

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
November 2018



Rod Burr, Lou Filippone and Pete MacLeod at the Manassas Fall Jubilee

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

Commander's Message



Wayne Moore

Comrades,

Twice a year special homage is paid to those who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. On Memorial Day or Decoration Day (as celebrated elsewhere)

we remember the people who died while serving in the country's Armed Forces. On Veterans Day we observe and honor military veterans or persons who served/are serving in the United States Armed Forces. Veterans Day coincides with other holidays, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day around the world.

With your indulgence, my monthly comments will be somewhat on a personal level. Like most of you, I entered the military at the age of 18 (my choice). I am the 6th of eight (8) boys born to my parents. Of the eight, six (6) have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces for a combined 88 years. In addition, my son served in the Navy 4 years and the Virgin Islands Army National Guards for over 17 years with several tours to Afghanistan. Of the 88 years, my service time accounts for almost half serving in the Army and the Navy. From Vietnam to Afghanistan I have lost many friends and seen the atrocities of war.

No matter drafted or volunteered we served for one common purpose, our country, and the preservation of its' way of life. I often ponder the various meanings of "Way of Life" as perceived and applied to what should be our common purpose. No, comrades, I have no remorse or regrets. I would gladly give another 36 years in hopes that we could live true to the better ideals of our democracy and truly honor those who served in defense of all human rights.

Veterans Day for some reason makes me more nostalgic than Memorial Day. My most vivid recall is one morning in mid-2007 in Iraq, only minutes removed from our daily banter; I stood in the Tactical Operation Center (TOC) and witnessed a young soldier's demise from an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). I clearly understood the dangers of war risks with

rolling out the wire, but the abrupt and violent toss of the Humvee sent a wave of chills through me. We'd spent numerous mornings, sometimes evenings sharing experiences. Perhaps I was an anomaly as he expressed not having known people like me up close and personal. The death of this young soldier barely in his twenties. led me to pen a rough version of the following prose:

A Soldier Died

*Today yet another soldier died
A mother, a wife, a child soon the news
they'll hear
The family all will shed a tear
They'll look to the sky and ask the
Lord why
There'll be no replies; no one knows
wherein our destinies lie*

*There is sadness, but you'll come to
understand
This madness has been far removed
from your hands
Soldiers do as the orders dictate, seldom
with hardly a fuss
None do it for money, though some for
power and fame
But on the battlefield, all lives are the
same*

*A soldier does what they must do
Death comes to the unlucky few
Whether by a stray bullet or a fierce
firefight
Sometimes by an IED hid from sight
He fights for his country and a belief in
what's right
Wishing he's at his best this given night
Death is to life as the need for air is to
breathe
No one ever promises this s*** would
be fair
In battle, if you must go
You'd want it to be after the other
b***** hits the floor
The sound of bullets ring by your ears
Not once did you pause and consider
your fears*

*The outcome of the skirmish is usually
unknown*

*Till recognizing a familiar face and
now you're not alone*

*The confusion of battle subsides as the
dust clears*

*Things aren't so bleak, as they once
appeared*

*The shooting ceases; thanking God for
this moment of peace*

When all is said and done

Tonight, you were the lucky one

You look to your left then to your right

Damn my battle buddy not sight

*You stifle your shout at the thought at
what might be*

And begin to search frantically

*No this can't be true for he knew what
to do*

You touch his head as he lay there dead

*A friend, a son, a good soldier went to
be mourned*

Now as this soldier is laid to rest

*Will America remember him as one of
their best*

*Or simply pin a medal on a dead man's
chest*

Not someone who died this night

*But a soldier who supported his coun-
try's fight*

And the cause of the Iraqi's plight

*The Bugler plays Taps, and all will
stand*

*With sorrow, we say farewell to this
living Hell and*

*My friend, a soldier, this man
For soldiers do what they must for*

Freedom and You

*Yes, let's not forget the RED, WHITE,
and BLUE*

By: WFM (CW03)

Iraq, FOB Normandy

6-9 CAW (Sabers)

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill

It is with a heavy heart and sadness that I have to report on the passing of Past Department President Laine Beckwith on Sunday, October 14, 2018. A memorial service and celebration of life was held at VFW Post 3219, Hampton, VA on Saturday, October 27th. She was buried with "Honey" (her husband) in a private service at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA. For anyone who knew

Laine, she had a bubbling personality, always had a smile and never knew a stranger. She had visited our Post and Auxiliary on several occasions. She will be missed.

