

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
September 2017



Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and Youth Chair Lou Filippone with Cadet Captain Brandon Lawson from the Prince William Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol. (See Page 4)

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CANNON NEWS—2015 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



Pete MacLeod

On a recent hot September morning I visited the brand new Virginia Department of Veteran's Services Office in Manassas. After Va. Governor Terry McAuliffe and just about every politician in the area visited this

new facility, I decided I had better see what all the "buzz" is about.

It is impressive physically and even more impressive are the people who work there. Rather than give you a laundry list of services, I would just say that if you are a veteran with virtually any kind of question or problem, this office can help you immediately without a number of forms being filled out. If they can't help, they will quickly refer you to someone who can.



The new Manassas DVS office

Here are the basics; The office is staffed by 4 people and is open Monday – Friday, from 8:00am to 4:30pm. The address is 9300 West Courthouse Road, Suite 305, Manassas, Va. 20110. You can just walk in or you can call ahead for an appointment at 703-479-7437. The Veteran's specialists who will be helping you all have their own phone numbers and email addresses.

The simple directions are: Go west from Old Town Manassas on Rt. 28, pass the

cemetery and Harley Davidson store on your left. Turn onto Courthouse Road and you will immediately see a new office building on your left, that is 9300 Courthouse Road. There is plenty of parking at the building. Go inside and take the elevator to Suite 305. You will be greeted by a modern office and friendly, helpful people who are trained and dedicated at helping veterans. They seem genuinely happy to see you. You will not see "Oh no, not another customer" looks.

On my visit, I spoke first to Veteran's Service Representative Bradley Heath. He is a veteran. He said something very interesting about medical claims. He talked about the "golden" first year you leave the service. He said the VA assumes any medical problem you have that year is service related. There is a huge computer screen on his desk and he told me he once received a call from a veteran who thought

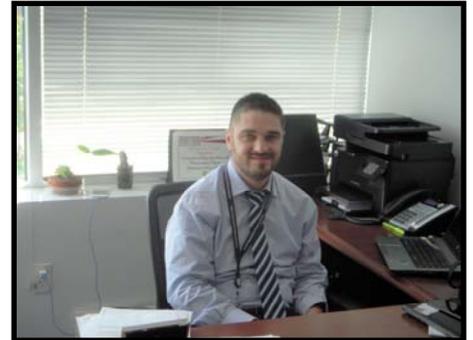


DVS representative Bradley Heath

his DD-214 had been lost in that St. Louis fire years ago. Brad said he found it and brought it up on his computer. Now I am not saying Brad is going to have that kind of success all the time but the point is these guys have the connections and resources right in that office to solve problems and answer questions.

Next, I spoke with Caleb Johnson, a Veteran's Service Representative who specializes in veteran's family issues and he also looks into reports of "homeless veterans" and substance abuse issues. He also helps with transportation issues for veterans. He is working now with a veteran's peer group in Fairfax. He says housing and jobs are the big concerns of the young Iraq and Afghanistan combat veterans he works with who just left the service.

There are 28 of these State Veteran's Service offices in Virginia. Manassas is lucky to be the host for one. It is no longer nec-



DVS representative Caleb Johnson

essary to battle the mind bending DC traffic or go on a journey to West Virginia or to a military base for information. There is a good chance you can find it right here.

Here are a couple of alerts for all members of VFW Post 7589 and the Auxiliary:

The Prince William County Bar Association is again offering free services to veterans and their spouses interested in creating a Will. The "Wills for Veterans" program has 3 sessions: Sept 30, Oct. 14 and Oct. 28 at the Prince William Senior Center/ Woodbridge, 13850 Church Hill Drive, Woodbridge, 22191. Contact Barbara Diehl at the Prince William Area Agency on Aging to sign up for this "free" service. 703-792-7175, bdiehl@pwccgov.org

"The Vietnam War," a film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. begins on PBS on Sunday, Sept. 17 at 8:00 pm. it will continue that week and be repeated later in the month and during the overnight period on WETA.

All of us at Post 7589 and the Auxiliary are invited to attend and take part in American Legion Post 10's POW/MIA Recognition night on Friday, Sept. 15 beginning at 7:00 pm.

