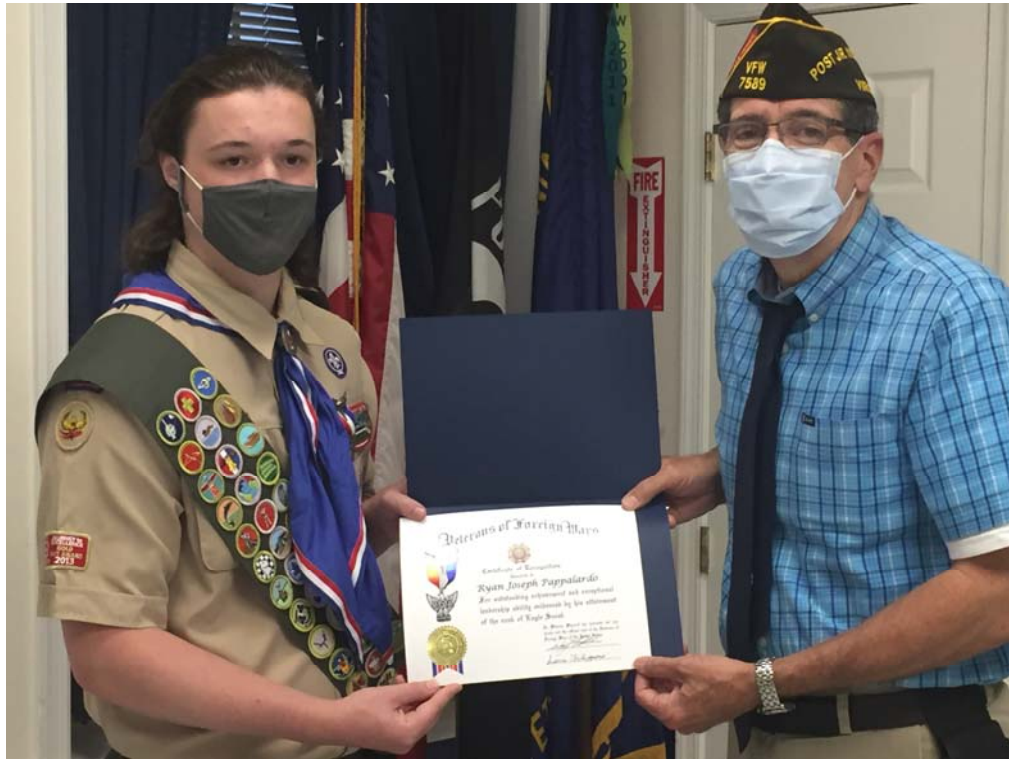


CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
September 2020



RICK RASKIN / POST 7589

August 3: Eagle Scout Ryan Pappalardo receives his Eagle Scout award from Post 7589 Youth Chair Lou Filippone.

- Hang up on fake “refund calls”
- The VFW Podcast Hits Airwaves Oct. 7
- Post upgrades interior lighting
- VFW, Sport Clips Awards Scholarships to Veterans
- Auxiliary’s annual Bingo food drive
- 'Post 9808 Will Do What We Can'
- VADVS Commissioner’s Corner
- The Death of Common Sense
- Department General Orders
- Welcome to Tomorrow



**Troop 372/Post 7589 9/11
Flag Retirement
Friday 11 September 2020
Setup — 6:30 PM
Ceremony — 7 PM**

CANNON NEWS—2015, 2018 & 2020 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

For the Last 30 Years, The U.S. Military Has Been Engaged in Iraq.

Comrades,

There should be no doubt of my adoration for servicemembers of WWI and WWII, but our country's military has been busy elsewhere since. So, I decided to look at and

recognize our Brethren's 30-year journey in one of the more recent conflicts.

August 2020 marked the 30th anniversary of Iraq's infamous invasion of Kuwait. On August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein launched his invasion of Kuwait and conquered the tiny oil-rich sheikdom in a highly effective two-day operation. George H.W. Bush's administration promptly established a multinational coalition consisting of 35 countries.

In January 1991, the U.S. launched Operation Desert Storm, an enormous air campaign against Iraq that rapidly devastated both its armed forces and infrastructure. Television viewers across the world watched in real-time the bombing of Baghdad. The U.S. military showcased its hi-tech military gear, particularly its stealthy F-117 Nighthawk bombers, Tomahawk cruise missiles, and various precision-guided 'smart' bombs. The U.S. ground campaign called Operation Desert Sabre that lasted a mere 100-hours.

Saddam Iraqi forces fled Kuwait, after looting it and setting its oil wells on fire, and a ceasefire formally ended the war by the end of February. March 1991, Iraqi Shiites, and Kurds rose against Saddam after President Bush suggested they should take matters into their own hands. Saddam's ruthless forces pushed back brutally crushed and massacred countless numbers of people.