Our Fall Jubilee on October 6 was a total success!!! I would like to thank Cookie Cullen, Patsy Gough, Janet Raskin, and Yvonne Sullivan for assisting me in distributing flyers and applications to the different contests for the middle and high school students, The National Home for Children material and passing out Buddy Poppies. For the young children, we had them recite the Pledge of Allegiance and then gave them each a Young American Award, a Pledge of Allegiance bookmark, an American flag and Patriotic pencil along with other items from the Auxiliary. We achieved our mission by meeting and greeting the public and providing them with information about our organization. We also would like to welcome a new life member who joined the Auxiliary during the Fall Jubilee: **Ms. Jennifer Torres**. Again, thank you everyone for a great day!!!

For everyone who has paid their dues on the National MALTA computer system, "Thank You". If you still wish for the Auxiliary Treasurer to assist you with your payment of \$20.00, please submit your payment to Elanor Doczi at: 7415 Roxbury Ave., Manassas, VA 20109. Again, thank you in advance.

On October 13th, the Post held a flag retire-

ment ceremony with several area Scout troops attending and participating. Thank you to Troops from Manassas 670 and 1355, Clifton, Centreville and Marshall. Also, thanks to the parents for your assistance.

Since the deadline for the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and the Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Contest has passed, we want to thank all the students and teachers for participating. The awards will be presented at the Post on December 2 at 4:00pm. Refreshments will be provided by the Auxiliary.



The annual Auxiliary Wreaths Across America Fundraiser deadline is November 30. If you haven't purchased your sponsorships, please consider doing so. 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 15. Order forms can be printed from our website at www.vfw7589.org. or you can also contact Ginger Harvey at 571/285-6243 or gch1130@aol.com. To learn more about WAA or to pay for your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/> and remember to include our **Sponsoring Group ID No. VA0040P** and **Cemetery ID No. VAQNCT**. Hope to see you there to assist in laying wreaths. Thank you in advance for your support.

There are several events in November starting off with an 8:00 breakfast on November 3rd before the Manassas Veterans Day Parade at 11am. The Auxiliary would like to invite members of the Post to celebrate Veterans Day and the Auxiliary's 20th Anniversary on November 5th (our monthly meeting day) at 6:30pm with a spaghetti dinner. The executive meeting will be at the Post at 7:00pm and the regular meeting will start at 7:30pm.



The Auxiliary will hold their annual Buddy Poppy drive on Saturday, November 10th at the Giant in Centreville from 9am-3pm. Our second Buddy Poppy drive will

be held on Sunday, November 11th at Westgate Giant from 10am-3pm. Please let me know if you will be available to assist in this event. On Monday, November 12th, the Post and Auxiliary will lay a wreath at the Veterans Memorial at 8:30am and then travel to the Manassas Cemetery to place a wreath at Francis Cannon's grave site and replace old flags on Veteran's grave sites throughout the cemetery.

I want to remind everyone of the 8th District meeting to be held on Saturday, November 17th at Fredericksburg Post 3103 with lunch being served at noon and the joint meeting at 1:00pm.



The Auxiliary's December meeting (Christmas party) will be held at the Yorkshire Restaurant at 6:00pm.

Please bring a gift for exchange (not to exceed \$10 in value). Please RSVP and let me know if you will be able to attend this annual December 3rd event. We look forward to a little social time with friends. There is also the Post Holiday party at Stonewall Golf Club on December 16th starting at 3:00pm. In order to know how many individuals will be attending the party, you will have to RSVP. Please see page 8 for details.



There isn't much time before the life membership to the VFW National Home for Children of \$35 will increase to \$50. The VFW and Auxiliary have the National Home for Children high on their list for assisting veterans and their families. For several years our Auxiliary has held a Life Membership to the National Home. We would like to see the Post and other individuals become life members as well.

I am saddened to report Ms. Debbie Baxter's mother-in-law went to her heavenly home on September 30th. Please keep her and other Auxiliary and/or family members who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers.

