

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
October 2021

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DAVE MATTINGLY

JVC Bobby Knight conducts a session on suicide prevention at the September 13 Post meeting. The session was followed by a group discussion.  
View the PowerPoint presentation at [www.vfw7589.org/suicide](http://www.vfw7589.org/suicide).

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## In This Issue:

- Merle Hancock May 23, 1924 — September 18, 2021
- Warren Ewell February 4, 1971 — September 2, 2021
- Contributions Desired for the Community Service Book
- Flag Retirement Photos
- VA offers airborne hazards, burn pit registry
- 6 in 10 retirees have incorrect information in DEERS
- 2022 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship Application Process Now Open
- Colin J Wolfe Memorial Golf Tournament
- Sign up to join the VFW Action Corps
- Freedom Museum Speaker Series — October 12
- Recruiting School
- Wreaths Across America order form

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**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**

### September was Suicide Prevention Month

As we exit September, Post 7589 mourns the loss of valued comrades. The Veterans organization of the United States continues to ask and put forth guidelines to assist and support comrades struggling with life's daily challenges. This year saw a rise in suicides; while October, November,

and December don't increase incidents, many feel left out, lonely, and in despair.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) empowers Veterans to connect with resources they may need now to better respond to challenges they may face later. Veterans are driven and resilient, but everyone needs help sometimes. It is not always easy to ask for help, but there are some people who will want to listen.

If you are having a difficult time, the VA encourages you to reach out for peer-to-peer support, clinical care, or counseling.

#### Finding Support

If you are looking for peer-to-peer support, clinical care, counseling, or something else, you can reach out in the following ways:

Call, text, or email a friend or family member to ask for support through a tough time. Veterans can find ways to get started on REACH OUT.

Connect with a fellow Veteran to talk about what they are going through.

Use these resources to find support through life challenges:

**VA Solid Start:** Qualified Solid Start representatives will call Veterans three times in their first year of separation to walk through the benefits available to them.

**MyVA411:** Veterans, their families, and caregivers can call 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) to easily access information on VA benefits and services.

**Make the Connection:** More than 600 Veterans and family members from across the country have shared their stories of strength and recovery. It only takes a few seconds to find a story to which Veterans can relate.

**SAMHSA Behavioral Health Treatment Services:** This tool, which is confidential and anonymous, allows people to search by ZIP code for local treatment facilities that focus on substance use/addiction and/or mental health issues.

**Self-Check Assessment:** People cope with stressful situations in different ways. This confidential, anonymous risk assessment can show if stress and depression are affecting Veterans.

**National Call Center for Homeless Veterans:** Veterans who are

*(See Commander on page 8)*

## Auxiliary President



**Mary Corkhill**



In 1972, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized official recognition of 13 October as the birthday of the U.S. Navy.

Since then, each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion "to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service." This year marks the Navy's

246th Birthday.



Halloween evolved from the ancient Celtic holiday of Samhain. Over the centuries, Halloween transitioned from a pagan ritual to a day of parties, costumes, jack-o-lanterns and trick-or-treating for kids and adults.

We wish to thank the Scouts and their leaders for the very moving flag retirement ceremony on September 11th. Along with the comrades and auxiliary members we were honored to have members of the DAR and other guests. The members of 7589 Auxiliary distributed the Memorial Buddy Poppies to all that attended.

Due to the uncertainty of the virus, the Post & Auxiliary has decided NOT to attend the Manassas Fall Jubilee this year. We look forward to the event next year.

The Auxiliary will continue to do teleconferencing during each meeting. Please note the new Dial-in number: 1 605 562 8401. The access code is still the same 4364446.

The events for the coming months are as follows:

October 11: Auxiliary monthly meeting at 2:00 PM (in person and teleconferencing)

October 31: DEADLINE for the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year.

November 6: Manassas Veterans Day event: Breakfast 7:00am & Parade 11:00 AM

November 8: Auxiliary monthly meeting at 2:00P M (in person and teleconferencing)

November 11: Manassas Veterans Memorial 8:30 AM & replace flags at Manassas Cemetery 9:00am

November 13: District 8 meeting at Post 7589 (Auxiliary meeting on Zoom) 10:00 AM

November 18-21: The Southern Conference at Hilton Head Island, SC.

December 5: Post/Auxiliary VOD/Patriots Pen/Teacher Award at 4:00 PM

December 13: Auxiliary meeting and Christmas party at 5:30 PM Yorkshire Restaurant

*(See Auxiliary on page 8)*

## Merle Hancock May 23, 1924 — September 18, 2021



SUBMITTED PHOTO

### World War II veteran describes experience

Posted By: What's Up Prince William on: November 13, 2018

Seventy-five years ago, Ernest Merle Hancock joined the United States Army Air Forces. The World War II veteran and Manassas resident told What's Up Prince William about his experience. In the years that followed his enlistment, Hancock embarked on several missions.

"We flew in such places as Germany, France, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Romania," the 94-year-old said.

