

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
September 2016



Department of Virginia Commander Tom Gimble donates funds to the VFW National Home for Children collected from the Virginia delegation at the VFW National convention in Charlotte, NC. Two Georgia State Troopers and a VFW National Sergeant at Arms accompany Jaeden, the National Home's 2016-2017 Buddy Poppy Child.

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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 Message



In Vietnam in 1970 and 1971, I was a Radio Teletype Operator (MOS: 05C20) for the U.S. Army's 525th Military Intelligence Unit. The 525th had small units strung out all across the country, in all four regions. Our "radio shack" was located in Qui Nhon in central Vietnam at the base of Vung Chua Mountain and just a stone's throw from the South China Sea. There were large North Vietnamese units in the area along with the local Viet Cong and many nights, they had control of huge swaths of the mountain. They

would set up and launch attacks on the American base below and the radar station on top of the mountain.

The 525th's intelligence agents would make daily contact with their Vietnamese agents who would slip inside and outside of enemy territory. We would get the reports, type them up on a crude early computer and send them, encrypted, to the rest of our radio net including Nha Trang, Tuy Hoa, Bong Son, An Khe, Ban Me Thout, and Pleiku. The most sensitive reports would go to Saigon and the U.S. Air Force and sometimes to the peace talks going on in Paris. Sometimes you would get 30 or 40 reports a day during periods of high activity.

Many reports I saw would mention "Western looking POWs" who would be paraded into the villages of Binh Dinh Province by the Viet Cong for "re-education classes" for the villagers. There was a tall blond guy who kept showing up in the reports. These prisoners would always be heavily guarded with their hands tied behind their backs according to the intelligence reports. I wish I had a dramatic rescue story for you here but the truth is I never found out what happened to these guys and no rescue mission was ever launched that I know of. All I know is that when all the POWs were released in early 1973, there were only a handful from South Vietnam. Most of the freed prisoners were American pilots who had been held in North Vietnam. Naturally I kept looking for a tall blond guy, who had been held in the south, but never saw him on the TV news reports of the time.

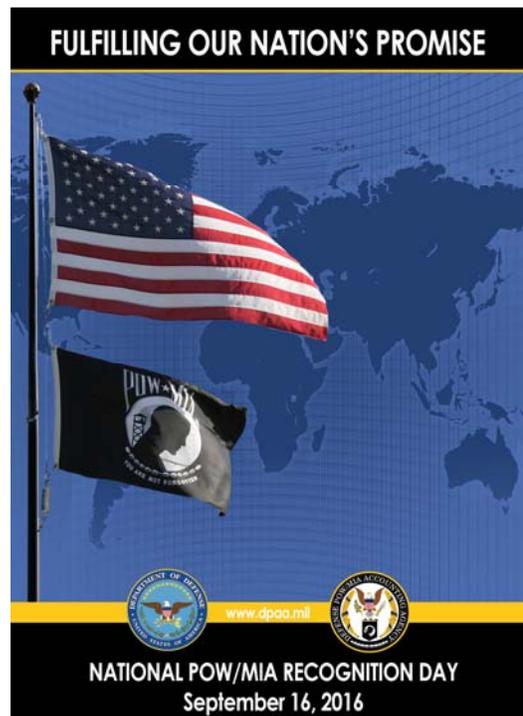
Because of this experience, and others, I have always been sensitive to efforts to find missing Americans from our nation's wars. Just think of the families of these military guys who just disappeared in the fighting. If you receive and read the VFW's "Action Corps Weekly" (sent to your computer) you will discover regular news of the remains of military men from World War Two, Korea and Vietnam being found. Just this past week there was news of the identification of the remains of an 18 year old Army Sgt. from Waterford, Conn. Like so many, he was lost when China sent hordes of soldiers against surprised and outnumbered American forces near the Chosin River in what is today North Korea. This happened back in November and December of 1950. At least now his family finally has closure after 66 years!

There is still a lot of work left to be done. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, part of the U.S. Defense Department, still lists nearly 83,000 missing U.S. military personnel from our nation's wars starting with World War Two. In fact, 75 percent of that number are listed as missing in the Asia-Pacific area. More than 41,000 of the 83,000 are presumed lost at sea. There are still 1,618 missing from the Vietnam War and 7,802 missing from the Korean War. Most of the 83,000 missing are from World War Two.