The U.S. intervened in April 1991, establishing no-fly zones over large swathes of Iraq's northern Kurdish region and the southern Shiite regions. During President Clinton's administration, he opted to contain Saddam and did so with Operation Vigilant Warrior.

Clinton was succeeded by President George W. Bush, who ran on a platform of isolationism regarding foreign policy in the 2000 presidential elections. Bush's worldview, however, quickly changed following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Although Saddam's Iraq had nothing to do with that terrorist atrocity, his regime soon found itself in the Bush administration's crosshairs.

In March 2003, ditching prior containment efforts, the U.S. outright invaded Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Toppling Saddam's regime the Iraqi armed forces promptly crumbled in the face of the coalition's superior firepower, and the U.S. quickly became embroiled in occupation and conflict against various insurgents.

The U.S. also fought the ruthless Al-Qaeda in Iraq group, with some of the bloodiest fighting experienced by U.S. forces during

(See *Commander* on page 3)

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill

BULLETIN: Since my last communication, there were several events scheduled that are now cancelled. They are as follows: Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch's Homecoming has been **rescheduled** for March 24-28, 2021. The National CAFÉ and the National President's Homecoming scheduled for September 11, 2020 - **cancelled**. The Southern Conference in Asheville, North Carolina on October 29 - November 1, 2020 - **cancelled**. The

Manassas Veteran's Day Parade - **cancelled**. Due to the uncertainty of the Coronavirus, the Post and Auxiliary **will not** be participating in the Fall Jubilee this year.

The Department Council of Administration and School of Instruction was held on August 1st at Post 9808, Mechanicsville. There were reports from the Department Chairmen and Department President Maggie Myers. Department Commander Eric Mallett visited our SOI to talk about their joint Special Project for PTSD.

Since the Auxiliary now meets on the second Monday of each month, I just recently learned the Post still intends to meet on the second Monday of the month **IF** a Federal Holiday falls on the first Monday. To resolve this matter and future conflicts with the Post, we will schedule the Auxiliary meetings at 4 PM on the second Monday in those months when there is a Federal Holiday on the first Monday. The next meeting for the Auxiliary will be September 14th at 4 PM. Our guest will be District 8 President Vicki Butler.



The Auxiliary is in the process of passing out the National VFW Auxiliary's symbol Blue Teardrop for the Military Suicide Awareness. It is estimated 22 veterans per day 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.

The Auxiliary will be observing September 11th, Patriots Day, by passing out the National Memorial Buddy Poppy. This Buddy Poppy has a black label and is for those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001. The members of the Auxiliary will also attend the Scout's Retirement Flag ceremony at 7 PM on that day. The VFW and Auxiliary will be attending the National POW/MIA Recognition Day on Friday, September 18th at 8 PM at American Legion Post 10 in Manassas.

The VFW and Auxiliary have several contest competitions for teachers and youths in our community. We are supporting the VFW Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award competition. This deadline is October 31, 2020. The VFW essay competition for Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12) theme is **"Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?"** and the Patriots

(See *Auxiliary* on page 3)

(Commander from page 2)

the Iraq War that took place in Fallujah in late 2004. Approximately 4,000 U.S. troops ultimately lost their lives throughout the Iraq War, which lasted from March 2003 until the U.S. withdrawal in December 2011. Tens-of-thousands of Iraqis, many of them civilians, also lost their lives during that period.

During the 2008 presidential elections, Barack Obama vowed to bring all U.S. troops home from Iraq. For two years and seven months – between December 2011 and August 2014 – the U.S. military had no presence in Iraq, a conspicuously exceptional period in the last 30 years.

In the summer of 2014, a vicious Islamic State (ISIS) group took over one-third of Iraq, including the country’s second city Mosul. ISIS quickly demonstrated its brutality and immense cruelty by subjecting the Yazidi minority in Sinjar to a campaign of genocide and slaughtering up to 1,700 unarmed Shiite Iraqi cadets at Camp Speicher in Tikrit.

Operation Inherent Resolve saw the redeployment of 5000 U.S. to Iraq. In 2015, the Iraqis recaptured Tikrit and Ramadi and Fallujah in 2016. Later, in October 2016, Iraqi forces launched the lengthy and ferocious battle to reclaim Mosul.

Then, on January 3, 2020, a U.S. drone strike killed Iraqi Shiite militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Mohandas alongside Qasem Soleimani, the head of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ (IRGC) extraterritorial Quds Forces, in Baghdad. Iran retaliated with ballistic missiles attacks targeting two U.S. bases, including Al-Asad, a few days later, leaving several U.S. troops with traumatic brain injuries.

Today, 30 years after U.S. troops began their deployment to Saudi Arabia in response to Saddam’s aggression against Kuwait, the U.S. military retains a troop presence in Iraq and remains active in that country.

Retrieved 8/3/20: Paul Iddon: Aerospace & Defense Contributor

We are pleased to hear that Post member John Sullivan has returned home. After three months in hospital and rehab he has survived Covid-19. Welcome home John and we wish you well as your 90th birthday approaches in October.

