

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
December 2015

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Commander Pete MacLeod speaks to Cub Scouts from Pack 1355 at our Veterans Day Ceremony.

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

## Commander's Message, Dec. 2015



Some random thoughts on the just completed "Veterans Week:"

I think VFW Post 7589 hit a long, long home run with the decision by Senior Vice Commander Ron Link to offer the Post headquarters as a meeting place for Veterans Parade participants on November 7. The Post had coffee and donuts available and the steady rain and cold caused a crowd of 30-40 people to jam in there for about an hour before the official start of the parade. The most amazing sight was the female veterans, who were being recognized by the Parade, talking and meeting each other. The range was from World War Two nurses to Afghanistan combat veterans. I spoke to one young veteran officer from Iraq and Afghanistan who said she was from Michigan and wanted to get home to her family but stayed an extra day in the DC area to participate in the parade. Merle Hancock and Pete Slusher, two Post 7589 World War Two veterans, had fun swapping stories with the nurses who remembered what it was like to take on Hitler and the Japanese Empire at the same time. It was a great day despite the ugly weather.

We have said it before and experienced it before but the Manassas area must be one of the most "veteran friendly" places there is. The generosity of the people shopping at the Giant Grocery store on St. Germain Ave. in Centreville was something to see. Not just the money being put into the Buddy Poppy jar but the nice words and thanks from just about everyone who passed by on that busy Friday night, Nov. 6. Comrade Lou Phillipone, who lives and works in that area, said he was amazed at the money and respect we received. Thanks also for the hard work and cheerful personality of Adjutant Paul Chase who was there with us. Comrade Terry Bursey and I found slower traffic due to the raw and damp weather but plenty of friendly people and store

## Youth News and Notes, Dec. 2015

We had 69 entries from 5 schools in the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy competition in the Manassas area this fall. The quality was as good as ever. Sebastien Cotto, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Manassas Christian School pulled off a rare feat. He finished in second place in the Manassas area competition. But VFW rules allow us to advance one student for every 15 entries to the District 8 competition. So we were able to get 4 entries into the District Patriot's Pen contest. Well, the judges at the district level fell in love with Sebastien's essay and awarded him First Place and a chance to compete at the State level. At the November 17<sup>th</sup> Youth Committee meeting we decided to let Sebastien read his essay on "What Freedom Means to Me" at our Dec. 6 awards ceremony. You will also hear from the two First Place Manassas area finishers, Juliette Orr and Brendan Rogers. The rest of the story on Sebastien is this: He placed but did not win, twice before as a sixth and seventh grader in our Patriot's Pen contest and I remember him telling me last year, he would finish First this

staff at the ACE Hardware store in the Woodbine Shopping Center in Manassas during the afternoon of Nov. 7. And Shoppers Food and Pharmacy on Liberia Ave. in Manassas was not far behind at the Buddy Poppy Drive there on Sunday, Nov. 8. It was more of a laid back Sunday morning but one young man came out and gave each of us some ice cold water and thanked us for our service. Paul and Joel Chase and Rod Gillette and I spent four hours manning the two entrances at Shoppers.

Comrade and former Post 7589 Commander Sam Nealey set it up for us and we should do more events like the presentation 3 of us made at the Caton Merchants House Assisted Living Center on Portner Ave. on the afternoon of Veterans Day. We had about 20 residents show up and Sam, Ed Fishpaw and I had a good time speaking and telling about our war experiences and then asking the people for questions. Now this was a little different then our Q and A's with the school students. These people have been through it all and demanded fuller answers than you might have to give a younger audience. Not all of the people there were veterans but most had relatives or husbands who had fought in World War Two or Korea or Vietnam. The questions were good and we had some laughs and handed out some small presents from Post 7589 but it was an appreciative audience. We ended up staying longer than the scheduled hour. The point is: There are people out there who truly need and appreciate visits and just plain talk from groups like ours.

