland Quartermaster Denise Perry attended a Women Veterans Taskforce roundtable this week to discuss how the VFW and other veterans organizations learn from and advocate for women veterans. Members of Congress asked representatives from veterans organizations what they believe is needed to ensure women veterans have their voice represented in the fight to improve veteran benefits. Perry discussed the need to ensure servicewomen know about the benefits that come with joining veteran service organizations such as the VFW. She discussed how the VFW provided the comradery she needed after leaving military service and the work the VFW does to improve care and service for women veterans.

### **Senate Passes the NDAA for FY 2020:**

Yesterday, the Senate passed S.1790, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (NDAA) yesterday by an 86-8 vote. The bill provides \$750 billion in total spending, a 3.1 percent pay raise for our 2.15 million uniformed service members, and reforms to the Military Housing Privatization Initiative to improve quality of life for military families. Ninety-three bipartisan amendments were also adopted which included an amendment allowing the families of the 1983 Marine Barracks bombing victims to access \$1.68 billion in Iranian funds currently held by Clearstream. Unfortunately, Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.) amendment to end the Widow's Tax was blocked by Senate leadership yesterday morning.

### **Legislation to Give Student Veterans Break Pay Introduced:**

This week Senators Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Roberts (R-Kan.) introduced the VFW supported S. 1946, Student Veterans Housing Act which would extend housing payments for student veterans during certain breaks between semesters. This proposed change would allow student veterans to focus on their educational goals by reducing the burden of housing costs. The VFW thanks Senators Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Roberts (R-Kan.) for their bipartisan efforts to enhance the lives of student veterans.

### **Plans for Third North Korean Summit Underway:**

On Wednesday, South Korean President Moon Jae-in stated that the U.S. is in early negotiations with North Korea over a proposed third bilateral summit to take place later this year. Moon, who has been acting as a mediator between the two countries, further stated that the U.S. had made a proposal for working-level talks with North Korea shortly following the Hanoi summit in February, and that he has been urging the North to return to the negotiating table. U.S. Special Envoy to North Korea Stephen Biegun arrived in Seoul on Thursday in order to meet with South Korean officials ahead of a proposed stopover by President Trump as he travels to Osaka, Japan, for the 2019 G20 Summit.

### **VA to Reduce Rates for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance:**

VA will be reducing the monthly premium for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) starting July 1, 2019. The monthly premium rates will fall from 7 cents per \$1,000 of insurance coverage to 6 cents per \$1,000 of insurance coverage. This will mean a decrease of \$4.00 per month for any service member who has elected the full \$400,000 of SGLI coverage. Service members who have elected Family SGLI coverage will see a monthly premium decrease in the range of 10 percent to 32 percent; the age of their spouse and amount of coverage effects their premiums. Reservists who do not receive pay due to a number of reasons, will start to be billed at the new rates in July 2019.

### **Update Your Information on the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry:**

Service members and veterans who have already signed up for the registry should make sure that their contact information, phone number, address, and email are up-to-date. If you have not already signed up for the registry and you have served in one of the eligible areas, please learn more about the registry.

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/exposures/Registry-Steps.pdf>

## 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](http://www.vfw7589.org)

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Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to [quartermaster@vfw7589.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfw7589.org) no later than the 28th of the month.  
We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.





WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Tax ID: 20-8362270

**Wreath Sponsorship Form**

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
**Wreaths Across America TM**  
 PO Box 249  
 Columbia Falls, ME 04623  
 Question? Please Call 877-385-9504  
 Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission to **Remember, Honor and Teach**

(To receive our FREE email newsletter)

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

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

**In Honor of:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Email or Mailing address

**In Memory of:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # Checks: \_\_\_\_\_ Reconciled: \_\_\_\_\_

MO \$: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

GEN:



### **SPONSOR A WREATH FOR A VETERAN'S GRAVE**

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

The **Francis Cannon Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589** is working with Wreaths Across America to help place more wreaths than ever before on Veterans' graves at **Quantico National Cemetery**. **Deadline Date is November 30, 2019.**

On **Saturday, December 14, 2019**, Wreaths Across America ceremonies will take place at over 1200 locations in the USA and beyond.

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

**PLEASE JOIN US** -- All wreaths will be placed by volunteers on **Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 12 Noon at Quantico National Cemetery**. This is a moving experience that you should make part of your holiday tradition. With your help our local heroes will be remembered this Holiday Season. **How many sponsorships can we count on you for?**

For more information visit [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org), or call 877-385-9504.  
You can also email [infor@wreathscrossamerica.org](mailto:infor@wreathscrossamerica.org)