(Auxiliary from page 2)

Pen (Grades 6-8) theme is **“What is Patriotism to Me?”** The deadline for both is also October 31, 2020. The Auxiliary is sponsoring the Young American Creative Patriotic Art competition for Grades 9-12 and the Illustrating America Art competition for Grades 1-8. The Auxiliary has a new contest this year which is “Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue”, a National Anthem singing contest for youth from ages 6-16. Deadline for the three is March 31, 2021.

As in years past, it has been requested to update your information in the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters website MALTA. Log into MALTA on the National website, <https://vfwauxiliary.org/>, under member login to correct or make changes. All annual members can also pay your dues for 2021 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. Thank you in advance.

Since we will not be attending the Manassas Fall Jubilee this year, I wanted to remind you of the fundraiser we are doing with Wreaths Across America. This organization is a not-for-profit and places wreaths at several National and private cemeteries throughout the county. On December 19, 2020 we will be placing wreaths on veterans’ graves at Quantico National Cemetery. When you sponsor a wreath for \$15.00, the Auxiliary gets \$5.00 in return. We are requesting your participation by purchasing a sponsorship for a wreath. Please remember to include our Sponsoring Group ID No. VA0040P and Cemetery ID No. VAQNCT. DEADLINE is November 30, 2020. Thank you for supporting the Auxiliary. This is really going to be a tough year.

The VFW National Home for Children is located in Eaton Rapids, MI on 472 acres of land known as Grand River Stock Farm. (From their website)



“Families are welcomed to their small-town community where they may live for up to 4 years. They work to identify what they need and want to accomplish, during which time they are provided: Housing, Education, Day Care, Basic Needs and

Recreation. They are assigned a Case Manager who is a caring professional dedicated to providing the expertise, compassion, support and guidance needed for the family to succeed.” 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.

We wish Cindy McIntyre, Josephine & Kathleen Drummond a speedy recovery from their medical issues. A LARGE welcome home goes out to John Sullivan, Yvonne’s husband, who was in the hospital for the past three months. Please remember to keep individuals and/or family members who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill
Auxiliary President



Youth Committee Update



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee sends our best wishes to all Comrades and Auxiliary Members and hope you are all safe and well. We held our last meeting this past Wednesday, 26 August 2020. Those in attendance were Comrades Tina Bliem, Dave Mattingly, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and myself. Comrade Peter MacLeod also participated by phone. The main topic of discussion was the upcoming Flag Retirement Ceremony which is scheduled for 11 September

2020 at our Post. Setup begins at 6:30 PM and the ceremony commences at 7 PM. It is being conducted by our very own Scout Troop 1372 and will prove to be a solemn and memorable evening. The ceremony is well rehearsed and produced and is professionally delivered. All Comrades and Auxiliary members are invited and encouraged to attend. We have also invited other neighboring Scout Troops and expect a good turnout. Masks and social distancing are required in spite of the outdoor venue as an added precaution. We have an abundant supply of flags to retire since the spring ceremony was cancelled so the ceremony should be fairly intense. We sincerely hope you can all attend.

The essay contests are progressing as scheduled. Our committee is quite active contacting schools and teachers and distributing applications both physically and online. The 31 October deadline for the Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year contests comes up rather quickly so we are beginning our final recruitment drive to enlist schools and teachers for our programs. The big challenge this year is virtual instead of physical school attendance making recruitment more difficult. This requires us to be more creative with our communication and rely more on emails and social media than actual site visits to schools. Hopefully our creativity and innovation will lead to a productive outcome during this challenging academic year. We are also placing greater emphasis on local JROTC programs at Battlefield, Osbourn Park and Stonewall Jackson* High School for our Voice of Democracy Program. If you know of any middle or high school students, or teachers, who are interested in entering our contests please contact myself or any other member of the Youth Committee and we will provide the student or teacher with the necessary information and application. You can also direct the individual online to the VFW website for the application.

Typically we recognize the winners of our Youth contests at the December Awards Ceremony. This year it is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, 6 December at the Post at 4 PM. Because of Covid-19 this date is subject to change and it could very well be delayed depending on the circumstances at the year's end. In the meantime, save the date and we will confirm it as more information becomes available.

I would like to announce a couple of new youth contests this year sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary which are held in the

* Stonewall Jackson High been renamed Unity Reed High
(See **Youth** on page 5)

Hang up on fake “refund calls”

August 27, 2020

by Bridget Small

Consumer Education Specialist

In 2019, the FTC reached a settlement with Elite IT and its owner, who tricked people into buying expensive computer repair services. The company shut down, and its owner is permanently banned from selling tech support services to consumers. But recently, scammers posing as Elite IT agents have been making calls. They say they're giving refunds related to the case (not true), and urging people to hand over control of their computers (not safe). If you get a call from Elite IT - or anyone else who wants to connect to your computer - hang up and report it. It's a scam.

