

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
December 2022



ALEX BLIEM

A rainy Veterans Day morning did not deter our dedicated Post and Auxiliary members along with our Scouts from placing flags on veterans graves at the Manassas Cemetery.

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**CANNON NEWS**—2015, 2018, 2020 & 2021 National VFW Publications Award Winner  
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 and Auxiliary Family,

Seasons Greetings with the greatest regards to your families! As Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas looms near we can breathe easy that our military men and women are not embroiled in conflict elsewhere.

Watching the carnage of the war in Ukraine and its contribution to the financial instability throughout the world we can be grateful our military lives are

not being lost. We should remind ourselves that "the only constant in life is change." We have proven resiliency, so I am hopeful that a course correction of inflation is on the horizon.

This year appeared to move swiftly and unnoticed by those in the throes of making a life for themselves and their families. However, those of us edging toward twilight and retired members of this eternal fraternity continue to work to protect and defend our nation, family, and community.

Our Post comrades who are dedicated to continue serving, worked diligently on legislation to retain the benefits we've earned. This year we've managed to overcome some hurdles and got Veterans' State tax relief, the passing of the Pact Act, and a few other legislative initiatives that assist family members.

Closer to home your Chain-of-Command and Auxiliary's stalwart efforts garnered All-American Team recognition, reopened youth programs with schools, assisted many veterans in need, and rendered honors to fallen comrades. Our youth and scouting programs are strong, enabling our children and grandchildren to better understand the purpose and importance of the military.

As Post 7589 continues to do important things for veterans and the community, we cannot get along without your support. In numbers there is strength, and the ability to get those in power to listen and fulfill their promises. So, I will ask all whose membership expired recently or will soon expire, please call me or QM Raskin. You can also renew on the national VFW website at <https://www.vfw.org/renew>.

Understandably there are questions. We have answers. However, what's not questionable is that our work benefits every single veteran who served the minimum or maximum of the required time. You do not have to be a member to receive our assistance. Thanks for your service!

Please enjoy a healthy and safe Holiday!

## Auxiliary President



**Mary Corkhill**

A huge **THANK YOU** to the members of the Auxiliary, Scouts and Post for assisting in the collection of items and postage for the deployed Air National Guard troop. We were able to ship 10 boxes to the troop on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Again, thank you for all that you provided for this group of young veterans.

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, two members of the Auxiliary, Ms. Patsy Gough and Ms. Debbie Baxter assisted me in preparing and serving breakfast to the Northern Virginia Veterans Parade committee and the veterans. Thank you to all that participated and for your assistance.

Ms. Yvonne Sullivan and I attended Chess Homeschool to lead the students in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 160 American flags and 160 Pledge of Allegiance & National Anthem bookmarks given. We also informed the attendees of the different contests that the VFW and Auxiliary provide. Ms. Jan Germain and I attended Salt & Light Homeschool to teach a small group of six to nine year olds in flag etiquette. We presented the class with 15 flags, 15 Pledge of Allegiance/National anthem bookmarks, 15 Patriotic ribbon pins, 20 RAP (Random Act of Patriotism) cards, 8 homemade patriotic coloring books and assisted in folding the flag. We also provided the class with information on Illustrating America & the RED, WHITE & BLUE singing competition.

Congratulations and welcome to our two newest members, Mason & Justin Baxter. They are Debbie Baxter's sons.

Just a reminder of the Educational Awards ceremony on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM at the Post.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00, the Auxiliary Christmas party will be at Olive Garden. Hope to see you there.

Remember the National Home for Children. A Life Membership is only \$50.00 and it goes toward the support of the children.

Please remember to keep all the individuals who are ill, hospitalized and/or have any medical issues in your prayers.

It's that time of year when a large thank you goes to the members of the Auxiliary, Post and Scouts for a very successful 2022. May 2023 be just as successful, enjoyable and safe for each and every one!!!

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill  
VFW Auxiliary President



# Youth Committee Update



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee hopes all is well with our members as we enter the holiday season. We held our last meeting on Thursday, 17 November at the Post. Those in attendance were Comrades Alex Bliem, Peter MacLeod, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and myself.

Normally we have free reign of the Post during our meetings, however, due to a mix-up by a local HOA who uses the facility the fourth Thursday of the month we wound up sharing the Hall with them. The discussion focused on our Youth Contest judging for both our Post and District 8. Post judging was conducted over a two week period with many impressive essays submitted this year by our students. The Post judging results are listed below.



RICK RASKIN

Auxiliary member Jenn Torres and Post members Lou Filippone, Erica Laos and Pete MacLeod judged Voice of Democracy entries on November 12.

- VFW Manassas Area Teacher of the Year
- Grades K-5: Mrs. Sarah Coradetti, 4th Grade Teacher, Baldwin Elementary School, Manassas, Va.
  - Grades 6-8: Mr. William Hines, 6th Grade Teacher, Marsteller Middle School, Bristow, Va
  - Grades 9-12: SMSgt, USAF (Ret) David Shular, 9th-12th Grade AFJROTC Teacher, Battlefield High School, Haymarket, VA.

District 8 judging was held on 20 November at the Post after receiving submissions from five out of six Posts in our District. Again the judging results are presented here for your review. **It should be noted that our Post won four out of the five categories in District competition and those winners will advance to Department judging on 17 December at Post 9808 in Mechanicsville.** Should you have any interest in Department judging for our youth contests please contact me as soon as possible for further instructions. Let me just give a big thank you to all the Post and Auxiliary members who worked so hard

helping to recruit applicants, collect completed applications and judge all the entries. Countless hours of hard work and volunteerism made for a tremendously successful year for our Youth Contests. Our numbers were way up in all categories from last year and in addition we were unstoppable at District judging. Hopefully this trend will continue into Department judging and we can celebrate again in January.