Photos: Pete MacLeod

Auxiliary President



July 1st was the start of the new Auxiliary year and it looks like we have a lot of programs we will be working on. I just returned from the Department Council of Administration and School of Instruction in Mechanicsville, VA which was held on September 26th. It was well attended and everyone was able to get into the new National systems MALTA. We are excited for the new ideas that Department President, Linda Bond has implemented for the coming year.

Please keep September 8th & 9th on your calendar for the Auxiliary annual fall yard sale. We will be setting up the Hall on Friday, September 8th from 4pm-8pm and our Yard Sale will be September 9th from 7am-2pm. We have been getting a lot of donations and we thank you. We really appreciate all you do for the VFW organization and this Auxiliary. Hope to see you at our Yard Sale.

September is Military Suicide Awareness month. If you know if anyone who needs assistance, please call the Crisis line at 1/800/273-8255 or text 838255 and someone will assist you. On Friday, September 15th, POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held at the American Legion Post 10. The ceremony will start at 8pm at 9950 Cockrell Rd, Manassas, VA. The flag retirement ceremony will be Saturday, September 16th at 9am with assistance from Cub Scout Pack 1355. Please join us for this event.

We are partnering with Wreaths Across America (WAA) again this year, for another fundraiser. This not-for-profit organization has provided us the opportunity to

raise funds to assist in our mission for veterans and their families. The date of the event is December 16, 2017 at Quantico National Cemetery. Please assist us in our fundraiser by purchasing a wreath sponsorship. The sponsorships are \$15 per wreath and the sponsorship forms can be printed from our website at www.vfw7589.org or contact Ginger Harvey at 571/285-6243 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 30, 2017.**

The Auxiliary monthly meeting is the first Monday of each month but since Labor Day falls on that meeting date, September 4th, the Auxiliary will be meeting the following Monday, September 11th, 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 distribute these special Poppies to the public without seeking donations.

Our Post and Auxiliary will be participating in the Manassas Fall Jubilee again this year on Saturday, October 7, 2017 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 and see if they know the Pledge of Allegiance. Please contact me 703/361-8950 or mcorkhill@comcast.net to let me know your availability to assist in helping at the booth.

The new National system MALTA is a great tool for the members to pay their dues. All you have to do is log into the National website under member login and pay your dues. National is requesting that every member go online and update or make sure your personal information is correct. If you need assistance, please let the Auxiliary Treasurer, Elanor Doczi at 571/33-5457, know and she or I will assist you. If you **do not** have access to the internet, please call us and we will assist you.

The National President's 5th Annual Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) is on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at the Yorktown Battlefield, Yorktown, Virginia. It is also known as Yorktown Day and the ceremony starts at 10am. The forms with prices are located on the National website at: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/celebrating-americas-freedom>. Go to "Click here for a registration form, transportation, hotel information and other event details." You will find all the information for the CAFÉ on that page. On October 20-21, 2017, we will have the 2017-2018 National President's Celebration at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel located at: 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185, phone (757) 220-2500. The forms with prices are at <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Dees-Celebration-Registration-Fillable.pdf>. **Deadline for both events is September 10, 2017.**



National President, Dee Guillory

The National Home for Children, located in Eaton Rapids, MI. is celebrating their 93rd year. They assist families of active duty military during a deployment or unaccompanied tour. The life membership is only \$35.00. If you wish to become a life member, please forward your application and funds to National Home for Children.

We have some sad news. Our Auxiliary Treasurer Elanor Doczi lost her husband on September 13th. Please keep her and the family in your prayers. Also, please keep all the individuals and their family members, who are ill or hospitalized, in your prayers. If there is anything we can do to assist you or any family members please let us know. We are here for you.

Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

We are currently distributing brochures and posters to the area schools for the VFW Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy youth contests as well as the VFW

Teacher of

the Year competition. We have plenty of brochures still available upon request should any VFW member want to distribute them to schools or students for the competition. As a reminder, the deadline for all entries is 31 October 2017. Some schools have not responded due to the summer vacation schedule. We should hear from these few schools now that school is back in session.