Hancock, a technical sergeant, was a turret gunner and flight engineer on a B-17 Flying Fortress. Ploesti, Romania was the most difficult target. "It was the largest oil refinery in the world, so it was better protected than anything else in the world," Hancock said.

However, it was his 37th mission that changed the course of his military career. On June 18, 1944, 200 German fighter aircrafts confronted Hancock's unit. "I was fortunate enough that I shot down three Focke-Wulf 190 and Me [Messerschmitt Bf] 109s, and today I hold a Silver Star for that," Hancock said. The attack forced him to parachute from 23,000 feet.

Soon afterward, the German Gestapo caught and interrogated Hancock, who was placed in the Stalag Luft IV Prisoner of War Camp. As Allied forces made progress toward the camp in February 1945, the prisoners were expected to march until they were freed two months later.

Because of his bravery, Hancock earned the Silver Star, the third-highest honor for military members. He received the Silver Star and a commending resolution from the Virginia General Assembly in March 2014.

Merle Hancock, a life member of Francis Cannon Post passed away peacefully in his sleep at the home of his daughter in Manassas on September 18th.

Merle was a WWII veteran who was awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third highest decoration for heroism, the Purple Heart, and four Air Medals. On his thirty-fourth mission, as a top turret gunner, over Germany, Merle's B-17 aircraft was shot down and he was taken prisoner. T/Sgt. Hancock would spend nine months as a POW in Stalag Luft IVB before being liberated in May 1945. Prior to being liberated he and other POWs were marched for over two months through Poland and Germany in an attempt to keep he and others from being liberated.

Merle often spoke to schools, and veterans groups about his experiences as a Prisoner of War. He never refused a request and enjoyed spending time with fellow veterans. He will be missed by all of us who knew him.

Jerry Martin

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Va. World War II vet gets Silver Star, 70 years later

By BILL SIZEMORE  
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT  
MAR 08, 2014

A World War II veteran received a coveted military honor Friday for his actions in combat 70 years ago.

Perhaps compensating him in some degree for the tardiness of the award, the ceremony occurred on the floor of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Ernest Merle Hancock, 89, of Manassas was a B-17 turret gunner in the Army Air Forces, the predecessor of today's Air Force, on July 18, 1944, when his plane was severely damaged and set afire in an attack by enemy fighters on a bombing mission over Germany. Despite being wounded, he shot down three attacking aircraft before bailing out.



STEVE HEBLER

**World War II Air Force veteran, Ernest Merle Hancock, center, smiles as he is awarded the Silver Star from Mj. Gen. James Post, of the U.S. Air Force Air Command, Langley AFB, during the House session at the Capitol in Richmond on Friday, March 7, 2014.**

award for gallantry in combat, but because of an administrative error was never notified of that fact and was not presented the medal until Friday.

Del. Richard Anderson, R-Prince William County, a retired Air Force colonel, participated in the ceremony.

Surrounded by family, Hancock rose from his wheelchair to accept the medal and received a prolonged ovation from the 100 delegates.

(Continued from page 3)

The citation for Merle's Silver Star Medal reads as follows:

*"On 18 July 1944, Sergeant Hancock participated in a bombing mission against a vitally important enemy airdrome in Germany. In the target area his group was attacked by approximately two hundred (200) aggressive enemy fighters, and, in the ensuing engagement, his aircraft was severely damaged and set on fire, and Sergeant Hancock was severely wounded about the legs. Despite intense pain, shock and loss of blood, Sergeant Hancock gallantly remained at his guns in the heroic defense of his crippled aircraft against the overwhelming enemy attacks. With outstanding skill key successfully destroyed three (3) of the attacking aircraft. Even when flames from the burning aircraft menaced its safety and inflicted severe burns on his legs and hips, Sergeant Hancock courageously remained at his post in the defense of his plane. Only when ordered to abandon the burning aircraft did Sergeant Hancock leave his guns and bail out."*

## WARREN EWELL—AN APPRECIATION

About 11 years ago I was working in the old office (before the renovation) at the Post. I looked outside and noticed a guy walking down the street who was wearing an American flag bandana. So I went outside, ascertained that he was a veteran and invited him inside for a soda. During the conversation I offered him the opportunity to become a



DAVE MATTINGLY

to become a VFW member and because he was in financial straits offered to pay his 1st year's dues.

Well, that guy was Warren Ewell who went on to become an active member of our Post, a Bingo caller, chair of the Americanism Committee and eventually a life member.

He credited the VFW with helping him to turn his life around. He was so grateful that he arranged his work schedule so that he could be available to work Bingo on Wednesdays.

Sadly time and bad health caught up with Warren and he passed on September 2nd.

He was a valued comrade and will be missed.

