

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
November 2017

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9th Annual Manassas Veterans Parade — Saturday, November 4 at 11 AM — [See Page 8](#)

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

## Commander's Message



Peter MacLeod

November means a lot of activity involving the veterans of VFW Post 7589 and the residents of the Manassas area. Most of it is fun and a very positive experience. The giving out of Buddy Poppies

can be tiring but it always seems that just when you are ready to give up, you will meet a potential new Post member, someone you haven't seen in years, or someone who served in the military in the same place you did. It always happens!

The same can be said for our visits to the schools. There is always the feeling that the students of today are not interested in hearing from some older veterans. But nothing could be further from the truth. A "wise guy" might ask a bad or loaded question. But they are in the tiny minority. Most of the questions are good and invite informative answers. The teachers do an excellent job preparing the students for what they are going to hear. So much of the time, during the visits, involves the veterans listening to the students as they make presentations, sing patriotic songs or put on mini-plays and dramas on stage. One of the best experiences is the "informal" talks with the students of Mayfield Intermediate School in the school library after the formal presentation or movie. The students are encouraged to talk with veterans as we have refreshments and the teachers also mingle and it just works very well!

This year we start our school visits with Manassas Christian School in Manassas Park at 9:15 am on Friday, November 3. It takes place in the school auditorium/gym. Everyone in Post 7589 is invited! Principal Linda Bare has each class, Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, get up on stage and make a patriotic presentation. There is a short Q&A period at the end with the veterans. In addition, veterans are handed homemade cards and pictures and photos are encouraged. There usually are parents and a number of active duty military people on hand. It is over by 10:30 am and it is a "can't miss" event.

Post 7589 will also visit the aforementioned Mayfield School in Manassas on Wednesday, November 8 from 8:00 am to 10:30 am. The format is a little different here as rotating groups of classes come to a large area to hear us talk about our military experiences. We have shown movies in the past but this year it will be mainly veterans talking to students and showing artifacts of their experiences. Former Post 7589 Commander Jerry Martin and teacher Megan McNulty are the driving forces here.

If you want to feel like a "king" or "queen" visit Round Elementary School in Manassas. From the moment you approach the school you will be taken in tow by at least one student who will guide you to a room filled with veterans, teachers and refreshments. Then you file into the large auditorium for rousing music and classes giving patriotic presentations. It runs from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm on Thursday, Nov. 9. This is one event that draws a large number of veterans in the Manassas area and the veterans are the center of attention. Many parents are on hand too. What a great job this school has done through the years and teacher Cathy Evans is a big-time organizer and usually at the microphone. You can literally "swell with pride" after the Round School Salute to Veterans!

But that's not all! VFW Post 7589 will organize and present the annual Veteran's Day ceremony at the Manassas Veteran's Monument at 8:30 am on Saturday, Nov. 11. Then we move to the Manassas Cemetery for the service at the grave of Francis Cannon at 9:00 am, then at about 9:15 am we work with Scouts of Pack 1355 to place flags at the graves of veterans. Refreshments are at about 10:00 am.

We have 3 scheduled Veteran's Week Buddy Poppy Drives. On Friday, Nov. 10 we are the Centreville Giant Store on St. Germain from 2pm to 7pm. On Saturday, Nov. 11 we are at the Giant Store on Stone Road in Centreville from 10am to 2pm. Also on Saturday, Nov. 11 we are at Food Lion in the Woodbine Shopping Plaza on Route 234 (Dumfries Road) in Manassas from noon to 5pm.

We saved the best for last but it's really almost the first! The annual Manassas Veteran's Parade takes place at 11:00 am on Saturday, Nov. 4! This will be the debut of the newly organized VFW Post 7589 Color Guard, but all members of the

Post and Auxiliary are invited and encouraged to march. We will gather at the Post Hall between 9:00 and 9:30 am and wander over for refreshments at the Seton School and then find our place in line. The early date for the parade this year was made necessary by the holiday falling on a Saturday. The parade will salute the U.S. Air Force! My favorite time at the parade is during the period when we form. The streets are filled with music, veterans and vehicles and there is always a big crowd along the streets of Manassas waving flags and cheering. This is another event you cannot miss! You will always find someone you haven't seen for a long time either in the line of those marching or in the crowd of spectators. Make sure you are there!