President Mary Corkhill, from the VFW Auxiliary, and I had the honor of representing VFW Post 7589 and presented the VFW Award to Cadet Captain Brandon Lawson from the Prince William Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol on 15 September 2017 at the National Guard Armory on Dumfries Road in Manassas. It was an incredibly moving ceremony for all those in attendance. Cadet Captain Lawson and his family were deeply touched and appreciative. The following is the list of criteria and achievements this Cadet has met and

attained:

1. Good standing academically
 2. Progressing in cadet CAP program
 3. Outstanding achievement in community service and Aerospace and Leadership portions of the cadet program
 4. Outstanding leadership in Civil Air Patrol
 5. High moral character
 6. High level of professionalism in appearance and action
 7. Patriotism, promote Americanism
 8. Demonstrate growth potential, higher levels of responsibility
- Cadet First Lieutenant Brandon Lawson is being recognized, with the VFW Award, for his outstanding performance as a cadet officer in the Prince William Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol during 2016.
 - Cadet Lawson has maintained a 3.3 grade point average and has advanced in the Civil Air Patrol program.
 - Cadet Lawson has participated in the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Program.
 - He has also shown excellent leadership by serving as the cadet officer advisor to the Prince William Composite Squadron Color Guard.
 - Cadet Lawson recently served as the Cadet Commander at the Virginia Wing Drill and Ceremonies School.
 - He recently led cadets at the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington and was a leader in the Cadet participation in the "Wreaths Across America" event at Arlington National Cemetery.
 - Cadet Lawson's patriotism, moral

character, military bearing, and conduct have been impeccable. He constantly shows desire to be of service to his community, state, and nation and is deserving of the recognition provided by the VFW Civil Air Patrol Cadet Officer of the Year Award.

We are still anticipating our flag retirement ceremony with Cub Scout Pack 1355 on Saturday, 16 September 2017 at the Post from 9-11AM. There will first be an educational block of instruction about flag history and etiquette from Jean MacLeod followed by the actual flag retirement in the parking lot. All interested members are encouraged to attend.

Lastly, the Youth Committee is looking forward to participating in the Manassas Fall Jubilee in Old Town Manassas on Saturday, 7 October 2017 from 8AM until 5PM. This will be a wonderful opportunity to interact with the local youth, hand out some essay contest applications, and distribute Halloween bags. It also affords us an opportunity to recruit new VFW and Auxiliary members for our Post. This event should be attended by everyone who can participate from our Post and Auxiliary because of the fantastic community exposure and good will it generates.

As always, all of those interested in joining the Youth Committee are encouraged to do so. Please contact Commander Peter MacLeod, myself, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, or Comrade Roger Nicol if you are interested. The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 21 September 2017 at 7PM at the Post. Please join us.

2017 Wills for Vets

The Prince William Agency on Aging, in Partnership with the Prince William Bar Association is once again, sponsoring a "Wills for Veterans" Program.

The Prince William Bar Association will be drafting 1) Will and Testaments, 2) Power of Attorneys, and 3) Medical Directives for the Veteran (and their spouse/caregiver) in the Tri-jurisdictional areas of PWC, Manassas and Manassas Park - FREE. All veterans are encouraged to participate who do not have a Will, Power of

Attorneys and/or Medical Directives. Space is limited to the first 80 veterans/spouses who sign-up w/ an RSVP to guarantee your participation.

Those who wish to participate will be required to attend 3 different sessions. The 1st session will be an Information/Educational Session w/ time for Q & A. (All Sessions will be scheduled at the Prince William Senior Center/Woodbridge, 13850 Church Hill Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22191) on Saturday, September 30, 2017. The 2nd Session- Questionnaire completion/Meeting w/ Attorney to go over your own personal information, will

take place on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017 and the 3rd Session- Completion/Signing Date of legal documents is scheduled for Saturday, Oct 28, 2017 that will include Notaries and Witnesses, which will be provided. At the last session Veterans will be able to take home their legal documents----ALL FREE!

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

Flag Retirement Ceremony Sept. 16

We will conduct a flag retirement ceremony on September 16 at the Post home starting at 9:00am. Flag history and etiquette will be taught by Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod immediately preceding the ceremony.

Cub Scouts from Pack 1355 will attend the training and participate in the respectful disposal of approximately 300 flags that have been collected over the past several months.

A flag collection point is located next to our driveway on the east side of the building. The community is encouraged to dispose of unserviceable flags for proper retirement.