Efforts continue to find them. Our Post supports the efforts of Kuentai USA, a Japanese/American effort to find the remains of Japanese and American soldiers from the fierce fighting on the Pacific islands in World War Two. You can read a very interesting article in the September VFW magazine about efforts by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, especially at its lab at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, to identify remains.

I think the most important thing we can do is never to forget. On Friday, September 16 at 8:00 pm, we have been invited to American Legion Post 10 in Manassas to participate in a ceremony on "National POW/MIA Remembrance Day." Post 10's Commander Rebeccah Christovich says you might be asked to march in with a flag. Sounds good to me. Our own Merle Hancock, a former World War Two prisoner of war, was honored and spoke at that ceremony last year. The motto of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is "Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise" to bring everyone home!

Pete MacLeod, Commander, VFW Post 7589





I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. We have several events planned in the next few months; our Yard Sale, Fall Jubilee and Wreaths Across America just to mention a few. We would like for you to join us in our upcoming events.

Our annual Fall Yard Sale will be Saturday, September 10th from 7am - 2pm. Setup for this event is Friday, September 9th from 4 - 8pm. We are now taking donations. If you require a receipt there will be one provided. We really appreciate all you do for our organization and this Auxiliary. Hope to see you at our Yard Sale.

Some members of the Auxiliary will be attending the POW/MIA at American Legion Post 10 on Friday, September 16th at 8:00pm. On Sunday, September 18th, the VFW and Auxiliary of 7589 will be hosting the 8th District meeting. We will start setting up the Hall at 10:00am. Lunch will be served at noon with the joint meeting starting at 1:00pm. After the joint session, the Auxiliaries' members will meet in the conference room for their meeting. I would like to remind everyone to bring a gift for a raffle to benefit the VFW Veteran Services program.

One of our fundraisers is Wreaths Across America (WAA). This not-for-profit organization has provided us the opportunity to raise funds to assist in our mission for the Veterans and their families. We are working to place more wreaths on Veterans' graves at Quantico National Cemetery on December 17, 2016. There were over 2,000+ wreaths distributed at Quantico last year. We are requesting from you a wreath sponsorship. Sponsorships are \$15 per wreath. The sponsorship forms can be printed from our website at www.vfw7589.org or contact Ginger Harvey at 571-641-5350 or gch1130@aol.com. To learn more about WAA or to pay for your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit www.wreathscrossamerica.com and remember to include our **Sponsoring Group ID No. VA0040P and Cemetery ID No. VAQNCT. DEADLINE is November 26th.**

The Auxiliary monthly meeting is the first Monday of each month but since Labor Day falls on that meeting date, September 5th, the Auxiliary will be meeting the following Monday, September 12th, at 7:30 pm at the Post home in the conference room. Please join us.

We will be distributing the Memorial Buddy Poppy in remembrance of Patriots' Day, September 11th. If you would like to have some of these special Memorial Buddy Poppies to distribute, please let any member know. We only distribute these special Poppies to the public without collecting funds.

Our Post and Auxiliary will be participating in the Manassas Fall Jubilee again this year on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 10:00am – 5:00pm. This annual event gives us the opportunity to meet the public and distribute information about our organization and programs. We will have items for the children along with running a raffle. Please contact me 703/361-8950 or [mcork-](mailto:mcorkhill@comcast.net)

hill@comcast.net to let me know your availability to assist in helping at the booth.

At the National Convention in July, the proposed increase for the Life Membership passed and the increase of 15% across the board will go into effect January 1, 2017. For any annual members that were planning on getting a life membership, I would like to suggest doing it before the price increases on January 1, 2017. Also, for our annual members, as of July 2016, your 2017 dues are now due. **IF** your 2017 dues are not paid by December 31, 2016, you will not be a member in good standing. Therefore, you will have to re-apply for new membership and the time you spent as a member before you reapply will start over. Unfortunately, if you are diagnosed with cancer during the time you re-apply, you will not be eligible for the Cancer Grant. The waiting period for eligibility is a year and it will **NOT** cover that cancer during or after the waiting period. So please, forward your dues of \$20 to the Auxiliary Treasurer, Elanor Doczi, 7415 Roxbury Ave., Manassas, VA 20109. We love having you as a member and wish you would come to a meeting or even attend an event.

