

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
July 2020

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## Post 7589 Bingo resumes on July 1



Past State Commander Chris Birch administers the oath of office to newly elected State Commander Eric Mallett at the State Convention on June 27th.

RICK RASKIN / POST 7589

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**CANNON NEWS**—2015, 2018 & 2020 National VFW Publications Silver Award  
2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for  
Most Outstanding Post Publication/Newsletter, VFW Department of Virginia

## Commander's Message



Wayne Moore

I ask your indulgences as I express my perspective about our country's chaotic situations. Let me state unequivocally; I neither subscribe to a Red nor Blue mentality; I am about humanity. I fully understand Right and Wrong; no one doing wrong deserves accolades or sanctuary. From the day I raised my hand and swore allegiance to the Flag of the United States, I live as I have sworn: to

protect and defend against all enemies, be it foreign or domestic, to uphold the ideals of the Constitution and never fall to political whims or causes that undermine the country or all its citizens' best interest.

Independence Day approaches as our country is once again amid divisiveness and conflicts. The COVID 19 virus is rampant throughout the country, while some reduce deaths and carnage to pure politics. It is inevitable and unfortunate that many of us will succumb to this virus. However, ignoring the obvious and deliberately putting oneself in a position to cause harm to others knowingly is morally repugnant.

The continued senseless slaughter of People of Color brought riots and destruction to individuals, businesses, and livelihoods. Provocateurs (some paid) show up to encourage hate and discontent leads rioters to pilfer and destroy. These actions are wrong and deserve redress, but what brought this situation to life was the unnecessary murders, prolonged indignities, and systematic oppression. "There but for the Grace of God go I." Laws exist for cruelty against animals, why then the killing of a human being (Black or Brown) becomes so palatable, ignored, or the policeman was doing his duty to subdue an animal.

The complexities involved in one's inability to relate, understand, or be empathetic are simply a matter of never being subjected to the deliberate insignificance attached to the life of a person of color.

Pursuing Freedom and Justice for the unjust of the world is something I heartily embraced with the willingness to lose my life in the process. I feel enraged at the thought of a country that espouses HUMAN RIGHTS and FREEDOM, have gone to war to right those wrongs elsewhere, yet failed miserably to recognize the hypocrisy of its' ethos. Four hundred plus years of systematic, institutionalized racism because of perceived fear and supremacy continues. I was not born or raised within the American system; however, in uniform and as a civilian, my encounters with racism were chilling. As a service member, the only concern I entertained about my buddies on the left or right was one of competency. If I trust you with my life in combat, I unequivocally believe and expect that you would do the right thing under any circumstance. We no longer need a rifle, but

*(See Commander on page 3)*

## Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill

Now that Virginia's Governor has given the area permission to return to a **new** normal, we will start off with some new changes and events. Most important, we do pray that you and your family are staying safe.

I would like to thank the membership for their input regarding the proposed changes to the new date and time regarding future Auxiliary meetings. At the July 6<sup>th</sup> teleconference meeting, the membership will finalize these meeting changes from the first Monday at 7:30pm to the second Monday at 7:00pm. This change was requested by several members for their concern that the conference room was not allowing social distancing. The new meeting date and time will go into effect at the August 10, 2020 meeting. We will meet in the main room, giving us the larger area to conduct our business.

Congratulation to the members of the 7589 Auxiliary for all the certificates and monetary awards they received from the Department this year. The programs were: Nomination of the Outstanding Volunteer of the year, Legislative: Promoting 2019 VFW Priority goals, Mentoring for Leadership, Scholarship: Best Promotion for Patriotic Arts Contest, Veteran & Family Support: Outstanding Fundraising and Youth Activities: October Challenge of Illustrating American.

During the one day June 27<sup>th</sup> mini-convention, the Department elected and installed the following individuals to represent Virginia: President Maggie Myers, Sr. Vice Carol Vangi, Jr. Vice Fred Jennings, Secretary Ellen Stogsdill, Treasurer Cathy Graham, Chaplain Vicki Butler, Conductress Teresa Evans and Guard Dawn Kuhn. We look forward to working with the Department Officers for the upcoming 2020-2021 year. Since the National Convention was cancelled, the National Council of Administration voted to hold a one-day mini-convention in Kansas City for their election and installation of Officers on Friday, July 24, 2020. National Program Awards will be announced the week of July 20, 2020. The National Auxiliary Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/VFWAuxiliary/>) has started displaying Patriotic Arts Contest recipient from each Department. Check it out.