As the holiday season approaches we all remember Christmas's spent far away from home and loved ones. I remember being very busy but still feeling it during December, 1970 in Qui Nhon on the coast of central Vietnam. But don't forget there are thousands of men and women who will be far from home this Christmas as they serve our armed forces. As we watch the frantic rush for parking spaces at the Mall and crowded stores and the buying frenzy, let's never forget the troops around the world protecting our nation.

Pete MacLeod, Commander, VFW Post 7589

year. He did!

Speaking of the December 6<sup>th</sup> Awards Ceremony, Youth Committee member Lou Phillipone has found us an excellent speaker; Lt. General Robert G. Yerks USA (Ret.) who is a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The General told me over the phone he was wounded in both wars. He has spent most of his life in Kentucky but recently moved to Haymarket. He has belonged to the VFW since 1952.

Let's give a round of applause to teacher Megan McNulty at Mayfield Intermediate School. What a veteran's recognition program she organized at the school on Nov. 10. She and other teachers and administrators greeted veterans at the door that morning and escorted them to the school library for breakfast with Mayfield students and teachers. Jack Lilley, Jerry Martin, Merle Hancock and I were treated like royalty. Some students read essays for us; others just talked and got to know us. Then

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

Ms. McNulty led us to the upper floors of the school and we met with 3 groups of students, each group had about 100. These students asked intelligent questions and, I don't care what you have heard about school behavior these days, they were well behaved and sincerely interested in what we had to say. You should have seen the attention they gave Merle Hancock as he told about his plane being shot down and life in a POW camp in Poland. The teachers and administrators are doing something right over there at Mayfield!

For the second year in a row, Quartermaster Rick Raskin and I showed movies of Vietnam to a group of about 90 fourth graders at Haydon Elementary School in Manassas. The school library is set up to show video from a portable computer and the movie finished with photos that Rick had taken on a recent visit to Vietnam to show the contrast between a land at war and one that is currently at peace and tapping into the tourist industry.

Anyone who was at the flag placement activity at Manassas Cemetery on Veterans Day morning has to appreciate the energy and

intelligence of Cub Scout Pack 1355 based at Bennett Elementary School in Manassas. There were over 100 flags placed at veterans graves that morning and lets give the Pack leader Will Sedmark and the other Scout leaders some credit. Talk about well behaved and hard working young people! And it is usually the adult supervisors who set the example for the kids. Will calls me and emails me in the weeks before Veterans Day or Memorial Day and makes sure everything is set. The Scouts not only work hard at the cemetery but they attend the ceremonies at the Manassas Veterans Memorial early in the morning.

Don't forget there is still time to nominate a teacher for VFW Citizenship Teacher of the year. The new deadline is Feb. 15, 2016. Call me at 703 220-4545 if you have a deserving teacher in mind. I can walk you through the process. And please attend the annual Youth Awards Ceremony at 4:00 pm on Sunday, Dec. 6 Lets have a big turnout for the General!

Important Note; There is no Youth Committee Meeting in December, next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 7:00 pm at Post headquarters.

## VFW Post 7589 & Auxiliary Educational Awards for 2015-16

### **Patriot's Pen (grades 6-8) "What Freedom Means to Me"**

- First Place: Juliette Cathleen Orr, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Seton School
- Second Place: Sebastien Cotto, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Manassas Christian School
- Third Place: Amelia Madai Echeverria, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Metz Middle School
- Honorable Mention: Olivia Grace Thacker, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Parkside Middle School
- Honorable Mention: Quinn C. MacGregor, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Benton Middle School

### **Voice of Democracy (grades 9-12) "My Vision for America"**

- First Place: Brendan L. Rogers, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Seton School
- Second Place: Miguel Garcia, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Seton School
- Third Place: Meridyth A. Rosato, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Seton School
- Honorable Mention: Emma G. Thomas, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Home-schooled

## VFW District 8 Youth Programs Selection Board announces the following winners:

### **Voice of Democracy**

- First Place - George P Tryfiates (Post 3103)
- Second Place - Brendan L. Rogers (Post 7589)
- Third Place - Shane M. Rice (Post 9835)

### **Patriot's Pen**

- First Place - Sebastien Cotto (Post 7589)
- Second Place - Peter Nosal (Post 9835)
- Third Place - Juliette C. Orr (Post 7589)

Winners were selected by a panel of judges representing the VFW Posts in District 8 of Virginia on Saturday, Nov. 14 in Fredericksburg.