As of July 11, 2016, Campbell Company has discontinued the Education (Campbell Soup labels) program for the VFW National Home for Children. I sincerely want to thank you for your participation to this program over the years. Without your assistance, the National Home for Children wouldn't have been able to purchase seven vans. The program was a success.

I have a special request, Please, keep individuals and/or family members, who are ill or hospitalized, in your prayers. I just received word that our Auxiliary Treasurer, Elanor Doczi, broke her elbow. We hope to see her and others on the road to recovery. Please let us know of anyone who needs our prayers and support.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill
VFW Auxiliary President



Youth News and Notes, Sept., 2016

August and September just have to be the “busy months.” There is just so much going on, and that includes VFW Post 7589. We host the big Auxiliary Yard Sale on Saturday, Sept. 10 and we host the District 8 meeting on Sunday, Sept. 18. This is in addition to the weekly Bingo days, weekend rentals, committee meetings and planning for the October activities which include the big Manassas Fall Jubilee on Saturday October 1! Visit the local schools. They are buzzing with activity as they get set to welcome the students back for another school year!

This time of year also marks the launch of the VFW essay contests for Middle School and High School students in the Manassas area. The Post Youth Committee met on August 16 and we are now going full throttle. So far we have commitments from Brentsville High School, Seton School, Mayfield Intermediate School and Manassas Christian School. In fact we have already delivered more than 125 contest brochures/applications to students in those schools. We are working with teachers at Metz Middle School, Parkside Middle School and Osbourn High School to get efforts going at those schools. Committee member Lou Filippone is visiting schools in Chantilly and Centreville to see if we can start relationships that will lead to essay entries. We are looking at the new Colgan High School and at Stonewall High School and Battlefield High. It is not always easy. It involves countless emails, phone calls and visits. But there are seldom any shortcuts to success. If you would like to join the effort, the Youth Committee will meet next on Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 7:00 pm at the Post Hall. We welcome you! The Youth Committee is open to both members of the Post and Auxiliary.

Library of Congress to Stage Major WWI Exhibit

Library of Congress GAZETTE
August 6, 2016

The Library of Congress, which holds the largest multi-format collection of materials on the American experience in World War I, will present a major exhibition in 2017 to commemorate the centennial of The Great War.

The United States' involvement in the "war to end all wars" began April 6, 1917, when Congress formally declared war on the German Empire, and concluded Nov. 11, 1918, with the armistice agreement. The exhibition will examine the upheaval of world war, as Americans experienced it, domestically and overseas. The exhibition, in the Jefferson Building, will open in early April 2017 and close in January 2019. Initially, it will feature 200 items, but during its 18-month run, numerous other artifacts will be rotated into the display.

World War I, at the time, was the greatest conflict the world had ever known. It created seismic changes in American society and

We also are looking for candidates for “Teacher of the Year” and “Scout of the Year.” If you have some nominees, please let us know! Call 703 220-4545 anytime!

Schools are always interested in having speakers with military experience, come in and talk to classes. On a recent visit to Brentsville High School, a teacher told me they will talk with any veteran or active duty military person who is interested in sharing their military experiences with the students. We will also have opportunities during Veterans Week in November for speaking with students about the military.

The student VFW essay themes for this school year:

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8): *“The America I Believe In”*

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12): *“My Responsibility to America”*

Deadline for entries is November 1, 2016.

We have plenty of the new essay brochures/applications! We will have them available at the Post's September 12 General Membership Meeting. Home Schooled students in Virginia are welcome to enter the contests. Just pick up a brochure/application and take it to them. They can enter through our Post!

Pete MacLeod

reshaped the global community in profound ways. In the United States, a national army was conscripted for the first time; more than a million women entered the workforce, contributing to the war effort in countless ways; and African-Americans challenged racial inequality. The first widespread use of airplanes, tanks and poisonous gas revolutionized warfare and technologies; the wrist-watch was popularized by the demands of modern battle; and jazz spread around the world with the American soldiers going abroad.