If you have any questions about any of the Veteran's Day events Post 7589 is involved in, please call me any time at 703 220-4545, I will be happy to talk with you and give directions as needed. You can also call the Post Hall at 703-361-5554. The post website is [www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org)

On Thursday, October 26, ground was broken for the \$48-million "Puller Veterans Care Center" on the grounds of the old Vint Hill U.S. Army base in Warrenton. [See article on Page 11](#)

The center is named for the Puller family which has deep roots in northern Virginia. Marine General Lewis "Chesty" Puller was a World War Two and Korean War veteran and one of the most decorated Marines in history. His son, Marine Lt. Lewis Puller Jr. served in Vietnam and was severely wounded there. Puller Jr's wife Linda "Toddy" Puller is a retired Virginia State Senator. The late Puller Jr. received the Purple Heart and several other military awards. He was out in front of his platoon in Vietnam in 1968 when he tripped a booby-trapped howitzer round losing his right leg, his left leg below the knee, his left hand and several fingers on his right hand. He died in 1994 just after winning the Pulitzer Prize for his autobiography "Fortunate Son," the story of his life as "Chesty" Puller's son. If you want to read a compelling book and what it was like to suffer horrible injuries and then go through rehabilitation and establish yourself again, this is the book to read. "Unforgettable" is the only way to describe Lewis Puller Jr's story.

## Auxiliary President



I would like to thank the members who participated in the annual Manassas Fall Jubilee on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Our mission was to meet and greet the public with information about our organization.



Francine Filippone, Patsy Gough, Janet Raskin and Yvonne Sullivan assisted me in distributing flyers, applications to the different contests for the children, National Home for Children material and passing out Buddy Poppies. We had the children recite the Pledge of Allegiance and gave them each a Young American Award, a Pledge of Allegiance bookmark, an American flag and other items from the Auxiliary. We also would like to welcome the three new members who joined the Auxiliary during the Jubilee: Barbara Stottsberry, Kairee Gil and Annette Lewis. Again, thank you everyone for a great day!!!

If you haven't checked out the new MALTA computer system at National, I encourage you to do so. National Headquarters email address is: <https://vfwauxiliary.org>. When you get to the home page, go to member login (far right side), enter your membership ID and activate your account. Answer all the questions about yourself and assign a password. Then you can pay your dues. If you still wish for the Auxiliary Treasurer to assist you with your payment of \$20.00, mail Elanor Doczi your payment at: 7415 Roxbury Ave., Manassas, VA 20109. Again, thank you in advance.



The DEADLINE for the Wreaths Across America Fundraiser is

November 30<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't purchased your Sponsorships, please consider doing so. This is the Auxiliary's annual fundraiser. For each \$15.00 wreath that is purchased, \$5.00 comes back to the Auxiliary. This allows us to assist Veterans and their families. The Wreaths Across America event at Quantico Cemetery will be held at noon on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there to assist in laying wreaths.



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) was a total success. National President Dee Guillory, National Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman and his wife, the National Line Officers and members of Auxiliaries from across the nation attended the event at Yorktown Battlefield, Yorktown, VA on Thursday, October 19, 2017.



The Department of Virginia hosted the celebration for the National President Dee Guillory on October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> at the DoubleTree

Hotel in Williamsburg, VA. The event started with an informal dinner on Friday night. The National Line Officers, National Ambassadors and Department Presidents presented gifts to the National President. With the assistance of the Department of Virginia members present, we presented her with a quilt that had all the Auxiliaries from Virginia on it. Thanks to Vickie Peterson. This quilt took two years to complete.



At the banquet on Saturday night, the National President was lead into the room by the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. She received a proclamation from Governor Terry McAuliffe and

special gifts from other VIPs at the event.

Before our November monthly meeting, the Mission BBQ from Gainesville, VA will be hosting a dinner to recognize Veterans for Veterans Day. The Post will provide the drinks and the Auxiliary will provide the cake. We will also be celebrating the Auxiliary's 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We were instituted on November 29, 1998. Dinner will be served at the Post starting at 6:30 pm. Hope to see everyone there.

