

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
December 2018



Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill with Post Adjutant Charlie Montgomery at Caton Merchant House Assisted Living

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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,
SEASONS GREETINGS! As the Holiday Season reaches its stride, I believe we should be critically aware of family, friends, and comrades who may become

despondent and withdrawn. The military taught us to look out for each other on the battlefield. To many, this is now their battlefield and the Season often heightens emotions that creates instability. Please reach out where and when you can and remember to call the Post for assistance as necessary.

REMEMBERING WORLD WAR 1

Milestones come and go throughout the course of our lives. However, as the 100th anniversary of World War 1 approaches it is important that we remember all those Comrades that served are gone. With that in mind here are some little know occurrences from that era.

1. A forecast that may have won the war

D-Day was originally scheduled for June 5, 1944, but poor weather predictions influenced General Dwight D. Eisenhower to delay the invasion. Eisenhower's chief meteorologist, British Capt. James Stagg stood alone in his assessment of impending rough seas and high winds for the English Channel against the predictions of his colleagues. The improved weather on June 6, while not ideal, is often cited in the overall success of Operation Overlord.



3. The son of a U.S. President stormed

the beaches of Normandy

Theodore Roosevelt Jr., son of U.S. President and Spanish-American War Rough Rider Teddy Roosevelt, was no stranger to combat. He had been gassed and wounded in the battle of Soissons during World War I and was quick to volunteer for WWII. Brigadier General Roosevelt had already led troops in Northern Africa and Sicily when he was reassigned to England to assist in the Normandy Invasion. Roosevelt's several requests to land with the first wave of the invasion were denied, but his final petition was accepted.

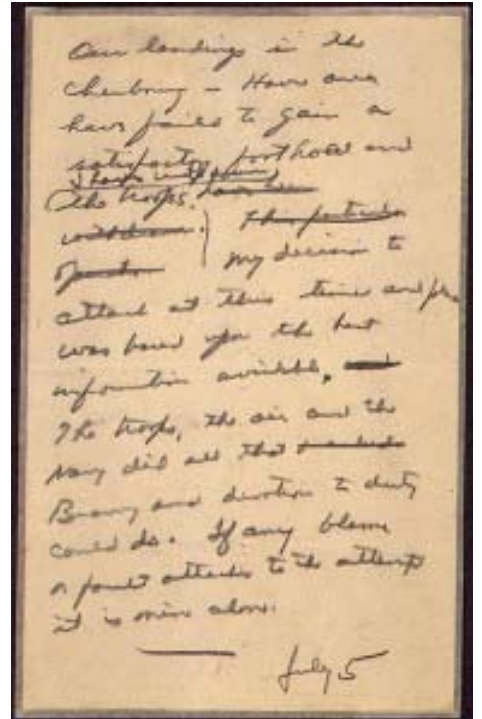
Roosevelt at 56 was the oldest man and only general in the first wave to storm the beaches of Normandy. In addition, he was the only father to serve with his son on D-Day. His son Capt. Quentin Roosevelt II landed at Omaha beach.

General Roosevelt who had longstanding health problems, arthritis, a heart condition and injuries sustained in WWI, charged the beach with his cane and pistol. Upon learning that the unit had drifted a mile off course during the landing, he modified the original plans under fire to attain objective success. Gen. Omar Bradley later recalled that Ted Roosevelt displayed the single most heroic action he had ever seen in combat.

A little over a month after D-Day, Theodore Roosevelt Jr. died of a heart attack. He was buried at the American Cemetery in Normandy. Roosevelt was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the beach landing on Sept. 28, 1944.

4. Eisenhower and Churchill both feared defeat

General Eisenhower prepared a letter that was to be opened in the event of the invasion's defeat. It reads "Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air, and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt, it is mine alone." He dated the letter July 5 instead of June 5, a simple error from a man under extreme pressure. The contingency letter was labeled "In case the Nazis won."



Eisenhower's letter "In case the Nazis won"

Winston Churchill knew defeat all too well. It was his decisions that resulted in the deaths of as many as 58,000 French and British troops during the Gallipoli campaign during WWI. Churchill was removed from his position as First Admiralty of the Navy, and the botched invasion weighed so heavily on him that he volunteered to serve in the trenches on the western front.

The invasion of Normandy brought back all too familiar feelings of sending men to their deaths. The charismatic and confident leader confided in his wife on the night of June 5, "Do you realize that by the time you wake up in the morning 20,000 men may have been killed?"