The exhibition will feature correspondence, music, film, recorded sound, diaries, posters, photographs, scrapbooks, medals, maps and various other artifacts from the war. The collections of the Veterans History Project will be interwoven throughout the exhibition to give voice to those who served.

Now through April 2017, the Library is featuring twice-monthly blog posts about World War I, written by Library curators who highlight stories and collection materials they think are most revealing about the war. The posts can be viewed at www.loc.gov/blogs/.

Introducing the 2016/2017 Buddy Poppy Child!

From the VFW National Home for Children:
August 2, 2016



We are happy to announce we have our new Buddy Poppy Child for 2016/2017! Twelve year old Jaeden lives in the Ohio house with her mother and four siblings; two brothers and two sisters. She is going into the 8th grade in the fall and her favorite subject is Science. She thinks that someday she wants to either be a pre-school teacher or work with animals. Though she doesn't have an animal this year for 4H, her brother Dontae does and she enjoys going up to the barn with him to see him work with his pig.

Jaeden was able to come to live at the National Home through both her mother and grandfather's service in the U.S. Air Force. Her great-grandfather was also an officer during WWII. Because of this connection, Jaeden was able to move from a small apartment with her mother and siblings into one of our big beautiful homes. Her grades have improved as well with the help of resources like the computer lab and library here on our campus.

"I am proud to be the Buddy Poppy and represent the VFW - it is an honor and privilege and a chance for me to give back. This experience is something I will remember for a lifetime." - Jaeden

Welcome to our New Members:

John Hauser
Chris Rowe

Taps:

Pierre Croteau: 8/9/16

Purple Heart Phone Scam

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is warning about a telephone scam being conducted in its name. Unknown individuals have been cold-calling people across the United States, often from 315-516-2512, and requesting donations for the upcoming presidential election. The callers say they're doing so on behalf of MOPH and mention the name of the group's national commander, Robert Puskar. "These calls are a hoax," read a MOPH statement, which asks people to contact local authorities if they receive such calls.

Update on Aluminum Can Tab Collection Program

By Paul Chase

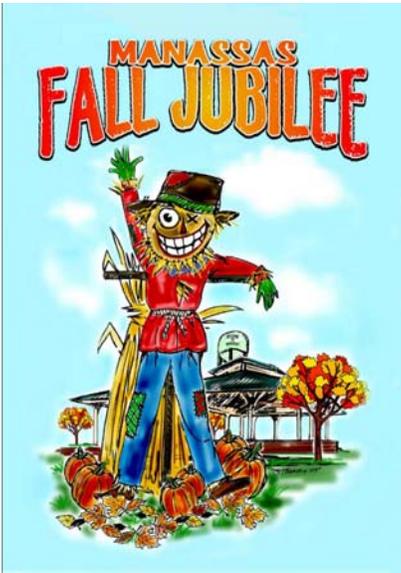


On August 16th we received our largest single donation of aluminum can tabs - estimated at 60,000. The tabs were collected by the Independence Empowerment Center (IEC) of Manassas which assists and coordinates local programs to provide help to individuals who can continue to live independently and develop as

productive members of the community. Over 700 local individuals are currently in the program which also enhances the efficiency

of other programs. This maximizes the value of tax dollars that support local programs and lessens the burden on local community service organizations. Ms. Roberta McEachern the Program Director of IEC took the lead on collecting tabs, which included fairs, and social events such as weddings. Ms. McEachern, we truly value your contributions to our program.

The VFW Post 7589 aluminum can tab collection program was started in April 2014 with a goal of 100,000 by the end of the year - we collected 125,000. Our 2016 goal is 200,000 and we currently have collected nearly 380,000. We are approaching a grand total of 780,000. All the proceeds from the recycling of the tabs go to the Shriners Hospital System and specifically the Boston Burn Center which provides cost free medical services to needy burn victims throughout the Nation. This is an excellent example of how Post 7589 serves the community without requiring individuals to donate their hard earned money.