There are several events in November starting off with the Veteran Day parade on the 4<sup>th</sup> at 11am. On November 10<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm the Auxiliary members will accompany VFW Post 1811 for their visit to Birmingham Green; Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Post and Auxiliary will lay a wreath at the Veterans Memorial and then travel to the Manassas Cemetery to place fresh flags; From 11am-4pm, November 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, the annual Auxiliary Buddy Poppy drive will be at the Centreville Giant. Please let me know if you will be able to assist in any of these events. The 8<sup>th</sup> District meeting will be at Post 7728 with lunch being served at noon and the joint meeting at 1:00 on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Post 7589 and its Auxiliary will honor the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00pm. The Auxiliary will provide refreshments.

Our annual December meeting will be held at the City Tavern on Centreville Rd at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP and let me know if you will be able to attend this December 4<sup>th</sup> event. Please bring a gift for exchange (not to exceed \$10 in value). Thanks.

The National Home for Children is still high on our list for assisting Veterans and their families. If you wish to become a Life Member, it is only \$35.00. The Auxiliary has a Life Membership and I would like to see other individuals become one as well.

Please keep all the individuals and/or family members who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers.

Respectfully,  
Mary Corkhill  
VFW Auxiliary President

National President Dee Guillory's celebration in Yorktown & Williamsburg — October 19-21



## Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone  
Youth Committee Chair

The Youth Committee is now entering the busiest time of the year. We have distributed applications to over 27 area schools for the Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher

of the year contests. We are now picking up the completed applications by the 31 October deadline and are ready to read and judge the entries and select our Post 7589 winners. We are also expecting entries from our home-schooled applicants and from patients from my orthodontic offices. We will be quite busy over the next few weeks with our judging. We anticipate completion of judging by 15 November 2017 and will notify the winners and the membership as soon as possible.

This year the VFW has reverted to the original schedule of running all three contests simultaneously unlike last year. Patri-

otic Art and Scout of the Year are still held in March. Don't forget our annual awards ceremony for Post 7589 winners will be held on Sunday, 3 December 2017 at the Post at 4:00 PM.

On Saturday, 7 October 2017 Halloween bags were handed out at the Manassas Fall Jubilee to hundreds of area children. The event was a big success and, unlike last year, the weather was wonderful. All the Post and Auxiliary members in attendance, and the children, had a wonderful time.

Our second flag retirement ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, 9 December 2017 at the Post beginning at 9:00AM and concluding at 10:30-11:00 AM. All Post and Auxiliary members are invited to attend, participate, and assist the Scouts with the ceremony.

I would just like to remind the membership about our "Veterans in the Classroom" program during the Veterans Day period in November. All members are encouraged to attend and support the students, teachers and speakers.

Here are dates and times for these three scheduled events:

- Friday, 3 November 2017, Manassas Christian School in Manassas Park from 9:15-10:30 AM

- Wednesday, 8 November 2017, Mayfield Intermediate School in Manassas from 8:00-10:30 AM
- Thursday, 9 November 2017, Round Elementary School in Manassas from 1:30-3:00PM

If any members are interested in speaking to the children please contact me, Commander Peter MacLeod, or Comrade Jerry Martin and we will be happy to consider you for our program.

We look forward to serving the youth in our community as the VFW and instilling patriotism and love of country in this next generation. Please join us in this mission. The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 16 November 2017 at the Post at 7:00PM. See you there.

### Holiday Party Committee Report

We are currently considering a few different venues for our annual Post 7589 Holiday Party to be held on Sunday, 17 December 2017 from 3:00-6:00PM. Location to be determined. Details will be announced shortly. For now, please save the date.

## VFW Kicks Off Fundraiser with Participating BURGER KING® Franchisees

*Annual fundraiser supports America's military families through the VFW's Unmet Needs program*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (October 30, 2017)**

— For the 11th consecutive year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is pleased to announce that throughout the month of November, participating BURGER KING® franchisees will be raising funds for the VFW's Unmet Needs program. Customers are encouraged to donate \$1 or more to the program upon checkout. The fundraising campaign officially begins November 1 and runs for the entire month of November.

Assisting service members and military families during times of financial hardship, the Unmet Needs program provides grants of up to \$5,000 toward basic life necessities like rent, mortgage and utility payments, vehicle repair, medical expenses and food. Since its inception in 2004, Unmet Needs has provided more than \$7.9 million in aid to struggling service members, veterans and their families.

