

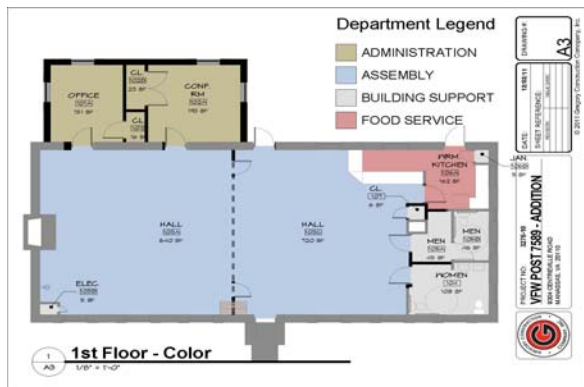
# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
March 2012

**Next Post Meeting: March 5 at 1930 Hours**

## Post Commander' Report

We, are deciding on the expansion of the Post Home at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting. We will decide if we are going forward with the building project. The project will add two offices on the backside of the building (see figure below); upgrade the heating and air conditioning; and bring the Post Home into current ADA standards. We are also looking to upgrade the parking lot. The plan is to grade the parking lot and put down crushed stone. Paving the lot is not an option. The cost of paving would be too expensive,



mainly because of the environmental regulations that would govern the project.

The first recruiting effort at the Manassas Mall on February 25 was successful. We signed up 3 new members for the Post and received a nice donation. Thanks to **Pete MacLeod** for arranging for us to recruiting at the Mall. We will be recruiting again at the Mall on March 31. We could use your help.

We will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17<sup>th</sup> in Old Town Manassas. Look on our Post Website for details. We would love to have you participate in the parade.

It has been a very busy time for our building manager, **Wayne Moore**. If you need to rent or use the post home for an occasion, please contact Wayne at 703.361.5554.

Yours in Comradship,  
**Ron Link**

Let us keep a copy of your proof of military service on file.

You never know when you or your family might need a to obtain a copy of your proof of military service. Sometimes it can happen during the most stressful of times.

Recently a member of the Post passed on. The family contacted our service officer who informed them that in order to have a veterans burial they would need a copy of his DD-214. Unfortunately they were subjected to a frantic search before finally locating his records.

Had his record been on file at the Post a considerable amount of stress could have been avoided.

We will maintain all member records in a secure locked cabinet and will not share any information with any other party without consent from the veteran or their family in the event of his/her passing, .

If you would like us to provide you this service please send us a copy of your DD-214 or similar document to:

VFW Post 7589  
P.O. Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108-0668

You may also email an image to the Quartermaster at:  
[qm7589@verizon.net](mailto:qm7589@verizon.net).

Auxiliary  
Fundraiser  
[Click Here](#)

## General Assembly Report Veterans 15 February 2012

### **JLC Recommendation 1 - Veterans Identification**

- Goal: Provide a simple, ready means of identification for Virginia's veterans
- o Status: Legislation is not required - DMV will implement without legislation

### **JLC Recommendation 2 - Unclaimed Cremains (Patrons Del Tata - R - 85; Sen Puller - D - 36)**

- Goal: Facilitate the honorable burial of the unclaimed cremated remains (cremains) of Virginia veterans in a state veterans' cemetery by requiring mortuaries to report unclaimed cremains to DVS
- o Status: HB439 (Tata/Anderson/Stolle) Passed House 99-0, SB433 (Puller) passed Senate 39-0

### **JLC Recommendation 3 - Sales Tax Exemption for 501(c) (19) VSOs (Patron Sen McDougle - R - 4)**

- Goal: Recognize the community service and philanthropic contributions of Virginia's Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)
- o Status: SB114 (McDougle) passed Senate 40-0

### **JLC Recommendation 4 - Homeless Veterans**

- Goal: Reduce homelessness among Virginia veterans
- o Status: Governor's budget amendment 464 #1h includes 2 new positions and \$197K (GF) per fiscal year for veterans programs focusing on reducing veterans homelessness

### **BVS Recommendation 1 - Delivery of Benefit Services (Patrons Del K. Cox -R - 66; Sen Reeves -R-17)**

- Goal: Improve the delivery of benefit services to veterans by adding four additional DVS claims agents
- o Status: Governor's budget (HB30 item #462) includes \$255K (GF) per year for two new positions and to fill two vacant positions HB1121 (Cox) changes the ratio of claims agents to veterans to 1 to 23,000; Passed house 100-0; SB254 (Sen Reeves) passed Senate 39-0