5. At Omaha Beach, 9,387 Americans are buried

Thousands of Americans died during the invasion on D-Day and following operations. On D+2 (June 8) the U.S. Army created the American St. Laurent Cemetery adjacent to Omaha Beach to begin the burials of those who died in the past 36 hours. After the war, the cemetery was moved closer to the beach and rededicated as the Normandy American Cemetery. The next

(Commander Continued on page 6)

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill



To Our Veterans:

Thank you for all you do for our county and our freedom. We appreciate all you provided to us and your unselfish efforts for all of us to live this great life. I know I'm not the only one when I say today and every day I am grateful for your sacrifices.

Yvonne Sullivan and I had the honor of assisting Commander Wayne with the breakfast the Post provided and prepared on November 3rd before the Manassas Veterans Day Parade. The guests included the members of Post 7589 and its Color Guard, about 30 Marines and about 20 Veterans from Vietnam. As an Auxiliary member, I was able to pass out the National Auxiliary "Thank You" coins to the Marines. It was a great honor having such a large group of young veterans at our Post.

The Auxiliary continued honoring the veterans by serving them a spaghetti dinner on November 5th before our monthly meeting. I would like to thank Cookie Cullen, Elanor Doczi, Patsy Gough, Cindy McIntyre, Ann Mitchell, Bettye Montgomery, Ellie Smith, Yvonne Sullivan, Dana Zank and the most important helper, Master Gabe Zank for a job well done. I was totally surprised at the great turn out for the dinner. Again, thank you everyone!!!



The Veterans Day wreath laying ceremony on November 12th was hosted by Pete MacLeod and members of Post 7589, Auxiliary and Cub Scout Pack 1355 at the Manassas Veterans Memorial. As Auxiliary President, I, along with two members of the Cub Scout Pack, assisted with placing a wreath at the Memorial. After the ceremony, everyone traveled to Manassas Cemetery where a wreath was placed at Francis Cannon's grave by me and three different members of the Cub Scout Pack. With the assistance from the Scouts, old flags were replaced with new flags which had a Buddy Poppy placed at the top.

A special thanks to Yvonne Sullivan, who was the project chairman of the elementary school coloring contest. We had a total of sixteen pictures submitted. A certificate and an American flag was given to the children who participated. Their pictures were given to the Veterans at Birmingham Green during Yvonne's visit with Manassas Post 1811 on November 12th.

I was able to attend a ceremony at Caton Merchant House Assisted Living with Commander Wayne Moore, Pete MacLeod, Ron Knowles and Charlie Montgomery. Buddy Poppies and thank you letters from the local elementary school students were distributed to the residents. On another side of town, Yvonne Sullivan and Pat Sutton, along with the comrades from Manassas Park Post 1811, visited Birmingham Green to honor their resident veterans. Yvonne and Pat also distributed Buddy Poppies and pictures to the residents with assistance from a young student. The veterans of the Birmingham Green staff were also recognized for their military service.

An Auxiliary member, Ms. Kathy Drummond, who has a group of Girl Scouts, was given a crocheted lap blanket for the Veterans at McGuire VA Hospital in Richmond, VA.



The members of the Auxiliary wish to congratulate the recipients of Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teachers of the Year awards. The Post will host the awards ceremony on December 2nd at 4pm with refreshments provided

ed by the Auxiliary to be served after the ceremony. Starting with Voice of Democracy the recipients are: First Place: Juliette C. Orr, Seton School, Manassas, VA, Second Place: Merritt M. Barklage, Seton School, Manassas, VA, Third Place: Gianina Gonzalez, Seton School, Manassas, VA, Honorable Mention: Anton Murray, Seton School, Manassas, VA and Honorable Mention: Barbara M. Aveni, Seton School, Manassas, VA. The Patriot's Pen recipients are: First Place: John C. McDonald, Reagan Middle School, Haymarket, VA, Second Place: Jonah T. Saldivar, Reagan Middle School, Haymarket, VA, Third Place: Amber Lettia Hall, Reagan Middle School, Haymarket, VA, Honorable Mention: Emma C. Lindenfesler, Mayfield Intermediate School, Manassas, VA, and Honorable Mention: Annorah B. Pantavong, Pennington Traditional School, Manassas, VA.

