

The Cannon News

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
P.O. Box 10206
Manassas, VA 20108
www.vfwpost7589.org

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Officers Elect 2010-2011

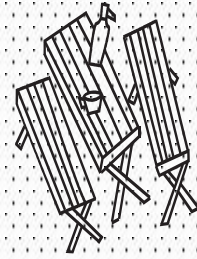
Commander: Ron Link
Senior Vice Commander: Pete MacLeod
Junior Vice Commander: Steve Botello
Quartermaster: Rick Raskin
Adjutant: Mike Guttman
Judge Advocate: Stephen Meade
Chaplain: Sam Nealey
Surgeon: James Van Horn
Trustee 1: Pat Templeton
Trustee 2: Ron Knowles
Trustee 3: Travis Nelson
Officer of the Day: Rod Gillette
Guard: Dallas Kennedy
Service Officer: Steve Botello
Historian: Pat Templeton
Scouting Chair: Ron Knowles
Youth Chair: Pete MacLeod
Bingo Chair: Rick Raskin

Auxiliary Officers Elect 2010-2011

President: Pam Braithwaite
Senior Vice-President: Angela Fromm
Junior Vice-President: Jenn Nealey
Secretary/Treasurer: Valerie Nealey
Chaplain: Mary Corkhill
Conductress: Sondra Burroughs
Guard: Patsy Gough
Trustee 1: Yvonne Sullivan
Trustee 2: Debbie Shifflette
Trustee 3: Renee Bramer
Patriotic Instructor: Regina Moore
Historian: Debbie Shifflette



THE CANNON



Post 7589's 64th Anniversary Barbeque

Saturday June 5th

1100 to 1500

VFW Family and Guests at the Post Home

Food---Giveaways---Good Comradeship

Upcoming Events

Month of May

May 29 -Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Drive - Wellington Giant - 10 am to 2 pm

May 29: Memorial Day Poppies - Junction Giant 0900 - 1300

May 30: Memorial Day Poppies - Wellington Giant 0900 - 1300

May 31: Memorial Day Ceremonies - Manassas Veterans Memorial - 0830, Flag Placement at Manassas Cemetery - 0900

Month of June

June 5: Post Anniversary BBQ/Cookout - Post Home 1100 - 1500

June 10 - 13: VFW State Convention - Richmond

June 15: Atlantic Bus Trip - Open to the Public (Bus departs 0800 and returns at 2300)

Month of July

July 11: District 8 Meeting - Culpeper Post 2524 - 1300

July 17: Recruiting Event & Presentation of the Colors - Manassas Speedway - In conjunction with VFW Sprint Car Racing (1700 - 2030)

Auxiliary President—*Valerie Nealey*

Ladies,

As soon as the Department President is installed on June 13th at the Department Convention, your new Auxiliary President, Pam Braithwaite, will begin her term. I have stepped down as President but stepping up as Secretary/Treasurer. Here is a recap of what the Auxiliary accomplished during my last term:

- Recruited 12 new members.
- Participated in Veterans Day Activities -- Manassas Mall Event to make a difference in the community -- The 2nd Armed Forces Community Event distributing poppies -- Memorial Day Activities -- Buddy Poppy Drives
- Gave gift cards to two members in need of financial assistance at Christmas
- Sent holiday cards to VFW National Home for Children along with Campbell Soup Labels -- Distributed patriotic coloring sheets/word puzzles to local elementary schools -- Sent over \$100,000 worth of grocery coupons to a US Marine Corps base in Japan
- Raffles raised over \$400 for Cancer Aid & Research and over \$500 for Fisher House Foundation
- Assisted with Homecoming for the 266th National Guard Unit -- Car Show for the Troops -- VOD, Patriot's Pen and Teacher Awards -- Veterans Day Parade
- - Donated to VFW National Home for Children Mini-bus -- Snowball Express
- Fundraisers consisted of Yankee Candle, Christmas Craft Fair and Wreaths Across America ("WAA"). The WAA fundraiser raised \$1,565 for our relief fund but most importantly allowed us to lay 1,200 wreaths at Quantico National Cemetery on December 12 -- 313 wreaths were sponsored by our Auxiliary.

I am proud to announce that our Auxiliary is 100% in Program Reporting and 101% in Membership and will be presented a Banner at the Department Convention in June.

The past three years have been rewarding and challenging for me and the Auxiliary. Remember, this is YOUR Auxiliary -- get involved. Working with the Comrades as a Team is the key to a successful year! Support your President!