### Patriot's Pen, 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

"My Pledge to our Veterans."

- First Place: Shannon Rose Rotter, 8th Grade, Ronald Regan Middle School, Haymarket, Va.
- Second Place: Rachel Christine Baughman, 7th Grade, Seton School, Manassas, Va.
- Third Place: Jane M. Judge, 7th Grade, Seton School, Manassas, Va.
- Honorable Mention: Leyla Alton, 8th Grade, Manassas Christian School, Manassas, Va.

### Voice of Democracy, 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:

"Why is the Veteran Important?"

- First Place: Arianna I. Paim, 12th Grade, Colgan High School, Manassas, Va.
- Second Place: John P. McGraw, 11th Grade, Seton School, Manassas, Va.
- Third Place: Titus Peter Staton, 11th Grade, Seton School, Manassas, Va.
- Honorable Mention: Hugh O McCloskey, 11th Grade, Seton School, Manassas, Va.
- Honorable Mention: Isaac A. Fleisig, 11th Grade, Seton School, Manassas, Va.

### **Patriot's Pen**

- 1st Place Jane M. Judge  
Seton School  
Manassas, Va.  
7th Grade  
Post 7589
- 2nd Place Rachel Christine Baughman  
Seton School  
Manassas, Va.  
7th Grade  
Post 7589
- 3rd Place Oliver Caseria  
Wakefield School  
The Plains, Va.

(See Youth on page 4)

(Youth Continued from page 3)  
7th Grade  
Post 9835

### Voice of Democracy

- 1st Place John P. McGraw  
Seton School  
Manassas, Va.  
11th Grade  
Post 7589
- 2nd Place Ava E. Price  
Wakefield School  
The Plains, Va.  
10th Grade  
Post 9835
- 3rd Place Ayla E. Zook  
King George High School  
King George, Va.  
10th Grade  
Post 12202

### Teacher of the Year

- K-5 Sarah Coradetti  
Baldwin Elementary School  
Manassas, Va.  
4th Grade  
Post 7589
- 6-8 Julie Curry  
Auburn Middle School  
Warrenton, Va.  
8th Grade  
Post 9835
- 9-12 SMSgt USAF (RET) David Shuler  
Battlefield High School  
Haymarket, Va.  
9th-12th Grade  
Post 7589

Please don't forget about our annual Educational Awards Night scheduled for Sunday, 4 December at the Post at 4 PM. Please attend even if you can't volunteer to help us celebrate with our student and teacher winners as we award them their certificates, prizes and scholarships. Each year we have a guest speaker present an inspirational and motivational talk to our students and I just confirmed our speaker for this year's event. Without giving his identity away let me just say he has had quite an interesting military career and currently holds a very prestigious position in the transportation industry. He is a fellow Comrade and I know his address will not disappoint you.

Our Veterans Day flag placements were carried out in the driving rain thanks to Tina and Alex Bliem. They and a few Scouts placed flags at over seventy veterans' grave sites early Friday morning, 11 November at the Manassas Cemetery. We appreciate

all your hard work and determination to get the job done in spite of the adverse weather conditions.

Comrade Peter MacLeod also reported about a program for veterans at the Manassas Christian School in Manassas Park. The program was originally established by Post Adjutant Ron Link several years ago and continues to be a great success. This year three veterans from our Post, Peter MacLeod, Dave Mattingly and Roger Nicol, participated. Grades K-8 performed patriotic songs and short plays for our comrades. Peter, Dave and Roger then spoke about their military service and then held a question and answer session with the students. Children then presented our comrades with a dozen colored patriotic pictures. Principal Eric Bartholomew and Teacher Mary Ferguson were very welcoming and supportive during the program and we thank them for the interest they take in our veterans.

Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill informed me of her activities with two area homeschools teaching flag etiquette and leading the children in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary and Auxiliary member Yvonne Sullivan attended Chess Homeschool and led the students in the Pledge of Allegiance. They also gave out 160 American Flags and 160 Pledge of Allegiance & National Anthem bookmarks. Mary also participated in a second event a week later at the Salt and Light Homeschool. Here she and Auxiliary member Jan Germain taught a small group of nine year olds in flag etiquette. They also presented the students with 15 flags, bookmarks, ribbon pins, cards and coloring books. Their two events were very successful and we hope they can continue to build relationships with homeschool organizations going forward. I am sure eventually we will see more participation in our youth essay and art contests from homeschoolers as a result of the Auxiliary's hard work.

Please have a safe and joyous holiday season and we'll see you at our next Youth Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, 15 December at the Post at 7:00 PM.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pete MacLeod, Roger Nicol and Dave Mattingly spoke at a veterans ceremony at Manassas Christian School

# Scouting Report



Alex & Tina Bliem  
Post 7589 Scouting  
Representatives

November saw numerous activities for our scouts.

First was the Veterans Day Parade where representatives from all of our four scouting units walked with our post. We had numerous scouts, leaders, and parents show up to walk. The scouts represented themselves and our post very well.

All of our scouting units also participated in their annual Scouting for Food donation drive. On one Saturday they canvas neighborhoods and put notes on peoples doors to let them know about the food drive. The next Saturday they go around and collect the food from peoples' front steps. This is a national food drive and our units alone collected roughly 1,400 pounds of food which will go to local food banks.

