

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
August 2015



The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) concluded its 116th National Convention by electing Pittsburgh-native John A. Biedrzycki Jr. as its new national commander. See VFW article on Page 6.

In This Issue:

- Wills for Veterans program at Post 7589
 - Former Post Commander Ken Lion (89) passes away
 - VFW elects new National Commander
 - Photos from the National Convention
 - Social media scam targets service members
 - VFW Action Alert: Military Compensation and Retirement
 - Report from Kuentai-USA
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CANNON NEWS—2015 National VFW Publications Silver Award
2013, 2014 and 2015 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for
Most Outstanding Post Publication/Newsletter, VFW Department of Virginia

Post Commander's Report

Pete MacLeod



There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in VFW Post 7589 activities in the coming months. It's the "busy time" at the Post.

August 8th is the date of the annual Va. VFW State School of Instruction at the Mechanicsville Post. The day begins at 9:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm. We will have a car pool leaving from the Post at 6:30 am. The good thing about this event is that state officers will be on

hand to answer any questions about VFW procedures and rules that you may have.

On August 15th Post 7589 and the Auxiliary will be hosting the District 8 meeting. It will begin at 1:00 pm, and as the host, we want to see as many 7589 members as possible in attendance. Ron Link, former commander of Post 7589 is the new District 8 Commander.

On September 12, at 9:30 am, we will have a flag retirement ceremony with Cub Scouts from Pack 1355 in attendance in the rear of the Post Home. Connect with some young people and learn about the proper etiquette for flag retirement at the same time. We welcome everyone.

August and September are the traditional months for the annual essay contests to get underway. We will be contacting schools, principals and teachers and try to get as many young people in the Manassas area involved as we can. See Ron Link, the new Youth Chair, if you would like to be part of this effort.

Something new this Fall: The Prince William County Bar Association has a "Wills for Vets" program. In a nutshell this will allow veterans, with the help of lawyers working pro bono (for free), to put together wills. With the hard work of Post 7589 comrades Ed Fishpaw, Jerry Martin and Wayne Moore there are already three dates for this service in place and the sessions will take place right here at Post 7589. The first session is informational, the second is meeting with attorneys and the third is for signing of documents. Participants must attend all three sessions.

Barbara Diehl, a specialist for the Area Agency on Aging, is the point person on this project and there are plans to have her speak to us at the beginning of the Post 7589 General Membership Meeting at 7:30 pm on August, 3rd. To sign up please contact Ms. Barbara Diehl at the Prince William Area Agency on Aging at (703) 792-7175 or email bdiehl@pwcgov.org. Please see the

article below for specifics.

For many years we have participated in the Manassas Fall Jubilee and we have plans to do so again this year. The date is Saturday, October 3. We begin setup of our booth at 8:00 am with the Festival officially beginning at 10:00 am and concluding at 5:00 pm. It is a day when we give out "trick or treat" bags to the young people and try to do some major league recruiting. In the recent past we have signed up 5 to 10 new members at this celebration. We also give out information on the youth essay contests and information about the Post itself. The Ladies Auxiliary will be right next to us. Let's hope for good weather and a great turnout. We will have sign up sheets for volunteers at our August and Sept. monthly meetings.

It's a good time to get involved with the good things Post 7589 is involved in and it can begin for you by coming to our August 3rd General Membership Meeting. Hope to see you all there!

Wills for Veterans

The Prince William Agency on Aging, in Partnership with the Prince William Bar Association and the VFW Post 7589 (with support from Prince William area veteran groups) is sponsoring a "Wills for Veterans" Program.

The Prince William Bar Association will be drafting Will and Testaments, Power of Attorneys, and Medical Directives for the Veterans (and their spouses) of Prince William County -FREE. All veterans are encouraged to participate who do not have a Will or Power of Attorney.

The first meeting will be an Informational Session--scheduled at the VFW Post 7589 on Centerville, Road next to the Manassas Fire Station on Saturday, September 19, 2015. Space is limited to the first 80 veterans who sign-up w/ an RSVP to guarantee your participation. Those who participate must attend 3 different sessions (9/19; Oct 3rd & Oct 24th). At the 2nd session, veterans will meet with an attorney to go over their own personal document(s). The 3rd session will be the actual signing of the document(s) to include notaries and witnesses which will be provided--- Veterans will then be able to take home their legal documents----ALL FREE!

To Sign Up for the Informational Session, please contact Ms. Barbara Diehl, at the Prince William Area Agency on Aging at (703) 792-7175 or email bdiehl@pwcgov.org.