The Teachers of the Year recipients are: Grade K-5: Ms. Jen Smith, 2nd Grade Teacher, Mantua Elementary School, Fairfax, VA, Grade 6-8: Mr. Scott Cloud, 8th Grade Civics and Economics Teacher, Ronald Reagan Middle School, Haymarket, VA and Grade 9-12: Lt. Col. Darryl Robinson, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, Air Force JROTC program, Stonewall Jackson High School, Manassas, VA. **Just a reminder**, the final contest for the high school students is the Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest. That deadline is **March 31, 2019**.



The sixth annual Auxiliary December meeting will be held at Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Rd in Manassas on Monday, December 3rd 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 come and enjoy some holiday fun with your friends of your Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary annual Christmas visit to Birmingham Green is in the planning stage. We will let you know when that will be. We are collecting gifts for the veterans and would like to have some as-

(Auxiliary President Continued on page 6)

Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee hopes all of you had a great Thanksgiving and spent time with family and friends. We are quite busy this time of year with all our youth related activities for November.

We began with the collection of our applications for our Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year contests. The deadline was 31 October and we quickly judged the applications and notified our contest winners by Monday, 5 November. I would like to extend all my gratitude to Commander Wayne Moore, Comrade Peter MacLeod and his wife Jean, and Comrades Kelly Williams and Dave Mattingly for all their assistance with our judging this year. The competition was intense and the applicants were numerous which made the judging particularly challenging.

Please see the next page for a list of Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year award winners.

We were also quite busy with Veterans Week earlier this month. On Friday 9 November, we held our Veterans Speaker Program at Mayfield Intermediate, Manassas Christian, and Round Elementary schools. On the following Monday 12 No-

vember, the Auxiliary and Boy Scouts participated in the Veterans Day Service at Manassas Veterans Monument and the Francis Cannon Service and Flag Placements at Manassas Cemetery, Manassas.

On 15 November we held our Youth Committee meeting. Those present were comrades Paul Chase, Peter MacLeod, and myself. The primary topic of discussion was the Post 7589 annual Education Awards ceremony which is scheduled for Sunday 2 December 2018, at the Post at 4:00 PM. We hope it will be well attended by both VFW and Auxiliary members from our Post. I'll report on it in the January newsletter. Comrade Paul Chase will be our guest speaker this year and will give a presentation on "POW's of the American Revolutions".

As District 8 Youth Committee Chair, I gave a report on the District's Youth activities at the District 8 Meeting on Saturday 17 November at Post 3103 in Fredericksburg. I was happy to report the District had a total of 266 Patriot's Pen entries, 78 Voice of Democracy entries, and 7 Teacher of the Year entries. The total amount of prize money to be awarded by our District is \$5020.00 for all three contests. Post 7589 will be eligible to send seven Patriot's Pen, five Voice of Democracy, and three Teacher of the Year applicants to the District judging based on our large number of applicants. We had a pretty good year thanks to the efforts of all our people on the Youth Committees throughout our Post and District 8.

Please note the following dates and events which involve youth activities and our Post.

- Post 7589 Annual Education Awards ceremony Sunday 2 December, 2018 at 4:00 PM at Post 7589 Manassas, Virginia.
- District 8 Judging Sunday, 9 December, 2018 at 9:00 AM at Post 7589 Manassas, Virginia.
- District 8 Annual Education Awards Saturday, 16 February, 2019 at Post 7728 Morrisville, Virginia.
- Department Voice of Democracy Judging Saturday, 22 December, 2018 at 11:00 AM at the Warrenton Visitor's Center.
- Department Awards Ceremony Saturday, 12 January, 2019 at the Winter Conference in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Our next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 20 December 2018 at the Post. Please attend our next meeting and lend us a hand. You'll be working with a lot of great people and have an opportunity to shape our future by mentoring our youth. Stay well and active and we'll see you in December.

With best regards,
Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

VFW Post 7589 2018-19 Educational award winners

The Youth Committee of VFW Post 7589 is proud to announce the 2018-19 recipients of the VFW Educational awards.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony at 4:00 pm, Sunday, 12/2 at the Post.

The awards are for the Patriot's Pen Essay (Grades 6 - 8), Voice of Democracy audio-essay (Grades 9 - 12), and VFW Teacher of the year in three grade categories: K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. This year our Post had 103 Patriot's Pen entries, 66 Voice of Democracy entries and 5 Teacher of the Year nominations. All of our award recipients plus several others will be entered in the District 8 competition next month and then hopefully to State and beyond!