On Veterans Day the flag placement occurred despite the cold and rainy weather. Tina and I had canceled the event for our scouts, but we were surprisingly joined by a couple of other scout families, another post member and family. All known veteran grave sites at the Manassas Cemetery were respectfully honored despite the cold pouring rain.

A sibling of one of our Scouts whom is currently in Cub Scout Pack 1355 took it upon themselves to collect more donations for the Auxiliary to send overseas to our troops. The scouts collected a large amount of items and an estimate of 600-700 might be on the low side. They did a great job.

Our older scouts in our venturing crew spent a day volunteering in the rain for a local horse shelter. The owners were very grateful to see our scouts out there helping them. After the volunteering the same scouts got cleaned up and spent the evening having a nice "Friends giving" meal together.

Some of our scouts also volunteered to help Pack 1355 when they had a camping trip at Camp Snyder. Our older scouts played games with them and taught them valuable skills over the weekend. The younger scouts always like to have the older scouts around to play games and learn some new skills with. This also helps to keep them interested in scouting and to progress into BSA when they finish with their Cub Scout journey.

December has several more volunteering opportunities for our scouts and will be in the next newsletter.

Thank you,  
Alex & Tina Bliem  
VFW Post 7589  
Pack, Troops, Crew 1372

# Reading of the names: Vietnam War Memorial

By David Mattingly

"If you say their names, they are not forgotten." This quote is attributed to many, however, Veterans often bring it to action when visiting the graves of the fallen. Since the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982, volunteers gather for several days every five years to read the names of those killed and missing in action. It has become a tradition for many to return to "The Wall" to ensure the 58,281 names engraved on the black stone are not forgotten.

This year, on the 40th Anniversary of the dedication, the call went out and volunteers assembled. Starting with the opening ceremony on November 7 at 4:00 pm and continuing daily from 5:00 am until midnight, each volunteer read thirty names.

I participated for the first time as a reader in 2017 when JeanMarie and I ventured to DC on a cold wintry night. By luck, there was an empty slot and JeanMarie was able to read as well. This year, we signed up and our assignment was a sunny mid-afternoon on November 10.

Since its dedication in 1982, "The Wall" remains one of the top visitor attractions around the National Mall and Memorials.



Dave Mattingly reads names at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

JEANMARIE KOMYATHY



"The Wall" remains one of the top visitor attractions in DC

DANE MATTINGLY

# HOLIDAY PARTY

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18  
12 NOON TO 3 PM  
AT THE POST**  
**THE POST WILL PROVIDE HAM & TURKEY  
SO  
PLEASE BRING A DISH TO  
SHARE**

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

Or visit <http://www.vfw7589.org/HolidayParty.html>



GUNNY LEWIS



GUNNY LEWIS



GUNNY LEWIS

Alex Bliem, Tina Bliem, Mary Corkhill, Rod Burr, Kelly Williams and Pete MacLeod prepare to participate in the Northern Virginia Veterans Parade.



DOC CROUCH

At the District 8 meeting Monti Zimmerman, Wayne Moore and Rick Raskin received a pin for recruiting at least 1 new member. Presented by State Inspector Charles Bush.

# Veterans Day week our Post, Auxiliary and Scouts were busy in the community Even rain from Hurricane Nicole didn't deter our activities



RICK RASKIN

At the Post breakfast Russ Keating briefs VetPar and local authorities before the start of the annual Northern Virginia Veterans Parade



GUNNY LEWIS

Northern Virginia Veterans Parade Grand Marshals Elizabeth Lewis, US Army Nurse, WWII and Col. Ulysses "Xerk" White, US Army, Korea and Vietnam. Both are members of Post 7589.



PAUL CHASE

Monti Zimmerman and Rick Raskin pull out after rain terminated our poppy drive at Haymarket Walmart.



ALEX BLIEM

Trigger Team 4-H members visited our Post meeting on November 7



ALEX BLIEM

Tiger Team 4-H presented a plaque to Commander Wayne Moore in appreciation of our Post's support



ALEX BLIEM

Auxiliary member Carolyn Bradshaw helps a youngster place a flag on a veteran's grave on a rainy Veterans Day morning.

## Post Gains a Record 22 new and reinstated members in November

By Rick Raskin

With the coming of fall and the numerous civic celebrations a record number of veterans became members of our Post. Beginning at the Chantilly gun show and continuing on with events in Clifton, Manassas and Haymarket, we welcomed 22 new members into the Post 7589 family. Out thanks to recruiters Ken Wiseman, Todd Taylor, Scott Logan and William Meyers who recruited at the gun show and Clifton Day. Post members Lou Filippone, Wayne Moore, Rick Raskin and Monti Zimmerman recruited at local events. Additionally, the VFW had a Life Member incentive in October in which a post would receive \$50 for each new life member. I am happy to report that our post recruited 5 new life members and will receive \$250.

We welcome the following new and reinstated members: Oliver

Jackson, Michael Grossman, Tonya James, Greg Mason, Brent Merry, Katherine Merry, Rachel Park, Ebony Rankin, Alex Romero, Boris-Frank Nazaroff, Aaron Cummings, Richard Hardy, Paul Holbert, Kevin Hayden, Lisa Holloway, Billy Holloway, David Simpson, Colin Wolfslau, Adam Clipp, Elizabeth McDermott, Kerry George and Ray Gagne.



At our Haymarket Walmart Buddy Poppy drive Rick Raskin welcomes new member Ray Gagne along with Wayne Moore and Lou Filippone.