THANK YOU VETERANS

Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone

Greetings to all comrades from the Youth Committee. This is an intensely busy time of year for all of us with the approaching holidays. This also holds true for the Youth Committee with all the scheduled contests, Veteran's Day, and

other activities. Our last meeting was held on 18 October. Once again we had a great turnout. The meeting was attended by Past Commander Peter MacLeod, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, Comrades Warren Ewell, Dave Mattingly, Roger Nicol, Kelly Williams, and myself. The discussion focused on the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year contests since the deadline for entries is 31 October, followed immediately by Post judging.

We recently held a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Post on Saturday, 13 October at 9:00 AM. It was a tremendous success due to the hard work and volunteerism of notable individuals from our Post and with the participation of several area Scout Troops and Packs. I would like to thank Marshall Williams, Kelly's son, who presented the flag education lecture and did an outstanding job. I would also like to extend a big thank you to all the members who helped with this event. I would like to thank Marshalls mom and dad Donna and Kelly Williams, Peter and Jean MacLeod and Mary Corkhill for all their dedication and commitment. As Peter MacLeod described it, the fire burned well and did not leap out of the burn barrel. The Scouts were well behaved and enthusiastic. Peter mentioned that everyone seemed pleased and had a good experience. Jean got the supplies and refreshments and the event concluded by about 11:00 AM with clean-up until 11:30 AM. Approximately 20-25 Scouts and 15 adult leaders participated. The Scout units that participated were:

Troop 670 (Manassas), Troop 30 (Centreville), Clifton Boy Scout Troop, (Cub Scout Pack 1372 (Manassas Park), and Cub Scout Pack 1355 (Manassas).

Just a reminder, we will be having our Spring Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Post on Saturday, 27 April 2019. Hope to see many of you there.

At this time the Youth Committee is busy collecting applications for our youth essay and teacher contests. We anticipate Post judging to begin on Friday, 2 November. If any one is interested in volunteering as a judge please let me or Peter MacLeod know as soon as possible. The talent evident when judging these essays is quite impressive and many times picking the winners is extremely difficult because there are so many great entries. Post judging must be completed by 15 November and completion of District judging by 15 December. The Post Awards Ceremony will be held at the Post on Sunday, 2 December at 4:00 PM. As you know our guest speaker this year will be Comrade Paul Chase who will give a presentation on "POW's of the American Revolution". The District 8 Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, 16 February 2019 at Post 7728 in Morrisville. We hope to have a lot of applicants this year from our Post which qualifies us to advance some them to the District level. Every fifteen applicants at the Post level enables us to advance one candidate to the District level so the more applicants we have the better. We should also have Post Teacher of the Year candidates from all three grade categories K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 again this year, which is good news.

Veterans Week is also a very important and busy time for both the VFW and the Youth Committee. This year we will be participating in Veterans speaker programs at area schools. Comrades from our Post give presentations to the area school children. The following schools are scheduled for this event:

Friday, 9 November, 8:00 AM Mayfield Intermediate School

Friday, 9 November, 9:30 AM Manassas Christian School

Friday, 9 November, 2:00 PM Round Elementary School

Anyone interested in participating with the speakers program please contact Jerry Martin or anyone on the Youth Committee, including myself. Other Veterans Week activities that involve our youth are the Veterans Day Service at the Manassas Vet-

erans Monument and the Francis Cannon Service and Flag Placements at Manassas Cemetery, Manassas. They will involve the Post Auxiliary and Boy Scouts and are scheduled for Monday, 12 November at 8:30 AM and 9:00 AM respectively. These are two of the final activities scheduled for Veterans Week and serve as solemn recognition for our fallen Comrades.

Lastly, I would like to bring to your attention an activity being promoted by Comrade Dave Mattingly. It is being conducted by the Travis Manion Foundation, Operation Legacy Manassas, VA - Fall 2018, and is a service project scheduled for Saturday, 10 November at 8:30 AM.

Location: Liberia House Walking Trail, 8601 Portner Ave, Manassas, VA 20110.

Volunteers from Travis Manion Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project, American Legion, VFW, and other community organizations will spend the day honoring our veterans by extending the Liberia Home Trails and other projects on the grounds. All volunteers, including Scouts, are welcome to participate. You can register online at:

<https://www.travismanion.org/community-engagement/operation-legacy/manassas/>

Our next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 15 November 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Post. We could certainly use and welcome any time and assistance you can give us. Stay well and active and we'll see you at the next meeting.

With best regards,
Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

2019 Youth Essay Themes

Voice of Democracy:
"Why My Vote Matters"

Patriot's Pen:
"Why I Honor the American Flag."