Saturday, October 1
10 AM—5 PM

Setup starting at 9:00

Post and Auxiliary
volunteers needed to
distribute Trick-or-
Treat bags, meet the
public and help re-
cruit new members.

POCs: Pete MacLeod
and Mary Corkhill



VFW Recruiting:
September 30—October 2.
District 8 members to staff table
on October 2.
POC: Ron Link

*So far over 100 veterans have joined the
VFW at these shows.*



**Honoring 9/11 by Helping First Responders
find Hope, Healing & Resilience**



Saturday Sept 10, 2016
3:00pm to 6:30pm
Hylton Performing
Arts Center
Manassas, Virginia



Event Details:

Film: Rebirth: Brian's Journey

Project Rebirth's First Responders Resilience Network
w/ retired ACFD Battalion Chief Robert Gray



United States Marine
Matthew Hallinan

Prince William
County
Police Department
Officer Jesse Hempen

Manassas City
Police Department
Captain Tina Laguna

Local and Federal
Resilience Resources
Meet and Greet Reception

All are welcome to attend this FREE event.

Visit www.hyltoncenter.org for location information.

Thank you to our Sponsors:



From the



VA Adds New Women’s Chat Service:

The VA’s Women Veterans Call Center is expanding its outreach to women veterans with a new online, one-to-one chat function. The new service enables women veterans to go online and anonymously chat via real-time text messaging with trained representatives, all of whom are women and many of whom are veterans themselves. The new chat feature, which is open extended hours Monday through Saturday, provides another avenue for women veterans to ask general questions about benefits, eligibility and services specifically related to them. Learn more at: <http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/programoverview/wvcc.asp>.

Help with Health Care Billing Issues:

VA has established a toll-free phone number for veterans to call if private sector health care providers have improperly billed them for care that VA is required to pay. The VFW urges any veteran being pursued by collection agencies to seek VA’s assistance. VA will help you resolve adverse credit reporting and debt collection issues. Veterans who believe they have been incorrectly billed for their care should also call the billing call center to

determine if VA is liable for the cost of the care. For assistance, call 1-877-881-7618 and press 1, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern Time.

Expanding Online Exchange Shopping Access:

Military Times is reporting that the Defense Department’s Executive Resale Board is recommending that all honorably discharged veterans be authorized to shop online through military exchange store websites. The VFW-supported idea was first pitched two years ago by the Army & Air Force Exchange Service as a way to increase donations to respective service morale, welfare and recreation programs, as well as to thank the great majority of honorably discharged veterans who do not make the military a career. If approved, the new benefit would apply to online shopping only, not at traditional brick-and-mortar stores, where access will remain restricted to military ID card carrying service members, retirees, 100 percent disabled veterans, and their eligible family members.

To sign up new veterans’ advocates, click here: <http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>.

YARD SALE (Inside The Building)

AUXILIARY VFW POST 7589

September 10, 2016
7:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Post Home - 9304 Centreville Road
Manassas, VA

(We will be taking donations on Friday, September 9, 2016 from 4 pm – 8 pm at the Post)



Upcoming Events

- September 10 Auxiliary Yard Sale — Setup on Friday evening
- September 11 Auxiliary 9/11 Memorial Buddy Poppy distribution
- September 16 POW/MIA Day— Joint Ceremony at American Legion Post 10 — 9:00 pm
- September 18 District 8 Meeting at Post 7589 — Lunch at noon, meeting at 1:00 pm
- September 30—October 2 Nations Gun Show (8th District Posts staff tables on October 2)
- October 1 Manassas Fall Jubilee 10 am—5 pm
- October 22 Department Commander and President’s Homecoming at VFW Post 1503.

**VA DVS AGENT SERVICE
AT POST 7589**

**2nd & 4th Thursdays
9:00 AM — 3:00 PM**

You can also visit the Fairfax office.