### **BVS Recommendation 2 - Education Section Staffing**

- Goal: Ensure that the State Approving Agency (SAA) for Veterans Education and Training of DVS has the positions to meet its new mission under the

### **Post 9/11 GI Bill Improvement Act**

- o Status: Governor's budget (HB30 #460) includes transfer of two vacant NGF positions to SAA

### **BVS Recommendation 3 - Care Center Staffing**

- Goal: Ensure that state veterans care centers have the personnel and financial resources to deliver quality care to residents
- o Status: Governor's budget (HB30 #461) includes 51 new positions & \$2.7M in FY13 and \$3.6M in FY14

### **BVS Recommendation 4 - Hampton Care Center Study**

- Goal: Ensure that a viable and appropriate site is selected for the construction of the Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center
- o Status: Governor's budget (0 #1g) proposes \$250,000 to DVS for the study

### **BVS Recommendation 5 - Voting Status of ex officio BVS members (Patrons Del Dudenhefer - R - 2; Sen Puller - D - 36)**

- Goal: Strengthen the capacity of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) to fulfill the powers and duties set forth in the Code of Virginia
- o Status: HB730 (Dudenhefer) passed House 98-0, SB297 (Puller) passed Senate 39-0

### **BVS Recommendation 6 - Additional Citizen Board Members (Parton Sen Puller - D - 36)**

- Goal: Strengthen the capacity of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) to fulfill the Powers and Duties set forth in the Code of Virginia
- o Status: SB297 (Puller) passed Senate 39-0

### **Remove Disability Offset from the VRS Retirement System (Patron Del K. Cox - 66)**

- Goal: Enable veterans receiving disability benefits from the Veterans Administration who retire through the Virginia Retirement System to receive their full disability and full retirement payments

- o Status: HB350 (Cox) passed House 98-0

### **Fund License for Deployment of an Automated Claims Processing System (Patron Del K. Cox - R - 66)**

- Goal: Fund the anticipated licensing fees associated with the deployment of a DVS automated claims proc-

(Legislation from page 2)

essing system for the next two years

- o Status: Budget Amendment 462 #2h (Cox) submitted

**Class Registration Preference for Veterans Using their GI Bill (Patron Del Comstock- R -34)**

Goal: Enable veterans using their GI Bill to complete their requirements for a degree within the time limits of the GI Bill by giving them preference in selecting classes

- o Status: HB548 (Comstock) passed House 100-0

**Hunting and Fishing Licenses for Disabled Veterans (Patrons Del Yancey - R - 94; Sen Garrett - R - 22)**

• Goal: Allow permanently disabled veterans to purchase a discounted combined hunting and fresh water fishing license and either a hunting or a fishing license at a reduced fee.

- o Status: HB719 (Yancey) passed House 98-0, SB528 (Garrett) passed Senate 39-0

**Real Estate Tax Exemption (Patrons Del Lingamfelter - R - 31; O'Bannon - R - 73; Sen Stuart - R - 28; Sen Puller - D - 36)**

Goal: Clarify definition of property held in trust and other language in the Code on real estate tax exemptions for disabled veterans

- o Status: HB922 (Lingamfelter) passed House 98-0; HB190 (O'Bannon) passed House 98-0; SB22

- o (Stuart) passed Senate 40-0; SB540 (Puller) passed Senate 40-0

**Transfer Virginia War Memorial to DVS (Patron Del Gilbert - R -15; Sen McDougle - R - 4)**

Goal: To implement the Governor's Reorganization Plan - aligns the War Memorial under DVS

- o Status: HJ49 (Gilbert) passed House 69-27, Senate passed with amendments - House rejected, in conference; SJ66 (McDougle) passed Senate 22-17

**Academic Credit for Military Educational Experience (Patron Del Lewis - D -100)**

Goal: To award academic credit toward a degree to students for educational experience gained from military service

- o Status: HB195 passed House 100-0

A total of ninety-two pieces of legislation were introduced in this Session: 67 bills, 18 budget amendments, and 7 joint resolutions. This is three more than last year. More than two thirds of the 67 bills (70%) were submitted by Delegates. Forty of the 67 bills and 7 resolutions introduced were passed by the respective Chambers. This is comparable to last year and indicates the strong support that veterans have in the General Assembly. While 27 bills did not pass in committee, 13 were continued to next year for further study of the issues and their impact. Another four bills involving veterans' identification on their driver's licenses were passed by as the Department of Motor Vehicles can accomplish this administratively and already has actions under way. Three others bills were incorporated into bills that did pass. The remaining seven bills failed for various reasons. This is almost identical to last year.