Please make a special effort to attend the awards ceremony on 12/2. There will be many parents and teachers attending and a strong showing of membership attendance goes a long way! Plus, we have one of our own, Paul Chase, as speaker this year.

Thank you all for your support! The Youth Committee of Post 7589: Chair Lou Filippone, Mary Corkhill, Pete MacLeod, Kelly Williams, Roger Nicol, Dave Mattingly, Robert Punihaole, Wayne Moore.

Patriot's Pen



"Why I Honor the American Flag"

First Place: John C. McDonald, 8th Grade, Reagan Middle School, Haymarket, Va.

Second Place: Jonah T. Saldivar, 6th Grade, Pennington Traditional School,

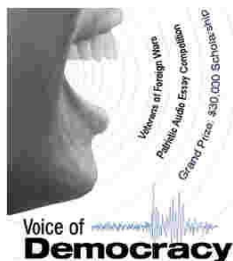
Manassas, Va.

Third Place: Amber Lettia Hall, 8th Grade, Reagan Middle School, Haymarket, Va.

Honorable Mention: Emma C. Lindenfesler, 6th Grade, Mayfield Intermediate School, Manassas, Va.

Honorable Mention: Annorah B. Pantavong, 6th Grade, Pennington Traditional School, Manassas, Va.

Voice of Democracy



"Why My Vote Matters"

First Place: Juliette C. Orr, 11th Grade, Seton School, Manassas

Second Place: Merritt M. Barklage, 11th Grade, Seton School, Manassas

Third Place: Gianna Gonzalez, 12th Grade, Seton School, Manassas

Honorable Mention: Anton Murray, 11th Grade, Seton School, Manassas

Honorable Mention: Barbara M. Aveni, 11th Grade, Seton School, Manassas

Teachers of the Year

Grades K-5: Ms. Jen Smith, 2nd Grade Teacher, Mantua Elementary School, Fairfax, Va.

Grades 6-8: Mr. Scott Cloud, 8th Grade Civics and Economics Teacher, Ronald Reagan Middle School, Haymarket, Va.

Grades 9-12: Lt. Col. Darryl Robinson, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, Air Force JROTC program, Stonewall Jackson High School, Manassas, Va.

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

(Commander Continued from page 2)

of kin of all the deceased were given the option to repatriate their loved ones to the United States or have them be buried at an American cemetery overseas.



The cemetery includes 3 Medal of Honor recipients, Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., his brother Quentin who was killed in WWI, Army Air Corps crews who were shot down over France as early as 1942 and two of the Niland brothers which the movie *Saving Private Ryan* is based on.

<http://www.euronews.com/2014/06/03/70-years-on-amazing-facts-you-may-not-know-about-d-day/>: Retrieved November 19, 2018.

Happy Holidays



(Auxiliary President Continued from page 3)

assistance from members of the Auxiliary. Please let me know if you can help.

Please **note** the new location for the Post annual Christmas Party on December 16, 2018 from 3:00pm–6:00pm. It will be at City Tavern, 9550 Center St. in Manassas and not at Stonewall Golf Club as earlier reported. Tickets entitling members and one guest each will be distributed at the December 3rd meetings of the Post and Auxiliary. In order to attend the Christmas party, you have to be at the December meeting to receive a ticket. Please contact Commander Wayne or me if you cannot attend your meeting.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our fundraiser for Wreaths Across America. I'd like to remind everyone that the ceremony for Wreaths Across America will be held at Quantico National Cemetery on December 15th at 12:00pm (noon). This event gets larger every year and you wouldn't believe the joy of seeing the cemetery after all the wreaths have been placed. Last year, the parking was outside the Cemetery due to limited parking inside. So, if you plan to attend, please arrive early.

Please put on your calendar February 16, 2019 for the next District 8 meeting to be held at Southern Fauquier Post 7728 at 1pm. This year, the Department Banner requirement states "At least one Auxiliary member **MUST** be present at each District Meeting. District Conventions/Election of Officers DOES NOT count". Thank you Auxiliary 7589 for attending the November meeting. The latest news about the District President Sheila Hunter. She fell and broke her hip and shoulder and was transferred to INOVA Fairfax hospital. She has not had surgery due to other medical issues that need to be addressed first. We were told she is doing well considering the circumstances. Also, since Janet Reskin is District Chaplain, please inform her of any illness or death so she can send out cards to individuals as needed. Thank you.