First place winners go on to the State competition later in December.

All of these winners will be honored and receive their prizes at the Feb. 20, 2016 District 8 meeting at VFW Post 7728 at 12496 Harpers Run Road in Morrisville.

## Auxiliary President

Mary Corkhill



I wish to thank Yvonne Sullivan and Janet Raskin for assisting me with the Buddy Poppy drive at Shopper's Food on Liberia Ave. We had great success for it being the first time at that location.

On Veterans Day, I attended and participated in the Veterans Day Wreath laying ceremony with Commander Pete MacLeod at the Manassas Veterans Memorial. After the Wreath laying ceremony, we traveled to the Manassas Cemetery to place a Wreath at Francis Cannon's grave site and replace old flags with new flags at the graves of seventy other Veterans. A special thanks to Cub Scout Pack 1355 and one Daisy Scout for attending and assisting with the laying of the new flags. I hope to see them again for our Memorial Day Ceremony in May 2016.

Our fundraiser for Wreaths Across America was very successful and I would like to thank everyone for their participation. The ceremony for Wreaths will be held at Quantico National Cemetery on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm (Noon). The biggest joy is seeing the cemetery after the wreaths have been placed.

The Auxiliary congratulates the Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen contest winners. The Post will host a celebration for the winners at the Post on December 6, 2015 at 4:00pm. Refreshments will be provided by the Auxiliary and will be served after the ceremony. We are currently working on three other Scholarship programs. Two of the deadlines are February 15, 2016 for the Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award and Continuing Education Scholarship. The other deadline is for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest; **March 31, 2015**. If you wish more information about these contests, please let me know. Thank you for your support.

We will hold our third annual December dinner meeting at City Tavern, 9550 Center St., on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. There will be a gift exchange, so please bring a gift not to exceed \$10. A very short meeting will follow the dinner. Please enjoy some holiday fun with your Auxiliary sisters and brothers.

We will be passing out Holiday gifts to the veterans at Birmingham Green on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. We also will be at Arbor Terrace Sudley Manor with gifts for their Veterans. The date has not been determined but we will know by our meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Since we don't want to forget the First Responders of Manassas, we are presenting them with 40 stuffed animals.

The Post will be having a Holiday celebration at Golden Corral this year. The location is 10801 Bulloch Dr., Manassas, VA. The flyer is in the December news article with all the information. The Chairman is requesting the attendee to please RSVP by De-



ember 12<sup>th</sup>. According to the flyer, if you plan to attend the party and do not register, you will be charged \$14.50 for each person.

Click here to [RSVP online](#).

Upcoming events for the next two months are:

- Dec 3 Executive Meeting – 7pm
- Dec 5 Manassas Christmas Parade
- Dec 6 VOD/Patriots Pen – Refreshments - 4pm
- Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 7 Auxiliary Meeting - 6pm - City Tavern, 9550 Center St., Manassas
- Dec 12 Wreaths Across America, Quantico Cemetery - 12 noon
- Dec 19 Post's Holiday Party – 5pm - Golden Corral 10801 Bulloch Dr., Manassas, VA.

### 2016

- Jan 4 Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm
- Jan 14 Day on the Hill
- Jan 15-17 Winter Conference, Williamsburg, VA
- Jan 28 Executive Meeting – 7pm
- Feb 1 Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm
- Feb 9-14 Mid-Year Conference, Dominican Republic
- Feb 15 Teacher of the Year Contest & Continuing Education Scholarship (**Deadline**)
- Feb 20 District 8 Meeting 1:00pm -- Southern Fauquier Post 7728 – (Lunch at Noon)



## Notes from the trenches

Paul Chase



Rightly so, the media is full of the ugly things terrorists are doing around the world. It would not do any good for me to add my two cents to that. This is the perfect time of the year to reflect on the good things people are doing which is the subject of my words this month.