PHOTO BY PAUL CHASE

## VFW, Bergmann & Moore Collaborate to assist with Camp Lejeune Claims

*The goal of the relationship is to assist and guide veterans and military families affected by toxic water exposure at Camp Lejeune.*

**WASHINGTON (Nov. 9, 2022)** — For nearly a decade, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the law firm of Bergmann & Moore have worked together to provide effective legal representation for veterans with VA disability benefit appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Through a renewed agreement, the VFW is entrusting Bergmann & Moore with guiding and assisting its members in navigating the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA).

“Ensuring veterans harmed in the line of duty are made whole has been a guiding principle for the VFW since our founding more than 123 years ago,” said VFW National Commander Tim Borland. “We are honored to expand our association with Bergmann & Moore to ensure veterans and their families who benefit from filing a lawsuit are represented by someone who has their best interest at heart.”

In August, the VFW-championed SFC Health Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 was signed into law. Along with the most significant expansion of health care and benefits in more than a century, Section 804 of the PACT Act, known as the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, authorizes veterans and military families who were exposed to toxic water at Camp Lejeune from August 1953 to December 1987 to file a federal tort claim for harm caused by such exposure.

“Since the PACT Act added another recourse for veterans and their families suffering the effects of toxic exposure at Camp Lejeune, getting the right legal advice is crucial,” added Borland. “That’s why we turned to our long-trusted relationship with Bergmann & Moore to provide the best counsel possible for those we assist.”

The VFW cautions its members and supporters to avoid predatory law firms advertising endlessly on television and other media. To assist those who wish to join the Camp Lejeune Justice Act lawsuit determine if a law firm has their best interest at heart, the VFW has established six guiding principles. Bergmann & Moore has a proven track record of treating our members honestly and fairly and has agreed to (1) cap attorney fees at a reasonable rate, (2) no upfront costs, (3) work with the VFW to ensure veterans explore their earned Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, (4) counsel claimant on the impact of the offset included in the Camp Lejeune Justice Act before accepting an award, (5) encourage VFW membership to eligible veterans, and (6) provide resources to support the VFW Service Officer Program.

“The goal of the agreement between VFW and Bergmann & Moore is to ensure VFW members who file a Camp Lejeune claim receive the greatest benefit and understand what they may be giving up as a result of any offset,” said Glenn Bergmann, Bergmann & Moore’s Managing Partner. “The Camp Lejeune Justice Act contains broad offset language that no one is talking about. Understanding whether an award under the CLJA will result in an offset of VA care or benefits will allow VFW members to make an informed decision before they accept the one-time benefit.”

To date there are differing opinions on the meaning of the offset language. The VA is expected to release regulations related to this in the coming months. The VFW continues to encourage its members and supporters to consult with a VFW-Accredited Service Officer to determine whether filing a lawsuit is the right step for them. This includes determining how the offset required by the law impacts their VA benefits and any possible award from a Camp Lejeune Justice Act claim.

The Camp Lejeune Justice Act potentially offers historic benefits to veterans and their families. However, these benefits need to be carefully evaluated by a firm that understands VA disability benefits. The VFW encourages anyone who served or lived at Camp Lejeune from Aug. 1, 1953, to Dec. 31, 1987, to visit [vfw.org/](http://vfw.org/)



## Proposed JLC initiative Submitted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars

### Proposal:

Exempt Veterans Service Organizations from User of Proceeds Requirements.

### Discussion:

501(c)(19) organizations should be exempt from regulations of Use of Proceeds (UOP) from gaming in the social quarters and for all UOP to include the infrastructure and salaries required to run charitable gaming.

Eligibility for most tax-exempt organizations is open to a huge percentage of, if not the entire, population. Veteran service organizations (VSOs) have an extremely limited eligibility requirement. Only about 7% of Virginia is comprised of Veterans and only a small percentage of those have served in a combat zone. Eligibility for each of the VSO's ranges from 7% veterans to combat zone veterans only. Our pool of prospective members is small, but our mission is enormous.

IRS Publication 3386, Tax Guide for Veterans' Organization, opens with the following statement:

"Veterans' organizations occupy a special place in the world of exempt organizations. Not only are most veterans' organizations exempt from tax, contributions to them may be deductible, and some are permitted to set aside amounts that are used to provide insurance benefits for members. This combination—tax-exempt status, deductibility of contributions and the ability to pay benefits to members—is relatively rare and is evidence of Congress' intent to provide special tax treatment for veterans' organizations."

IRS Pub 3079, Tax-Exempt Organizations and Gaming, opens with:

"For many years now, exempt organizations have operated these and many other types of games as a part of their activities. Why do organizations "game"? Probably the number one reason is to raise funds – either to help cover the cost of running their organizations or to support worthy causes. For some organizations, gaming also permits its members to socialize with each other and fosters fellowship."

Publication 3079 further states that for 501(c)(19), a veterans' organization must be operated for one or more of the following purposes:

**1. To promote the social welfare of the community;** We accomplish this through scholarships open to all school kids, teacher and first responder recognition programs, sponsoring community baseball and softball leagues, letting other community organizations and military units use our facilities free of charge and numerous other programs and community activities.

**2. To assist disabled and needy war veterans and members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their dependents and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans;** We maintain a fund to assist veterans and their families in need on short or no notice. We provide service officers to help with disability claims and to navigate

the VA system. We adopt active-duty units and assist military units with welfare and moral activities among other support functions.

**3. To provide entertainment, care and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the U.S. Armed Forces;** Our VSOs perform a multitude of activities in VA Hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities; we hold bingo sessions, Monte Carlo nights, Christmas parties, spring fairs and outings to our local posts for meals and camaraderie and much more.