Manassas Fall Jubilee — October 6



Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill converses with a veteran about what the VFW and Auxiliary do for the community.



Interviewing a prospective Auxiliary member.



Trick or Treat bags — always popular with the crowd.



Lou Filippone and some enthusiastic Trick or Treaters



(L-R) Janet Raskin, Cookie Cullen, Patsy Gough and Yvonne Sullivan

Donation of a Car to a Needy Veteran

By Paul Chase



A very happy Howard family with Ms. McEachern and Comrade Paul Chase

VFW Post 7589 Post members have a well deserved reputation of taking advantage of opportunities to help needy and deserving veterans. Through the Post’s membership with the Manassas InterService Club Council (ISCC) we participated in the donation of a 2005 Audi A-3 to Cinclair Howard, a local Army Iraqi and Korean Service veteran.

The donation was initiated by Mr. Chester Smith of Manassas, a member of the ISCC, who has a huge reputation for volunteer service to the local community. In fact, he has been a great contributor to Post 7589’s aluminum can tab collection program for the Manassas Host Lions Club.

For the car donation, Mr. Smith alerted Ms. Roberta McEachern of the Independence Empowerment Center of Manassas about the fact that his daughter-in-law, Ms. Carol Smith, had a car and wanted it donated to a veteran. Paul Chase, the Post’s ISCC representative, worked with Ms. McEachern to facilitate the donation of the car and to get it into the hands of Mr. Howard.



October 13: Comrade Paul Chase distributed literature for Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year contests at the Manassas area Scholarship Fair held at American Legion Post 10.

Flag Retirement—October 13



Flag education class was held prior to the retirement ceremony.



Preparing for the ceremony. Nylon flags which cannot be burned because of toxic fumes had their star fields removed before being disposed.



Cloth flags are retired by being burned. The ashes are then buried.

VFW Southern Conference—October 19-20— Louisville, KY



State Line Officers at the Southern Conference in Louisville, KY. (L-R) Surgeon Eddie Reasor, Judge Advocate Butch Shupska, JVC Eric Mallett, Commander Ken Wiseman, SVC Rick Raskin, QM Tom Gimble and Chief of Staff Tom Hines.



Senator Mitch McConnell received the VFW Gold Award from SVCiC Doc Schmitz.



Senator Mitch McConnell speaks to the attendees about standing up for our values as Americans and preserving veterans' entitlements.

Annual BURGER KING® Fundraiser Set to Begin Nov. 1

Franchises support America's military families through the VFW's Unmet Needs program

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (October 29, 2018) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is pleased to announce that for the twelfth consecutive year, participating BURGER KING® franchisees will be raising funds throughout the month of November for the VFW's Unmet Needs program. Patrons are encouraged to donate \$1 or more to the program upon checkout. The fundraising campaign officially begins Nov. 1, and last year raised nearly \$800,000.

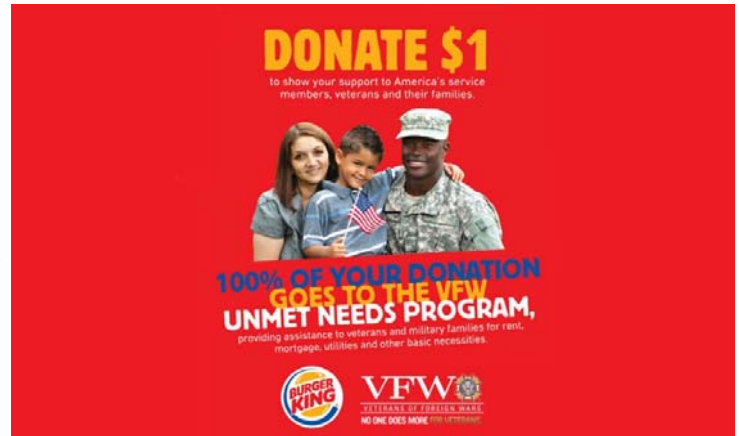
“America’s military and veteran families have given so much to our country, and not being able to make their rent or mortgage payment is a stress they shouldn’t have,” said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. “Every year, BURGER KING® franchisees and their loyal patrons set the bar of support higher and higher, helping to ensure the VFW can keep meeting the needs of America’s service members and veterans and provide them with the support they deserve.”