The goal for VFW Post 7589 was to collect 200,000 aluminum tabs for 2015 up from 125,000 in 2014. We are currently at about 280,000. The proceeds from the recycling of these tabs go to fund the Boston Burn Center which provides free medical services to burn victims who cannot afford their treatment. One of our major contributors in tab collection has been an organization with the somewhat strange name of Inter-Service Club Council (ISCC). I decided to become the Post representative to ISCC early in 2015. It is an organization that co-ordinates community service activities. It is in effect a force multiplier for good works. Joining this fine organization was a real eye opener for me. It currently has 27 members including our post and Post 10 of the American Legion. The amount of good and diversity of positive things done by these organizations is stunning. What is even more amazing is the great things they do for veterans that I don't think we hear about. For example: Habitat for Humanity, an ISCC member, among many other things arranges for local car dealerships to completely rehab and restore used cars for donation to families in desperate need for personal transportation. So far 12 such cars have been donated including to veterans in 2015. I had hardly heard of the Lions Club until I joined ISCC. They are a huge force for good in the community. For example: they arrange for hundreds of dentists and optometrists to give free exams to needy children. They collect large amounts of money for scholarships for deserving students that cannot afford a college education. I could fill up this whole newsletter with a list of the good things ISCC members do for the community.

## Spotlight on Jerry Martin



1968

Comrade Jerry Martin is the subject of this month's Spotlight Article. This is especially appropriate considering my article about the Inter-Service Club Council (ISCC) - Jerry is the Post 7589 nominee for the ISCC "2015 Volunteer of the Year Award" a city wide award. Jerry distinguished himself in Vietnam being awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart and numerous other medals for valor. He served as Commander of our Post from 1982-1983 and as a Life Member he can always be counted on to contribute more than others to our activities.

Jerry's 2015 volunteer activities are awesome and are the basis for his nomination. In brief they are as follows:

- Helped collect 60 Christmas presents for underprivileged children in Prince William County for the Three Kings Day celebration, a traditional gift giving day throughout the world.
- Volunteered on a weekly basis at the House of Mercy organization that distributes food and clothing to needy individuals in Prince William County.
- Served as an education volunteer with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and presented patriotic programs in Maryland, Washington DC, Stafford Virginia and Prince William County.
- Volunteered to review and judge Boy Scout/Girl Scouts of America Eagle and Golden Awards and their projects for local and district recognition.
- Helped conduct a Memorial Day Program for the Arbor Terrace Retirement Home.
- Drove to and assisted several aged veterans, one being over 100 years old, to the National WWII Memorial to participate in the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Okinawa and V-J Day.
- Helped coordinate the Wills for Veterans Program to ensure local veterans have appropriate legal documents for their survivors.
- Served as a key volunteer for the annual Manassas Veterans Day Parade, the oldest most continuous Veterans Day Parade in Northern Virginia and one of the largest on the East Coast.
- Served as a National Volunteer assisting the Kuentai/USA, a Japanese/American non-profit organization dedicated to returning Missing in Action to U.S. soil.

Jerry, you epitomize the classic "Citizen Soldier" that is so much revered in the VFW and our country. We honor you as a member of our Post and community! Best of luck on your nomination.



2014

## Service Officer's Report



With the Christmas season upon us all it is a good time to reflect on all that we have and all that we hold dear for each and every one of us. Many of our sisters and brothers with whom we have served still need that last bit of help that can best make them or their families whole again. What is that they may need? Please take a moment and simply reach out and ask them.

Ask them how they are? How is their family? Is there something going on in their lives that you as a brother or sister veteran can offer to help them with? Perhaps they are looking for a new job? Perhaps they are having trouble coping with the pressures of life?

Maybe they might need some type of help and/or guidance for that new opportunity in education or bit of training that will better qualify them for that job. Perhaps they need some type of healthcare that they cannot financially afford themselves.