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) will be on Friday, September 11, 2020. This one day event for incoming National President Sandra Onstwedder will be celebrated at the National Home for Children. Her Homecoming, also on the same day, will be held at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West Hotel in Lansing, MI. Of course, all events are subject to change.

Since our last month's article, several individuals are facing medical issues and need your prayers. Yvonne Sullivan's husband John, Dana Zank and Ellie Smith to name a few. If you have been ill, **PLEASE** let us know. We are still facing uncertain and challenging times, so please remember to keep everyone safe and in your prayers.

Respectfully,  
Mary Corkhill  
VFW Auxiliary President

(Commander from page 2)

your voice for justice is a powerful weapon. So is complacency. No action is in itself an action that costs us dearly.

Those of us that were engaged in conflicts should understand the value of life. The Rules of Engagement dictated how/when to engage the enemy and the Geneva Convention Agreement address treatment of prisoners. On the battlefield mistreatment or abuse of any enemy combatant was cause for reprisal if caught. Is it too much to ask for nothing less at home?

As a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, on several occasions when racial injustice became a prominent headline or some African Americans react, inevitably someone would ask that I sign petitions or comment on the behaviors of people of color. Never once have I thought that racism was the motivator for the questions. Conversely, I can't recall anyone ever saying this is not what I gave life or limbs to see in my house.

Those of us who take pride in defense of democracy must use reason and objectivity in bringing about a better union. United in the United States, constitute the people, not just the landmass. History has taught us to conquer, sow the seed of division. As slurs swirl and we choose politics over the country, the gap widens; no one is looking at the openings provided to Russia and China. Racial equality and a fair justice system must become a reality for this country's future, or the prospect will be extremely slim. Our twilight is here, think of our children and grandkids, not having to live in the dismal situation as those in other counties we visited.

One hundred and sixty-eight years ago, Frederick Douglass commented on the celebration of Independence Day; "It is the birthday of National Independence and political freedom, as Passover was to the emancipated people of God. An act of great deliverance from the British Crown, the freedom gained is yours, and pride and patriotism prompt celebration in perpetual remembrance. Men who preferred revolution to peaceful submission to oppression and bondage."

Who, am I to argue that it is wrong to make men brutes, to rob them of their liberty, to work them without wages, to keep them ignorant of their relations to their fellow men, to beat them with sticks, to flay their flesh with the lash, to load their limbs with irons, to hunt them with dogs, to sell them at auction, to sunder their families, to knock out their teeth, to bum their flesh, to starve them into obedience and submission to their masters? Must I argue that a system thus marked with blood, and stained with pollution, is wrong?

Sadly, I fear that the lesson of our past woefully is lost on our present head of state!"

The opinions stated are mine; I have served this country with pride and honor! I will never kneel for the National Anthem but will always stand up and decry unfairness and injustice against any citizen. Honor the Flag, but human life must be cherished. I seek no concurrence or condemnation.

## Virginia VFW Post Receives National Community Service Award

*Chesapeake Post 2894 rallied its community together for a veteran's home renovation*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (June 29, 2020)** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars is proud to announce SSG Jonathan Dozier Memorial Post 2894 in Chesapeake, Virginia, was selected to receive the prestigious VFW Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award, which recognizes VFW Posts for unique and outstanding community service projects.

VFW Post 2894 was selected for its home renovation project for Brandi Jones, a U.S. Navy veteran and single mother of two. After a traumatic home invasion forced her to move in 2011, Jones relocated only to discover her home would need more work than initially expected, but she didn't have the funds to address the growing list of concerns.

After a chance encounter during a VFW "Buddy"® Poppy drive, members of Post 2894 immediately set to work planning the renovation project. With support from several local businesses and associations, more than 150 volunteers rallied together to help ensure Jones and her sons had a safe place to call home. Valued at nearly \$25,000, the renovation project included new exterior floodlights and an alarm system, a completely remodeled kitchen, new flooring, fresh ceiling paint, a new roof, new siding and gutters, and a backyard clean up with new fencing and landscaping.

"When I challenged VFW members to 'Dare to Care' this year, the incredible level of support and dedication VFW Post 2894 showed their sister-in-arms goes above and beyond anything I could have imagined," said VFW National Commander William "Doc" Schmitz. "Post 2894's efforts are a perfect example of the values and mission of our organization."

VFW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch presented the 2020 VFW Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award to VFW Post 2894 Commander Chris Mulholland, alongside VFW Department of Virginia Commander Rick Raskin last week during the Department's convention.





