

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
September 2019



Karl Yohn, Monti Zimmerman and Wayne Moore recruiting at Tractor Supply in July. Not shown is Pete MacLeod who took this picture.

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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



Wayne Moore

Comrades,

The VFW in July snapped our 27 Year Decline in Membership.

The Past National Commander has outlined a list of outreach and social media inclusions that detail the relevance of our Programs and services needed just as much now as they were then.

I would like to add that the dedication and membership commitment of bringing the message that you, our veterans, deserve the best this organization has to offer and that you, our members, acted accordingly throughout the year to help deliver that message.

It is important to recognize our achievement but not waiver in our effort to face the new challenge/milestone. Our actions in recruiting the younger veterans must be with clarity and conciseness regarding near- and long-term benefits to their membership and personal participation wherever and whenever possible.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The 120-year-young Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States just added almost 25,000 members to snap a 27-year decline in membership.

America's largest and oldest war veterans' organization began its new membership year earlier this [June] with almost 1.165 million members, a million less than its peak in 1992, yet significant nonetheless, according to [Past] VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence, who attributes the growth to the organization being more visible on the national scene as well as in more than 6,000 communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, four U.S. territories, and 11 foreign countries.

"The VFW is making a difference in the lives of countless others every day, and thanks to the power of social media and the internet, more people are taking notice and wanting to be part of our team," said Lawrence.

"The internet allows us to share our story of service to others, and social media allows us to engage not only with our members but with potential members, advocates and their families," he explained. "More people are learning about VFW's service work, which last year helped 526,000 veterans and transitioning service members to recoup more than \$8.3 billion in disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. They are learning about VFW's legislative advocacy, which directly benefits all 22 million veterans and military service members, and which has produced the Forever G.I. Bill for our newest generation of warriors, the Blue Water Navy Act for Vietnam veterans, and will soon eliminate the 'Widow's Tax' that is financially penalizing some 65,000 surviving family members of all generations. And they are learning about VFW programs,

(Commander Continued on page 3)

Auxiliary



Mary Corkhill



President
It is with a heavy heart I must inform you that the Department President Marcia Semones' son Mark passed on August 13 from injuries he sustained in a work accident. Please send cards to Madam President Marcia at the following address: 848 Silverleaf Drive, Dugspur, VA 24325. Please keep Marcia and her family in your prayers.

As a trustee to the VFW National Home for Children, Ms. Darlene Mays-Tittman fell at a rest area when she was returning home from the National Convention. She broke her femur above her knee implant. You may send cards to Ms. Darlene in care of Ms. Dee Guillory, 7984 Croydon Ln. Gloucester, VA 23061. Please keep her in your prayers as well.

The Department Council of Administration and School of Instruction for the District President and Deputy Chief of Staff was held at the Department VFW Headquarters in Staunton, VA on August 17th. The National Chaplain Jane Reape (from New York) was in attendance. We were excited to learn what Department President, Marcia Semones, has in store for the coming year. On August 18th, the 8th District meeting was held at the Fredericksburg Post 3103. The Auxiliary District representative was Department Sr. Vice Maggie Myers.

The Auxiliary monthly meetings always meet on the first Monday of each month but since Labor Day falls on that meeting date, September 2nd, the Auxiliary will be meeting the following Monday, September 9th at 7:30 pm at the Post conference room. Our 8th District President Kathlene Bilger will be joining us to do her annual inspection.



The Auxiliary is now passing out the National VFW Auxiliary's symbol **Blue Teardrop** for the **Military Suicide Awareness**. Each day an estimated 22 veterans commit suicide and you can help lower this number and make a difference in the life of a veteran or service member in crisis by educating yourself and others about the warning signs of suicide. 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 11th is **Patriots Day**, an annual observance to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001. 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. National **POW/MIA Recognition Day** will be held at American Legion Post 10, 9950 Cockrell Rd, Manassas, VA on Friday, September 20th at 8:00pm.

(Auxiliary President Continued on page 3)

(Commander Continued from page 2)

which range from volunteerism, youth scholarship competitions and student veteran scholarships to financial grants and military unit sponsorships," he said.

"The VFW is all about service to others," said Lawrence. "That's what our founders envisioned when they birthed the organization in 1899, and that's what they made a certainty in 1919 when the VFW became the first veterans' organization to open an office in our nation's capital to petition our government for veterans' rights and to ensure our government delivered. The decision to open the VFW Washington Office one century ago this year was the direct result of World War I veterans returning to the same government neglect as VFW's founders encountered two decades earlier.

"Thanks to a robust membership and a 120-year relevance that spans generations, the VFW will continue to make a difference in the lives of others every day.