Ladies Auxiliary President's Report

Mary Corkhill



We want to welcome Kay Bouldin & Francine Filippone as new members of the Auxiliary. If you have any questions, please let me know. My number is 703/361-8950 or

email: mcorkhill@comcast.net.

I just returned from the National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, and the resolution to change the name of the Ladies Auxiliary to "The Auxiliary" to the Veterans of Foreign Wars has passed. This allows male eligible family members to join the organization. Within the next 30 days, all departments and auxiliaries will receive information in regards to the logo, the membership application and the exact date to start allowing male family members in the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to the United States. I will keep you informed of any changes.

The main focus for the Auxiliaries is the veterans and their families. Therefore, the National organization has discontinued the Cancer Aid & Research and the Jr. Girls Unit programs.

The scholarship program theme for **Voice of Democracy** (Grades 9-12) is "My Vision for America" and **Patriot's Pen** (Grades 6-8) is "What Freedom Means to Me". The deadline for both contests is November 1, 2015.

The **Young American Creative Patriotic Art** is a contest for high school students expressing patriotism through art; the contest deadline is March 31, 2016. The National Citizenship Education Teacher Award deadline is February 15, 2016. The VFW & Auxiliary welcome all home schooled students to participate in any of the contests.

On **Saturday**, August 15th, Post 7589 will be hosting the District 8 meeting at 1:00 pm. Food will be served after the meeting. The Auxiliary Council of Administration will be September 5th in Hopewell, VA. If you would like to attend, please let me know.

The Post has scheduled a Flag Retirement at the Post on September 12th at 9:30am with the assistance of the Cub Scout Pack 1355. Please come and join us for the event.

The National Home for Children is celebrating their 90th year and is located in Eaton Rapids, MI. They assist families of active-duty military during a deployment or unaccompanied tour. Auxiliary 7589 is collecting Campbell soup labels to assist in purchasing another van. We need your assistance in this mission for the children. Please bring all labels to the Post. Thank you in advance for your donations.

The schedule for the next three months is listed below:

- Aug 3 Post/Auxiliary Meeting – 7:30 pm (Inspection)
- Aug 15 District meeting/7589 Manassas Post 1:00 pm
- Aug 29 Celebrating America's Freedom/Historic Ft Snelling, St Paul, Minnesota
- Sept 5 Auxiliary Department Council of Administration, Hopewell, VA
Aux. 637 10am
- Sept 10 Executive Meeting – 7pm
- Sept 11 9/11 Memorial Buddy Poppy - Distribution to public
- Sept 12 Flag Retirement – 9:30am (with pack 1355)
- Sept 14 Post/Auxiliary Monthly Meeting 7:30pm
- Sept 17-20 National President Homecoming, Anchorage, AK
- Sept 18 POW/MIA Ceremony - 5 pm - Manassas Veterans Memorial
- Oct 1 Executive Meeting – 7pm
- Oct 3 Annual Fall Jubilee - 10am - 5pm (Post & Auxiliary will attend)
- Oct 5 Post/Auxiliary Monthly Meeting - 7:30pm
- Oct 9 Set-up for Yard Sale 4-8pm
- Oct 10 Yard Sale (Auxiliary Event)
- Oct 30 Executive Meeting – 7pm

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.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill

Auxiliary President



The Passing of a good friend and loyal member of VFW Post 7589

Former Post Commander Ken Lion (89) passes on July 26

We received the sad news that longtime VFW Post 7589 member and former commander Ken Lion passed away at 6:00 pm Sunday, 7/26/2015 at Fairfax Hospital from complications of a stroke.

Ken was a long time member of Post 7589 and served as Post Commander in 1971-72 and again in 1985-86. He served in other Post leadership positions as well over the years. He was a Marine during World War Two and rose to the rank of Corporal. Like most members of the Greatest Generation he just did his duty, made no big deal about it and went back to civilian live

and a career in Office Machine Repair, got married and raised a family. Ken and his late wife Norma Dale Jewell were married for 67 years. His sons are Ken Lion Jr. and Alan Lion and his daughter is Jo Ann Wolfrom. Ken is survived by 4 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

The reaction around the Post to Ken's death has shown the mark he left on people with his hours and hours of volunteer work here. Everyone is just plain sad and upset to have such a great guy leave us. I remember the three World War Two veterans who consistently worked Post 7589 Bingo together up until a few years ago: Pete Slusher (who is still there), Joe Dazzo and Ken. What a trio of service to our nation and what an example of people that make our country great! You would be hard pressed to find any three veterans to match the service of those three.

Pete MacLeod

Service Officer's Comments

by Steven Botello—Post Service Officer



The second half of our summer 2015 has already begun. Members of VFW Post 7589 recently attended the VFW National Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and it was great seeing the thousand of veterans from throughout the country there to represent us.