The Unmet Needs program provides financial assistance to service members and military families during times of financial hardship, providing them financial grants 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 \$10.5 million in aid to nearly 9,000 service members, veterans and their families.

Since 2007, BURGER KING® franchisees have raised more than \$5.3 million in support of the program. More than 1,000 locations nationwide participated in last year’s fundraising campaign with even higher participation expected this year.

[Find a participating BURGER KING® franchise near you.](#)

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1CQ1MHxd_myMVz9xal_QfaAVWhws



Post/Auxiliary Holiday Party

The Post and Auxiliary will hold our annual Holiday Party on December 16, 2017 from 3:00 – 6:00 PM at the **City Tavern** in Manassas.

Tickets entitling members and one guest each will be distributed at the December 3rd meetings of the Post and Auxiliary.

You must attend your appropriate meeting to get a ticket.

Please contact Commander Moore or President Corkhill by December 3 if you cannot attend your meeting. Exceptions will be on a case by case basis.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact either Commander Moore or President Corkhill.

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

VFW Tops \$8.3 Billion in VA Benefits Recoveries for Veterans

More than 500,000 veterans and transitioning military represented by the VFW in FY 2018

WASHINGTON (Oct. 23, 2018) – The Department of Veterans Affairs has reported that more than a half-million veterans represented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. this past fiscal year received in excess of \$8.3 billion in VA disability compensation and pension benefits, which far exceeds last year's record recovery of \$7.7 billion.

"The VFW advocates for veterans in many ways, from lobbying Congress to create good quality of life legislation for America's veterans, service members and their families and survivors, to helping veterans and transitioning service members receive the VA benefits they earned after they return home wounded, ill or injured," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "For nearly a century — and a full decade before the VA's predecessor organization was created — the VFW has helped veterans understand and file for their government benefits, a service that is needed now just as much as it was then."

The VFW accredits an international network of more than 2,000 highly-trained and professional veterans' advocates whose mission is to help service members, veterans, and their eligible family members receive their earned VA benefits, explained Lawrence. VFW's accredited advocates can be found in every VA Regional Offices and dozens of VA health care facilities. Many state and county service officers also carry a VFW accreditation to ensure that VFW claimants can receive timely assistance closer to home. In fiscal year 2018, VFW's accredited service officers filed more than 109,000 new claims for VFW claimants, resulting in \$1.4 billion in new benefits paid to veterans.

In addition to assisting veterans at VA Regional Offices and in the community, the VFW places a special focus on helping transitioning service members file for their benefits on 24 military installations through the VFW Pre-Discharge Claims Program. Last year, the VFW's Pre-Discharge Claims Representatives filed nearly 15,000 claims for separating service members, resulting in more than \$155 million in disability compensation.

"Once a veteran chooses to be represented by the VFW, we commit to provide you with a 'Lifetime of Advocacy' in navigating and understanding your earned VA benefits," said VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci. "When life circumstances change, if new conditions emerge, or if VA asks to reevaluate a condition, your VFW-accredited representative will be there to help. If you disagree with your rating decision, we'll help you appeal," he said. "Even after you pass away, the VFW will be there to help your family understand their benefits and how the VA can honor your memory. This is our commitment to our clients, and just one of the ways we prove that 'No One Does More for Veterans than the VFW.'"

In order to provide this "Lifetime of Advocacy," the VFW provides up to 80 hours of classroom training every year to its VFW-

accredited representatives stationed at the VA's 56 Regional Offices and on 24 of the military's largest installations. In 2019, the VFW will expand its reach to all VFW-accredited representatives through a new online learning platform, just in time for the 100th anniversary of the VFW's benefits assistance program.

By law, VFW's accredited claims assistance is provided free of charge and under no obligation to any honorably discharged veteran, regardless of VFW membership status.

Take Action: Vote in the Midterm Elections

Background: Midterm elections will be held on Nov. 6 and the VFW encourages all its members and supporters to get involved. Improving veterans and military quality of life programs must be a priority for all members of Congress. With continued threat of sequestration, deficit reduction, and budget cuts that affect veterans, the military, and their families, it is important to support members of Congress who support us.

Take Action: These are a few ways you can get involved:

- Register to vote and encourage others to register.
- Set up or volunteer at voter registration drives.
- Host or attend town hall meetings or candidate forums; bring up VFW priorities.
- Help the elderly and disabled get to the voting booth on Election Day.
Vote on Nov. 6.