People have reported calls from “Elite IT Solutions” and “Elite IT Group.” The callers offered refunds because of a “settlement,” or a “cancelled subscription,” and pressured people to let them take over their computers. This fits the pattern of a classic tech support refund scam where scammers offer to send you a refund for past services – if you'll just give them your bank account, credit card or other payment information so they can deliver the refund. If you get that call, don't cooperate; they're trying to steal your money.

You can read about the FTC's refund program at [FTC.gov/Refunds](https://www.ftc.gov/Refunds). When the FTC gives a refund, it never requires you to pay upfront fees, or asks for sensitive information, like your Social Security number or bank account information. If someone claims to be from the FTC and asks for money, it's a scam. Please report it at [FTC.gov/Complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/Complaint), so we can alert others.

The VFW Podcast Hits Airwaves Oct. 7

In an effort to provide our veterans, service members, and military families with current information on key veteran legislation, educational and financial assistance programs, national veterans services, critical initiatives from the VFW national commander-in-chief, and much more, the VFW is turning to the podcast world. We will chat with congressional leadership, Department of Veterans Affairs executives, Department of Defense senior officials, VFW leaders, and everyday veterans from around the globe about issues that matter most to you. Stay tuned as we prepare to launch the VFW Podcast the first Wednesday of October, November, and December. In 2021, the podcast will air two episodes each month, every first and third Wednesday.

<https://www.vfw.org/podcast>

(Youth from page 4)

spring of next year. The first contest is called Illustrating America and is open to elementary school age children. It is similar to the Patriotic Art Contest for high school students and requires a two dimensional work of art. Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker, glitter or other media must be used. No photographs are allowed. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. The other new contest is called Get Excited For the Red, White and Blue! It is a National Anthem singing contest for youth ages 6 to 16. A video of the performance on a DVD or flash drive must be submitted. The entries will be judged on the basis of vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value. Both contests share the same deadline as the Patriotic Art Contest which is 31 March 2021. Please contact Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill or any of us on the Youth Committee for an application and more information. You can obtain the application on the VFW Auxiliary website.

The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 17 September 2020 at the Post at 7 PM. Please join the Youth Committee and help shape the next generation of Young Americans. Your interest and volunteerism is greatly appreciated and the work is so very important. In the meantime stay healthy and productive.

With best regards,

Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

Post upgrades interior lighting

By Rick Raskin

We are taking advantage of a possible \$500 grant from the Virginia Veterans Foundation to upgrade lighting in the Post home.

The purpose of the Foundation's VFW Post Home Improvement Grant is to assist VFW Posts in Virginia who need assistance with funding projects to improve, expand, or repair their Post home.

We began replacing fluorescent lights in the hall with eco friendly LED lighting. The tubes are direct replacements and do not require any wiring or ballast changes and will save about 2/3 of our electricity costs for lighting. We expect the cost for the tubes to be slightly below \$500. The Foundation would reimburse us up to \$500.

Another benefit of LED lighting is that the illumination is better. With a color temperature of 4000 degrees Kelvin, we get brighter lighting but not so bright as to be harsh.

We expect the project will be completed this month.

VFW, Sport Clips Award Nearly \$700,000 in Scholarships to Veterans

The financial burden of the fall semester will be made easier for 158 veterans

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Aug. 18, 2020) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to announce 158 student veterans from around the country have been named recipients of the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" for the fall 2020 semester, totaling nearly \$700,000 in assistance. [See the full list of 2020 fall semester recipients.](#)

"Transitioning veterans are often faced with stressful challenges when they return to civilian life, and attending school to finish a degree during a global pandemic has certainly amplified that stress ten-fold," said VFW National Commander Hal Roesch II. "With so much uncertainty surrounding the upcoming school year, the VFW, together with our great friends at Sport Clips Haircuts, is thrilled to be able to make fall semester a little less stressful for these military and veteran families."

"With the current environment we're all living in, it's more important now than ever to support our nation's veterans and service members with this scholarship program," said Sport Clips founder Gordon Logan, a U.S. Air Force veteran and Life member of the VFW. "The Help A Hero Scholarship continues to provide significant financial assistance to so many who are pursuing their professional goals and Sport Clips is proud and honored to assist so many deserving recipients."

Established in 2014, the Help A Hero Scholarship program awards service members and veterans with post-secondary scholarships of up to \$5,000 to help them achieve their educational goals without the burden of student loan debt. To date, the Help A Hero Scholarship program has awarded nearly \$8 million in scholarships to more than 1,750 service members and student veterans.

Cory Breegle, an Army veteran and 2020 fall scholarship recipient attending Pratt Institute, said, "This scholarship will help me pursue a success that nobody in my family has achieved. I wish to become not only the first to graduate college in my family, but to be a professional in the field of architecture. I will become a licensed architect, and with this scholarship, I will be able to continue to focus on my goals and pursue them relentlessly, like my military service taught me to do."