(Auxiliary President continued from page 2)

I would like to thank the Bingo community for their assistance in collecting non-perishable items for the veterans in our area. They receive a free bingo half-book per day when they bring in three items. We will be doing this food drive until December 18th. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks!!!

Our annual fundraiser for Wreaths Across America (WAA) is under way. We are requesting your support and participation for this not-for profit 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. This year's event at Quantico National Cemetery is on Saturday, December 15th at noon. A sponsorship is \$15 per wreath with \$5 returning back to the Auxiliary. Forms are at the end of 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.wreathsacrossamerica.org/> and remember to include our Sponsoring Group ID No. **VA0040P** and Cemetery ID No. **VAQNCT**. **DEADLINE is November 30, 2019.**

The Post and Auxiliary will be participating in the Manassas Fall Jubilee again this year on Saturday, October 5th from 10:00am – 5:00pm. This annual event allows us the opportunity to meet the public and distribute information about our organization and our 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 12th to attend Department Commander Rick Raskin and President Marcia Semones' Homecoming at Battlefield Post 9808 (7168 Flag Lane, Mechanicsville, VA) from 5 - 11pm. Post 9808 will have their bus running from the Hotel to the Post. Hotel reservations: Holiday Inn Express (\$94 + Tax) 7441 Bell Creek Rd, Mechanicsville, VA.

Over the past couple of years, I have requested your assistance in updating your information in the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters website **MALTA**. All you have to do is log into the National website, <https://vfwauxiliary.org/>, under member login to correct or make changes. All annual members can also pay your dues for 2020 of \$20.00. 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.



The VFW National Home for Children is located in Eaton Rapids, MI on 472 acres of land known as Grand River Stock Farm. Today's military and veteran families face different challenges - reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, among others. The National Home recognizes that the effects of war can last for generations. If you wish to become a Life Member to the National Home, please forward your application and \$50.00 to the VFW National Home for Children, 3573 S. Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 43327. Thank you in advance.

Please keep any individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers. We want to see you on the road to recovery. If you know of anyone who needs our assistance, please let us know.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
Auxiliary President



37th Annual Manassas Fall Jubilee
October 5 @ 10:00 am - 5:00 pm | Free

Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee extends a big welcome to all comrades and Auxiliary members. We had a busy month of August planning activities for our Scout and Youth Programs. We held our last meeting on Thursday, 15 August at the Post. Those in attendance were Alex and Tina Bliem, Paul Chase, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, Peter MacLeod, Roger Nicol and me.

Our first order of business was the distribution of applications for our Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teachers of the Year contests. Several hundred applications were ordered by me from the VFW Store and were received in mid-August. If any of our regular members know of any schools, students and teachers interested in participating in our programs please contact me directly and I will provide you with all the applications you need. We are currently contacting school administrations in our area via emails, telephone calls and school visitations in order to recruit applicants for our programs. In addition, we have communicated with several JROTC Departments at local area high schools in pursuit of more teachers and students. We are hopeful we will have good results with our recruitment and will really be up to full speed in September when the schools are back from summer vacation and in full swing. If we make contact too early the schools close for summer vacation and forget about us especially if personnel changes occur then our energies are wasted. If we wait too long after schools resume, then we run the risk of shortening our students and teachers on the time to properly administer the contests. The Post deadline for all three contests is 31 October and the applicants should really be recruited no later than six to eight weeks before this deadline. Currently we are contacting over 18 middle schools, 12 high schools, three home school organizations and I personally recruit teachers and students from my orthodontic offices in Gainesville and Centreville. The more schools and teachers we contact the better the participation rate for our programs.

Each year our Post gives out approximately \$2,400 in prizes for our essay contests. This does not include our Scout of the Year program in March 2020. We have a very robust youth program at our Post and are determined to grow it every year with continued recruitment and success. The Youth Committee works very hard to accomplish this and would certainly welcome more participation from additional members. Please join us at the next meeting and lend us a hand. The rewards you will receive from mentoring and instilling patriotism in our youth are immeasurable. Remember the theme for this year's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contests is "What Makes America Great". How patriotic is that!

Just a final reminder about the previously mentioned Scouting events. There are two scheduled for the month of September. They are the Scout Flag Retirement Ceremony scheduled on

Wednesday, 11 September at 7:00 PM and the Scout Pizza Party and Court of Honor set for Monday, 23 September at 6:00 PM. Both events will be held at the Post. If you would like to attend either of these events, please let me know.

Our next Youth Committee meeting will be held on an alternate night due to a scheduling conflict. We will be meeting at the Post on a Tuesday night instead of our usual Thursday for just the month of September. The meeting date is Tuesday, 17 September at 7:00 PM. We hope to see you there. In the meantime, stay well and work hard for veterans.