"For more than a decade, the VFW has been providing a lifeline for so many military families during an already trying time in their lives," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. "The generosity and support shown by BURGER KING® franchisees and their loyal guests ensures America's heroes can continue to count on the VFW for much-needed assistance. I sincerely encourage every American to

visit their local participating restaurant to show their support."

Since 2007, participating BURGER KING® franchisees have raised nearly \$4.5 million in support of the program. More than 1,000 restaurants nationwide participated in last year's fundraising campaign with even higher participation expected this year.

Find a participating BURGER KING® restaurant near you:

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1CQ1MHxd\\_myMVz9xal\\_QfaAVWhws&ll=37.615487048644745%2C-92.55120984999996&z=5](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1CQ1MHxd_myMVz9xal_QfaAVWhws&ll=37.615487048644745%2C-92.55120984999996&z=5)

*As of October 30 there are no participating franchises in Virginia. — Ed.*

## Manassas Fall Jubilee a hit for Post 7589

By Rick Raskin

On October 7 Manassas Post 7589 and its Auxiliary had displays at the Manassas Fall Jubilee. An annual event in Manassas on the first Saturday in October, this year continued the Post's participation over more than a decade. The Jubilee started at 10:00 AM and ran until 5 PM. Over 25,000 people typically attend each year.

The Post actively recruits and also distributes Halloween Trick-or-Treat bags to children in the community. Each bag is imprinted with a message of how to be safe while out collecting treats. Additionally, this year we inserted a tooth brush into each bag, supplied by Lou Filippone, one of our Post Trustees.

The Auxiliary recruits new members and awards children a certificate for correctly reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance".

An additional focus this year was to promote mental health awareness and invite the public to attend a screening of the film "Into the Light" on October 28th. We provided information on how to recognize the five signs of mental issues. The public seemed very tuned in to our campaign and was especially aware of the high suicide rate among veterans.

We recruited 2 new members, had 1 transfer and a member stopped by to renew his membership. The Auxiliary also had several new applicants.

The weather cooperated with sunny skies and temperatures in the 80s. It was a very successful event.



Gunny Lewis

(L-R) Rick Raskin, Lou Filippone, Pete MacLeod and Wayne Moore

## VFW Joins WWI Poppy Program

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entering that war. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission will tell the story of those American veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

Click on the following link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/1881>

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War I: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_y4149mZso](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4149mZso).

The red poppy is an internationally recognized symbol of veteran remembrance. Its use began in World War I and was captured in the war poem "In Flanders Fields," by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

—VFW—



Gunny Lewis

(L-R) Mary Corkhill, Yvonne Sullivan, Janet Raskin, Fran Filippone and Patsy Gough

## Post 7589 Adjutant author's new book on the American Revolution

By Paul Chase

Comrade Paul Chase, 30 year VFW Life member, Vietnam Veteran, Post 7589 Adjutant and Historian has authored a new book



Paul Chase

titled: The American Revolution: A Compendium of Terms and Topics. The 442 page book covers new material such as abuse of alcohol, treatment of wounded soldiers, venereal disease, reasons and types of discipline of soldiers and much more.

Paul retired as a USAF Lt Col Personnel Officer after 23 years of service. He served in Vietnam from 1971-1972 with duties to withdraw USAF forces from the country. Paul's younger brother Joel, who is a twice wounded and highly decorated Vietnam Veteran, serves

as Post 7589 Chaplain. Both Paul and Joel descend from five Patriots who fought in the Revolution from Connecticut and New Hampshire.

Paul serves as the Color Guard Commander of the award winning Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) located in Prince William County. The Colonel Grayson Chapter is the second largest of the 26 SAR chapters in Virginia with over 200 members.

The SAR like the VFW is a community service organization which promotes patriotism, service above self, respect for law and our Constitution and support for those in need. All royalties from Paul's book are going to the SAR activities.

The book can be ordered On-Line (Amazon, Barnes & Noble) for \$19.95 or purchased direct for discount by contacting VFW Post 7589.

In addition to his SAR and VFW duties Paul serves as the Secretary of the Manassas area Inter-Service Club Council which coordinates multiple community service organizations. Paul is just one of very many Veterans who continue to serve their community and country to the great credit of all the men and women who have ever served in America's uniforms.

## Veteran's History Project Launches Last Installment of WWI Series

Library of Congress Gazette

October 6, 2017

*Republished with Permission*

The Veterans History Project (VHP) [has] launched "A World Overturned," The final chapter in a three-part, online website series titled "Experiencing War," dedicated to U.S. veterans of the First World War.