Important resources:

- Voter registration information: www.eac.gov
- Voter assistance for military and their families: www.fvap.gov
- VFW Priority Goals: www.vfw.org/LegislativePriorities
- VFW Veterans Vote brochure: [/capwiz.com/vfw/utr/1/JJPBBVMLRC/HQHDBBVMMOG/11753489036](http://capwiz.com/vfw/utr/1/JJPBBVMLRC/HQHDBBVMMOG/11753489036)



From the



Vietnam War Marine Receives Medal of Honor:

President Trump presented retired Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. John L. Canley the Medal of Honor at the White House on Wednesday before a crowd of Canley's fellow Vietnam veterans and senior military and civilian officials. The Marines who fought alongside Canley in the Battle of Huế had worked for years to see him receive the award – an upgrade of the Navy Cross he was awarded in 1970. Canley, now 80, is the 300th Marine to receive the Medal of Honor. On Jan. 31, 1968, with his company commander severely wounded, then-Gunnery Sgt. Canley took control of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, as it made its way toward the besieged city of Huế in central Vietnam. For the next six days, writes Stars and Stripes, Canley would organize assaults on enemy positions, killing countless enemy fighters as his team retook buildings in the city, according to award citations. Twice he would brave fire to scale a wall in “full view of the enemy to pick up wounded Marines and carry them to safety,” said the president, adding that Canley had saved at least 20 Marines' lives during the “house-to-house” fighting.

VFW National Commander Writes Op-ed on Lack of GI Bill Payments

The VFW's National Commander B.J. Lawrence wrote an op-ed in Military Times regarding student veterans not receiving their tuition and housing payments. Lawrence highlighted the importance of these payments so students can pay their tuition, rent, and childcare on time without fear of financial penalties. This is not the first time VA has faced severe backlogs in claims, and Lawrence called for attention to this issue so it doesn't happen again in the spring semester. In the op-ed he wrote about the steps student veterans need to take to help rectify their financial hardships from the lack of GI Bill payments. [Read the op-ed on Page 9.](#) If you are a student veteran facing financial hardships due to this issue, please contact 1studentveteran@vfw.org.

VFW Meets with CEO of Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation

Michael “Rod” Rodriguez, an Army veteran and VFW member who was recently named President and CEO of the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation, visited the VFW's Washington, D.C. office this week to provide an update on the foundation's progress. “Building a memorial is a 24-step process,” Rodriguez said. “We are on steps 9 through 12, which is site selection. Site selection involves the foundation itself coming together with a program and going before the various commissions that exist within this area.” Rodriguez says the GWOT Memorial Founda-

tion is trying to raise \$50 million for the project, which received the support of President Trump in August 2017 when he signed the VFW-supported *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Act* into law.

TRICARE Prime and Select Open Season

Beginning on Nov. 12, TRICARE will kick off its first open season where Prime and Select beneficiaries can enroll in or change their health care coverage plan for 2019. The open season period will last until Dec. 10 and any changes made during this period will become effective on Jan. 1, 2019. If you are satisfied with your current plan then your coverage will continue automatically for 2019, as long as you remain eligible for coverage.

Korea Update

On Thursday (October 25), the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the United Nations Command announced that as a part of a compromise reached in September, troops and weapons have been removed from the Joint Security Area near the village of Panmunjom. This disarmament was one of the many conditions agreed to last month during a summit between the defense ministers of the two Koreas and the U.N. Command. Additional provisions include creating buffer zones, land and sea boundaries, establishing a no-fly zone above the border, removing some of their front-line guard posts and opening the Joint Security Area up to tourists. Earlier this month North and South Korea began a separate demining operation near Hill 281, also known as Arrowhead Hill. Once demining operations have been completed, joint operations will begin in order to recover the remains of more than 300 sets of U.S., Korean and U.N. allies believed to be buried there. General Vincent Brooks, commander for U.S. Forces Korea and U.N. Command, applauded the action stating that, “The area around this hill contains the fallen from several countries, and returning them to their countries and families is a top priority for me.”

VA, Partners Offer Flu Shot

Veterans enrolled in VA and in need of their flu shot can receive it at their nearest VA health care facility or at their local Walgreens. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, VA and doctors suggest all individuals get their flu shot during the fall. This is particularly true for individuals over the age of 65, pregnant women, caregivers of infants or family members with health problems, health care employees, and people with heart problems and other chronic illnesses or conditions.