With best regards,
Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

The 2019-20 theme for both essay contests is:

"What Makes America Great"

Past National Commander John A. Biedrzycki Dies at 73

Biedrzycki led the combat veterans organization from 2015 to 2016

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is mourning the loss of Past Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki, who passed away yesterday, August 29, 2019.



John A. Biedrzycki was elected national commander of the VFW on July 22, 2015, at the organization's 116th national convention, held in Pittsburgh, Pa.

John served in the U. S. Army from 1967 to 1970. He served in Korea as a Pay Distribution Specialist with the 7th Infantry Division. His decorations include the National Defense Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Korean Defense Medal.

He joined the VFW in 1969 at Post 418 in McKees Rocks, Pa., where he was a Legacy Life member. He served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, County, District and Department (state) levels culminating with his election as Department Commander 2002-2003 in which he achieved All-American status. On the national level, John served on many committees, including Chairman of the National VFW Programs Committee, Chairman of the National Youth, Education and Community Service Committee and Vice Chairman of the National Legislative Committee.

He was a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie and a life member of the VFW National Home for Children. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Museum in Pittsburgh, Pa.

John was a retired educator. He received his B.A. and Master's in Education from the University of Pittsburgh.

Cards may be sent to:

Bette Jean Biedrzycki
625 Magnus Lane
Coraopolis, PA 15108

2019 Wills for Veterans

The Prince William Area 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) Last Will and Testaments, 2) Powers of Attorneys and 3) Medical Directives for the veteran, their spouse or caregiver who live 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 Attorney and/or Medical Directive. Space is limited to the first 100 veterans and their spouses who sign up with an RSVP to guarantee their participation.

Those who wish to participate will be required to attend three different sessions. The first session will be an information and education session with time for questions. All sessions will be held at the Prince William Senior Center, 9320 Mosby St., Manassas, VA. The first session is Saturday, September 21 (10 AM—3 PM) where questionnaires will be distributed. Veterans and their spouses will meet in small groups.

The second session will be Saturday, October 5. Veterans must bring their completed questionnaires and will meet with their assigned attorney.

The third session is Saturday, October 19 and will include meeting with your assigned attorney. Notaries and witnesses will also be provided. Veterans and their spouses will be able to take home their completed legal documents. — all at no cost — FREE.

To sign up or if you have any questions please contact Barbara Diehl at (703) 792-7175 or email at bdiehl@pwc.gov.





The U.S. Army announced that the National Museum of the United States Army will open to the public on **June 4, 2020**.

We know the entire Army family and our supporters have eagerly awaited this announcement. Soon the world will see how 30 million ordinary Americans accomplished the extraordinary as American Soldiers.

Don't book your travel plans yet though!

Admission to the Museum will be free of charge, though tickets must be requested through an online reservation system for a specific date and time. A limited number of tickets will be available for each reservation time to help ensure a quality experience for everyone. Due to the expected demand, please do not make your travel plans until you have received your ticket, confirming the date and time of your visit.

Ticket reservations are not yet open. More information about the online ticketing system will be available early next year.

You can also find all the latest information regarding tickets, event space reservations and volunteering on our Opening Day website page. <http://armyhistory.org/opening-day/>

The Army Historical Foundation looks forward to welcoming every Soldier, Army Family, Veteran and citizen of our grateful nation to this magnificent Museum.

And please remember that your support of this project is still needed. Celebrate this historic announcement by making a gift today <http://armyhistory.org/donate>.

Thank you.



U-2 Spy Plane Shot Down, Pilot Captured; Son Will Set The Record Straight

On May 1, 1960, U-2 spy plane pilot Francis Gary Powers was shot down over the Soviet Union, setting off a major diplomatic crisis and U.S. misinformation campaign that continued after his release from prison in exchange for Soviet KGB Colonel William Fisher, aka Rudolf Abel.



His son, Francis Gary Powers, Jr., will be the featured speaker at the Freedom Museum discussing his father's ordeal.

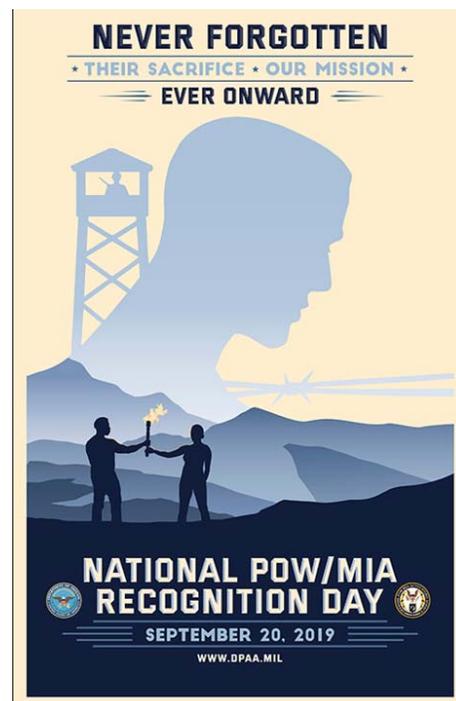
**Wed. Sept. 11
7:30 p.m.**

at the Freedom Museum

10600 Harry J. Parrish Blvd
Manassas

Admission is Free

Mr. Powers will have copies of his books available for purchase and signing after the presentation.