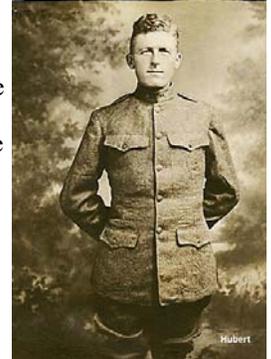
"A World Overturned" highlights the digitized stories of eight veterans, exploring how World War I forever changed their lives, shared through original photographs, letters, diaries, memoirs and other materials. This series has been presented as a companion site to the Library exhibit "Echoes of the Great War."

One of several profiles featured in the series, Roland Neel survived the dangerous early days of aviation as an aerial observer, but his brother, Joseph, was killed in action at the Battle of St. Mihiel.

Before enlisting, Reese Russell was accustomed to the quiet rhythms of rural life. He was gassed during combat and was never the same. Reese's daughter, who donated his diary posthumously, said her father slept too little and drank too much after the war. He died impoverished at the age of 61.

During his service with the 89th Division in France and Germany, Hubert Wesselman expressed concerns about the long-term impact of his wartime experiences, but professional support for service members returning from battle was largely unavailable at the time. He struggled to cope with the horrors he suffered. Tragically, after enduring war, the Great Depression and years of strenuous work as a farmer, Hubert took his own life.

Those and other veterans' collections included in "A World Overturned" are available at [loc.gov/vets/stories/wwi-part3.html](http://loc.gov/vets/stories/wwi-part3.html).



Hubert Joseph Wesselman Collection, Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center

## Two local VFW Posts suspend showing NFL games

At their October General Membership Meetings and after in-depth discussions regarding disrespect to the US Flag and the US National Anthem by members of the NFL, both VFW Post 1503 (Dale City) and Post 7916 (Occoquan) voted to suspend showing NFL Games at their Posts. Earlier this month the VFW National Commander Keith Harmon stated, "I stand for our flag and anthem," he said, "and I kneel for our fallen. That's what patriots do. We rally around the flag of our country, not use it and our Constitution as both shield and sword."



Department Line Officers and District Commanders met at State Headquarters on October 14 for the Fall Council of Administration. Photo by Angie Marshall, courtesy of Chuck Wilson

**VETERANS DAY**  
 AS WE REAP THE BENEFITS OF HIS DEEDS  
 FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION  
 THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
 IS ENSHRINED FOREVER  
**November 11, 2017**

*"To care for him who shall have borne the battle..."*  
 ABRAHAM LINCOLN

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**9th Annual Greater Manassas  
 Veterans Day Parade  
 11AM Saturday November 4th**

**Honoring  
 United States Air Force**

[www.vetpar.org](http://www.vetpar.org)

Vetpar Inc. 8665 Sudley Road Suite 247 Manassas VA 20110  
 501(c) 3 EIN# 27-4927900

# From the



**Veterans ID Cards Update:** VA will begin issuing veteran identification cards to all honorably discharged veterans in November. The initiative is required by the Veterans Identification Card Act 2015, which ordered VA to issue a hard-copy photo ID to any honorably discharged veteran who applies. The card will be issued for free upon request, according to a Military.com article, and will contain the veteran's name, photo and a non-Social Security identification number. VA will provide additional information once finalized.

**Take the VFW Survey on TRICARE:** Last year's National Defense Authorization Act contained a number of changes to TRICARE, most of which take effect Jan. 1, 2018. The VFW believes service members, veterans and their families must be able to voice how these changes will impact them. To ensure your views and preferences are heard, the VFW has developed a survey to gauge our members' awareness of these changes and how they will affect beneficiaries. The data collected will be used to advocate for policy and legislative changes that are based on the needs of TRICARE beneficiaries. Take the survey here: <https://www.research.net/r/TRICAREChanges>

**Congress Authorizes COLA Increase for Veterans:** On Wednesday, the Senate passed H.R. 1329, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017. This legislation would increase the rates of VA disability compensation, dependency compensation for surviving children and spouses, as well as the clothing allowance for veterans. This increase is based on the yearly cost-of-living adjustment increase that Social Security recipients receive, which is determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index. Earlier this year, the House passed H.R. 1329, which now waits President Trump's signature. Once signed into law, the expected 2 percent increase will become effective on Jan. 1, 2018.