We just received word that the coupon campaign is back on. If you have any coupons, please give them to any Auxiliary member or bring them to the Post so we can forward them to the Veterans overseas. The expiration date is good up to 6 months after the coupon has expired here in the US. Just a reminder, the National Home for Children is having their life membership drive and the price for a life membership will increase from \$35.00 to \$50.00 on January 1, 2019. Please consider purchasing a life membership before the amount increases. Thank you.

Please remember individuals and their family members who are ill or hospitalized, **PLEASE** remember to keep them in your prayers.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill
VFW Auxiliary President

Veterans Day Assembly at Round Elementary—November 9, 2018

Photos by Rick Raskin



Manassas Christian School—November 9, 2018

Photos submitted by Pete MacLeod



Scouts help with ceremonies on Veterans' Day

Photos submitted by Pete MacLeod



Scouts from Pack 1355 assisted the Post & Auxiliary with ceremonies at the Manassas Veterans Memorial and placing new flags on veterans' graves at the Manassas Cemetery.



Post provided breakfast for vets marching in November 3rd Veterans Parade

Photos submitted by Pete MacLeod



Troops on the Chow Line



Rod Burr, Roger Nicol, Warren Ewell and Pete MacLeod

Auxiliary provided dinner at November 5th Post meeting

Photos submitted by Pete MacLeod



(L-R) Mary Corkhill, Yvonne Sullivan, Ellie Smith, Betty Montgomery, Dianne Zalenski, Patsy Gough, Cookie Cullen, Cindy McIntyre, Ann Mitchell and Elinor Doczi



Dana Zank with her grandson, Mary Corkhill and Yvonne Sullivan

Kuentai-USA helps identify the remains of Maryland serviceman

Post 7589 is a supporting member of Kuentai-USA

By Rick Raskin

In continuing their work, Kuentai-USA has helped identify the remains of another US serviceman who had been buried as an M.I.A. Sent to Hawaii for identification the remains were positively identified through DNA as those of Technical Sgt. Richard J. Murphy, Jr. United States Marine Corps of Rockville Maryland.

KUENTAI-USA had partnered with WFI Research Group based in Pensacola, FL and their senior researcher, Ted Darcy. He compared dental records of buried MIAs with dental records on file of unknown MIAs and provided the case of Richard Murphy to KUENTAI-USA in 2014.

Finding a 99% match with Richard Murphy Kuentai-USA asked Comrade Jerry Martin, who has close ties with them, what to do. He did some research and suggested they contact the next of kin, Mr. Gerald Murphy.

He then met with Gerald Murphy and encouraged him to lobby his state senator and congressmen to have the remains exhumed.

After nearly 4 years the Defense Personnel Accounting Agency finally agreed to do so and had the DNA tested. It was a match and last year the family was informed. It has been a long and arduous process.

Sgt. Murphy's remains were returned to the US and will be ceremoniously buried in Maryland on December 1.

Comrade Jerry Martin and State SVC Rick Raskin attended a meeting on November 28 to help plan the event.



Non-Profit Organization
KUENTAI-USA
"As many and as quickly as possible..."

New Exhibit Highlights Vietnam War

Library of Congress Gazette

Vol 29, No. 44

November 16, 2018

The Veterans History Project (VHP) this week launched "Personal Snapshots: Picturing the Vietnam War," an online "Experiencing War" website feature highlighting 12 collections that document veterans' wartime experiences. In addition to oral histories and written correspondence, the collections include candid, amateur photographs.

Taken either for posterity or as keepsakes for loved ones on the home front, the images range from serene to silly and from hijinks to horrific. Though broad in scope, the photographs share details and nuance that might otherwise be forgotten or left out of

Post Receives Record Aluminum Can Tab Donation

By Paul Chase

We have been collecting aluminum can tabs for the Shriner's hospital system since April 2016. The tabs are recycled and the proceeds go to fund free medical care for needy children throughout the country. We donated our first 1,000,000 tabs in April 2017 and another 500,000 in October 2018.