All of our veterans need solid strong representation at the local, state, Federal and international level. After defending our country and other countries

the needs of today's American veteran should be and actually must be foremost on the minds and agenda's of all our elected representatives.

The rights and benefits which we earned as veterans should not be given away, traded away nor lowered for the sake of a political promise or some budgetary consideration. We at the VFW stand to support all our veterans and their families as strongly as we possibly can.

We still are in need of two more persons to step up and volunteer to become Veteran Service Officers. Please do consider volunteering yourself for this role. We will provide all the training and information you need to be successful with helping your fellow veterans.

Our Service Officer program also exists to help and serve all vet-

erans here in the Manassas/ Prince William area. If you know of a veteran in need please contact us and let us know.

Please feel free to contact our Service Officer Team at any time for questions, suggestions or other needs you may have at: so@vfw7589.org or call us at 1-703-659-0849 or just pull one of us aside and tell us a suggestion of service that we can provide.

Our number one goal is providing the best service to our veterans and their families.

Please do not hesitate to speak to any of our Veteran Service Officers and find out just what they can do for you! They are myself and:

Stephen Meade 1-703-408-0875

Email: so2@vfw7589.org

Our goal is simple here. We want to take care of all our veterans with the greatest level of service that our resources will allow. Thank you for your service!

If you have any questions please feel free to reach us at our VSO phone line of: 1-703-659-0849 or Email: so@vfw7589.org Thank you.

Steven M. Botello

Post Service Officer

Veteran of Foreign Wars Post # 7589

(Office) 1-703-659-0849

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Email: so@vfw7589.org

Notes from the trenches

by Paul Chase



We join and participate with the VFW for a variety of reasons but one that is almost at the core of all of us is Service to Community and our Fellow Citizens. The following reflects a way that may not immediately come to all our minds. I certainly will give others credit for disagreeing with me.

I'm writing about it because it keeps bothering me and maybe writing about it will help prevent a repeat. I'm referring about the recent gruesome murder of an innocent recent U. Maryland grad with a bright future by a criminal on a DC Metro train. The criminal was high on something and attempted to steal the victim's cell phone. A struggle ensued and the victim was eventually punched to the floor and stabbed 30-40 times and then stomped repeatedly on the head and neck.

The whole scene was witnessed by a train full of passengers. The criminal then proceeded to rob multiple cowering passengers brandishing his bloody knife.

Professionals will say that it is not wise to intervene in such a case. I say otherwise! This was not a case of a giant of a man, but a 135lb, 5'7" dude. Shakespeare said: "Discretion is the better part of valor". I'm all for discretion but not for missing opportunities to stop the murder of an innocent individual before my eyes.

In this prolonged outrage there had to be more than a few opportunities where this criminal could have been neutralized by one or two courageous passengers. As veterans we are trained to act and react. Apparently there was the group psychology at play that postulates: If no one individual does anything, the whole group does nothing. The same group psychology says: If one individual does something others from the group will join in. I have actually thought this sort of scenario in my mind well before this. I've said: "Paul be smart and pick an opportunity to decisively act when the criminal is vulnerable and if you act, do so decisively!" Finish the perp so decisively and totally he will not or cannot retaliate. Show no mercy!

So I say to you comrades; apply your training; for if you do nothing you'll end up forever injured in your mind and regretful for not being the one to start the group from preventing the slaughter of an innocent individual before your eyes.



Spotlight on Rick Raskin

Among veterans there are followers and leaders of various capabilities. Rick is a leader of true and rare capabilities. While he showed technical capability before his Army service he came to his own in 1967 as a telecommunications technician in Nha Trang, Vietnam with the 1st Signal Brigade.

After his Army service he got a degree in Electronics Technology which has served him well as a civilian and a leader in Post 7589. He retired in 2003 after 32 years in the telecommunications industry. He joined the VFW in 1997 but really got into Post 7589 activities after retiring.

He soon was a leader in various committees and streamlined practices which got everyone's attention. He soon was elected Post Quartermaster which is a demanding job that requires attention to detail and if done well requires a gift for technology which Rick has in spades. He has the foresight to anticipate needs and the strength of character to take action to get things done.

Two excellent examples of this are the renovation of the Post 7589 building and paving of the parking lot. The building upgrades required financing, permits, construction contracts, and site planning to name just a few; all of which were done to perfection. The unpaved parking lot was a drawback to Bingo and rentals and Rick grabbed the issue and saw to it that the paving was done at a time to minimize costs and disruption.