**VFW Testifies on VA Health Care, Choice Program:** On Tuesday, the VFW testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on pending health care legislation. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David Shulkin testified for VA. The VFW discussed the future of VA's Choice Program and consolidating community care programs. Other legislation included topics such as organ transplants, nursing homes, sexual trauma and suicide.

**VFW Testifies on VA Overpayments and Debt Management:** The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing this week to discuss how VA can effectively prevent and manage overpayments. VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director John Towles offered the VFW's position on the issue and highlighted several common-sense steps that could be taken by VA to prevent and properly manage overpayments, including en-

suring that the contact information VA is using to notify veterans of overpayments is up-to-date; clarifying the eligibility for a debt waiver; outlining in easy-to-understand terms the steps that should be taken to request a payment plan for legitimate overpayments; ensuring that VA suspends all recoupment efforts once a veteran appeals a debt recoupment decision; and ensuring that regional office and debt management staff are trained to conduct proper due diligence, and are better trained in VA's debt management and collections procedures and protocols.

**VFW Attends Blue Water Agent Orange Roundtable:** On Wednesday, the VFW attended a roundtable with nearly a dozen veteran and military service organizations, congressional staffers, and veterans impacted by Agent Orange. The roundtable focused on the need to expand presumptive coverage for an estimated 90,000 veterans, as the needed legislation awaits congressional action. The VFW has testified in support of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017 several times and is working with VA and Congress to ensure benefits are expanded to Blue Water Navy veterans without eroding other veteran benefits. Additionally, the VFW continues to reaffirm its support for these veterans through the annual adoption of a resolution at the VFW National Convention calling for expansion of Agent Orange presumptive benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans. Stay tuned to the VFW Action Corps Weekly for more updates on this vital topic.

**Filipino Vets Awarded Congressional Gold Medal:** The service and sacrifice of Filipino veterans from World War II were honored this week with the highest award Congress can provide: the Congressional Gold Medal. It was awarded to recognize the collective efforts of some 250,000 Filipino soldiers who served honorably in an active duty status between July 26, 1941, and Dec. 31, 1946, under the command of the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East within the Philippine Commonwealth Army, the Philippine Scouts, the Philippine Constabulary, recognized guerrilla units, the New Philippine Scouts, the First Filipino Infantry Regiment, the Second Filipino Infantry Battalion (Separate), and the First Reconnaissance Battalion, including those commanding or serving as U.S. military officers or enlisted soldiers. Passage of the legislation, sponsored by U.S. Sens. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.), accomplishes VFW Resolution 305, which was passed at the 116th VFW National Convention in Pittsburgh. Previous military recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal have been the Tuskegee Airmen, Women Airforce Service Pilots, the 65th Infantry Regiment, Doolittle Raiders, Montford Point Marines, Native American Code Talkers, and the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service, among many others.

*(Action Corps on page 10)*

(Action Corps from page 9)

**House National Guard and Reserve Caucus:** On Tuesday, the VFW attended a National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus at the House of Representatives. Director, Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy and Chief of Army Reserve Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey, spoke about how the Total Force Policy is changing the demands on the reserve component. Both generals also addressed questions regarding how this change could impact employment of National Guard and Reserve members in the civilian/corporate sector and some of the limitations of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), the federal law that establishes rights and responsibilities for uniformed service members and their civilian employers.

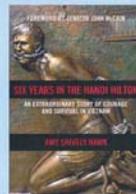
**VA Women Veterans Summit Webinars:** In August, Hurricane Harvey forced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to cancel the majority of events scheduled for their National Women Veterans Summit held in Houston, Texas. Consequently, VA will be hosting live webinars for discussions and panels that were cancelled. The webinars will be available to watch and/or livestream from VA's website beginning Oct. 23. Topics to be covered will include employment, health care, local and federal resources and more.

