

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
September 2018



Comrade Dave Mattingly read names of MIAs from the Korean War at the Korean War Memorial at ceremonies on August 11.

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

Commander's Message

School Pursuit



Wayne Moore

Greetings Comrades. The 2018-19 school year is upon us! Your Post's Youth Committee spearheaded by JVC Lou (Doc) Filippone is in the throes of liaising with school's guidance counselors and teachers to maximize student participation in our Post sponsored programs Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen essays, along with Auxiliary President

Mary Corkhill and the Patriotic Arts program. Lou, Mary, and Pete MacLeod are our ground coordinators for all things Youth. As the students settle in for classes in the coming year teachers have been busy planning ways to educate them without having the students heads buried in books during every class over the school year. Post 7589 functions as a welcome respite throughout the year as our members participate in 'ask the veteran' sessions. The students, whether at a junior or high school, are encouraged to have an open dialogue with the vets who offer firsthand knowledge of their military service experience. Having occasionally participated in the discussion process, I found it very reassuring observing these teens enthusiasm and pride of the veteran's regaled detailed stories of military work, living, travels, and experiences.

While struggling to meet the newsletter deadline I was happily interrupted with a more pleasurable chore. The Civil Air Patrol held an advancement/award ceremony for its Air Cadets at the Manassas Army National Guard Armory. Lou and Mary presented Cadet Captain Isaac Peugh with the Civil Air Patrol Medal. Isaac was away at a college seminar, so his dad ac-



Wayne Moore

cepted the award on his behalf. The event was nicely done with outstanding support from family and friends.

The criteria for all awards are that the Cadet be in good academic standing, doing well in the respective program, high moral character, display patriotism, promote Americanism, demonstrate growth potential and leader-

ship in citizenship.

District Meeting

District 8 held its quarterly meeting at Post 7589, on August 19, 2018. While the General Meeting addresses matters of Post functionalities and orders of the day I believe the School of Instruction presentation was important and is critical to all members. Any member curious about the Veterans of Foreign Wars mandate for effective operations should attend a session on Instructions. Eric Mallet, Department Sr. Vice Commander, and Butch Schupska, Department Judge Advocate tag teamed the School of Instruction lectures in an outstanding fashion. Many of us tend to skim through books, stopping only at the section that interests us. However, listening to these gentlemen breakdown the duties and responsibilities of the positions clearly indicates committed fidelity is needed. Attention to detail is important, and officers or appointees should examine and understand information before signing legal documents. Your failure to read or know the details can lead to your becoming an unwitting partner to serious wrongdoing. Conversely having the knowledge and a willingness to perform the task correctly earn you credibility within the community and Department thus serving the members at large. I personally see the VFW as a service organization with a unique responsibility to those who served. Our existence is to support all of us who are unable to meet the challenges of the civilian lives we return to. We are limited in finances but never in our ability to reach out when and where possible to vets in need.



Wayne Moore

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(Continued from page 2)

The official meeting opened with a joint session with acknowledgment of present and past District and Post officers. Post awards were presented, followed by a recess allowing the Auxiliary to regroup in the conference room. Then the District Meeting opened to conduct Posts' business.

I would totally be remiss in failing to acknowledge and give the Auxiliary a "Bravo Zulu" on a job well done in the preparation and service of lunch. Outstanding and plentiful!

Manassas Museum History Celebration

The Manassas Museum celebrated a history "Through the Ages" weekend on August 24-26. The central theme was to experience Manassas military history through the years. Plenty of activities were to be had by kids and adults alike. Although the event started on Friday, Post 7589 members participation was very evident on Saturday the August 25th. Comrade Paul Chase represented the Post through his long-standing membership as a Son of the American Revolution. Past Commander Pete MacLeod teamed up with American Legion Post 10 for color guard duties. Comrade Dave Mattingly wore several active hats including conducting a question and answer session held inside the museum.

As stated the Sons of the American Revolution had a booth where questions were answered about that part of history and a display of period weaponry. Rows of tents were set up with personnel dress historically. Several tanks were on display with visitors taking pictures in the forefront. There were walking tours, mili-

tary demonstrations and more interesting things going on. However, duty called, and I left to handle Post business.