We have received large donations since we started the program, but nothing like the one we just received from Terry and Suzie Neal of Chantilly Virginia. Paul Chase and his brother Joel distributed over a hundred collection jugs throughout northern Virginia. Terry and Suzi had been collecting tabs for eight years and looking for a charitable organization where they could donate them. Terry went to Tractor Supply in Manassas on routine business and happened to see one of our collection jugs at the cash register counter with Paul and Joel's contact information. Terry called Paul and the rest of the story is for the record books.

Terry is not a veteran, but he has been a huge force in community service projects for decades. The tabs weighed in at 160 pounds with an estimated total of 121,000 tabs which is at least five times larger than any previous single donation. What a great holiday present! Bless you Terry and Suzie!"



Paul Chase

a veteran's oral history interview.

One of the collections included is that of G. Mike Mabe, a self-described "low-rank infantryman" who served with the 101st Airborne Division. His photos depict his everyday life in Vietnam: pulling kitchen patrol duty, interacting with Vietnamese civilians and eating military-issued canned goods on the hood of his jeep. His snapshots bring to life the written memoir that he also donated to VHP.

Aida Sanchez's photographs convey the grim realities of war. As an Army physical therapist, she established the first physical therapy clinic in the 95th Evacuation Hospital. Her photos include scenes of her treating both military and civilian casualties, including Vietnamese children.

To view "Personal Snapshots," go to <https://bit.ly/2z7Sdsf>.

Comrade Dave Mattingly will be speaking at the Manassas Museum on December 12 about Travis Manion Foundation and Manassas Operation Legacy



Each month engage in a conversation on Manassas' Past, Present and Future.

Stories of Preservation and Progress

In this time of giving, join a representative of "Operation Legacy" who will share the story and mission of the Travis Manion Foundation to empower veterans and families of fallen heroes to develop character in future generations.



(1980-2007)

"If not me, then who?"

Wednesday, December 12

Holiday Time

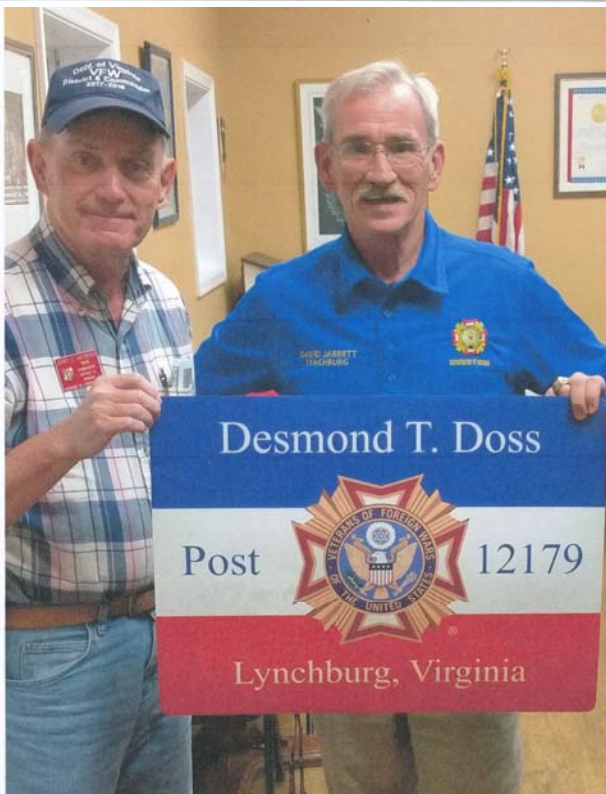
3:00 p.m. - Free at the Manassas Museum

YOU ARE INVITED
TO THE
**Desmond T. Doss Memorial
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12179
Institution Ceremony**
Saturday, December 8th, 2018 at 2:30 pm
At the Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy
19 George Street, Lynchburg, Virginia

RSVP to David Jarrett at djarrett@vfwva.org by December 3rd, 2018

Guest plus _____

Light refreshments will be served



District 6 Commander Jerry Petersen with David Jarrett. David moved to Lynchburg and was instrumental in getting the new Post established.

Supreme Court to hear American Legion's case on Bladensburg Veterans Memorial

The American Legion

NOV 03, 2018

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Friday that it will hear The American Legion's case regarding the Bladensburg Veterans Memorial in Prince George's County, Md.

The Bladensburg World War I Veterans Memorial was erected in 1925 by Gold Star mothers and an American Legion post to honor 49 Prince George's County men who gave their lives during World War I.