**Senate Committee Advances BVA, NCA, Enterprise Integration Nominees:** On Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs voted to advance the nominations of Melissa Sue Glynn to serve as VA assistant secretary for Enterprise Integration, Cheryl L. Mason to be chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA), and Randy Reeves to be VA undersecretary for the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). The nomination hearing was held on Oct. 4, 2017. Nominees now await confirmation by the full Senate.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

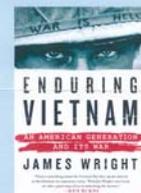
## Remembering Vietnam Noon Lectures

*Our Year of War: Two Brothers, Vietnam, and a Nation Divided*  
Daniel P. Bolger  
Tuesday, November 7, at Noon  
McGowan Theater



*Six Years in the Hanoi Hilton: An Extraordinary Story of Courage and Survival in Vietnam*  
Amy Hawk  
Friday, November 10, at Noon  
McGowan Theater

*Enduring Vietnam: An American Generation and Its War*  
James Wright  
Tuesday, November 14, at Noon  
McGowan Theater



*Book Signings will Follow Each of the Programs*

National Archives Experience  
Use the Special Events Entrance on the Corner of Constitution Avenue and 7th Street, NW  
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202-357-5000 or Toll Free 1-877-874-7616  
Free Admission

## New functions on the VFW website

When a visitor goes to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) in their browser, one of the first links they will see at the top of the page is "Find A Post". Clicking on this link takes the visitor to a page where they can enter a ZIP code or city and state and then search by distance for VFW Posts in the area. They will see the name of the Post, with address and phone number, as well as when meetings are held, the names of the Commander and Quartermaster, and now the dues amount for the Post.

This is obviously useful information for veterans looking to connect with a local Post, but it is also useful information for you as a recruiter looking to connect veterans with a Post in their area. If you run across a veteran who might be interested in VFW membership but isn't local to your Post, you can assist them by looking up their local Post, letting them know who to contact and when meetings are, and how much the dues will be. Remember, we are one team and one VFW and bringing a new member on board - even if it's not to your Post - helps our mission.

In addition, when a VFW member logs into the website, on the right hand side of the MY VFW page you will see two new links under the heading "Get Your Digital Membership Card". Both Apple and Android smart phones offer the option to save various cards and passes to a digital "wallet", so that instead of carrying around a dozen physical membership cards, discount cards, etc., they can all be kept on your phone. The VFW now offers this option for your membership card!

If you have an Apple or Android device, simply browse to this page on that device and click on either the "Add to Apple Wallet" button (iPhone or iPad) or the "Add to WalletPasses" button (Android) and it will go through the process of adding a digital version of your VFW membership card to your device.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our Annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card on their smart phone.

# Ground broken for Puller Veterans Care Center

By Rick Raskin

At a ceremony attended by many members of the veterans community and Fauquier County officials the long struggle to build a Northern Virginia veterans care center finally came to fruition. On October 24, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe led a group of 22 dignitaries in breaking ground for the new Puller Veterans Care Center at Vint Hill.

Chesty Puller VFW Post 1503 in Dale City opened the ceremony with a color guard and presentation of the colors. That was followed by the National Anthem sung by Ms. Carrie Ann Alford and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Martha Puller Downs. Commissioner John Newby of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services served as master of ceremonies. Speakers included Fauquier County Board of Supervisors Chairman Richard Gerhardt, Virginia House of Delegates members Scott Lingamfelter and Rich Anderson and Virginia Senator Bryce Reeves. The keynote address was delivered by Governor Terry McAuliffe.

Members of Warrenton VFW Post 9835 and Manassas Park Post 1811 were in attendance as were State Commander Mike Boehme, State Junior Vice Commander Rick Raskin and District 10 Commander Chuck Wilson. It was also a pleasure to see retired Virginia Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Vince Burgess attending.

Scheduled for completion in early 2020, the Puller Veterans Care Center will be built on the former Vint Hill Farms Station in Fauquier County, which previously served as a United States Army and National Security Agency facility. The site played a critical role in eavesdropping on enemy communications during World War II, when it intercepted a message that helped lead to the D-Day invasion of Normandy. The new care center will deliver top-quality care to Virginia veterans in a home-like setting. The 128-bed facility will feature all private rooms that will be organized into households and neighborhoods that surround a central community center.



(L-R) Post 1503 Commander Tim Brown, State Commander Mike Boehme, The Post 1503 Color Guard, District 10 Commander Chuck Wilson, State Junior Vice Commander Rick Raskin



Governor Terry McAuliffe delivered the keynote address.



Twenty-two dignitaries participated in the groundbreaking ceremony.