Rick Raskin  
State Commander (2019-2020)  
VFW Virginia

## Warren Ewell February 4, 1971— September 2, 2021



Warren Ewell will be missed by VFW Post 7589. He was a quiet worker who was usually there to help with activities ranging from Bingo to directing traffic in the parking lot for our Educational Award Nights. He also led the Americanism Committee and the Post Color Guard for 11 years beginning in 2010. He would shout out cadence as we marched through downtown Manassas in the Veterans

Parade.

I watched this man volunteer to move and wash Bingo tables to help Post Commander Wayne Moore after a full morning of Bingo work. This Marine never said no even though he was battling health problems of his own. I respected him for his attitude, his smile and his manner. He certainly represented the best of VFW Post 7589

I last spoke to him on the phone [recently] and he was in good spirits after listening to some of the new direction of the VFW Post 7589 Americanism Committee. I personally lost a good friend with his passing. I am proud to say I was one of his Comrades!

Pete MacLeod

## WARREN EWELL'S JOURNEY HOME

With profound sadness and disheartenment, I approach the loss of a Man, Marine, Comrade, and a friend. I write of Warren Martinez Ewell, who departed on September 2, 2021, time and cause unknown. I met Warren some ten (10) years ago, and the first thing that got my attention was his resonating bass voice. He was a gentle and humble individual without malice toward anyone.

He asked, and Graciously God accepted! Let no man write his epitaph as it is evident; we know him not that well. Speak to your understanding and avoid judgment on that which you lack clarity. Life's trials test us all, and the difference often being having someone keen enough to acknowledge the grief.

Here at Post 7589, Veteran of Foreign Wars is missing an appendage (a much-needed body part). No one places importance on a toe or finger until it is no longer available for use. Such was Comrade Ewell's role, doing what he could whenever and wherever. You'll be missed deeply, Comrade!

Warren, your work here is done! Rest well knowing that you've left Comrades, who vow to carry on and hold thoughts of you in the highest of regards. Never a mean word spoken or disrespect shown.

MAY GOD'S MERCY AND GRACE PLACE YOU AT THE  
CORNERSTONE OF THE MARINE VANGUARD!

"Semper Fidelis"

Wayne Moore  
Commander, Post 7589  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

## Youth Committee Update



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee hopes this newsletter finds everyone well as we enter the fall months. We held our last meeting on 16 September at the Post. Those in attendance were Alex and Tina Bliem, Peter MacLeod and myself. Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill participated by phone. The primary topic of discussion was the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year contests. Just about all of our schools have been contacted and

applications have been distributed. We are winding down towards the 31 October deadline and will be collecting completed applications very shortly. This year's theme for Patriot's Pen is "How Can I Be A Good American?" and for Voice of Democracy "America Where Do We Go From Here?" This year, since we have returned to in person learning, we should have more success recruiting students and teachers for the contests. In addition to our conventional recruiting methods we have also reached out to local area JROTC, CAP and Scouting units as well as Home School programs. Once the essays are collected they need to be sorted, logged in and then judged. An email will go out in the next few weeks announcing our judging dates, times and locations. If you would like to participate please let us know. We would be thrilled to have your assistance with the winner selection process and will give you all the necessary instruction in the event you have never judged before.

Each year after we have selected all our winners we must then recognize them. For this purpose we hold our annual Educational Awards Night. Awards and certificates are presented to all our student and teacher Post winners. This year the awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, 5 December 2021 at the Post at 4:00 PM. A celebration with refreshments will be held after the ceremony in combination with final family photographs with the winners. Each year during the program we have a guest speaker give an address or speech to the assembly. If you would like to be considered for this year's guest speaker, or know someone else who might be interested, please let me or anyone else on the Youth Committee know as soon as possible. The speaker we select will be primarily addressing the students and the speech should be somewhat motivational and inspirational, as well as patriotic.

As far as Scouting is concerned I will let Alex report to you on that in his newsletter article. We did discuss that Troop 1372 will be holding a Court of Honor for the Boy and Girl Troops on 28 September and that the Cub Scouts will also be holding one soon. In November Scouts from Troop and Pack 1372 will participate in the Wreath Laying Ceremony and Flag Placements at the Manassas Cemetery as we do historically every year on Veteran's Day. This year Veteran's Day falls on a Thursday, 11 November 2021. In addition we will have Scouts join VFW members in the parade on Saturday, November 6th in downtown Manassas. More information regarding Veteran's Day Week activities will be presented in the November Newsletter.

The last topic of Scouting news is that Life Scout Ethan Williams is advancing with his Eagle Scout project which is the



RICK RASKIN / POST 7589

replacement of the VFW Post 7589 sign in front of our building. Scout Williams is currently submitting his Eagle Scout Project application and awaiting approval and sponsorship. In addition to replacing the sign Scout Williams is looking into doing some landscaping around the sign to include stone work. This will be a multi-step project and will take some time to complete. There will be more to report about regarding this project in the upcoming months.

regarding this project in the upcoming months.

Our next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 21 October at the Post at 7:00 PM. Please join us during this most exciting time of the year for youth related activities. It is so very gratifying and rewarding to mentor our youth and instill Americanism. In addition to our main mission of helping veterans, nothing else is more important.