Help A Hero scholarships are awarded twice a year to help cover the cost of tuition and fees of service members and veterans in the rank of E-5 and below. Scholarship applications are currently being accepted for the 2021 spring semester.

ED — The following Virginia veterans received scholarships:

Sunni Weber, Virginia Beach, Army
Sarah Lawhorn, Centreville, Army
Harrison Vey, Reston, Army
Brandon White, Ruther Glen, Army
Sean Sexton, Virginia Beach, Navy
Chevonne Llamas, Fort Belvoir, Army

To apply for a scholarship visit <https://www.vfw.org/scholarship>

Auxiliary's annual Bingo food drive



PLEASE

Assist VFW Auxiliary 7589 in collecting food for the Community Food Banks and get a half Bingo book for



FREE



4 Items = 1/2 Book



Due to the Coronavirus, we are increasing the number of items.



Limit One 1/2 Book per Day

Deadline December 16, 2020

4	27	41	56	67
8	21	44	55	70
7	18	FREE 12/14	49	63
12	25	35	51	64
13	24	37	52	69
12014				
3	21	33	46	69
9	27	40	51	71
8	25	FREE 12/14	59	66
14	17	43	49	74
15	24	35	47	68
12014				
2	16	45	48	64
1	26	34	51	73
7	23	FREE 12/14	47	68
12	18	38	56	69
13	22	37	54	67
12014				

'Post 9808 Will Do What We Can'

VFW Post 9808 provided 500 meals to 10 hospitals during the pandemic

VFW.org August 21, 2020

When the coronavirus forced many organizations to put activities on hold, VFW Post 9808 in Mechanicsville, Virginia, began looking for ways to remain a positive presence in their community. It didn't take long to find the chance to serve.

"We received an offer to work with a regional healthcare company, Anthem, to provide meals to local hospitals for their staff. We provided 500 meals to 10 hospitals around the metro Richmond area," said Post Commander Cole Winkler.

The meals were made during the week of May 6-12. Each day, 100 meals were put together, then picked up and delivered at dinner time by the Anthem coordinators.



Post 9808 Club Manager Cassie Williams

"It was truly an honor to provide meals for the nurses, doctors and staff of the nearby hospitals. The meals were prepared in our Post kitchen every day by our volunteers," said Post 9808 Club Manager Cassie Williams.

The Post also heard from the Red Cross and found out the organization was having a difficult time finding places to hold blood drives due to concerns about COVID-19. They knew their large bingo hall would be the perfect spot.

"In true military fashion, we jumped at the chance to provide a safe space for blood collections," said Winkler.

"Comrade Ray Otto, our bingo manager, said 'How could we say no to the Red Cross when they had already been turned down? Where will they receive donations? Our hospitals need blood and Post 9808 will do what we can!' So far, we've hosted 11 blood drives in our hall."

Nearly 350 units of blood have been donated through this effort, which has helped local healthcare facilities. The Post has more blood drives scheduled through the end of 2020 and they plan to keep taking on opportunities to assist their community during the pandemic.

RELENTLESS PURSUIT

A DETERMINED NATION

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

September 18, 2020

WWW.DPAA.MIL



Commissioner's Corner



This month I want to take the opportunity to shine a light on the important work done by the Virginia Department of Veterans Service (VDVS) team members who operate our Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) program. One of seven service areas in VDVS, this program includes specialists in peer support, resource identification, housing services, and justice involvement. These specialists, many of whom are veterans or military spouses, serve as advocates and make it their mission to work one-on-one with veterans and their family members across the Commonwealth to connect them to a variety of resources.

Using a network of providers, VDVS employees help veterans facing medical or behavioral health issues. They connect veterans that may find themselves in financial stress to local resources; additionally they work diligently with community partners to assist veterans facing homelessness, including helping some with financial support from the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation's (VVSF) Veteran Homeless Fund. The VVFS program can also be of help to spouses of Guard and Reserve members when complex issues arise due to frequent deployments, and it exists to assist justice involved veterans with a smooth transition back in to the community.

Through the VVFS program, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services remains at the forefront of efforts to stop the epidemic of veterans taking their own lives; this includes an integral role in the [Governor's Challenge](#) to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families in Virginia.

At the center of its mission is one-on-one communication with veterans and families. Whether conducted in-person or virtually, the VDVS team prides itself on the relationships that are built between veterans and members of our team.

COVID-19 restrictions have not hindered our efforts to serve. Within the past few weeks we have helped a veteran and his dog – his sole companion – move from homelessness to a permanent home; in another part of the Commonwealth we coordinated with the local Veterans Affairs Medical Center to help an elderly veteran find in-home medical care. There are hundreds more stories just like this. In fact, we assisted 1,865 veterans and families through the VVFS program alone during the past year.