These are all things that each and every one of us may need and more importantly are things that we can possibly help provide via that which they are already entitled to as a veteran. Each person is different and each has special or other needs. We would like to ensure that they get all that they may qualify for.

If you know of a fellow brother or sister veteran in need please let them know that we exist to try to assist them. Just give them our contact number or let us know and we will reach out to them..

We are in need of two more persons to step up and volunteer to

become Veteran Service Officers. Please do consider volunteering yourself for this role. We will provide all the training and information you need to be successful with helping your fellow veterans.

Our Service Officer program also exists to help and serve all veterans here in the Manassas/ Prince William area. If you know of a veteran in need please contact us and let us know.

Our number one goal is providing the best service to our veterans and their families.

Please do not hesitate to speak to any of our Veteran Service Officers and find out just what they can do for you! They are myself and :

Stephen Meade 1-703-408-0875  
Email: [so2@vfw7589.org](mailto:so2@vfw7589.org)

Our goal is simple here. We want to take care of all our veterans with the greatest level of service that our resources will allow. Thank you for your service!

If you have any questions please feel free to reach us at our VSO phone line of: 1-703-659-0849 or Email: [so@vfw7589.org](mailto:so@vfw7589.org)  
Thank you.

## Steven M. Botello

Post Service Officer  
Veteran of Foreign Wars Post # 7589  
(Office) 1-703-659-0849  
(FX) 1-703-991-0677  
Email: [SO@vfw7589.org](mailto:SO@vfw7589.org)



Sat down with Santa as a joke and said "the last time I saw you.....you brought me socks and shaving cream in Kunar Province."

Santa turns to me and says "Marine Recon two tours Nam."

Who knew Santa was an operator.

I believe again!

## Happy Holidays

Happenings:



November 11: Warren Ewell and Manassas Mayor Hal Parrish at the flag placement ceremony on Veterans Day.



November 14: Janet Raskin & Mary Corkhill at the State Commander's and Auxiliary President's Homecoming.



November 10: Department Surgeon Rick Raskin speaks at the 70th anniversary of Marion, VA Post 4667. In the rear are District 9 Commander Bill Davis and Post Commander Sam Rosenbaum.



November 21: At the Southern Conference Past Department Commander Hal Roesch (Phoebus Post 3219) announces his candidacy for Junior Vice Commander in Chief.



November 21: Department Adjutant / QM Kim DeShano is installed as Southern Conference Chair by Commander in Chief "Big" John Biedrzycki.

## On Immigration

Joel Chase

Molenbeek, Belgium is a largely Muslim neighborhood and has become one of the world's main breeding grounds of violent, Islamist extremism. Fifty years ago a wave of immigrants came to Belgium from Morocco and Turkey. Later, exiles from Libya and Egypt arrived. In the 1970's Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf countries sent funding for rigid religious schools, setting up tension between Wahabi mosques and the more moderate and largely Moroccan tradition.

Molenbeek has an unemployment rate of perhaps 30 to 40 percent with incomes that lag far behind Belgium overall. Many jobs in Brussels require knowledge of French, Flemish, Dutch and sometimes English. Many Molenbeek residents speak mostly Arabic and some French which has blocked integration or assimilation into the Belgium culture. The result is an isolated town with little opportunity for improvement.

The recent attacks on Paris are believed to have been prepared abroad by a group of extremists based in Belgium who benefited from accomplices in France. There is almost always a link with Molenbeek and Belgium when it comes to terrorist attacks. Belgium police conducted raids there on Saturday and arrested seven people suspected of knowledge or involvement in the Paris attacks. When Belgium Prime Minister Charles Michel was asked why his country wasn't doing more, he said "it has already

taken a number of initiatives at the preventive level, but in addition, there needs to be more repression."

Bilal Benyaich, a senior fellow at a think tank in Belgium is a coordinator of studies on radical Islamists. He said; "the fact that many people feel they will never make it, don't stand a chance in society and envy others - this makes for fertile grounds for recruiting." (Sound familiar?) Benyaich also said; "Every society gets the radicals it deserves. Whether we like it or not, they are a product of our system."