VFW NIGHT



**FRI, SEPT 27
7:05 PM**

SPECIAL DISCOUNTED TICKETS

INFIELD BOX: \$75
INCLUDES \$20 CONCESSION CREDIT

BASELINE RESERVED: \$64
INCLUDES \$15 CONCESSION CREDIT

LF/RF CORNER: \$48
INCLUDES \$10 CONCESSION CREDIT

LF/RF MEZZANINE: \$41
INCLUDES \$6 CONCESSION CREDIT

UPPER GALLERY: \$25

Join us at Nationals Park as we thank our veterans! Each special ticket includes a military-branded Nationals rally towel of your choice.



For groups of 13 or more, please contact:

JENNIFER McCARTY
202.640.7648 • Jennifer.McCarty@nationals.com

NATIONALS.COM/VFW

No refunds or exchanges. Ticket brokers are not eligible for this offer.

Upcoming Events

2019	
September 9	Executive Meeting 7 PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM (2nd Monday because of Labor Day)
September 11	Auxiliary Poppy Distribution Troop 1372 Flag Retirement Ceremony — 7 PM
September 14	Front Royal Post car raffle drawing — 2 PM Shenandoah Ford, Front Royal
September 20	POW/MIA Ceremony with American Legion Post 10
September 23	Pizza party welcoming the Scouts to our Post followed by Court of Honor Ceremony — 6 PM
September 28	Fall Council of Administration meeting — Staunton
September 27—29	Nation's Gun Show Recruiting—Chantilly (District 8 covers Sunday)
October 5	Manassas Fall Jubilee 10:00 AM—5:00 PM
October 7	Executive Meeting 7 PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
October 12	State Commander and State President's Homecoming — Mechanicsville Post 9808
October 13	Flag Retirement 9:00 AM (TBD)
October 17—20	Southern Conference — Baton Rouge, LA
October 31	PP, VOD, Teacher of the Year -- Submission Deadline
November 2	Veterans breakfast at the Post followed by Manassas Veterans Parade (TBD)
November 4	Dinner at the Post - 6:00 PM Executive Meeting 7 PM, Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM
November 9	Auxiliary Buddy Poppy drive -- Westgate Giant 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
November 10	Auxiliary Buddy Poppy drive -- Westgate Giant 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
November 11	Veterans Day activities: Veterans Memorial - 8:30 AM, Manassas Cemetery 9:00 AM
November 13 - 15	National President's visit (TBD)
November 17	District 8 meeting -- Lunch 12:00 PM, meeting - 1:00 PM
November 29	Post Auxiliary's 21st anniversary
November 30	Wreaths Across America -- Deadline

Post 7589 members can enjoy 2 complimentary beverages courtesy of Commander Wayne Moore

American Legion Post 10 Dining

Menu items and prices are subject to change without notice.

Whether you are stopping by for one of our lunch specials or looking for a reasonably priced dinner, we're sure you'll find something at Post 10 to satisfy your appetite!

We are open for lunch during the weekdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Among our regular items are burgers, sandwiches, soups, salads, wings, and other items. We often have lunch specials in addition to our regular menu.

Wednesday nights feature Wings & Ribs from 5:30 - 8 PM

Grill specials on Thursday evenings (during summer months).

Friday Night is Seafood Night, with an a la cart seafood menu highlighting steamed shrimp and crab legs, fried seafood baskets, pizza, chicken tenders, and our fantastic funnel cake! All served from 5:30 – 7:45pm.

Saturday Night is Carnivore Night! We usually have New York Strip and T-Bone steaks along with a "non-red-meat" selection. The third Saturday of each month we replace the steaks with Prime Rib. Served from 6:00 - 8:00pm.

As always a selection of beer, wines, and soft drinks are available during all operating hours.

 The VFW National Home for Children	
	<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>
A Great Place to Call Home!	800-313-4200

KNOW YOUR VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE

Rob Wittman	1st District	202-225-4261
Elaine Luria	2nd District	202-225-4215
Bobby Scott	3rd District	202-225-8351
Donald McEachin	4th District	202-225-6365
Denver Riggleman	5th District	202-225-4711
Ben Cline	6th District	202-225-9681
Abigail Spanberger	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Jennifer Wexton	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492



CANNON NEWS

The official publication of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
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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.

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, 2019.**

On **Saturday, December 14, 2019**, 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 14, 2019 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