He is the driving force behind our Bingo operation which is our main source of income. Due to his efforts as our Bingo Manager, the Post is ahead of the plan for paying off the mortgage which once paid will enable us to do even more for veterans and the community.

His editorship of our award winning Post newsletter and the State's newspaper, [Virginia Veteran](#), speak volumes for his dedication and capabilities.

In addition to being the Post Quartermaster Rick has held the positions of: District 8 Commander, Commander's Club President, Chair - Resolutions Committee, Legislative Committee Member and Department IT Chair.

Rick leads through empowering others, rather than dictating; motivates through his own personal example and builds unified teams which are true gifts. His efforts and dedication to Post 7589 and his fellow veterans is shown by his election as Department Surgeon at the 2015 Department Convention.

VFW elects new National Commander

BIEDRZYCKI CALLS 'SERVICE TO OTHERS' VFW'S MOST IMPORTANT MISSION

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) concluded its 116th National Convention by electing Pittsburgh-native John A. Biedrzycki Jr. as its new national commander.



Biedrzycki served in the U.S. Army from 1967-1970. He served in Korea with the 7th Infantry Division, and his decorations include the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Korean Defense Medal. He is a VFW Legacy Life Member and served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, County, District and Department (state) levels prior to his elections to national office. He has been a member of the VFW for 46 years, having first joined the VFW at Post 418 in McKees Rocks, Pa., in 1969.

In his acceptance speech, the VFW's new leader called on the organization's nearly 1.4 million members to recommit themselves in service to others, which was one of the primary reasons his organization's founders formed in 1899, and formerly merged here in Pittsburgh in 1914. He also urged everyone to consider how much poorer the country would have been had the VFW never existed.

"If not for the VFW, who in our communities will help organize and participate in patriotic salutes to our nation and remember those who serve or fell?" he asked. "If not for the VFW, who will help America's veterans and troops navigate the complex VA claims system, or ensure their individual needs are properly taken care of? And if not for the VFW, who will give a collective voice on Capitol Hill against all the noise generated by 30,000 registered lobbyists who, other than lip service, don't have the best interest of veterans, service members and families first on their agendas?"

While addressing convention delegates, Biedrzycki had high praise for the work being done by VFW members in communities across America. He cited several examples of projects and programs that well-illustrate the VFW's mission to stand up for veterans, service members and their families.

A retired high school history teacher, Biedrzycki also stressed that "freedom isn't free" – something America tends to forget.

"The success of America was built on the service and sacrifice of many Americans, but our continued freedom falls squarely on the shoulders of those who wear the uniform. Everyone in the VFW understands that," he remarked.

During his tenure he will log thousands of miles within the U.S. and internationally to promote the VFW, veterans' issues, and quality of life initiatives for active-duty, Reserve and Guard members, and all their families.

Also elected were Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Brian J. Duffy of Louisville, Ky., and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Keith E. Harman of Delphos, Ohio.

Biedrzycki will lead under the theme Loyalty, Honor and Service for the ensuing year; values that have long-guided the VFW and its new national commander alike.



VFW National Commander John A. Biedrzycki Jr. (center), VFW Senior Vice Commander Brian J. Duffy (left) and VFW Junior Vice Commander Keith E. Harman (right) were elected as VFW's new leadership team on July 22, 2015 at the 116th VFW National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa.

[From: vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

116th National Convention — Pittsburgh, Pa.



Rick Raskin leads the Virginia Delegation parade.



Dept. Commander Doug Keller & Ron Link



Craig Blackmon — Teacher of the Year (9-12)



President Obama addresses the convention on July 21.



Virginia All Americans Phil Arendsen (637) and Geoff Lyster (9835) wait to be crowned.



Mary Corkhill (center) and others wait for the convention bus.



Ann Komara — Teacher of the Year (K-5)



Randy Coker (Post 1503) presents a check to the VFW National Home.



The exhibit hall

Social media scam targets service members

DO NOT provide your personal banking information through social media.

There is a social media scam, predominately seen in Instagram, which is targeting military service members. This scam has been around for over a year, but has picked up steam over the past few months and more and more people in and out of the military are falling prey to fraudsters. Please review the following items and stay alert.

The fraudsters are targeting military, veterans and their families. In exchange for their personal banking information, they are promised the ability to make easy money. The victim provides their log in/password information and the fraudster gains the ability to deposit fraudulent funds directly into their account. They immediately pull out their fee, before the institution can identify the credibility of the deposit, and the victim is left responsible for the used funds. The amounts range from \$2K to \$20K, growing the debt of the victims in a matter of minutes.