Our ability to serve veterans also depends on volunteer and appointed leaders willing to serve on the boards and organizations that provide essential input for our programs and services. There are very few who have given near as much of their time and expertise as Frank G. Wickersham III, who announced his well-earned retirement as the Chair of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organizations (JLC). A retired Marine Colonel and later a defense industry executive, Frank served a combined 16 years on the JLC and the VVSF Board of Trustees.

Frank represented the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) on the JLC from 2003-2007 and 2016-2020, which included two stints as JLC Chair. In between his tours on the JLC, Frank served as a trustee of the Veterans Services Foundation from 2007-2015 and as its Chair from 2007-2009. No doubt, we will greatly miss his smile and kind demeanor, unwavering advocacy for Virginia's veterans and family members, and his steady leadership of two citizen boards. We wish him the best and hope to continue to count on his advice and counsel.

We welcome another long serving veteran as the new JLC chair: William "Bill" Ashton (USN, Ret.). Bill represents the Fleet Reserve Association and previously served as JLC Vice Chair. Welcome aboard, Bill.

As always, all of us at VDVS appreciate your interest in our agency and our mission to serve Virginia's veterans, transitioning service members and their families. We welcome your comments, ideas, and suggestions and hope you'll reach out to any of us. Together, we can continue to assure that the Commonwealth of Virginia serves veterans and families in a way that befits their sacrifices for our Nation.

Thank you and may you and your family stay well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Maxwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Maxwell, Commissioner
Virginia Department of Veterans Services

The Death of Common Sense

By Lori Borgman — First published in the *Indianapolis Star* —
March 15, 1998

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

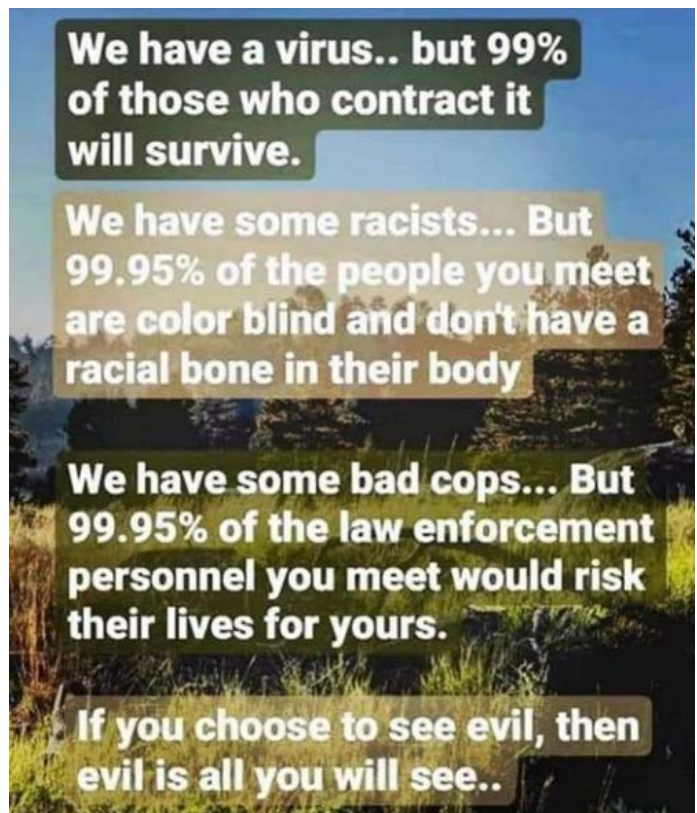
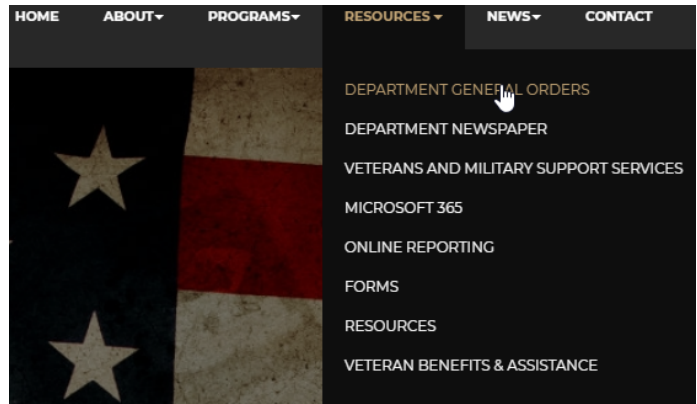
Common Sense was preceded in death,
-by his parents, Truth and Trust,
-by his wife, Discretion,
-by his daughter, Responsibility,
-and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepchildren;
- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