VFW: VA must fix Forever GI Bill debacle

B. J. Lawrence

VFW Commander in Chief

The following op-ed appeared in Military Times:

<https://rebootcamp.militarytimes.com/news/education/2018/10/26/vfw-va-must-fix-forever-gi-bill-debacle/>

Over the past few weeks, the VFW has heard directly from too many veterans who have yet to receive their tuition and housing payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs for this fall semester, which student veterans rely on to pay rent and other living costs. Unfortunately, VA was not straightforward with student veterans affected by these financial hardships until the VFW called attention to it earlier this month.

VA has been giving mixed messages regarding the solution to the problem, and student veterans are rightfully wondering when they will get paid. Some veterans have asked the VFW for help through our Unmet Needs emergency grant program, but there's a more practical solution: Call the VA's GI Bill Helpline.

Veterans who are experiencing delayed payments need to call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551) and ask VA to process their education benefit claim immediately due to a financial hardship.

VA has assured us that these claims will be processed within the next business day and that student veterans can expect prompt payments of their benefits within five business days. If VA does not resolve this issue quickly, then I encourage veterans to then contact the VFW at lstudentveteran@vfw.org, at which point the VFW's casework team has the authority to intervene on their behalf with VA Education Service.

Since VA instituted the process for claiming financial hardships, the VFW has seen expedited processing for the veterans who initially contacted us. As veterans' advocates, we highly encourage veterans and beneficiaries to stay on the line and tell VA they are experiencing a financial hardship. When faced with mounting bills, rent or mortgage payments, or childcare dis-enrollments, this process is well worth the effort.

How did we get here and what are we doing to prevent it from happening again? Last summer, Congress passed the Forever GI Bill with the goal of significantly improving veterans' education benefits. These changes required VA to make swift changes to its education benefit processing systems. Unfortunately, in late July, VA's new processing systems were not working properly. This prompted schools to hold onto GI Bill certifications longer than usual. Finally, VA encouraged schools to submit their certifications, opening the floodgates.

VA is now working nights and weekends to process these benefits payments as quickly as possible — and they are yielding results. Since Oct. 1, the backlog of claims has been reduced from more than 200,000 to just over 120,000 — and this includes new

claims that come in every day. That being said, this still means thousands of veterans are still waiting for their much-needed living stipend payments — some more than 60 days.

These delays have happened before when VA implemented major upgrades to education benefits. VA must learn from its previous mistakes and cannot afford a repeat debacle in the spring semester. That's why the VFW recently called on Congress to hold a hearing on the GI Bill delays and urged the Senate to swiftly pass the SIT-REP Act of 2018 to ensure schools cannot drop veterans from their rolls because of VA processing delays or errors.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has heeded our call for a hearing, currently scheduled on Nov. 14, at which time VA must be accountable for fixing this problem forever.



B. J. Lawrence—VFW Commander in Chief

Manassas Ballet Theatre offers free admission to veterans

Opening night of "The Nutcracker" includes Salute to the Military



As the holiday season approaches, so does the rich pageantry of Manassas Ballet Theatre's *The Nutcracker*! MBT's *Nutcracker* is a classic, family version that is annually the best attended performing arts production in Northern Virginia.

Anchored by the dancers of MBT, Northern Virginia's largest professional ballet company, the story of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince comes alive with the help of an ensemble cast and the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra. Known for its exquisite costumes, choreography and scenery, MBT's production of *The Nutcracker* has become Northern Virginia's go-to family holiday tradition.

Twelve performances to choose from at the beautiful and accessible Hylton Performing Arts Center .

<http://hylton.calendar.gmu.edu/Manassas-Ballet-Theatre--The-Nutcracker/2018/12/cvpa-hpac/300984775/>

MBT offers discounts for: Active and Retired Military; employees of PWC, City of Manassas, Federal government and major Corporate Sponsors; Scouts and groups of 10+. Please contact MBT at 703-257-1811 or at info@manassasballet.org for more information.

Salute to the Military (December 13)

Salute to the Military is our annual opening night ceremony of *Nutcracker* that celebrates and thanks all military members and branches for their service. This moving entre 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.

Active duty military, veterans and first responders are invited to attend at no charge, with accompanying tickets offered at 25% off.