The attacks on Paris should serve as a wakeup call, not just to the U.S.A. but the entire world. Extremists live among us with many on Homeland Security, CIA and FBI watch lists both here and abroad. Jihadist extremists want to kill every American in this country, and their numbers are growing, not decreasing as President Obama recently proclaimed. We have the means of taking these barbarians down with the cooperation of other nations. In many cases we know who the terrorists are, where they are, who is equipping them and who is harboring or funding their operations. Those collaborators should be dealt with swiftly and harshly. Before we open the doors of this country to thousands of mostly Islamic immigrants, we need to learn from mistakes made in Belgium.

*The opinions expressed above are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent those of Post 7589 or the Veterans of Foreign Wars. — Ed.*



Veterans Day was observed at Mayfield Intermediate School with visits from veterans of several wars speaking to students on their personal war experiences. From the left are Merle Hancock, 91, a veteran of WWII and a POW in Germany, Jack Lilley, 86, a veteran of Korea and Vietnam, Kara Mills, principal at the school who welcomed the guests, Brian Moore, assistant principal, and Jerry Martin, 70, Vietnam. All three were wounded veterans.

Bennie Scarton Jr. / Manassas Observer

## A Great Story!

This 1967 true story is of an experience by a young 12 year old lad in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. It is about the vivid memory of a privately rebuilt P-51 from WWII and its famous owner/pilot.

In the morning sun, I could not believe my eyes. There, in our little airport, sat a majestic P-51. They said it had flown in during the night from some U.S. Airport, on its way to an air show. The pilot had been tired, so he just happened to choose Kingston for his stop over. It was to take to the air very soon. I marveled at the size of the plane, dwarfing the Pipers and Canucks tied down by her. It was much larger than in the movies. She glistened in the sun like a bulwark of security from days gone by.

The pilot arrived by cab, paid the driver, and then stepped into the pilot's lounge. He was an older man; his wavy hair was gray and tossed. It looked like it might have been combed, say, around the turn of the century. His flight jacket was checked, creased and worn - it smelled old and genuine. Old Glory was prominently sewn to its shoulders. He projected a quiet air of proficiency and pride devoid of arrogance. He filed a quick flight plan to Montreal ("Expo-67 Air Show") then walked across the tarmac.

After taking several minutes to perform his walk-around check, the tall, lanky man returned to the flight lounge to ask if anyone would be available to stand by with fire extinguishers while he "flashed the old bird up, just to be safe." Though only 12 at the time I was allowed to stand by with an extinguisher after brief instruction on its use -- "If you see a fire, point, then pull this lever!", he said. (I later became a firefighter, but that's another story.) The air around the exhaust manifolds shimmered like a mirror from fuel fumes as the huge prop started to rotate. One manifold, then another, and yet another barked -- I stepped back with the others. In moments the Packard -built Merlin engine came to life with a thunderous roar. Blue flames knifed from her manifolds with an arrogant snarl. I looked at the others' faces; there was no concern. I lowered the bell of my extinguisher. One of the guys signaled to walk back to the lounge. We did.

Several minutes later we could hear the pilot doing his pre-flight run-up. He'd taxied to the end of runway 19, out of sight. All went quiet for several seconds. We ran to the second story deck to see if we could catch a glimpse of the P-51 as she started down the runway. We could not. There we stood, eyes fixed to a spot half way down 19. Then a roar ripped across the field, much louder than before. Like a furious hell spawn set loose -- something mighty this way was coming. "Listen to that thing!" said the controller.

In seconds the Mustang burst into our line of sight. It's tail was already off the runway and it was moving faster than anything I'd ever seen by that point on 19. Two-thirds the way down 19 the Mustang was airborne with her gear going up. The prop tips were supersonic. We clasped our ears as the Mustang climbed hellishly fast into the circuit to be eaten up by the dog-day haze. We stood for a few moments, in stunned silence, trying to digest what we'd just seen.