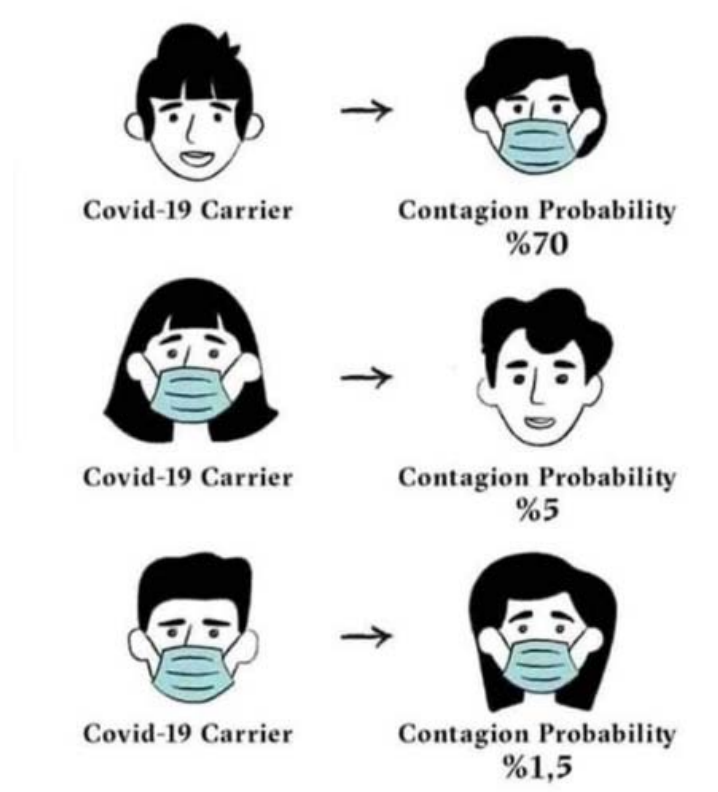
Submitted by Gunny Lewis

Department General Orders
Monthly updates from VFW Virginia
Available at www.vfwva.org



2020-21 Post Officers

Commander	Wayne Moore
Senior Vice Commander	Lou Filippone
Junior Vice Commander	Bobby Knight
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Chaplain	Ron Knowles
1 Year Trustee	Pete MacLeod
2 Year Trustee	Tina Bliem
3 Year Trustee	Dave Mattingly
Adjutant	Ron Link
Service Officer	Ron Link
Judge Advocate	Bobby Knight
Surgeon	Alex Bliem



WEAR IT

...wear mask...save lives...

Annual members...
 Upgrade to Life membership and receive a \$50 gift certificate for the VFW store.
 This offer also applies to those signing up as life members or Installment Life when they complete their membership agreement.

Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office
 9300 W. Courthouse Rd.
 Suite 305
 703-479-7437

The VFW National Home for Children

The VFW National Home for Children offers a once in a lifetime **opportunity** for military and veteran related families.

If you know of a family in your community that could use our help, please encourage them to call!

We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.

Most qualify to apply. Caring staff will help families to determine eligibility.

A Great Place to Call Home!

800-313-4200

Welcome to Tomorrow

There is reason to believe that all or some of these will happen in the next 10-20 years. We likely won't see the changes but our kids and grandkids probably will.