Wayne Moore



Wayne Moore

 The VFW National Home for Children	
 <p>A Great Place to Call Home!</p>	<p>The VFW National Home for Children offers a once in a lifetime opportunity for military and veteran related families.</p> <p>If you know of a family in your community that could use our help, please encourage them to call!</p> <p>We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.</p> <p>Most qualify to apply. Caring staff will help families to determine eligibility.</p> <p>800-313-4200</p>

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill



Our new Auxiliary year is now underway and there have been a lot of things planned. Our first event was the Department Council of Administration and School of Instruction in Charlottesville, VA held on August 11th. The new representative National 6th District Council Member, Betty Gimble (from Virginia), was in attendance. We are excited to know what Department President, Patty Baskett, has in store for the coming year.

I would like to start off by giving a **huge** "Thank You" to the Auxiliary members for the fantastic job they did for the 8th District meeting. The food was great and the assistance to our guests was out of this world. It was a real honor having three Department Chairmen at our meeting. It gave the District members the first-hand view of what the Department Chairmen are requiring. The Department representative and Hospital Chairman was Conductor Fred Jennings, Scholarship Chairman Peggy Schupska and Veteran & Family Support Chairman Judy Lupole. Thank you to each of you for your input.

The Auxiliary monthly meeting is the first Monday of each month but since Labor Day falls on that meeting date, September 3rd, the Auxiliary will be meeting the following Monday, September 10th, at 7:30 pm at the Post in the conference room. Our 8th District President Sheila Hunter will be joining us.

There are several events scheduled for September. September is **Military Suicide Awareness** month. The Veterans Crisis Line is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. If you know anyone who needs assistance, please have them call the Crisis Line at 1- 800-273-8255 press 1, a text can be sent to 838255 or website www.veteranscrisisline.net and someone will assist them. **September 11 is Patriots Day** and an annual observance to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States. We will be distributing the Memorial Buddy Poppy on that date. If you would like to have some of these special poppies to distribute, please let any member know. On Friday, September 21st, **POW/MIA Recognition Day** will be held at American Legion Post 10, 9950 Cockrell Rd, Manassas, VA. The ceremony will start at 8pm. See you there.



National President
Sandi Kriebel

The 2018-2019 National President Sandi Kriebel's Homecoming and the 6th Annual Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) will be held September 6-9, 2018. The CAFÉ will be held September 8, 2018 at 11:00am at Gettysburg National Military Park, 1195 Baltimore Pike in Gettysburg, PA. President Sandi's Homecoming will be held at the Hotel at Arundel Preserve in Hanover, MD. Her Homecoming Committee has planned several events for

the members of the VFW & Auxiliary.

As in years past, we are requesting your support and participation in our annual fundraiser with the assistance from the not-for-profit Wreaths Across America (WAA) organization. This fundraiser provides us the opportunity to raise funds for our organization's needs as we assist WAA in gathering sponsorships



for the wreaths. We will be placing wreaths on the veterans' graves at Quantico National Cemetery. This year's event will be on **Saturday, December 15** at noon. Sponsorships are \$15 per wreath and forms are attached to this newsletter or can be printed from our website at

www.vfw7589.org. You can also 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 <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/> and remember to include our Sponsoring Group **ID No. VA0040P** and **Cemetery ID No. VAQNCT**. **DEADLINE** is November 30, 2018.



The Post and Auxiliary will be participating in the Manassas Fall Jubilee again this year on Saturday, October 6 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 test them to 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.

Mark your calendars for October 13th to attend Department Commander Ken Wiseman and President Patty Baskett's Homecoming at the Pro Re Nata Farm Brewery located at 6135 Rockfish Gap TPKE, Crozet, VA from 4-8pm. They are requesting you bring lawn chairs. Please RSVP to adj@vfwva.org by September 30th. Hotel reservations: Best Western (540-885-1112) or Sleep Inn (540-887-6500).

The VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters is requesting that every member go online and update or make sure your personal information is correct. It's that time of year when we are requesting the annual members to pay their dues of \$20.00 for 2019. All you have to do is log into the National website, <https://vfwauxiliary.org/>, under member login and pay your dues. If you do not have access to the internet or you need assistance, please let the Auxiliary Treasurer, Elanor Doczi (571/330-5457) or me (703/361-8950) know and we will assist you.



I have been informing you for years about The National Home for Children which is located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan on 472 acres of land known as Grand River Stock Farm. The National Home recognizes that the effects of war can last for generations. The emotional wounds, financial stress, fractured family relationships, hopelessness and more can often be the outcome for families with a parent serving our country. The Life Membership is \$35.00 but will increase on January 1, 2019 to \$50.00. If you wish to become a Life Member, please forward your application and funds to the VFW National Home for Children, 3573 S. Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 43327.

One of our life members, Gloria Gunnells, sister of Auxiliary Treasurer Elanor Doczi, is extremely ill. Please keep her and the family in your prayers. I'm adding more names to your prayer list and they are as follows: Ann Mitchell, Patsy Gough, Cookie Cullen, Yvonne Sullivan, Ginger Harvey's father, Ellie Smith's step-son and any individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized. We want to see you on the road to recovery very soon.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill



Youth Committee



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee extends a warm welcome and hopes everyone had a good month of August. We held our last Youth Committee meeting 16 August at the Post and accomplished quite a bit. Those in attendance were prior Commander Peter MacLeod, Comrades Dave Mattingly, Roger Nicol, Kelly Williams, and myself. The general discussion dealt with our upcoming essay contests and our strategy for recruiting applicants. We are currently ramp-

ing up for our Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year contests. The Youth Committee is busy recruiting schools, teachers, and students for these contests and it is our hope to surpass last year's participation numbers and recruit additional applicants. The more applicants we have at the Post level the more we can advance to the District and Department level. Please help us accomplish our mission. If you have any middle school or high school teachers or students who would be interested in participating with us please contact the Youth Committee as soon as possible. Let us not forget our Junior ROTC instructors as well. They are tremendously supportive of our programs and interface quite well with the VFW. It is not uncommon to have applicants from Junior ROTC for Voice of Democracy and, in return, nominations for a high school Teacher of the Year from a Junior ROTC cadet. Just a reminder, the deadline for all our contests is 31 October 2018. Our awards ceremony this year is scheduled for Sunday, 2 December 2018 at 4 PM at the Post. We are also currently looking for a guest speaker for that event. If there are any volunteers who can provide inspirational and entertaining conversation to our children and parents at the award ceremony please let me know.

I have also been tasked this year with the role of District Youth Committee Chair. In addition to our activities on the Post level we are also coordinating these contests with District 8 Posts in the area. District judging is also my responsibility. I will follow the Post judging with District judging in mid November. By the way, we should have the available dates for the flag retirement ceremony for the fall and spring shortly and will announce them in the next newsletter. We usually have several Scouting groups participate in these events. In addition to the actual retirement ceremony we also have a presentation on flag etiquette prior to the retirement. Just another reminder, we have the upcoming Fall Jubilee in Old Town Manassas on Saturday, 6 October 2018. We will be handing out Halloween bags to the area children and would love to have you there to participate.

Post 7589 just recently participated in an award ceremony for the Civil Air Patrol in Manassas. Prince William Composite Squadron of Virginia Wing held the ceremony on Tuesday, 28 August at 7 PM at the Manassas Armory on Dumfries Road. Cadet Captain Isaac Peugh received the VFW Squadron Cadet Officer award. He received both a medal and a certificate. Those present from Post 7589 were Commander Wayne Moore, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, Comrade Dave Mattingly and myself. Cadet Captain Isaac Peugh distinguished himself among his peers

and was cited for outstanding service as a cadet officer from 11 August 2015 to 11 April 2018. Cadet Captain Peugh performed all the assigned duties in an outstanding matter. He excelled in the Prince William cadet program serving as Flight Sergeant, First Sergeant, Flight Commander, and Cadet Healthy Fitness Officer. His high energy and volunteerism, as demonstrated by his four outstanding years of service, is a credit to both his unit and his family. We presented Isaac's dad with the award certificate and medal since Isaac is currently attending college. We wish him well and I am very proud of his patriotism and service. His father, a Naval Academy graduate, told me after college Isaac will be going into the Army Special Forces and we wish him the best with his military career and service to our country.