On the Hylton website use the code SERVICE to access this special offer.

https://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?or-gid=42969&agency=GMU_HYLTON&event_val=19HYLMBT&day_value=12132018-12232018&_ga=2.146903479.1277578160.1536594959-1602522040.1530398020

The Manassas Ballet Theatre's artistic director and CEO Amy Wolfe and Executive Director Mark Wolfe's son Colin was a Marine who was killed in Iraq by a roadside bomb. Manassas VFW Post 7589 makes an annual donation to the Ballet in his memory.

Auxiliary 7589 receives 3rd place award in Buddy Poppy display art contest



Department Auxiliary President Patty Baskett and Department Commander Ken Wiseman presented Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill the Buddy Poppy Display Art 3rd place award on October 13 at the Commander's & President's homecoming in Crozet, Virginia.

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER	
November 3	Breakfast for the Troops, Post 7589 — 8 AM Manassas Veteran's Parade — 11 AM
November 5	Executive Meeting - 7:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meetings - 7:30 PM
Veterans Day Weekend Activities November 10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 11/9, 8 am: Veteran’s program, Mayfield I. School • Friday 11/9, 9:30 am: Veteran’s program, Manassas Christian School • Friday, 11/9, 11:00 am: Veteran’s program, Sudley Manor Assisted Living • Friday, 11/9, 2:00 pm: Veteran’s program at Round School • Friday, 11/9, 2-7 pm: Buddy Poppy distribution, Giant Store on St. Germain in Centreville and the Giant Store on Stone Rd. in Centreville.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday, 11/10, 9am – 3pm: Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Drive at Centreville Giant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday., 11/11, 10am – 3pm: Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Drive at Westgate Giant • Sunday, 11/11, 2-6 pm: Buddy Poppies at Food Lion, 13490 Dumfries Rd.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday, 11/12, 8:30 am: Veterans Day service at Manassas Veterans Monument, Main St., Manassas. W/Scouts and Auxiliary • Monday, 11/12, 9:00 am: Francis Cannon Service and Flag Placements at Manassas Cemetery, Manassas. W/Scouts and Auxiliary • Monday, 11/12, 1:30 pm: Veterans Day service at Caton Merchant’s House Assisted Living Center, 9201 Portner Ave. Manassas. w/Auxiliary.
November 15	Youth Committee - 7:00 PM
November 17	8th District Meeting - Post 3103, Fredericksburg - Lunch 12:00 Noon, Meeting 1:00 PM
November 29	Auxiliary 7589's 20th Anniversary
November 30	Deadline for Wreaths Across America orders
DECEMBER	
December 3	Executive Meeting - 7:00 PM, Post Meeting - 7:30 PM
December 7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 13	“The Nutcracker”—Opening Night — See Page 12 for veteran discounts
December 16	Post / Auxiliary Holiday Party—City Tavern 3—6 PM
JANUARY 2019	
January 7	Executive Meeting - 7:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meetings - 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.
703-479-7437



CANNON NEWS

The official publication of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
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Cannon News is emailed to Post and Auxiliary members with email addresses on file.

[\[Click Here\]](#) To be added to our email distribution.

Cannon News is also available on our website www.vfw7589.org

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Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to quartermaster@vfw7589.org no later than the 28th of the month.

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



WREATHS across AMERICA

Tax ID: 20-8362270

Wreath Sponsorship Form

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

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

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

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

(To receive our FREE email newsletter)

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

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

In Honor of:

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

Email or Mailing address

In Memory of:

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

Branch of Service _____ Rank _____

State: _____

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash: _____ Total \$ _____ Date: _____

Total # Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____

MO \$: _____

Entered: _____

GEN:



SPONSOR A WREATH FOR A VETERAN'S GRAVE

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

The **Francis Cannon Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589** is working with Wreaths Across America to help place more wreaths than ever before on Veterans' graves at **Quantico National Cemetery**. **Deadline Date is November 30, 2018.**

On **Saturday, December 15, 2018**, Wreaths Across America ceremonies will take place at over 1200 locations in the USA and beyond.

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

PLEASE JOIN US -- All wreaths will be placed by volunteers on **Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 12 Noon at Quantico National Cemetery**. This is a moving experience that you should make part of your holiday tradition. With your help our local heroes will be remembered this Holiday Season. **How many sponsorships can we count on you for?**

For more information visit www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org, or call 877-385-9504.
You can also email infor@wreathscrossamerica.org