With best regards,  
Lou Filippone  
Youth Committee Chair

The 2021-22 Voice of Democracy theme is:

***America: Where Do We Go From Here?***

The 2021-22 Patriots Pen theme is:

***How Can I Be a Good American?***

## Legislative Updates



**Monti Zimmerman**

The Joint Leadership Council for Veteran Service has seven initiatives. The first three will resonate with members of the Post.

Initiative #1 is to better resource state programs to prevent suicide.

Initiative #2 was written by me and equalizes benefits provided to surviving spouses of those killed in action by enemy and surviving spouses of 100% VA disabled by adding a provision for those spouses to

receive property tax relief if their military spouse died while on active duty and was determined to be in the line of duty.

The third is a provision to correct the law from last summer that could criminalize our honor guards and funeral firing partners as being part of an "illegal militia."

We will keep you informed to contact legislators in the state starting in December.

### For the week of September 20, 2021:

The House Subcommittee Committee on Economic Opportunity is holding a hearing on pending legislation on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 9:30a.m. EDT. We have submitted a statement for the record from National Legislative Service Associate Director Emily DeVito. Hearing link: <https://youtu.be/lx2A9lbcIGg>

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs is scheduled to hold a hearing on veteran suicide prevention on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 10:00a.m. EDT. National Legislative Service Deputy Director Tammy Barlet will be testifying. Link to committee webpage: <https://veterans.house.gov/events/hearings/veteran-suicide-prevention-innovative-research-and-expanded-public-health-efforts>

For your reference, you can find past and future hearings for the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs: <https://veterans.house.gov/events/hearings>

<https://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings>

All VFW testimony is posted in its entirety on our website: <http://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service/congressional-testimony>

### Ann Markel

Office Manager  
National Legislative Service  
VFW Washington Office

## Contributions Desired for the Community Service Book

As you may or may not know I am working on the Community Service Book this year which covers 1 May 2021 thru 30 April 2022. The guidelines for the book are detailed in minutiae - this makes it more challenging.

**NO** Post events such as elections, installation, meetings, dances, etc. shall be included in the book or mentioned. **ONLY COMMUNITY SERVICE** to include monetary donations and the cost of any projects for the community.

The book shall be divided into tabs:

- Tab 1, Community Involvement
- Tab 2, Cooperation with Others
- Tab 3, Aid to Others
- Tab 4, School & Church Assistance
- Tab 5, Safety
- Tab 6, Americanism/Loyalty Day
- Tab 7, Youth & Voice of Democracy

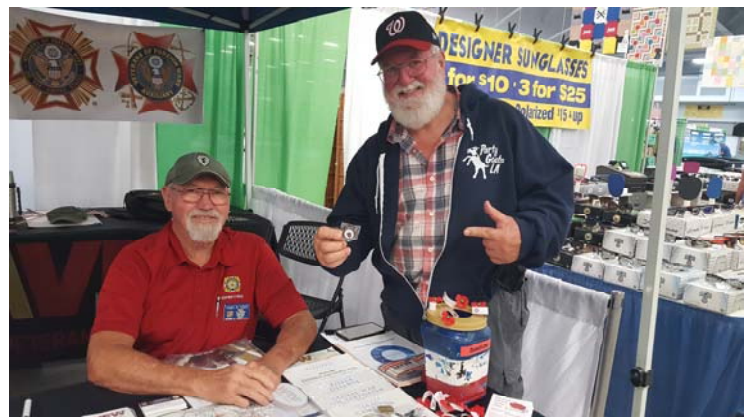
Many of our community service events fall into several categories but only one can be chosen.

I am respectfully requesting each and every one of you to send me any and all info on the above to include photographs, newspaper articles, money expended, etc. Again, no internal events. Dates to be included are listed above. I am currently reviewing monthly **CANNON NEWS** editions but there must be more that has not been included in the newsletters.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. Remember the CSB will reflect on us!

V/r  
SS SF  
Gunny Lewis

*Note: The Community Service Book is required for the Post to achieve All-State. — Ed.*



DOROTHY RASKIN

**September 24: Past State Commander Tommy Hines presented PSC Rick Raskin's Commanders pin to Rick's brother Jeff at the Virginia State Fair.**

Out and About



Photo courtesy of Uptown Assisted Living

September 1: Commander of VFW Post 7589 (Wayne Moore) and Commander of American Legion Post 10 (Dave Quimby) helped 1LT John Groundwater celebrate his 100th birthday at the newly opened Uptown Assisted Living in Manassas. LT Groundwater was a bomber pilot in WWII.



GUNNY LEWIS

Rick Raskin, PSC and Dave Quimby, Commander American Legion Post 10 prepare to raise the flag at the SAL Memorial Golf Tournament on September 10. Jennifer Ball, VFW 1503 Auxiliary and Roger Nicol, VFW 7589 complete the combined color guard.