***Post and Auxiliary Meeting
First Monday of the Month—7:30 p.m.***

Auxiliary President-Elect—*Pam Braithwaite*

First, I would like to thank everyone for your vote of confidence in electing me as your 2010-11 Auxiliary President. I look forward to working with each of you and feel that we can accomplish many things for our veterans and their families.

There will be a planning session for the upcoming year on Thursday, May 13 at 7pm at the Post home. I want to hear your ideas and welcome you to attend the meeting. If each of you has just one idea, think what all we can do.

The Department Convention will be June 10-13 in Richmond. This is an excellent opportunity to meet the Department Chairmen and other Department officers. The convention offers a lot of chances for camaraderie. If you have never been to a Convention before, you should really try to attend. Hotel reservations need to be made promptly.

We recently had the District Convention and elected the Lorraine Allen-Smith as our new President. Please, show her your support by coming to the District Meetings and being an active member.

We have a wonderful Post and Auxiliary and we should all work together and assist each other. We are all trying to accomplish the same things and it will be much more beneficial to work as a team.
God Bless you for who you are and all you do.

Madame President-elect Pamela Braithwaite



ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP

\$40.00 PER PERSON

HILTON CASINO

\$25.00 FREE SLOT

CREDIT

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010

DEPART 8:00 AM

RETURN 10:30 PM

Post Commander—Stephen Meade

For the past three years, it has been my distinct honor to serve as your Post Commander. The Post has seen a tremendous growth during the past three years. We have achieved a lot within these three years.

I have been fortunate to have had the counsel of the immediate Past Commander John “Sam” Nealey to help guide me through the past years. I want to thank him for his guidance in helping me become a Post Commander.

I also want to thank your Post Quartermaster Rick Raskin for his counsel and his ongoing efforts to keep the Post in good fiscal shape. Some years ago, I created the initial web-page for our Post. Comrade Raskin has taken it on and made it into a web-site which I'm proud to claim as our Post's! It is informative, simple to use, and through the Hall Rentals and means to join the VFW brought not only new funds to help our Operating Account, but a means of bringing new and existing members into the Post.

I also want to thank your Post Judge Advocate Ron Link (and Commander-Elect). He has been a source of wisdom and advice since he joined the Post. There is another that I have to mention as well. Comrade Pat Templeton has been a great source for activities to assist not only our Post, but veterans and their families at Fisher House. We have had as a result of Comrade Templeton, become involved in activities such as the “Ruptured Duck Bus Tour” (RDBT) of WWII vets to the WWII Memorial in DC. We also put on a Spaghetti Dinner for the WWII vets as well as provide shirts and a CD which showed the efforts and end result of the RDBT. We have also helped with the “Car Show for the Troops” to assist Fisher House. And, we were able to get the Department of Virginia VFW to support the Virginia State Sprint Car Series for not only the past year, but also for the immediate future. Well done Pat!

I want to thank everyone who was willing to hold a Post office the past three years. Your help in supporting the Post was essential to our success. It is with pride that I hand over the reins of office to Commander-Elect Ron Link. He will have my advice on steering through the obstacles which occur from time-to-time.

*A Special Thanks to Steve for his leadership during
the past Three Years—Greatly Appreciated*

On My Return to Vietnam--Rick Raskin

Years ago I had decided that one day I would return to Vietnam. I served there in 1967 with the US Army's 1st Signal Brigade at Nha Trang. Forty three years later my wife and I made that visit.

We decided that the best way for us would be to take a cruise. Departing from Singapore we would visit the Vietnamese ports in the areas of Vung Tau, Nha Trang, Da Nang and Hanoi. The first leg of our journey was to fly to Singapore where we spent an enjoyable 3 days prior to beginning the cruise.

Our first port of call was Vung Tau, located near Ho Chi Minh City, the former Saigon. Several options for land based tours were available and we chose to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels about a 2 ½ hour ride away. The tour focuses on the resilience of the Vietnamese fighters who both lived and fought from underground tunnels. Originally constructed to fight the French by the Viet Minh, the tunnels were later expanded up to 12 meters below ground using only rudimentary tools. I was especially taken by the quality of the engineering that went into their construction. I was also impressed by the human engineering where such factors as venting of smoke and masking of



Inside Cu Chi Tunnels

smells were taken into consideration. I found the experience touching to say the least, even taking into consideration the very old propaganda film we were shown on the bus from Vung Tau.