The consequences are very unpleasant - you are responsible to pay back the entire amount. Funds are transferred to collections, impacting the victim's credit score and could even result in criminal charges.

Take a moment and think about offers that seem too good to be true. If you have to question if it is legit, walk away. Many victims thought the most they could lose was the balance in their account - they were wrong.

To the people who influence the potential victims, take time to be an advocate and help us educate. They are being taken advantage of and it is our obligation to protect them.

Here are some tips. Make sure to read, follow and share, regardless of where you bank.

1. Offers of free money. USAA (and no other legitimate financial institution) is NOT going to post offers of easy money on social media.

2. Odd phone numbers. A credible USAA number is either a 210 area code or 800 number.

3. Requests for your information. Fraudsters ask for things USAA or any other legitimate institution would never ask for, such as personal identifiers, debit card information and account numbers — USAA and legitimate banks already have all that.

4. Unprofessional pictures. The pictures (fraudsters use) on Instagram might show cash or risqué images of women. They are not images representative of legitimate bankers, investors or USAA employees. That's not USAA's image.

5. Directions to send money back. USAA recently had a conversation with a fraudster posing as a USAA official. The scam was an offer to deposit unclaimed insurance money into the member's account but required a 50% fee to be sent back to the fraudster after the deposit was made. USAA or any other legitimate financial institution would not deposit funds into a member's account and ask them to send half back.

[From: vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

VFW Action Alert: Military Compensation and Retirement

Background: Congress established the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission in 2013 to provide the President and Congress with recommendations to modernize the military's compensation system. One of the Commission's recommendations is to provide all service members with a 401(k)-style retirement plan with a government match, and provide retirees with a blended retirement plan - one that has both a defined pension and 401(k)-style plan. Both the House and the Senate have included some version of this plan in their version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) legislation. The differences between these bills are being compromised through a conference committee and will be voted on in the near future.

Prior to the Commission's recommendations, Congress authorized a 1-percent reduction in the annual cost-of-living adjustment

(COLA) for working-age military retirees who enter service after December 2015. This retirement cut would cost service members 10s of thousands of dollars between military retirement and traditional retirement age. This is nothing more than a cost saving measure that will negatively affect future retirees and it must be repealed.

Take Action: Contact your Members of Congress and urge them to support an NDAA that provides a retirement plan that will grandfather all currently serving service members in the existing plan if they choose, provide an immediate 1-percent employer contribution to a 401(k)-style retirement plan that can be matched up to 5-percent after two years of service, allows reserve retirees options to receive some portion of their pension at the point of retirement, and does away with the 1-percent COLA penalty.

<http://capwiz.com/vfw/utr/1/GUUDUYRWWV/DEPDUYRWYR/10926949976>



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Dear members,

We are currently on Saipan to prepare for the next field investigation to search and uncover probable US remains.

During our meetings with different people on this island, we heard that the remains of probable US servicemen were uncovered and brought to the lab for further examination.

We wonder how long it will take for the Department of Defense to finish the identification, and if anyone here is interested in doing research for us. We appreciate your help.

There has been a major archaeological dig to build a casino facility on this island.

You can read the details from the link below.

Best Sunshine to undertake largest archaeological dig in Saipan history

<http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/74632-best-sunshine-to-undertake-largest-archaeological-dig-in-saipan-history>

We have been watching their activity to see if they can find any WWII servicemen, but nothing was reported.

Best,

Yukari Akatsuka
KUENTAI-USA
akatsuka@kuentai-usa.com

**SPECIAL RATES FOR
POST 7589 & AUXILIARY 7589 MEMBERS**

Contact: Wayne Moore 571-285-7904
Visit our website: www.vfw7589.org

2015—16 Essay Topics

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8)
"What Freedom Means to Me"

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12)
"My Vision for America"

**VA DVS AGENT SERVICE
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Upcoming Events

- August 3** **General Membership Meeting — 1930**
- August 8** **School of Instruction — Post 9808, Mechanicsville — 0900 — 1500 (Carpool from the Post at 0630)**
- August 15** **District 8 Meeting — Post 7589, Manassas — 1300 — Lunch to follow**
- September 10** **Executive Committee meeting — 1900**
- September 11** **Patriot Day — Auxiliary distributes 911 Buddy Poppies**
- September 12** **Flag Retirement Ceremony with Cub Scout Pack 1355 — Post Home — 0930**
Council of Administration meeting — State HQ, Staunton — 0900
- September 14** **General Membership meeting — In lieu of Labor Day — 1930**
- September 19** **“Wills for Veterans” — Informational meeting — Post Home**



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Please send photos as attachments and not imbedded in your article.
We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.