"In an example of The American Legion's quest to honor and remember our brothers and sisters in arms, we're pleased with the recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to hear our case," American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad said.

The Gold Star mothers who designed the memorial in 1919 chose a cross shape to recall the cross-shaped grave markers standing over American graves in Europe. The memorial stood peacefully for almost 90 years until the American Humanist Association filed a lawsuit in February 2014.

In 2015, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland ruled the memorial was constitutional, citing the use of crosses to mark the graves of fallen American servicemen overseas. Later, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit reversed the District Court's decision, declaring the cross shape of the memorial violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The American Legion, represented by First Liberty Institute and the international law firm Jones Day, is asking the Supreme

Court to reverse the Court of Appeals ruling that could lead to the bulldozing of the Bladensburg Veterans Memorial.

"There are some who want to erase the memory of the service and sacrifice of these 49 fallen servicemen of Prince George's County," said Kelly Shackelford, president and CEO of First Liberty. "If this monument is bulldozed to the ground, it's only a matter of time before the wrecking ball turns on Arlington National Cemetery and the thousands of memorials like this one across the country."

Each of the 49 World War I heroes' names are on a bronze plaque on the memorial. On each side of the memorial a word captures its spirit: Valor, Endurance, Courage, Devotion. The American Legion emblem can be found on two sides of the memorial.

"For nearly a century, The American Legion has focused on preserving the memories of our fallen brothers and sisters," Reistad said. "And that's why it is so critical that we – veterans and civilians alike -- never forget those honored on the Bladensburg Veterans Memorial."



https://www.google.com/search?q=peace+cross+in+bladensburg+maryland&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjM-LlpsfeAhVLzVMKHTdZB8YQ_AUIFSgD&biw=1680&bih=901

VA Bears Responsibility to Make Student Veterans Whole, Says VFW

WASHINGTON (November 29, 2018) — The Department of Veterans Affairs released a statement yesterday regarding the implementation of Forever GI Bill changes that were supposed to have been enacted this past August. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie has now directed the Veterans Benefits Administration to cease attempting to implement the changes and instead reset the entire effort in order to get the job done correctly. The reset begins this Saturday, with the full implementation date now shifting to December 2019. Student veterans are expected to see positive effects of the changes in the spring 2020 semester.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was disappointed to learn about the 12-month delay in implementing this amazing benefit, but we recognize why hitting the reset button

was necessary in order for the VA to get this right," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence.

The Forever GI Bill changed student housing allowances to reflect the ZIP codes where students attend the majority of their classes. This change was required to go into effect on Aug. 1, 2018, but the VA admits that its antiquated computer system was unable to simultaneously handle individual ZIP code changes and the influx of students registering for the fall semester.

"Shifting the implementation deadline a year isn't a free pass for the VA to arbitrarily pay student veterans less than they are due simply because it was unable to correct internal problems in time," said Lawrence. "I appreciated hearing the VBA undersecretary in testimony this morning address the need to make student veterans whole, and I pledge that the VFW will continue to push for the proper implementation of the Forever GI Bill so that all student veterans receive the prompt and full benefits they earned and deserve," he said.

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.

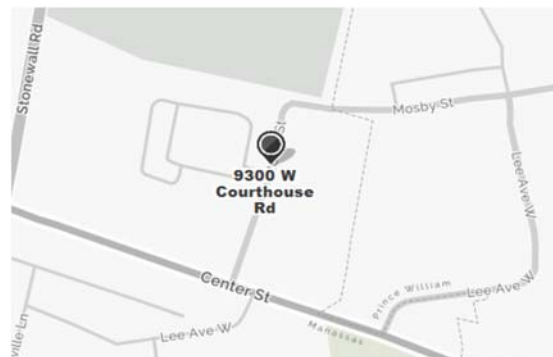
On the Hylton website use the code SERVICE to access this special offer.

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.

Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office

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



Upcoming Events

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 14 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
January 11 – 13	Winter Council of Administration—Portsmouth Service Officer Training (January 11, 9AM) Educational Awards Banquet (January 11, 4 PM)

KNOW YOUR VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE

Rob Wittman	1st District
Elaine Lauria	2nd District
Bobby Scott	3rd District
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Denver Riggleman	5th District
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Abigail Spanberger	7th District
Don Beyer	8th District
Morgan Griffith	9th District
Jennifer Wexton	10th District
Gerry Connolly	11th District



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