RICK RASKIN

September 11: Rob Damon a VFW Scouter receives a certificate of appreciation from Youth chair Lou Filippone for his continued support of the Scouting program.



SUBMITTED OHOTO

ROK Marine Kim Wang Th, together with US Marines that served in Vietnam, visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA. Post member David Mattingly is a volunteer docent at the Museum.

## Scouting Report



**Alex & Tina Bliem**  
Post 7589 Scouting  
Representatives

September was another productive month for our Scouting units. Last month our son had his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Being an Eagle he planned the Court of Honor, put the script together and asked his friends to emcee and perform certain roles. It was a hot and humid day being in August, but it was a great day for two proud parents and their Eagle.

Our Boy and Girl troops both went on a camping trip in September where they each got to show off their cooking skills in an Iron Chef inspired cooking competition with

surprise ingredients. They also had to cook everything over a campfire which added time management into the equation. They had to work together as a team and make some hard decisions on strategy and abilities. Overall the Scouts had a great time and learned a lot from the experience. It was also great for them to get back out into the camping environment again.

All of our Scouting units and a couple of others came together on 9/11 to perform their annual flag retirement ceremony. I will leave the main write-up for our youth committee chair, but I wanted to mention a few things. This was probably the best Scout led flag retirement ceremony that they have performed to date. They put the time in to practice all of the different roles. This included the participants of the opening ceremony to the co-emcee's, one each from the Boys and Girls troop. This was a very respectful and well run ceremony. The Scouts at each age level are doing a great job of being stewards of our community...this is something we should all be very proud of.

A special thank you is also due to the Auxiliary for the pizza party that was provided to the Scouts when the flag retirement ceremony was over. The Scouts are very thankful and appreciative for the Auxiliary's generosity. When the word pizza is said their attention will always be given.

The younger Cub Scouts, continued keeping busy. One of their outings was to Bealeton and enjoy a day trip watching the flying circus. Next month they have a family camping trip planned which I am sure they are going to enjoy. The Cub Scouts also had a very good showing at our flag retirement ceremony.

The older Scouts had their end of summer Court of Honor at the Post. This is where new ranks will be awarded, earned merit badges will be handed out and other special awards will be awarded. Even throughout Covid the Scouts have been very busy and a lot of earned items were passed out.

Until next time please stay safe, healthy, and happy!

Alex & Tina Bliem  
Post members and Scout leaders

*(Commander from page 2)*

homeless or at risk of homelessness can get free, confidential support through the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans. Call or chat online 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you find yourself in crisis, do not hesitate to reach out for immediate help. Emergency care is available by calling 911 or going to your nearest emergency department. The Veterans Crisis Line is available 24/7 and can be reached by calling 1-800-273-8255 (Press 1 if you are a Veteran) or chat online here or text 838255.

*(Auxiliary from page 2)*

December 18: Wreaths Across America (WAA) at Quantico National Cemetery – 12 Noon

December 18: Post Christmas party at Post (Pot Luck) 5:30 PM

This year, with the Corona virus pandemic still active, it has been really hard for the Auxiliary to raise funds so we can support our veterans and their families. That is why we are requesting assistance from the members of the Post, Auxiliary and the public to participate in our Wreaths Across America (WAA) fundraiser. To learn more about WAA or to pay for your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit [https:// www.wreathscrossamerica.org/](https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/) and please remember to include our Sponsoring Group ID No. VA0040P and Cemetery ID No. VAQNCT. The deadline for your sponsorship is November 30, 2021. At this time, the Wreaths Across America Day is scheduled for December 18, 2021 at Quantico National Cemetery and throughout the US.

The VFW National Home for Children is where families find a healing calm in a tranquil, rural, small-town community. Tree-lined streets connect 42 single-family homes with facilities like our gym, library, computer and science labs, daycare center, playgrounds, fishing pond, hiking trails and more. If you wish to become a Life Member please send your application with \$50 to the National Home for Children, 3573 S. Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 43327.

Since we are unable to collect coupons for our veterans overseas, we are putting this project on hold. I know they are suffering also and hopefully we will be able to resume the project soon. Thank you for your understanding.

Please remember to keep John Sullivan (who is back in the hospital) and other individuals and/or family members who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers. If you know of anyone who needs our assistance, please let us know.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill  
VFW Auxiliary President



# September 11th Flag Retirement

Photos by Rick Raskin



## VA offers airborne hazards, burn pit registry

Department of Veterans Affairs officials developed the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry to help service members and veterans document potential exposure to airborne hazards while serving overseas.

The registry is a secure database of health information voluntarily provided by service members and veterans that helps VA collect, analyze, and report on health conditions that may be related to environmental exposures experienced during deployment.

As part of the registry, service members and veterans can participate in an optional medical exam to discuss their health with a care provider. Participation in the registry will not affect access to health care or benefits, and it is not related to the VA disability compensation claims process.