**11198 Lee Hwy., Ste. D4
Fairfax, VA 22030**

703-359-1210

Get your Post 7589 Challenge Coin

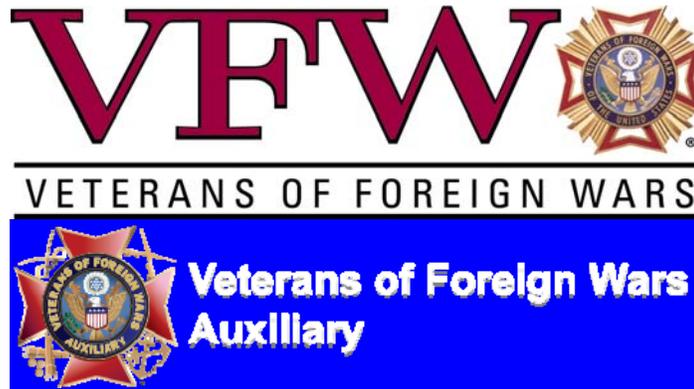


\$10 each

Available at Post meetings

Also available by mail

Email: quartermaster@vfw7589.org for details
or leave a message at 703-361-5554





STATE OF VIRGINIA
VFW AND AUXILIARY

HOMECOMING 2016

STATE COMMANDER TOM GIMBLE
STATE PRESIDENT SHEMA PEPPERS

COME JOIN THE CELEBRATION!
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016
5:00 PM TO 11:00 PM

WHERE: VFW POST 1503
14631 MINNIEVILLE ROAD
DALE CITY, VA

RSVP:

Betty Gimble – 703-851-5819 or bjg1503@gmail.com
Gina Meehan – 703-670-9675 or ginameehan06@gmail.com
Deadline: October 16, 2016

HOTEL: COMFORT INN
16931 OLD STAGE RD
DUMFRIES, VA 22025

RATE: \$94.99 + TAX CUTOFF DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2016
HOTEL RESERVATION CALL 703-445-8070 SPECIAL CODE: VFW HOMECOMING

Monetary gifts for Commander Tom should be sent to Kim DeShano, Adj/QM,
Dept of Virginia, VFW, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA. 24401
and earmarked for Homecoming.



Tax ID 20-8362270

Wreath Sponsorship Form

*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at 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: (To receive our FREE email newsletter) _____

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths or more	\$15.00 each wreath		
		Grand Total	

****SORRY - WE CANNOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS****

Sponsoring Group ID Number: VA0040P
 Cemetery Designation: Quantico National Cemetery
 Cemetery ID Number: VAQNCT

Please make checks payable to:
 Wreaths Across America TM

Mail to:
 PO Box 249
 Columbia Falls, ME 04623
 Questions? Please call 877-385-9504

Cut-Off Date is November 26, 2015
 WAA ceremony will take place at Quantico National Cemetery on
 Saturday, December 17 at 12 Noon.

**Thank you for your Sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember,
 Honor and Teach!**

Please note that all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.



SPONSOR A WREATH FOR A VETERAN'S GRAVE

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**.

On **Saturday, December 17, 2016**, Wreaths Across America ceremonies will take place at over 741 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 17, 2016 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?**

VFW Hall



- Available for:**
- Baby Showers
 - Birthday Parties
 - Business Meetings
 - Family Reunions
 - Wedding Receptions



Public Rental Rates
 \$200.00 for the 1st two hours
 \$ 75.00 for each additional hour

*Friday & Saturday Nights minimum
 Rental is 4 hours for \$400.00*

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

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

CELEBRATION TIME



We are still in prep-mode to Host a National Event for
Our First National President from Virginia. It will be Huge!

Dee Guillory

**ANY MEMBER, AUXILIARY, POST OR DISTRICT THAT MAKES
 A DONATION BY 4-30-2017, WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE AT
 JUNE 2017 CONVENTION AND YOUR NAME WILL GO IN A
 DRAWING FOR \$25.00.**

Please make your check Payable to VFW Auxiliary of Virginia & send your
 check to our Department Treasurer Debbie Martin,
 539 Westwood Drive, Ruckersville, VA 22968
 Make sure your check is earmarked "Dee's Celebration"

Any Questions or Suggestions for Fundraisers, Contact:

- Ellen Stogsdill, 757-777-6275
- Patricia Jurgensen, 703-754-1244
- Laine Beckwith, 757-722-0235
- Mary Corkhill, 703-361-8950



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 Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to quartermaster@vfw7589.org
 We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.