Artist's concept of the front entrance.



Governor Terry McAuliffe and Ms. Martha Puller Downs

## Upcoming Events

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
November 2	Executive Meeting – 7 pm
November 3	9:15 am: Salute to Veterans at Manassas Christian School 9296 W. Carondelet Dr., Manassas Park, 20111
November 4	Veteran’s parade – 11:00a m — Meet between 9—9:30 am at the Post Home
November 6	6:30 pm: Dinner for Veterans and Auxiliary at the Post before the Nov. General Membership Meeting at 7:30 pm.
November 8	8:00 am – 10:30 am: Veterans, teachers and students at Mayfield Intermediate School, 9400 Mayfield Ct., Manassas 20110. Visit to Manassas Senior Center at 12:30 pm
November 9	1:30 – 3:00 pm: Salute to Veterans, Round Elementary School, 10100 Hastings Dr., Manassas 20110.
November 10	2:00 pm – 7:00 pm: Buddy Poppy Drive, Centreville Giant, 14125 St. Germain Dr., Centreville, 20121.
November 11	Veterans Day Activities - 8:30 am - Manassas Veterans Memorial – 9 am Cemetery  <b>Buddy Poppy Drives:</b> Centreville Giant, 11 am-4 pm (Auxiliary) 10 am – 2 pm: Stone Road Giant , 5615 Stone Rd., Centreville (VFW) Noon – 5:00 pm: Woodbine Food Lion, 13490 Dumfries Rd. (Rt. 234), Manassas (VFW)
November 12	Buddy Poppy Drives: 11 am– 4pm — Centreville Giant (Auxiliary)
November 16	Youth Committee 7 pm
November 16-19	Southern Conference, Biloxi, Mississippi
November 19	District 8 Meeting at 1:00 pm –Post 7728 – (Lunch at noon)
November 30	Wreaths Across America Fundraiser <b>(Deadline)</b>
November 30	Executive Meeting – 7 pm
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
December 2	Manassas, VA Christmas Parade <b>(TBD)</b>
December 3	VOD/PP/Teachers Awards — 4 pm – Auxiliary will provide the Refreshments
December 4	Post Meeting 7:30 pm Auxiliary Meeting - 6 pm - City Tavern
December 7	Pearl Harbor Day
December 9	Flag Retirement — Post Home — 9 am
December 16	Wreaths at Quantico Cemetery - 12 noon
December 17	Post’s Holiday Party <b>(TBD)</b>
December 28	Executive meeting 7:30 pm



KNOW YOUR VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE

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

Virginia Department of Veterans



Services Manassas Office

9300 W. Courthouse Rd.

# CANNON NEWS

The official publication of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
 Francis Cannon Post No. 7589  
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[\[Click Here\]](#) To be added to our email distribution.

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Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to [quartermaster@vfw7589.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfw7589.org)

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



**WREATHS across AMERICA**

Tax ID: 20-8362270

**Wreath Sponsorship Form**

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

(To receive our FREE email newsletter)

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

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

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

**In Honor of:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Email or Mailing address

**In Memory of:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

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

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

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

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

GEN:



### **SPONSOR A WREATH FOR A VETERAN'S GRAVE**

Since 2007, Wreaths Across America carries out its mission **REMEMBER** the fallen, **HONOR** those that serve and **TEACH** our children the value of **FREEDOM** in part by placing wreaths on veterans' graves during the holiday season.

The **Francis Cannon Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589** is working with Wreaths Across America to help place more wreaths than ever before on Veterans' graves at **Quantico National Cemetery**. **Deadline Date is November 30, 2017.**

On **Saturday, December 16, 2017**, Wreaths Across America ceremonies will take place at over 1200 locations in the USA and beyond.

**Sponsorships are \$15 each.** We are participating because we think it is a great program and \$5 of every sponsorship will support the Francis Cannon Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589 directly so we may continue to assist veterans and families as well as our community.

**PLEASE JOIN US** -- All wreaths will be placed by volunteers on **Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 12 Noon at Quantico National Cemetery**. This is a moving experience that you should make part of your holiday tradition. With your help our local heroes will be remembered this Holiday Season. **How many sponsorships can we count on you for?**

For more information visit [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org), or call 877-385-9504.  
You can also email [infor@wreathscrossamerica.org](mailto:infor@wreathscrossamerica.org)