Presenting awards to area Junior ROTC programs at various high schools and at the Civil Air Patrol is the best part of being a Youth Committee chair person. These young cadets are motivated, patriotic, and passionate about military service. Their energy and dedication reassures me that the future of our country is in good hands. Please come join us for our next meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, 20 September 2018 at 7 PM at the Post. Nothing is more important than ensuring that our next generation carry the torch of service and dedication to our country. You can play a role in this mission by joining us and I can assure you it will be both gratifying and rewarding to you and will exceed all your expectations. Please stay well and engaged and I will see you at the next meeting.

Best regards,
Lou Filippone,
Youth Committee Chair

9/11 flag retirement ceremony performed by Troop/Pack/Crew 1372

Date Tuesday 9/11
Time 6:30 P.M.
Address:
9232 Matthew Dr
Manassas Park VA

Please walk around the house to the back yard.

Manassas Park Post 1811 requests to merge with Post 7589

Representatives of Post 1811 will attend September 10 Post meeting

Manassas Park Post 1811 voted at their last meeting to investigate merging with our Post. Representatives from 1811 are planning to attend our September meeting to discuss their proposal and the implications of merging.

Please plan to attend this important meeting where we will consider their proposal.

Consolidation of the two Posts, if approved, will trigger the process outlined in Section 209 of the Manual of Procedures.

Sec. 209 - Consolidation of Posts.

Two or more Posts may consolidate upon a vote of their respective members conducted in accordance with the procedures herein set forth as follows:

1. A motion to consider consolidation shall be made and approved at a stated meeting of the Posts.
2. A committee shall be appointed by the Post Commander to investigate consolidation.
3. All Posts involved in the consolidation shall exchange a report of all assets and liabilities.
4. A Post may then, after at least twenty (20) days written notice to the Department Commander, District Commander and members of the respective Posts, consolidate upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at each stated Post meeting.
5. The Department Commander shall be notified, in writing, immediately after the meeting of the outcome of the action taken.
6. A Department representative shall conduct a joint meeting of all Posts within thirty (30) days for the purpose of determining the name, number (must be one of the consolidating Post numbers), location of the consolidated Post and the election and installation of officers. A written notice must be sent to the members of all Posts involved at least fourteen (14) days in advance. All actions, with the exception of the election of officers, must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the stated meeting.
7. Such facts shall be certified by the Department repre-

sentative, submitted to the Department Commander for forwarding to the Commander-in-Chief who shall issue a Certificate of Charter reciting the facts of such consolidation. The Certificate of Charter shall rank from the date of the senior Post's charter. The property of each of the Posts shall be conveyed to and become the property of the consolidated Post. All past officers in each Post shall be entitled to rank as of date of service in their respective Posts.

Notwithstanding the provisions above, the Department Commander may recommend consolidation to the Commander-in-Chief as circumstances dictate.



Photo: Jeff Dumbroff

Post 7589 received Honor Post awards at the 8th District meeting for achieving 100% membership for the 2017-18 year. (L-R) State Judge Advocate Butch Shupska, State Auxiliary Conductor Fred Jennings, Post QM Rick Raskin, Past Post Commander Pete MacLeod and State Junior Vice Commander Eric Mallett.



HMI, Inc.

36th Annual Manassas Fall Jubilee
October 6 @ 10:00 am - 5:00 pm | Free

The Annual Fall Jubilee, in Historic Downtown Manassas, will be held on October 6, 2018 from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. This year’s Jubilee will include an assortment of fun for both kids and adults with over 100 crafter and community booths, live music, entertainment, and more! The Fall Jubilee is free to the public. Bring your family out for a day of fun – play games, shop at unique crafter booths, and so much more!