“In addition to encouraging eligible service members and veterans to register, we are working across the Military Health System and in collaboration with VA to make it easier for health care providers to access patients’ environmental exposure data and assess their health concerns,” said Steve Jones, Force Readiness and Health Assurance Policy director and a retired Army environmental science and engineering officer. “Through all these efforts, we’ll continue to collect critical data and gain a better understanding of how airborne hazards impact our troops’ short- and long-term health.”

### Eligibility

VA staff determine eligibility for the registry based on deployment information from the Department of Defense. Service members and veterans who deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after Aug. 2, 1990, or in Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after Sept. 11, 2001, may be eligible to sign up for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

These regions include the following countries, bodies of water and the airspace above these locations: Afghanistan; Bahrain; Djibouti; Gulf of Aden; Gulf of Oman; Iraq; Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates; and waters of the Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf, and Red Sea.

### How to participate

1. Obtain a Premium DS Logon Level 2 account. To obtain or upgrade a DS Logon account, visit the DMDC Identity Management website. Visit the DS Logon Frequently Asked Questions for assistance.
2. Go to the registry website and use your DS Logon to access the registry. Once logged in, verify and/or edit eligible deployment history.
3. Complete and submit the online questionnaire, then save and print your completed questionnaire for your records.
4. If interested, schedule an in-person medical exam to discuss your health with a doctor.

Assistance

For assistance or questions, call the registry help desk at 877-470

-5947, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET. (Courtesy of the Military Health System)

## Disability claims processing begins for some particulate matter conditions

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Veterans Affairs began processing disability claims Aug. 2 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

VA conducted the first iteration of a newly formed internal process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on its evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence.

The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990 to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001 to the present. VA’s review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these veterans have been exposed to particulate matter.

VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply. Veterans and survivors who believe they may be eligible for the newly established presumptive conditions are encouraged to apply. They should file a VA Form 21-526EZ if applying for the first time or a VA Form 20-0995 if they are reapplying for these conditions. For more information on the new presumptive conditions, visit the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures - Public Health website.

To apply for benefits, veterans and survivors may visit VA.gov or call toll-free at 800-698-2411. (Courtesy of VA News)

## 6 in 10 retirees have incorrect information in DEERS

When TRICARE officials tried reaching a group of retirees with critical information recently, more than 6 out of 10 had incorrect information in DEERS.

To maintain medical benefits and receive crucial health care and benefit communications, retirees and surviving spouses must maintain accurate information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

Beneficiaries need to update their information in DEERS so that health care teams can contact people with critical healthcare and appointment information; vital authorizations; claims; and enrollment information.

Retirees and surviving spouses enrolled in any TRICARE plan

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

need to update DEERS as soon as possible anytime they move, change contact information, or experience a qualifying life event such as:

- Change in sponsor's status
- Having a baby or adopting
- There is a change in a student's full-time enrollment status
- Becoming eligible for Medicare
- Death of sponsor or family member
- Marriage or divorce

For a more extensive list of qualifying events, visit the TRICARE website.

Besides notifying DEERS, beneficiaries should also notify their regional contractor.

To learn how to update DEERS, visit <https://www.TRICARE.mil/DEERS>; call 800-538-9552 (TTY/TDD: 1-866-363-2883); fax updates to 800-336-4416 (primary) or 502-335-9980 (alternate); or mail updates to Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office, Attn: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771. (Courtesy of Defense Health Agency)

## DFAS announces status notification system

CLEVELAND – Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials recently announced an improvement for retirees and Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants.

## 2022 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship Application Process Now Open

Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship. The program, which is in its eighth year, is for VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning. Select student veterans will be chosen for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The highlight of the program is participation in the VFW Legislative Conference, which in the past has included meetings at the White House and with senior officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs and members of Congress. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Department leaders on Capitol Hill pushing the VFW's legislative priorities. Alumni of the program have become more active at all levels of the VFW and have been instrumental in changing laws to improve care and benefits for veterans. Learn more and apply for the fellowship.

[www.vfw.org/community/student-veterans-of-america/student-fellowship](http://www.vfw.org/community/student-veterans-of-america/student-fellowship)

DFAS is rolling out the use of status notifications to keep customers in the loop as forms or documents they submit move through the retired pay or annuitant pay processing cycles.

Status notifications are a three-step process that updates customers when DFAS receives forms or documents for processing by mail or fax, or in some specific cases, through AskDFAS. Customers will receive separate status notifications when their form or document is:

1. Received and queued in the DFAS work system
2. Assigned to be worked
3. Completed, with either a notification that processing is complete or a notification that DFAS is sending a request for additional information.

To be eligible to receive status notifications, customers should ensure their email address is available and updated in myPay. To add or ensure an email address is up-to-date, visit myPay.

The first rollout of status notifications involved submissions related to the Survivor Benefit Plan, including the DD 2656-6 for SBP changes and the DD 2656-7 SBP annuity startup form, as well as school certifications, the direct deposit form-SF 1199, and change of address requests. These were followed by requests related to federal tax changes (for retirees or annuitants), state tax changes (for retirees) and the designation of beneficiary for arrears of pay. Status notifications for additional categories of requests will be added throughout the coming year.