The radio controller rushed by me to the radio. "Kingston tower calling Mustang?" He looked back to us as he waited for an acknowledgment. The radio crackled, "Go ahead, Kingston." "Roger, Mustang. Kingston tower would like to advise the circuit is clear for a low level pass." I stood in shock because the controller had just, more or less, asked the pilot to return for an impromptu air show! The controller looked at us. "Well, What?" He asked. "I can't let that guy go without asking. I couldn't forgive myself!"

The radio crackled once again, "Kingston, do I have permission for a low level pass, east to west, across the field?" "Roger, Mustang, the circuit is clear for an east to west pass." "Roger, Kingston, I'm coming out of 3,000 feet, stand by." We rushed back onto the second-story deck, eyes fixed toward the eastern haze. The sound was subtle at first, a high-pitched whine, a muffled screech, a distant scream. Moments later the P-51 burst through the haze. Her airframe straining against positive G's and gravity. Her wing tips spilling contrails of condensed air, prop-tips again supersonic. The burnished bird blasted across the eastern margin of the field shredding and tearing the air. At about 500 mph and 150 yards from where we stood she passed with the old American pilot saluting. Imagine. A salute! I felt like laughing; I felt like crying; she glistened; she screamed; the building shook; my heart pounded. Then the old pilot pulled her up and rolled, and rolled, and rolled out of sight into the broken clouds and indelible into my memory.

I've never wanted to be an American more than on that day! It was a time when many nations in the world looked to America as their big brother. A steady and even-handed beacon of security who navigated difficult political water with grace and style; not unlike the old American pilot who'd just flown into my memory. He was proud, not arrogant, humble, not a braggart, old and honest, projecting an aura of America at its best.

That America will return one day! I know it will! Until that time, I'll just send off this story. Call it a loving reciprocal salute to a Country, and especially to that old American pilot: the late-JIMMY STEWART (1908-1997), Actor, real WWII Hero (Commander of a US Army Air Force Bomber Wing stationed in England), and a USAF Reserves Brigadier General, who wove a wonderfully fantastic memory for a young Canadian boy that's lasted a lifetime.



Come join us for a Holiday celebration!

December 19, 2015 — 5:00 pm



10801 Bulloch Dr., Manassas, VA



\*\*\* **YOU MUST RSVP TO ATTEND** \*\*\*  
Those not registered will be charged \$14.50 each.

Post, Auxiliary and one family member.  
*Additional guests at \$14.50 each*



Vietnam Veterans and one guest are also welcome under the VN50 Program.

Yes, we'll be there.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post  Auxiliary  VN50

CHECK YOUR AFFILIATION

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Return form to:

Post 7589  
PO Box 10206  
Manassas, VA 20108-0668

Deadline December 12, 2015

[\[Click here to RSVP Online\]](#)



## Upcoming Events

- Dec 3 Executive Meeting – 7pm
- Dec 5 Manassas Christmas Parade
- Dec 6 VOD/Patriots Pen Awards – Refreshments - 4pm
- Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- Post Meeting 7:30 pm —Auxiliary Meeting - 6pm - City Tavern, 9550 Center St., Manassas
- Dec 10 Christmas Gifts for Vets at Fairmont Assisted Living
- Dec 12 Wreaths Across America at Quantico Cemetery - 12 noon
- Dec 19 Post's Holiday Party – 5pm—Golden Corral, 10801 Bulloch Dr., Manassas
- Jan 4 Post/Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm
- Jan 14 VFW Day on the Hill—Richmond
- Jan 15—17 Winter Conference—Williamsburg
- Jan 28 Executive Meeting—7pm



## VFW Hall



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- Birthday Parties
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- Family Reunions
- Wedding Receptions



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\$ 75.00 for each additional hour

*Friday & Saturday Nights minimum  
Rental is 4 hours for \$400.00*

### **SPECIAL RATES FOR POST 7589 & AUXILIARY 7589 MEMBERS**

Contact: Wayne Moore 571-285-7904

Visit our website: [www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org)

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