President Approves New Global War On Terrorism Memorial

VFW members are driving force behind its creation

WASHINGTON (Aug. 21, 2017) — The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is saluting President Trump for signing the VFW-supported *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Act* into law late Friday. The signing now clears the way for the GWOT Memorial Foundation to work with the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission to secure federal approval for acreage on the National Mall, as well as coordinate a national competition for the memorial’s design. It also exempts the GWOT Memorial from a provision in the *Commemorative Works Act of 1986* that requires Congress to wait 10 years after the official end of a military conflict before considering a war memorial in the nation’s capital.

“Sixteen years ago, no one would have thought it possible for America to fight a nonstop, multi-front war for so long with just an all-volunteer force,” said VFW National Commander Keith Harman, who served in Vietnam as a UH-1 Huey helicopter crew chief and door gunner. “That we have — that they have — and continue to do so magnificently, is a testament not only to this generation’s patriotism but of their character, as well. The VFW is very proud to support this memorial, and we are extremely proud that VFW members are the driving force behind its creation.”

...

“This historic signing is dedicated to our 3 million brothers and sisters who have deployed in the Global War on Terror, especially to the ones we have lost, and those who face great obstacles since their return home,” said Brennan, a West Point graduate, who served in Afghanistan as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot. “I’m very proud of the VFW’s early support, and when the time comes, I look forward to a significant presence at the memorial’s groundbreaking and its grand opening, hopefully alongside our nation’s other war memorials.”

Become a VFW Life Member

Why should you become a life member? Good question.

The best reason is you will never again have to be concerned with annual renewals. Also it is a cost effective way to maximize your dues money. For example an annual member 41 years old will pay \$35.00 a year and assuming there are no further dues increases will reach the break even point in 11 years. At age 52. From that point on there will be no more dues payments but the Post will continue to receive annual life member payment from National for the rest of the member’s life.

Lets assume the member choses not to become a life member and reaches the age of 90 and is still going strong. At 90 years of age there would have been a total of \$1435 in dues paid.

Think about it; pay a little now and be done with dues forever.

There are two options: a one time payment or a one year installment plan, both of which are detailed below. Please contact Quartermaster Rick Raskin if you are interested.

Age as of December 31	One-Time Payment	INSTALLMENT PLAN	
		Initial Payment	11 payments of
through age 30	\$425	\$45	\$38.64
31 – 40	\$410	\$45	\$37.27
41 – 50	\$375	\$45	\$34.09
51 – 60	\$335	\$45	\$30.45
61 – 70	\$295	\$45	\$26.36
71 – 80	\$225	\$45	\$20.45
81 and over	\$170	\$45	\$15.45

Legacy Life Membership

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

Enrollment Cost	VFW Store Discount	Annual Payouts		
		Post	Department	National
Gold- \$1200	15%	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver- \$800	10%	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze- \$400	5%	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

What will your Legacy be?

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER	
September 7	Executive Meeting – 7pm
September 8	Yard Sale Set up (Dinner at a Restaurant) (Auxiliary Event)
September 9	Yard Sale (Auxiliary Event)
September 11	9/11 Memorial Buddy Poppy - Distribution to public (Auxiliary Event)
September 11	Post/Auxiliary Monthly Meeting - 7:30pm
September 15	POW/MIA Ceremony – (TBD)
September 16	Flag Retirement Ceremony with Cub Pack 1355— 9:00am
September 21	Youth Committee – 7pm
September 28	Executive Meeting – 7pm
OCTOBER	
October 2	Post/Auxiliary Monthly Meeting - 7:30pm
October 7	Annual Fall Jubilee - 10am - 5pm (Post & Auxiliary will attend)
October 19	Celebrating America's Freedom/Yorktown, VA (Auxiliary Event)
October 20-21	National President's Celebration, Williamsburg, VA



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

Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office

9300 W. Courthouse Rd.
 703-479-7437



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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

Editor: Rick Raskin
 Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

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

YARD SALE

INSIDE

VFW AUXILIARY POST 7589



September 9, 2017

7:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Post Home - 9304 Centreville Road-
Manassas, VA**

(We will be taking donations on Friday, September 8, 2017 from 4 pm – 8pm at the Post)



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

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)

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**

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		
		Grand Total	

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

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: _____

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

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

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, 2017.**

On **Saturday, December 16, 2017**, 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 16, 2017 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, or call 877-385-9504.
You can also email infor@wreathscrossamerica.org