Watch for more information on status notifications and other improvements from DFAS on the DFAS retired & annuitant pay website. (Courtesy of DFAS)

Submitted by Bobby Knight



**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        | Tina Bliem     |
| 2 Year Trustee        | Dave Mattingly |
| 3 Year Trustee        | Heidi BruMar   |
| Adjutant              | Ron Link       |
| Service Officer       | Ron Link       |
| Judge Advocate        | Bobby Knight   |
| Surgeon               | Alex Bliem     |

**2020-21 Auxiliary 7589 Officers**

|                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| President             | Mary Corkhill                  |
| Senior Vice President | Ellie Smith                    |
| Junior Vice President | Cindy McIntyre                 |
| Secretary             | Ann Mitchell                   |
| Treasurer             | Elanor Doczi                   |
| Chaplain              | Cookie Cullen                  |
| Conductress           | Debbie Baxter                  |
| Guard                 | Patsy Gough                    |
| Trustee 1             | Yvonne Sullivan                |
| Trustee 2             | Jan Germain                    |
| Trustee 3             | Janet Raskin                   |
| Historians            | Patsy Gough<br>Yvonne Sullivan |
| Patriotic Instructor  | Bettye Montgomery              |

Please Join Us for a  
 Memorial Service Honoring the Life of  
**Ernest Merle Hancock**  
 May 23, 1924 - September 18, 2021

**Friday, October 1, 2021**  
 Guests will have an opportunity to pay their  
 respects from 11am -12pm with the service  
 starting at 12 pm.

Baker-Post Funeral Home  
 10001 Nokesville Road, Manassas, VA 20110

\*A webcast will be available



Invites you to

MANASSAS  
BALLET THEATRE'S

14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Colin J. Wolfe  
Memorial Golf  
Tournament



Monday  
October 4, 2021

Evergreen Country Club  
15900 Berkeley Dr.  
Haymarket, VA 20169

## Schedule of Events

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 10:30-12:00 | Registration    |
| 10:30-12:00 | Lunch           |
| 12:00       | Shotgun Start   |
| 5:00        | Dinner          |
| 6:00        | Awards Ceremony |

### TOURNAMENT INCLUDES

- LUNCH
- 18 HOLES OF COMPETITIVE YET FUN GOLF (CAPTAIN'S CHOICE)
- PUTTING CONTEST
- DINNER
- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE TROPHIES FOR LOW GROSS TEAM AND LOW NET TEAM
- PRIZES, RAFFLES AND MORE!

## REGISTER NOW!



Entry is \$150 per golfer or  
\$600 per foursome

Register on or before **July 31st** and receive  
**10 free raffle tickets** per golfer!

# 2021 Golf Tournament Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsorship

|        |          |                    |
|--------|----------|--------------------|
| Player | Handicap | Golf<br>Shirt Size |
|--------|----------|--------------------|

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # of players at \$150/player = \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend but please accept my tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:  Check # \_\_\_\_\_  Cash

Credit Card (V/MC/D/AmEx)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVC # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please detach and return with  
payment by September 20th**

Manassas Ballet Theatre  
9004 Mathis Ave.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
703-257-1811

christina@manassasballet.org  
www.manassasballet.org

**For office use only:**

**Total Amount** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Received** \_\_\_\_\_

## SIGN UP TO JOIN VFW ACTION CORPS

RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER  
AND ACTION ALERTS

Use camera mode to scan code



or

Text "VFW" to 50457

or

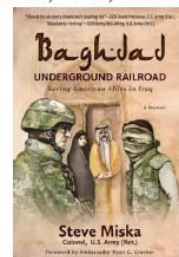
Visit [vfw.org/JoinActionCorps](http://vfw.org/JoinActionCorps)



**Freedom Museum Speaker Series**  
7:30 PM Tuesday, October 12, 2021

VFW Post 7589  
9304 Centreville Road  
Manassas, Virginia 20110

**Baghdad Underground Railroad**  
Steve Miska, COL, US Army (Ret)



Books will be available for sale and signature by the author

The Freedom Museum's mission is to honor those Americans who made the supreme sacrifice in defense of freedom; to pay tribute to those who served our country with honor and distinction; and to provide a place for our young citizens to learn of their nation's history and heritage.

The Freedom Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Programs are free and open to the public; a goodwill donation at the door will be appreciated.

## Recruiting School

Comrades, the State Membership Committee is conducting Recruiter SOI's and we will have a Zoom option for two of the sessions in October.

This training satisfies the State Commander's requirements for All-State. **ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE ACCURATE ACCOUNTABILITY.**

When you register, you will be required to put your first and last name, email address, and Post number to get the link to the meeting. **DO NOT SHARE YOUR LINK!** If you want others to join, they need to register themselves and use their own computer, laptop, or phone.