**Lou Filippone**

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

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

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

most of our students are resorting to online learning and have more available free time. We are taking advantage of this and are contacting schools, teachers and students through social media such as Facebook. The interest level appears to be quite high and we are optimistic about recruiting a higher number of participants than last year. We are also targeting JROTC programs and home school organizations. Lastly, my Orthodontic office is always soliciting my patients and handing out applications. We feel we have quite a head start on our contests now as compared to past years. Remember our contest themes for 2020 are "What is Patriotism to me" for Patriot's Pen and "Is this the country the Founders envisioned?" for Voice of Democracy. The deadline for essay submission is 31 October 2020 so if you know of any middle or high school students interested in winning scholarships please contact us and we will get the student an application.

In the meantime stay safe and healthy and take the necessary precautions to help eradicate COVID -19.

With best regards,  
Lou Filippone  
Youth Committee Chair

## JROTC Awards

By Pete MacLeod, Youth Committee member

Because of the continuing uncertainty about school award ceremonies due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the VFW Post 7589 Youth Committee has agreed to mail two of the JROTC awards. If there is an awards program that is put together in the coming weeks, we can always send a representative or two to give out the awards but this way the awards will be in the hands of the ROTC instructors. Since the schools are shut down, we sent the awards directly to the JUNIOR ROTC instructors.

The VFW Bronze Navy JROTC Award for 2020 at Osbourn Park High School in Manassas goes to Cadet Albeni Hemmings. According to Senior instructor James Ogawa, Cadet Hemmings had outstanding grades and displayed a positive attitude toward Navy Junior ROTC and displayed leadership qualities.

The VFW Bronze Junior Air Force ROTC Award for 2020 at Battlefield High School in Haymarket goes to Cadet Noah McHugh who has earned a full four year scholarship at Virginia Military Institute. Master Air Force Sergeant (retired) Dave Shuler says Cadet McHugh has been the "go to" guy for Drill and Ceremonies at Battlefield for the past two years.

The Air Force Jr. ROTC unit at Stonewall Jackson High School has not finalized its plans for awards and the same goes for the Civil Air Patrol cadet program where we give an Officer and NCO award to two Cadets. We will wait and see what they finally decide upon and we will get the awards to them.

The VFW Junior ROTC awards package includes a certificate with holder, medals and ribbons. The same type package is given to the two Cadet Civil Air Patrol recipients.



# State and Post 7589 both exceed membership goals

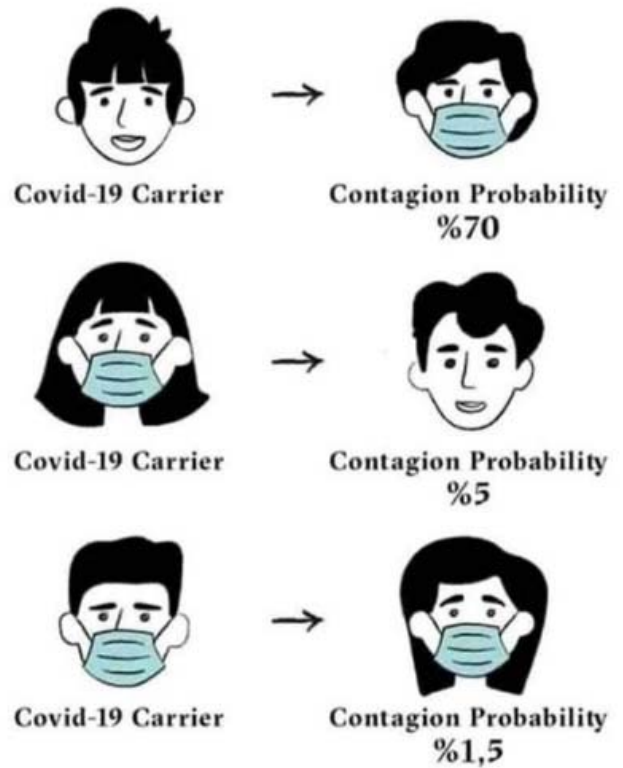
By: Rick Raskin  
Past State Commander  
Post 7589 Quartermaster

The Department of Virginia exceeded its goal of 100% thanks to a huge push by our membership team. Also credit is due to those who took the opportunity to renew their memberships during this race to the finish line.

Our Post also exceeded our goal of 580 with 583 on June 25th. Years ago our Post adopted a policy of paying for WWII annual members and I'm pleased to say we renewed a member who is 100 years old and still going strong. We will consider extending this policy to our Korean War members in future.

It has been a tough year complete with obstacles that no one could have anticipated. The Corona virus put a screeching halt on recruiting efforts throughout the state. Gun shows, community events and celebrations; often great places to recruit, were totally shutdown. Despite these obstacles we evoked on calling campaigns, emails and letters to reach our members and prospects. Our use of social media and our Post's website have helped us gain regularly members.