**4. To carry on programs to perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the Armed Forces and to comfort their survivors.** We raise money for local and national memorials, perform Memorial Day remembrances, conduct programs in local schools, churches, and other organizations. Sponsor Veterans Day ceremonies and parades.

**5. To conduct programs for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes. • To sponsor or participate in activities of a patriotic nature.** The prior four statements cover this requirement.

**6. To provide insurance benefits for its members or dependents of its members or both.** We provide accidental death and dismemberment insurance to the members of the VFW, free of charge.

**7. To provide social and recreational activities for its members.** Our post home/social quarters provide a safe environment for veterans of all ages to get together and continue the comradeship that they experienced in service to our country. They share experiences and feelings that most of the country can never understand. Many of our veterans have no other place to go, this is the only place that feels like home to them. We provide activities like meetings, dinners, celebrations, funerals, field trips and a general sense of belonging...being part of the family, that many do not have locally. We are one of the first lines of suicide prevention and veterans' health and welfare.

Congress and the IRS recognized the important work of VSO and even tailored the IRS code to facilitate the important work we do. We fill an incredibly special requirement in our community, taking care of our ALL veterans, military, and their families, while promoting patriotism and remembrance of our veterans. VSOs provide a service that no other organization can provide.

The Veterans Service Organizations and the Virginia Department of Veterans Service have a long and important partnership of helping our veterans and families in need, promoting patriotism and remembrance, providing comradeship among veterans, and supporting our guard, reserve and active-duty military members and families.

That is in jeopardy with the proposed gaming changes that include 501(c)(19) that have charitable gaming. VSO posts that offer public gaming fully comply with all regulations, but social quarters proceeds, for the last 20+ years, have been left for us to use for our posts, members, community, and the benefit of ALL veterans. Under the current proposal and Use of Proceeds (UOP) we will not have the funds to accomplish our mission. We use those proceeds to execute our charter of helping veterans and

*(Continued on page 10)*

(Continued from page 9)

providing social and recreational opportunities for them.

On Page 5, Paragraph D of the proposed regulations, in accordance with § 18.2-340.19 of the Code of Virginia, as a condition of receiving a charitable gaming permit or authorization to conduct electronic gaming, an organization shall use a minimum percentage of its charitable gaming receipts for lawful religious, charitable, community, or educational purposes for which the organization is specifically chartered or organized as follows:

1. For all charitable gaming other than electronic gaming, the minimum percentage shall be 10% of its gross receipts.
2. For electronic gaming, the minimum percentage shall be 40% of its electronic adjusted gross receipts.

The new requirements mandate that an on-site manager and workers at all times. This is a requirement that cannot be filled with volunteers and will require paid employees due to the sheer number of hours required. These paid employees must supervise operating the gaming in the social quarters through accounting, bank deposits, cleaning, maintenance, security, and paying winners.

The proposed code also deletes the use of building expense as a UOP. The current code allows it. The operation and maintenance of the facility is required to be able to operate charitable gaming. The failure to allow these costs (as have been allowed in the past) will likely result in a significant number of organizations to fail to meet the minimum percentages.

We request the Gaming Commission allow the salaries and wages of the employees to be charged as expense to the gaming accounts, with the portion directly attributable to gaming to be charged to UOP. We also request the Commission to restore the language that is in the current § 18.2-340.19 A.1. and include it the proposed § 18.2-340.19 A 1 to allow property expenses to be used as UOP.

Using last year's statistics of our VFW posts throughout the state; we contributed \$2.1 million and 253,174 hours for a total of an astounding \$9 million in community service. This is a service the DVS or state didn't have to provide. We provided \$515,967 in unmet needs grants for veterans that needed a hand up and we provided \$285,171 in scholarships through our Help a Hero, Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen programs. These were numbers for the VFW, and other VSOs would have similar numbers.

While these numbers are impressive and show our commitment to veterans and our communities, it won't be possible if we are not permitted to include our buildings, equipment, utilities, wages, and members in Use of Proceeds from gaming. Charitable gaming is what enables us to fulfill our mission and maintain the infrastructure required, they go hand in hand.

Therefore, VSOs should be exempt from regulations of proceeds from gaming in the social quarters and for all UOP to include the infrastructure required to run charitable gaming. We need them to execute our charter of helping veterans.

Tom Gimble, Rick Raskin and Hal Roesch drafted this proposal to be considered at the December 15th JLC meeting.

## Special VFW website to streamline referrals to our cadre of service officers for VA Disability Claims under the PACT Act

My fellow Comrades,

Here is another update on VFW actions regarding the PACT Act. As I mentioned last week, while we're celebrating this great victory, our mission continues – What's next is that we now must do everything possible to ensure EVERY veteran is made aware and has opportunity to meet with a VFW Accredited Service Officer. Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA) claims are different than VA Disability claims thus the reason we have entrusted law firms for CLJA claims that require an attorney as it will likely involve litigation in a federal court. VA Disability Claims are a different matter though.

Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup> we *deployed* a website to streamline referrals to our cadre of accredited service officers for VA Disability Claims. Through a short series of questions, veterans can determine whether they're likely eligible for VA benefits and request to be contacted by a VFW Accredited Service Officer. Our system will capture their answers and generate a referral. The veteran will then be contacted by a VFW service officer within one week.

The site also warns against scams, explains the basics of the PACT Act and encourages veterans to get involved with the VFW through joining the VFW if eligible, by signing up for Action Corps as well as making a donation. They can choose one, all three or none.

Making this site available is just phase one of our large-scale effort to make certain every veteran meets with us. We'll soon start nationwide promotion and will need your help getting the word out, so we're developing a toolkit for you to use in your communication vehicles to make certain we reach **EVERY** veteran.