October 9th meeting at Hillsville: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91011234567>

October 10th meeting at Edinburg: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91011234567>

All sessions start at 9 AM and you will need to log in a little earlier to be ready.

You can still attend in person, and we will have teams at the following locations for LIVE training:

October 9th: VFW Post 1115 (701 W. Stuart Drive Hillsville) and VFW Post 4809 (5728 Barteet Street Norfolk)

October 10th: VFW Post 2447 (100 Veterans Way Edinburg) and VFW Post 9808 (7168 Flag Lane Mechanicsville)

Please let me know if you or anybody has any questions or concerns.

Ken Wiseman  
Membership Committee Member

**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**

**Orthodontic assistant needed**  
 Compensation: **Entry level**  
 Employment type: **full-time**

**ENTRY LEVEL** orthodontic assistant. We prefer no experience so we can train you to our standards. Entry level position with entry level pay. We are looking for a quick learner who likes to work as part of a team. Must be reliable, well spoken, have good communication skills and like working with people. If interested, please reply with salary requirement and resume. Responses without salary requirement and resume will not be reviewed. If you are interested in the field of orthodontic assisting and possess the qualities we have listed this might be a great opportunity. You can either call the office at (703)815-0127 or email us at [orthoformyou@aol.com](mailto:orthoformyou@aol.com). We look forward to your response.

**Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office**

9300 W. Courthouse Rd.  
 Suite 305  
 703-479-7437

## Upcoming Events

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| October 4      | Colin Wolfe Memorial Golf Tournament — Evergreen Country Club, Haymarket<br>Post meeting — 7:30 PM                      |
| October 11     | Auxiliary monthly meeting at 2:00 PM (in person and teleconferencing)   |
| October 31     | DEADLINE for the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year entries                                      |
| <b>2021</b>    |   |
| November 1     | Post Meeting — 7:30 PM  |
| November 6     | Veterans Parade — Manassas (Breakfast available at the Post)  |
| November 8     | Auxiliary monthly meeting at 2:00 PM (in person and teleconferencing)   |
| November 11    | November 11: Manassas Veteran Memorial 8:30am & replace flags at Manassas Cemetery 9:00am                               |
| November 13    | District 8 meeting — 10 AM — Post 7589, Manassas  |
| November 18-21 | Southern Conference — Hilton Head, SC   |
| <b>2022</b>    |   |
| December 5     | Post/Auxiliary VOD/Patriots Pen/Teacher Award at 4:00 PM  |
| December 6     | Post meeting 7:30 PM  |
| December 13    | Auxiliary meeting and Christmas party at 5:30 PM Yorkshire restaurant   |
| December 18    | Wreath Across American (WAA) at Quantico National Cemetery – 12 Noon<br>Post Christmas party at Post (Pot Luck) 5:30 PM |
| <b>2022</b>    |   |
| January 3      | Post meeting — 7:30 PM  |
| January 7—9    | Winter Council, Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA                       |
| January 10     | Auxiliary monthly meeting at 2:00 PM (in person and teleconferencing)   |





Presents  
Manassas Ballet Theatre's  
Opening Night of  
**THE NUTCRACKER**  
**SALUTE TO THE MILITARY**  
Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM  
With **FREE Tickets**

for all service personnel including active duty, veterans, & first responders. Plus, 20% off all accompanying tickets.



Salute to the Military is our annual opening night ceremony during Nutcracker that celebrates and thanks all military members and branches for their service, as well as all police, fire and rescue members. This moving entré- into the program features the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra playing the National Anthem and a medley of all the service anthems, bagpipes playing "Amazing Grace" from the second balcony, a color guard, and the introduction of our honoree of the year. All active duty military, veterans & first responders are invited to attend at no charge,

with accompanying tickets offered at 20% off.

For more information: (703) 791-0627, [heather@manassasballet.org](mailto:heather@manassasballet.org),  
[info@manassasballet.org](mailto:info@manassasballet.org), [www.manassasballet.org](http://www.manassasballet.org)

For tickets: Hylton Performing Arts Center box office 703-993-7759, [www.hyltoncenter.org](http://www.hyltoncenter.org) use code **SERVICE**.

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.  
Francis Cannon Post No. 7589  
P.O. Box 10206  
Manassas, VA 20108-0668

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](http://www.vfw7589.org)

Editor: Rick Raskin  
Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to [quartermaster@vfw7589.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfw7589.org) no later than the 28th of the month.  
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, 2021.**

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 18, 2021 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](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org), or call 877-385-9504.  
You can also email [infor@wreathsacrossamerica.org](mailto:infor@wreathsacrossamerica.org)**



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](http://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**

**\*GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED ON THIS FORM\***

| 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 |                    |       |
|   |           | <b>Grand Total</b> |       |

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

---

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # Checks: \_\_\_\_\_ Reconciled: \_\_\_\_\_

MO \$: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

GEN: \_\_\_\_\_