Don’t forget to stop by the museum lawn for more fun! There will be a Beer, Wine & Spirits Garden to take a break and sample delicious drinks!

Our Post and Auxiliary will have booths where we will be distributing Trick-or-Treat bags and Buddy Poppies. We’ll also be actively recruiting new members.

This year the Department of Virginia is funding the Post’s participation.

The rain date, in the case of **severe** weather is October 13th.

Digital Membership Cards

Members now have the ability to download the digital version of their membership card. Depending on whether a member has an iPhone or Android, they will be able to download and access their digital membership card from the VFW app.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our Annual and Life members.

This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card on their Smart Phone.

Free to any Veteran!
Golden Champion 3-wheel-scooter with auto-lift



CHAIR LIFT



Contact Post 7589 Commander Wayne Moore
 571-285-7904

Post Tab Program — Still on the roll

As Veterans it is in our makeup and DNA to help others and continue service to our community and to those who need assistance. The Aluminum Can Tab recycling project for the Shriner's Hospital system is an example of how we have gone the extra mile to serve the community and help those who find themselves in unfortunate circumstances.

Nationwide, Shriners collect aluminum can tabs which are recycled into valuable pure aluminum. The proceeds from the sale of the pure aluminum goes to the Shriners Hospital program which provides cost free medical care to needy children and families.

Post 7589's tab collection program started innocently enough by our resident WWII and Korean War veteran Pete Slusher in April 2016. Post members threw themselves into the program and in one year collected and donated over 1 million tabs in May 2017. Because the need for help is endless the program has become a permanent fixture of Post 7589's community service efforts.

The picture shows another 500,000 donated August 2018.

Way to go Team 7589!

Paul Chase
703 753-7794



A representative from the Shriners picks up the 500,000 tabs donated in August.



2018 Homecoming

for

Commander Ken and President Patty

October 13th, 2018

Pro Re Nata Farm Brewery

6135 Rockfish Gap TPKE Crozet, Virginia

4-8pm

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS WITH YOU!

RSVP to adj@vfwva.org by September 30th to attend

Training The Best Service Officers To Be Even Better

VFW celebrating a centennial of service to America's disabled veterans

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 15, 2018) – More than 130 service officers from across the nation and world are attending a weeklong training conference here to continue developing the skills they need to successfully help U.S. military veterans obtain their earned benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sponsored and conducted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the training is one of four basic and advanced courses the VFW holds annually to improve the skills of VFW service officers and those from other veterans service organizations, and state and county agencies who are accredited through VA.

“The VA requires a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education a year to maintain a service officer’s accreditation, but we provide up to 80 hours of training every year,” said VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci. “That’s because our network of benefits professionals are in our communities every day, and in order to successfully advocate on behalf of veterans, they must be able to explain what VA programs and benefits are available, as well as understand and access a complex VA benefits system.”

And the success of the VFW’s program is reflected in its numbers. In fiscal year 2017, the VA reports that the VFW’s global network of 2,000 service officers helped more than 500,000 wounded, ill and injured veterans to recoup nearly \$7.7 billion in disability compensation and pension, a number that included 158,000 new claims.

Four service officers attending this week’s training are:

- Reginald Sims has been working as an assistant Department Service Officer in Madison County, Tenn., for the past seven years. A retired Army first sergeant, Sims said the annual training is helpful in staying up-to-date with the VA claims process. “I always take something from every class,” he said.
- Elizabeth Salvador is a Department Service Officer in Pittsburgh, Pa. An Air Force veteran who served in Iraq from 2005 to 2006, she went to the VFW for help getting her VA benefits. “I went to my local VFW Post because I wasn’t told anything when I separated,” she said. “I ended up getting involved. It’s a lot of hard work, but honestly, we don’t do it for the money,” she said. The best part of her job is “helping veterans. I am in their shoes, literally.”
- Troy North is an Assistant Service Officer in Ann Arbor, Mich., and a Navy veteran. The training allows him to “take the knowledge I learned to the next level. You help them navigate waters that they wouldn’t necessarily know where to begin,” he said.
- Robert Smith is a Service Officer with the Idaho Division of Veterans Services. He said the VFW’s annual training conference is invaluable. “There are changes monthly that you have to be flexible and have the ability to work with the VA. You have to stay flexible,” he said. A Marine Corps veteran who served in Desert Storm, Smith said he feels a sense of duty to his fellow veterans. “I just continue to honor the veterans by serving the living,” he said.