## NOTICE

Due the increased cost of printing and mailing, it was decided at the January membership meeting to discontinue mailing the Post Newsletter. Future editions will be posted on the Post's website ([www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org)).

*This will now be a monthly publication.*

- Deadline for submission is the **3rd Wednesday of each month.**
- Submissions may be dropped off at the Post; sent via US mail or emailed to [ron.link10@gmail.com](mailto:ron.link10@gmail.com) or [qm7589@verizon.net](mailto:qm7589@verizon.net).
- Publication date will be the **1st Monday of each month.**
- Paper copies of the newsletter will be available at the membership meeting or on any Wednesday Morning during the Post BINGO.

Please contact us if you require an alternate method of delivery.

## Youth Committee Notes

The Youth Committee of VFW Post 7589 and the Ladies Auxiliary is currently working on an audio visual project so that we will have a presentation about what we do to show to young people whether its a school classroom, Boy Scout troop, or individual young person who happens to visit the Post Home. We are looking for pictures of Post activities as we create a “storyboard.” If you have any good pictures to lend to us that would be great. The current five members of the committee working hard on this are Robert Punihaole, Yvonne Sullivan, Mary Corkhill, Pat Templeton and Pete MacLeod.

Contact any of us with questions, pictures to contribute or better yet, expertise to contribute. Call 703 220 -4545 for more information or to get involved.

The Ladies Auxiliary Patriotic Art Contest is coming down to the deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup>.

It is for high school students (grades 9 thru 12). The national Ladies Auxiliary website has more information or you can call the post at 703-361-5554 or call Committee Chair Pete Macleod at 703 220-4545 if you know someone who would like to enter a patriotic work of art.

The themes for the Veterans of Foreign Wars/Ladies Auxiliary essay contests for the 2012-2013 school year have been chosen and here they are:

Patriot’s Pen (grades 6 to 8): “What I Would Tell America’s Founding Fathers”

Voice of Democracy (grades 9 to 12): “Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?”

Deadline for the essays is November 1, 2012.

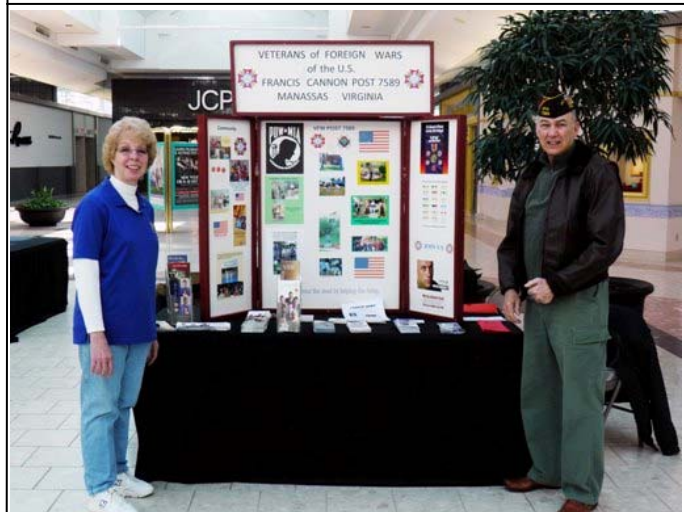
Committee member Ron Knowles informs us that the dates have been set and judges selected for the VFW Eagle Scout of the Year selection for Post, District and State judging. All judging will be at Post 7589 in Manassas.

The Youth Committee will be raising money again this year for the Essay contest and Teacher of the Year prize fund. We have another giant yard sale tentatively scheduled for early September. We received

generous support last year from several local businesses and we will again be calling on local businesses and organizations for help.

Anyone interested in joining us on the Youth Committee is more than welcome. We meet at 7pm at the Post Home on the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Call 703 220-4545 for more information. Or email:

[jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net](mailto:jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net)



Feb. 25: Mary Corkhill & Jerry Martin at Manassas Mall.

## Upcoming Events

**March 17** - St. Patrick's Day Parade - 1000

**March 31** - Recruiting at Manassas Mall

**April 22** - District 8 Convention - Culpeper Post 2524 - 1300

**May 26 - 28** - Memorial Day Weekend Events

- May 26: Poppies - Location TBD - 0900 - 1300

- May 27: Poppies - Location TBD - 0900 - 1300

- May 28: Ceremony - Manassas Veterans Memorial - 0830

- Flag Placements - Manassas Cemetery - 0900

**June 2** - 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic & Open House 1130 - 1430 - Post Home

**June 7 - 10** - Department Convention - Williamsburg

**June 28** - Planning Meeting - Open to members