- 1- Auto repair shops will disappear.
- 2- A petrol/diesel engine has 20,000 individual parts. An electrical motor has 20. Electric cars are sold with lifetime guarantees and are repaired only by dealers. It takes only 10 minutes to remove and replace an electric motor.
- 3- Faulty electric motors are not repaired in the dealership but are sent to a regional repair shop that repairs them with robots
- 4- Your electric motor malfunction light goes on, so you drive up to what looks like a car wash, and your car is towed through while you have a cup of coffee and out comes your car with a new electric motor!
- 5- Petrol pumps will go away.
- 6- Street corners will have meters that dispense electricity. Companies will install electrical recharging stations; in fact, they've already started in the developed world.
- 7- Smart major auto manufacturers have already designated money to start building new plants that build only electric cars.
- 8- Coal industries will go away. Gasoline/oil companies will go away. Drilling for oil will stop. So say goodbye to OPEC! The middle-east is in trouble.
- 9- Homes will produce and store more electrical energy during the day and then they use and will sell it back to the grid. The grid stores it and dispenses it to industries that are high electricity users. Has anybody seen the Tesla roof?
- 10- A baby of today will see personal cars only in museums. The FUTURE is approaching faster than most of us can handle.
- 11- In 1998, Kodak had 170,000 employees and sold 85% of all photo paper worldwide. Within just a few years, their business model disappeared and they went bankrupt. Who would have thought of that ever happening?
- 12- What happened to Kodak and Polaroid will happen in a lot of industries in the next 5-10 years ... and most people don't see it coming.
- 13- Did you think in 1998 that 3 years later, you would never take pictures on film again? With today's smartphones, who even has a camera these days?
- 14- Yet digital cameras were invented in 1975. The first ones only had 10,000 pixels but followed Moore's law. So as with all exponential technologies, it was a disappointment for a time, before it became way superior and became mainstream in only a few short years.
- 15- It will now happen again (but much faster) with Artificial Intelligence, health, autonomous and electric cars, education, 3D printing, agriculture and jobs.
- 16- Forget the book, "Future Shock", welcome to the 4th Industrial Revolution.
- 17- Software has disrupted and will continue to disrupt most traditional industries in the next 5-10 years.
- 18- UBER is just a software tool, they don't own any cars, and are now the biggest taxi company in the world! Ask any taxi driver if they saw that coming.
- 19- Airbnb is now the biggest hotel company in the world, although they don't own any properties. Ask Hilton Hotels if they saw that coming.
- 20- Artificial Intelligence: Computers become exponentially better in understanding the world. This year, a computer beat the best Go-player in the world, 10 years earlier than expected.
- 21- In the USA, young lawyers already don't get jobs. Because of IBM's, you can get legal advice (so far for right now, the basic stuff) within seconds, with 90% accuracy compared with 70% accuracy when done by humans. So, if you study law, stop immediately. There will be 90% fewer lawyers in the future, (what a thought!) only omniscient specialists will remain.
- 22- Watson already helps nurses diagnosing cancer, it's 4 times more accurate than human nurses.
- 23- Facebook now has a pattern recognition software that can recognize faces better than humans. In 2030, computers will become more intelligent than humans.
- 24- Autonomous cars: In 2018 the first self-driving cars are already here. In the next 2 years, the entire industry will start to be disrupted. You won't want to own a car any more as you will call a car with your phone, it will show up at your location and drive you to your destination.
- 25- You will not need to park it, you will pay only for the driven distance and you can be productive while driving. The very young children of today will never get a driver's license and will never own a car.
- 26- This will change our cities because we will need 90-95% fewer cars. We can transform former parking spaces into green parks.
- 27- About 1.2 million people die each year in car accidents worldwide including distracted or drunk driving. We now have one accident every 60,000 miles; with autonomous driving that will drop to 1 accident in 6 million miles That will save a million lives plus worldwide each year.
- 28- Most traditional car companies will doubtless become bankrupt. They will try the evolutionary approach and just build a better car, while tech companies (Tesla, Apple, Google) will do the revolutionary approach and build a computer on wheels.
- 29- Look at what Volvo is doing right now; no more internal combustion engines in their vehicles starting this year with the 2019 models, using all-electric or hybrid only, with the intent of phasing out hybrid models.
- 30- Many engineers from Volkswagen and Audi are completely terrified of Tesla and they should be. Look at all the companies

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

offering all-electric vehicles. That was unheard of, only a few years ago.

31- Insurance companies will have massive trouble because, without accidents, the costs will become cheaper. Their car insurance business model will disappear.

32- Real estate will change. Because if you can work while you commute, people will abandon their towers to move far away to more beautiful affordable.

33- Electric cars will become mainstream about 2030. Cities will be less noisy because all new cars will run on electricity.

34- Cities will have much cleaner air as well.

35- Electricity will become incredibly cheap and clean.

36- Solar production has been on an exponential curve for 30

years, but you can now see the burgeoning impact. And it's just getting ramped up.

37- Fossil energy companies are desperately trying to limit access to the grid to prevent competition from home solar installations, but that simply cannot continue - technology will take care of that strategy.

38- Health: The Tricorder X price will be announced this year. There are companies who will build a medical device (called the "Tricorder" from Star Trek) that works with your phone, which takes your retina scan, your blood sample and you breath into it. It then analyses 54 bio-markers that will identify nearly any Disease. There are dozens of phone apps out there right now for health.

WELCOME TO TOMORROW – some of it actually arrived a few years ago.

And I'm still trying to figure out how to use my cell phone!!

Upcoming Events

**Events may be postponed or cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions.
Check your email for change notifications.**

September 11	Flag Retirement Ceremony — Setup 6:30 PM, Ceremony 7 PM
September 14	Auxiliary Meeting — 4 PM, Post Executive Meeting – 7 PM, Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
September 17	Youth Committee Meeting — 7 PM
September 18	POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony — American Legion Post 10 — 8 PM
September 19	District 8 School of Instruction — 9 AM & Meeting to follow — Post 2524, Culpeper
September 26	Council of Administration meeting, Staunton
October 5	Executive Meeting – 7 PM, Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
October 12	Auxiliary Meeting — 7 PM
October 15	Youth Committee Meeting — 7 PM
February 5-6, 2021	State Commander’s Homecoming, Virginia Beach
March 24-28, 2021	National Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch’s Homecoming, Portsmouth, Virginia

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



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We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.

WreathsAcrossAmerica.org



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, 2020.**

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery as well as at more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad

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 19, 2020 at 12 Noon at Quantico National Cemetery.** (Advance notice: the time is subject to change.) 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.



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**

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	

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

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.

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: _____

GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED ON THIS FORM

Location ID: **VAQNCT** Fundraising Group ID: **VA0040P**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash: _____ Total \$ _____ Date: _____

Total # Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____

MO \$: _____

Entered: _____

GEN: _____