Also attending the class on an informational basis is new VFW National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch, who is saluting the VFW’s centennial of service to America’s disabled veterans.

“When our founders began returning home in 1899 from their wars in Cuba and the Philippines, they returned to an American government that provided little in assistance for their service-connected wounds, illnesses or injuries,” he explained. “Twenty years later, our World War I veterans returned home to the same government neglect. That’s when the VFW said ‘never again,’ and began petitioning Congress for better benefits and government health care,” he said. “A century ago the VFW had to force our government to do the right thing, and 100 years later, the programs and services we provide to veterans, service members and their families continue to be just as needed now as they were then.”

The VFW’s next training conference, Oct. 15-19, is for service officers with more than five years of experience.

From the **ACTION CORPS** WEEKLY

Legislative Wrap Up: Last week, the Senate advanced three important bills including the VFW-supported S. 899, the *Veterans Providing Healthcare Transition Improvement Act*, which would ensure veterans who work for VA are able to attend medical appointments for service-connected health conditions within their first year of employment, without having to take unpaid leave. The Senate also passed H.R. 2147, the *Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2018*, which would require VA to increase the number of Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists who assist justice-involved veterans in receiving the treatment they need, instead of being incarcerated for crimes that were associated with untreated or undertreated service-connected health conditions. Both S. 899 and H.R. 2147 have passed by the House and Senate and now head to the president's desk. The Senate also advanced H.R. 6157, which would provide appropriations for the Department of Defense to carry out its mission, including an additional \$10 million to enable the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to identify the service members whose remains were recently returned by North Korea and reunite them with their loved ones — a mission the VFW fully supports.

Veterans Committees Pressure VA to Conduct Cannabis Research: Members of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs sent VA Secretary Robert Wilkie a letter urging him to use his current authority to conduct medical research into the safety and efficacy of medicinal cannabis. The letter highlighted conducting this research with a focus on veteran patients with post-traumatic stress disorder and chronic pain so providers can better understand the potential benefits or dangers of medicinal cannabis. The authors of the letter, Senators John Tester and Dan Sullivan, as well as Representatives Tim Walz and Phil Roe, have also introduced H.R. 5520 and S. 2796, the *VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2018*, which are both supported by the VFW and would require VA to conduct such research. The letter also discusses that as more than half the country has legalized cannabis for medicinal or recreational use, veterans are legally obtaining it for medicinal purposes. "The veterans primarily get their health care from VA, but because of restrictive regulations, VA doctors are barred from recommending and, until recently, discussing, medicinal cannabis. The pervasive lack of research makes their jobs even more difficult, leaving VA clinicians flying blind, without concrete recommendations to provide veterans. VA doctors deserve to be fully informed about medicinal cannabis so that they can provide fact-based guidance to their patients."

VA Awards \$200M in Veteran Homelessness Assistance: Thursday, VA announced plans to provide \$200 million in funding for the Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD) which supports homeless veterans. The funding is expected to support more than 13,000 beds for veterans in need across the country. Within the provided funding, \$2.7 million will be awarded to 12 special need-based grants that support homeless veterans with chronic mental illness, women veterans, and veterans taking care of minor dependents. The GPD program was established in 1994 to provide support and services to programs across the country taking care of homeless veterans in need of housing stability.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program to Expand: VA is beginning the process of hiring more Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) counselors to help reduce the backlog of claims and wait times for users of this program. VR&E counselors are supposed to have a 1 to 125 counselor-to-case ratio, but the current ratio is much higher. The increased workload for counselors has led to delays in processing of VR&E claims and payments for the past few years. The VFW has long advocated for more money and more counselors in the VR&E system, and at the 119th VFW National Convention, VA Under Secretary for Benefits Dr. Paul Lawrence stated Vocational Rehabilitation would be one of his top priorities. The VFW is glad to see VA is finally addressing these concerns. This program currently has more than 120,000 participants, and hopefully the additional counselors will help veterans utilize this incredibly valuable program more effectively.