The following day the ship anchored at Nha Trang and we were tendered into the port. Since I had spent the better part of a year there we opted to hire a cab and explore on our own. I was able to get a few photos from some of the same locations I had visited before, but recognized little today. After some confusing conversation with our cab driver we drove to the old unused airbase, and thanks to a friendly guard I was allowed to take a few pictures across the airstrip. Nothing remains from my US Army days except the runways and terminal building. Nha Trang has grown about 4 or 5 times the size I remember and the once deserted beach is now lined with high rise hotels and restaurants. Monkey Island is now a resort and is connected to the mainland by an aerial tram. Hon Tre Island, once a leper colony, is also populated with



Nha Trang Airbase – looking
towards the old US base

villas and hotels.

Verizon Velocity Fundraising

SUPPORT VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS of the UNITED STATES, Post 7589 MANASSAS

Fundraising Goal:

All funds raised are used to assist veterans in need, their families and to promote patriotism through youth educational programs and scholarships.

Our Post will receive a donation from Verizon when you order a new qualifying residential Verizon product. A Verizon FIOS Triple FreedomSM order will generate up to a \$65 donation. What's more, you can take advantage of currently advertised promotions, so order today!

How to order new Verizon services through Velocity:

Step 1 Call **1.888.695.5299**.
(MON-FRI 8:00am – 10:00pm EST, SAT 8:00am – 6:00pm EST)

Donations are paid on the following qualified new product orders:

RESIDENTIAL PRODUCT	ONE-TIME DONATION
Verizon Internet (FIOS [®] or High Speed Internet)	\$25.00
Verizon TV (FIOS or DIRECTV [®])	\$20.00
Verizon Phone Service (FIOS Digital Voice, Freedom [™] Calling Plan)	\$10.00
Verizon Long Distance	\$10.00

Step 2 Provide our code **13805** to the Verizon representative.

Got all the Verizon products you need? Then pass this flyer to friends and family in MD, DC, and VA so their new order **will help us too!**

For more information or to enroll a nonprofit organization, visit verizon.com/velocity.

Participation in the Verizon Velocity program does not indicate acceptance or endorsement by Verizon of participants' views or statements.

Donations are only paid on new qualifying residential orders placed by calling 1.888.695.5299 and providing our code. Orders placed online or through another phone number will not apply.

Donations paid on new product orders that remain with Verizon a minimum of 30 days from order date. Renewals or speed/package upgrades do not constitute a new sale. Term commitment may apply. Product availability varies. Contact Verizon for details. © 2010 Verizon.

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Donations are only paid on new qualifying residential orders placed by calling **1.888.695.5299** and providing our code. Orders placed online or through another phone number will not apply.



Help Wanted

(No Experience Needed)

Wednesday Mornings
At the Post Home



Post Commander-Elect—Ron Link

It is an honor to be selected as Commander of a VFW Post and it a greater honor to be the Commander of Post 7589. Over the few years, Comrades like Sam Nealey, Rick Raskin, Pete MacLeod, Steve Meade and Ron Knowles have been involved both at the District and Department level—bringing Post 7589 into the spotlight. Thus, we have the reputation of being “The little post that can”.

Now the new officers elected for the year 2010-2011 have an enormous task to achieve, however, this task can only be accomplish with everyone helping. Input and communication are key factors in the success of our Post. Attending the monthly meeting and giving your input is the key to success. We have the ear of many arenas within our organization. Rick Raskin and I are on the Department Resolutions and the Department Legislative Committee. Several of our Post Comrades hold key position in District Eight, including Rick as the District Commander. We have a strong voice within the Department.

We are soon going to be planning out are activities for the year. Some of the events in which our Post will be participating in will be Fall Jubilee in October; the 2nd Annual Grater Manassas Veteran's Day Parade in November (This year honoring those who served during the Korean Conflict); Veteran's Day Activities; and the Manassas Christmas Parade.

Senior Vice Commander MacLeod has again offered to serve as Chair of our Youth Committee. Over the past years, Post 7589 Youth Committee has been very active and we have been in the forefront in our community involved with the youth. With School visits explaining “What a Veteran Is” to having the Eagle Scout of the Year win on a District and Department levels (thanks to Ron Knowles), our Youth Committee does an outstanding job and we always are looking for committee member—both from the Comrades as well as the Auxiliary.

Steve Botello, Junior Vice Commander and Post Service Officer, has been very active in the support of veterans and assisting them though the VA system. Steve is a great resource,

LAST—IT IS MEMBERSHIP. Not only do we need new members, but we need to retain our existing members. When Rick Raskin and I visit with our elected officials, both in Richmond and Washington, DC, our power and clout come from the strength in numbers. Each and everyone of you count.

Look for the upcoming newsletters or just click the www.vfw7589.org