My thanks to everyone who worked so hard to help achieve this prestigious goal. I had the honor to open this year's State Convention with this thrilling news.



## WEAR IT

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

### Post Membership Statistics



**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.

**A Great Place to Call Home!**

**800-313-4200**

### 2020-21 Post Officers

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

### Complete the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

From VFW Action Corps Weekly (June 26, 2020)

All veterans who served in eligible locations should include their information in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pits Registry. Participation in the registry is very important as it will allow VA to track burn pit exposure and draw inferences regarding associated adverse health effects. Exposure to burn pits may be associated with respiratory conditions such as asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD). Recently, VA stated that veterans with underlying respiratory conditions may be at greater risk for developing complications related to COVID-19. 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.

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

Virginia Department of Veterans  
Services Manassas Office

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

### VFW advocates for Coast Guard Retirement Act

The VFW is working with a coalition of VSOs to advocate for H.R. 6072, the *Coast Guard Retirement Parity Act*, bipartisan legislation protecting the retirement benefits of United States Coast Guard (USCG) veterans.

The legislation, sponsored by U.S. Reps Charlie Crist (D-FL) and Steven Palazzo (R-MS) was submitted last week. Under the current “accrual” system, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force retirement benefits are paid through the Military Retirement Fund, a fiscally responsible public pension fund managed by actuaries.

Every year, the Department of Defense contributes to the fund in anticipation of future retiree costs, protecting retirees and taxpayers alike. Coast Guard retirement benefits, on the other hand, require an annual funding bill, which is not only less efficient but threatens retired Coast Guard service members in the event of a government shutdown.

The bill corrects this disparity and treats Coast Guard retirement benefits just like the other branches of the military.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6072?s=1&r=1>

**Annual members...**

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

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

# State Convention — June 27, 2020 at Post 9808



RICK RASKIN / POST 7589

Attendees at the State Convention — A maximum of 50 were allowed in the room due to Phase 2 Covid restrictions



KATHY GOODALL / POST 4809



KATHY GOODALL / POST 4809

Newly elected State commander Eric Mallett and new State Officers during the installation ceremony.



EDDIE REASOR / POST 5715

D8 Commander Charles Bush, Mark Maggio—Post 4639, State Commander Rick Raskin, Post 622 Commander ShuPon Jones and D3 Commander Jose Rivera recall the 100th anniversary of Post 622.



KATHY GOODALL / POST 4809

State Commander Eric Mallett conducts his first council meeting.



MARY CORKHILL / AUXILIARY 7589

Dept. Treasurer Debbie Martin presenting Department President Marcia Semones a love gift from the Department Auxiliaries



MARY CORKHILL / AUXILIARY 7589

Dept. Chaplain Fred Jennings and Kirsten Guthrie receiving a love gift from President Marcia Semones



MARY CORKHILL / AUXILIARY 7589

Sr. Vice Maggie Myers, President Marcia Semones with Department Commander Rick Raskin



CAROL VANGI / AUXILIARY 3160

Past Department President Debbie Martin swears in the new Department President Maggie Myers



CAROL VANGI / AUXILIARY 3160

Auxiliary officers line up for the installation ceremony



CAROL VANGI / AUXILIARY 3160

Cootie Grand Auxiliary President Jennifer Winn, State Commander Eric Mallett and State President Maggie Myers



## Upcoming Events

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

July 6	Executive Meeting – 7 PM, Post Meeting – 7:30 PM
	Auxiliary Teleconference — 7:30 PM
July 16	Youth Committee Meeting — 7 PM
July 18—20	Nation’s Gun Show Recruiting, Chantilly
August 3	Executive Meeting – 7 PM, Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
August 10	Auxiliary Meeting — 7 PM
August 20	Youth Committee Meeting — 7 PM
August 24	Americanism Committee Meeting — 7 PM
August 27-30	National Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch’s Homecoming, Portsmouth, Virginia
September 14	Executive Meeting – 7 PM, Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
September 17	Youth Committee Meeting — 7 PM
September 19	District 8 School of Instruction — 9:00 AM & Meeting to follow — Post 2524, Culpeper
September 21	Auxiliary Meeting — 7 PM
September 26	Council of Administration meeting, Staunton
October 3	Manassas Fall Jubilee (TBD)
October 5	Executive Meeting – 7 PM, Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
October 12	Auxiliary Meeting — 7 PM
October 15	Youth Committee Meeting — 7 PM
Oct. 29— Nov. 1	Southern Conference, Asheville, North Carolina

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

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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.