Once these emails come out, we would ask that you promote by sending out to your Department leaders and members, placing on your website or social media accounts and in any print publications you have.

Please note the URL or link is [www.pactactinfo.org](http://www.pactactinfo.org).

More communication is to come, but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know.

**Dan West**

Adjutant General

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

*The above, directed at department leadership, was received from VFW on November 15 and has been edited for timeliness of information. ED*

## Its Never too Late to Plan Your Own Funeral

by Chris Mulholland

This may sound like a morbid subject but, if you think about it, most of you reading this have already taken actions to make things easier for your family after you are gone. You bought life insurance to take care of your family's financial needs. You made out a will and likely a power of attorney to help your family with legal issues.



So why, in their most grievous time right after death, are you forcing them to guess what you would want for your funeral? Things like: which funeral home to use; where you wish to be buried; what your obituary will say; what photo of you to use; do you desire a religious service; if yes, what are your preferred songs and readings; do you desire to be buried in uniform and, if so, which one; and even more details.

When I was diagnosed with ALS, aka Lou Gehrig's disease, two years ago it forced me to look at the world and my future - and especially my family's - in a new light. While a virtual death sentence it did offer me a silver lining... it gave me time to plan out my own funeral. Before then, if I had been hit by a bus, my family would have been left to make a myriad of decisions when all they would want to do is grieve in private.

After I wrote down all my desires, my wife and I met with my selected funeral director who also happens to be a friend of mine. Much to my astonishment was how little my wife knew of my wishes. It wasn't a subject which had ever come up for discussion between us, and it probably doesn't in most families.

But surprisingly, once I broached the subject with her, it turned out to be an easy discussion. I am sure the same will be true in most households.

If you desire to be buried in a national cemetery, fill out in advance a VA Form 40-10007, "Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery".

Funeral directors welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss funeral planning. Too often, they experience meetings with distraught spouses and children who are unsure of their loved one's desires.

The VA pays a flat rate for burial and plot or interment that includes a \$300 payment for non-service-connected death in addition to a \$300 plot allowance or interment allowance. A service-connected death qualifies for a burial benefit of \$2,000. These payments are subject to yearly revisions based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.

There are two ways to apply for the VA burial benefit. You can apply online at Vets.gov, or you can fill out and mail in a paper application, VA Form 21P-530, "Application for Burial Allowance," via U.S. postal mail to the VA Pension Management Center in your state.

VA benefit rules state that proof of death is required to claim the VA burial benefit, and all applicants for this benefit will need to submit bills and receipts showing that the applicant was financially responsible for burial.

This must include a statement from the funeral home or other service provider that shows the following information:

- The name of the deceased Veteran

- The nature and cost of the funeral or memorial services
- Nature and cost of any merchandise purchased
- The amount of any credits offered to the payer
- The amount of any remaining unpaid balance for services, merchandise, etc.

You can also visit a regional VA benefit office, or get the help of an accredited Veterans Service Officer at an agency such as the VFW, state veterans' affairs offices, etc.



If you die in the line of duty while still on active duty or from a service-related injury or illness as a veteran, your surviving spouse, child, or parent may be able to get a tax-free monetary benefit called VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA DIC).

If you die while on active duty, a military casualty assistance officer will help your family to complete an "Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child" (VA Form 21P-534a). The officer will also help mail the form to the correct VA regional office.

If you're a Veteran, your surviving spouse or child family can fill out an "Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits" (VA Form 21P-534EZ). Or a surviving parent can fill out an "Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parent(s)" (VA Form 21P-535).

If you desire and are eligible for burial in Arlington National Cemetery be aware that there is a 5 to 7 month wait from time of death to the burial; this is regardless of rank or seniority, everyone starts at the back of the line. Reputable funeral homes will store your body and make the transportation arrangements to Arlington.

The bottom line is this: ***make things easier for your family and don't hesitate! The time to start planning your funeral is now!***

Here is an example of a planning checklist you can use:

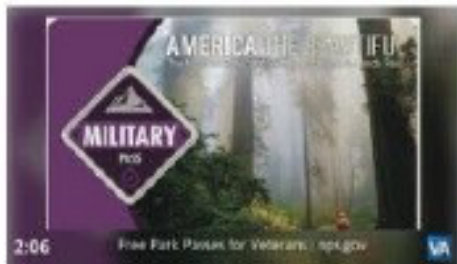
- Choose the type of disposition you'd like:
  - Burial (in the ground or at sea)
  - Cremation
  - Green burial (eco-friendly)

(Continued from page 11)