Army to Screen 40,000 Homes for Lead: Following a Reuters report last week that found children living in Army housing faced a substantial risk of lead exposure, the Army announced this week that it will be conducting a review of approximately 40,000 on-post residences. The report highlighted medical findings showing that 31 children living in communities at Ft. Benning, Ga., suffered lead poisoning after being exposed to lead-based paint. The report also stated that in addition to homes at Ft. Benning, homes at Ft. Polk, Ft. Hood, Ft. Knox, Ft. Riley, and the United States Military Academy also tested dangerously high for lead. Additionally, between 2011 and 2016, more than 1,000 children living on post tested above the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's lead threshold level. At a press conference on Tuesday, Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, "...this is a moral obligation we have to the families to provide safe lodging, obviously, for them. And it's something we take very, very seriously."

V-J Day Commemoration: Visitors to Washington, D.C. this weekend are invited to the National World War II Memorial on Sunday, Sept. 2, at 11 a.m., to mark the 73rd anniversary of Victory over Japan day, signally the end of WWII. For the commemoration, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial and the National Park Service will host a ceremony and wreath presentation at the World War II Memorial's Freedom Wall in remembrance of the more than 400,000 Americans and 60 million people killed worldwide during the deadliest military conflict in human history. Street and handicap parking are extremely limited, and the two closest Metro stations (Smithsonian and Federal Triangle) are about a half-mile away, but taxis are plentiful.

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER	
September 6-10	National President's Celebration and CAFÉ - Gettysburg, PA
September 10	Executive Meeting - 7:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meetings - 7:30 PM
September 11	9/11 Memorial Buddy Poppy Distribution - Auxiliary Event Flag Retirement Ceremony—Manassas Park
September 20	Youth Committee - 7:00 PM
September 21	POW/MIA Ceremony with American Legion Post 10
OCTOBER	
October 1	Executive Meeting - 7:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meetings - 7:30 PM
October 6	Manassas Fall Jubilee
October 13	Department Commander's and Auxiliary President's Homecoming
October 18	Youth Committee - 7:00 PM
October 18-21	Southern Conference - Louisville, KY
October 31	Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year contests deadline
NOVEMBER	
November 3	Manassas Veteran's Parade
November 5	Executive Meeting - 7:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meetings - 7:30 PM
November 10-11	Veteran's Day Weekend Activities (Buddy Poppies) Nov. 11 - Ceremony at Manassas Veteran's Memorial - 8:30 AM Flag Placements at Manassas Cemetery - 9:00 AM
November 15	Youth Committee - 7:00 PM
November 17	8th District Meeting - Post 3103, Fredericksburg - Lunch 12:00 Noon, Meeting 1:00 PM
November 29	Auxiliary 7589's 20th Anniversary
November 30	Deadline for Wreaths Across America orders

KNOW YOUR VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE

Rob Wittman	1st District	202-225-4261
Scott Taylor	2nd District	202-225-4215
Bobby Scott	3rd District	202-225-8351
Donald McEachin	4th District	202-225-6365
Tom Garrett	5th District	202-225-4711
Robert Goodlatte	6th District	202-225-5431
Dave Bratt	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Barbara Comstock	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492

Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office



9300 W. Courthouse Rd.
703-479-7437



CANNON NEWS

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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 no later than the 28th of the month.
We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Tax ID: 20-8362270

Wreath Sponsorship Form

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

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

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

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

(To receive our FREE email newsletter)

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

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

In Honor of:

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

Email or Mailing address

In Memory of:

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

Branch of Service _____ Rank _____

State: _____

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

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, 2018.**

On **Saturday, December 15, 2018**, 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 15, 2018 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