- Anatomical donation (ending in cremation)
- Choose the type of gathering, service, ceremony, or memorial you'd like to have:
  - Visitation, viewing, wake, or rosary
    - Do you want a private family viewing or public viewing?
    - Do you want a wake at home or a visitation at the funeral home?
  - Celebration of life service personalized to reflect the life lived
  - Traditional funeral service
    - Do you want your body present or not?
    - Do you want the casket open or closed?
  - Military service with flag, honor guard and Taps - let your funeral director know and he/she will make the arrangements.
  - What clothes do you want to be buried in?
    - If a uniform, put it together now with all your ribbons or medals, and badges - you're likely the only one in the family who can set up your uniform properly. Then store it in a garment bag or plastic storage tote until it's needed.
  - Graveside service or a service at the crematory
  - Memorial service (takes place after burial or cremation)
  - Any special honorary services like Knights of Columbus, Masons, VFW, American Legion, etc.
  - Home funeral service and/or burial
  - Scattering of ashes ceremony at a place which reflects your interests such as a park, a golf course, a lake, garden, beach, event center, theater, art gallery, church, or stadium. Choose an alternate location if you want to have the service outdoors in case of inclement weather.
  - Speaker such as a clergy member or funeral celebrant
  - Pallbearers, eulogist, assistants, and attendees
  - Catered or pot luck meal
  - Prayers, poems, or other readings
  - Songs, hymns, live or recorded
  - Memorial video set to special music
  - Monument, memorial, or virtual memorials, such as a grave marker, headstone, video tribute, or online memorial website
    - Veterans are eligible for a free headstone or marker, your funeral director will help you with this. See <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items/headstones-markers-medallions/> for details and options. Decide on what you want inscribed on your headstone/marker.
  - Collect and scan all the photos/videos you wish to include in your memorial tribute on a thumb drive and store with your funeral plans.
  - Identify what you desire to have on display during any of the services such as shadow box, plaques, etc.
  - Memorial contributions to charity organization(s)
- Choose the place of final rest:
  - Burial in a private cemetery, veterans cemetery, at sea, or on private property
  - Keepsake jewelry, such as cremation jewelry
  - Organ donation or anatomical donation
- Choose a method of payment:
  - If you want to prearrange your funeral, you can opt for funeral insurance through a funeral home, which sometimes offers a guarantee of their current prices. Other options include a funeral trust or pay on death account.
  - If you are paying for services during a time of need, you can ask family members to help pay for different parts of the funeral or to contribute in different ways, such as bringing food or sending flowers. Sites like [www.youcaring.com](http://www.youcaring.com) or [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com) can assist with crowdfunding to help pay for services if money is tight.
- Choose a way to record your final wishes:
  - Contact a funeral provider to help you create a plan that ensures your wishes will be followed.
  - Complete a funeral planning guide.
  - Verbally share your final wishes (but do not rely solely on verbal instructions, as loved ones may forget or disagree on what you said you wanted!)
  - Record your wishes in a voice or video recording.
- To assist loved ones:
  - Collect important documents and notify your next of kin about where they are held.
  - Store a copy of your will, marriage and birth certificates, DD-214(s), military service records, life and health insurance policies, social security information, and other estate planning documents where your next of kin can easily find them.
  - Write your own obituary or gather important biographical information for your obituary.
  - Select a photograph to accompany the obituary - the higher the resolution the better.
  - Keep a copy of your funeral plans on file with a funeral provider and notify at least two other emergency contacts of where your funeral will be held and where your final wishes are recorded.
  - Inform your funeral director that you desire 10 copies of your death certificate for your family, they will need at least that many to settle all your accounts.



Chris Mulholland is a VFW National Deputy Chief of Staff and Gold Legacy Life Member of Post 2894 in Chesapeake, Virginia.



### Free Lifetime Pass to National Parks, Other Public Lands

Last week on Veterans Day, Veterans of the U.S. Armed Services and Gold Star Families started obtaining a free lifetime pass to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites spread out across more than

400 million acres of public lands, including national parks, wildlife refuges and forests.

On Veterans Day 2022, the National Park Service unveiled a lifetime pass providing free entrance to national parks for Veterans and their families. The Interagency Military Lifetime

A large graphic with a blue and orange background. At the top, it says 'ALL VETERANS ELIGIBLE' in large white letters. Below that, 'FREE LIFETIME PASSES TO U.S. NATIONAL PARKS' in white letters on an orange background. On the left is the National Park Service arrowhead logo. On the right is the 'MILITARY LIFETIME' pass logo. A 'VR5' logo is in the bottom left corner.

Pass waives entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites for current military service members and their dependents, Veterans and Gold Star Families.

Veterans and their families have free access to approximately 2,000 public locations spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, which host activities to fit any lifestyle—from serene to high octane, including hiking, fishing, paddling, biking, hunting, stargazing, camping, and much more.

The Military Pass has been expanded to include a pass that does not expire for Veterans and Gold Star Family members. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2022 authorized a free lifetime pass to national parks and other federal recreational lands for eligible Veterans and Gold Star Families. In recent years, they were able to receive annual passes.

#### Are you eligible?

For purposes of this program, a Veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserve, and is able to present one of the following forms of valid (unexpired) identification:

Department of Defense Identification Card, Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) Veteran ID Card, Veterans designation on a state-issued U.S. driver’s license or identification card

Gold Star Families are next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a “qualifying situation,” such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces.



Many Annual Memberships will expire on December 31.  
PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**SIGN UP TO JOIN  
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RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER  
AND ACTION ALERTS

Use camera mode to scan code



or  
Text "VFW" to 50457  
or  
Visit [vfw.org/JoinActionCorps](http://vfw.org/JoinActionCorps)

**Post 7589 Service Officer**

**Monti Zimmerman**

**703-223-2211**



**Veterans  
Crisis Line**  
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

.....

Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net)  
or text to **838255**

## Legacy Life membership

This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

Levels	Posts	Departments	National
Gold-	\$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver-	\$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze-	\$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

Member Incentives	Bronze \$400	Silver \$800	Gold \$1200
Plated Engraved Legacy Life Card*	●	●	●
Lapel Pin*	●	●	●
Hat Pin*	●	●	●
Distinctive VFW Store Line for Legacy Life members*	●	●	●
Framed Legacy Life membership Certificate	●	●	●
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	●	●	●
Special Legacy Life Plaque	●	●	●
Hat Patch*	●	●	●
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza*	●	●	●
VFW Store Discounts (for personal use only) *	5%	10%	15%
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance *	\$2000	\$3500	\$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Department	\$6	\$12	\$18

**2022-23 Post Officers**

Commander	Wayne Moore
Senior Vice Commander	Lou Filippone
Junior Vice Commander	Bobby Knight
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Chaplain	Ron Knowles
1 Year Trustee	Tina Bliem
2 Year Trustee	Dave Mattingly
3 Year Trustee	Chris Morgan
Adjutant	Ron Link
Service Officer	Monti Zimmerman
Judge Advocate	Bobby Knight
Surgeon	Alex Bliem

**2022-23 Auxiliary 7589 Officers**

President	Mary Corkhill
Senior Vice President	Ellie Smith
Junior Vice President	Cindy McIntyre
Secretary	Ann Mitchell
Treasurer	Elanor Doczi
Chaplain	Cookie Cullen
Conductress	Janet Raskin
Guard	Patsy Gough
Trustee 1	Jan Germain
Trustee 2	Janet Raskin
Trustee 3	Yvonne Sullivan
Historians	Patsy Gough Yvonne Sullivan
Patriotic Instructor	Lorri Allen Smith



**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**



**30 Games Including:**

- \$750 Jackpot**  
(Starts with 51 numbers)
- Lucky 7 Progressive**
- 90:10 Jackpot**  
(Prize = 90% of sales)
- Pull Tabs & Hard Cards**
- \$10.00 Bingo Book**  
(includes Early Birds)

**WEDNESDAY MORNINGS**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**DOORS OPEN 7:30 AM**

**GAMES START AT 9:15 AM**

**SPECIAL**  
**BUY 2 BOOKS**  
**GET A 1/2 BOOK FREE**

Virginia Department  
of  
Veterans Services

Manassas Office

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

## Upcoming Events

December 4	Youth Awards Ceremony — 4:00 PM
December 5	Post meeting — 7:30 PM
December 12	Auxiliary Christmas Party — 1:00 PM (Olive Garden) <b>No monthly meeting</b>
December 15	Youth Committee meeting — 7:00 PM
December 17	Wreaths Across America — Quantico National Cemetery — 12:00 Noon
December 18	Holiday Party at the Post — 12:00 to 3:00 PM (Pot Luck — The Post will provide the meats — Bring a dish to share)
January 2	Post meeting — 7:30 PM
January 9	Auxiliary meeting — 2:00 PM
January 12—15	Winter Council meeting — Portsmouth
January 19	Youth Committee meeting — 7:00 PM

**MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE**

present

in **THE NUTCRACKER**

with the  
Manassas Ballet  
Theatre Orchestra

at the **HYLTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

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

10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas, VA  
703-993-7759

December  
16-23

Tickets starting at \$35

Also Streaming Starting 12/24 at 7:30 pm EST  
<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/mbtnutcracker>

For more information: [manassasballet.org](http://manassasballet.org) • [info@manassasballet.org](mailto:info@manassasballet.org) • (703) 257-1811

Photo by Melaphoto LLC

Manassas Ballet Theatre is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, Prince William County, and the City of Manassas



VIRGINIA SENATORS		
Mark Warner		202-224-2023
Tim Kaine		202-224-4024
VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVES		
Rob Wittman	1st District	202-225-4261
Elaine Luria	2nd District	202-225-4215
Bobby Scott	3rd District	202-225-8351
Donald McEachin	4th District	202-225-6365
Bob Good	5th District	202-225-4711
Ben Cline	6th District	202-225-5431
Abigail Spanberger	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Jennifer Wexton	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492



# CANNON NEWS

The official publication of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
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Cannon News is emailed to Post and Auxiliary members with email addresses on file.  
 Cannon News is also available on our website [www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org)



Editor: Rick Raskin  
 Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to [quartermaster@vfw7589.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfw7589.org) no later than the 28th of the month.  
 We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.



**Dominion Energy**

presents

## Salute to the Military

Opening Night of Manassas Ballet Theatre's

### *Nutcracker*

Friday, December 16th, 7:30 p.m.

at the



**HYLTON PERFORMING  
ARTSCENTER**



Salute to the Military is our annual opening night ceremony, December 16, 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.

This year's honoree is Col. Ulysses (Xerk) White, USA, retired. After a distinguished 30 year career in the Army, Xerk has continued his service to our community in many ways.

Colonel White was born in Cottdale, Florida on July 24, 1930. He graduated from Jackson County Training High School, Marianna, Florida in 1949, and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, Florida in 1953.

Colonel White was commissioned as a Reserve Second Lieutenant of Artillery in the United States Army in 1953. During a 25 year career, Colonel White served in Vietnam and twice was assigned to Korea among other posts. In 1975 he was promoted to the rank of full Colonel and retired from the Army in 1981.

After retirement, Colonel White established Multi-Group Industries, USA, Inc. and was employed with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority as the Manager of the Personnel Service Department.

For over 40 years, Colonel White has been very active as a volunteer in the Manassas community. Highlights include 12 years service as a member of the Manassas City Council and eight years service on the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Xerk also served as a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the local American Red Cross Chapter, Commander of American Legion, Post 114, the Co-founder and President of the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage in Greater Manassas and Co-founder of the Prince William County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity where he served as its President from 1998 to 2004.

**All active-duty military, veterans and first responders are invited to attend at no charge, with accompanying tickets at 20% off. If you are unable to attend our Salute performance, you are invited to attend the other Nutcracker performances (Dec. 17-23) and receive a 20% discount. Use code SERVICE at <https://blt.ly/3DIIBb0> or call (703) 993-7759 to access these special offers.**



For more information: [manassasballet.org](http://manassasballet.org)  
info@manassasballet.org • (703) 257-1811

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