

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

Manassas, Virginia

August 2012



*A Grateful Nation Thanks
and Honors Our*
VIETNAM WAR VETERANS

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COMMANDER'S REPORT



Post Family:

This is a proud time for the VFW Department of Virginia:

First, I want to congratulate the Ladies Auxiliary. Virginia now has a National Officer. Dee Guillory was elected National Guard at the convention in Reno, NV. I know of all the hard work her campaign committee did on her behalf. Our own Mary Corkhill was a vital part of the campaign. I want to let her know we are all proud of her and all her efforts.

On the Comrades side, John Hamilton was elected Commander-in-Chief. John is from the Department of Florida—Post 7909 in Jacksonville. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1968-1970 and served in Vietnam. While in combat, he was awarded a Purple Heart with two Gold Stars. Elected as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief was William “Bill” Thien, a Navy veteran who served from 1969-1974. He is a member of Post 3281 in New Albany, IN. John Stroud of Hawthorne, NV was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Some interesting facts John Hamilton stated in his acceptance speech were:

There are almost 2.8 million Vietnam veterans who are eligible for VFW membership.

There are more than 600,000 Desert Shield and Desert Storm veterans who are eligible for VFW membership.

There are now 2 million Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who are eligible for VFW membership.

There are tens of thousands of others ... from Beirut to Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Haiti, the Balkans, Korea and elsewhere ... who are also eligible for VFW membership.

Also, he stated:

“A national survey last year revealed that half of all new veterans

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AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



At the National Convention in Reno, NV, the new National President Leanne Lemley from Iowa and her officers were installed for the 2012-2013 year. National Sr. Vice is Amithea "Sissy" Borel from Louisiana, National Jr. Vice, Ann Panteleakos from Connecticut, National Secretary/Treasurer, Jan Owens from South Carolina, National Chaplain, Francisca Guilford from Alaska, National Conductress, Colette Bishop from Illinois and National Guard, Dee Guillory from Virginia.

Our Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a dinner at the Post home for the National President Leanne Lemley, on Thursday, September 13th at 6:00pm. Seating will be limited so you must RSVP by August 30th. We are requesting assistance from Ladies Auxiliary of 7589 and the 8th District members. Please call Mary Corkhill at 703/361-8950 or mcorkhill@comcast.net.

Some of the upcoming events for August will be Ladies Auxiliary meeting on August 6th at 7:30pm, Youth Committee Meeting on August 16th at 7:00pm, Executive meeting on August 23rd at 7:00pm. There will be a District 8 meeting but the Ladies Auxiliary will not be attending this meeting.

For September events, we will be distribution the 9/11 Memorial Buddy Poppy during the Youth Committee Yard Sale on September 8th from 7am-2pm. Due to Labor Day falling on September 3rd, the Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be the following week, September 10th at 7:30pm. September 13th will be the National President visit at the Post for dinner at 6:00pm. On September 20th, a combine Youth Committee and Executive meeting will be at 7:00pm at the Post. September 21st will be the POW/MIA ceremony at the Manassas Veterans Memorial at 5:00 pm. I hope you will be able to attend.

Ladies, I would like to thank you for a wonderful 2011-2012 year. If there is anything you need assistance with, please let me know.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
Ladies Auxiliary President

JULY 4 YIELDS BIGGEST BINGO EVER

By Rick Raskin

July 4 with the Progressive game prize at \$1800 and the Jackpot number at 57, we hosted 88 players and literally packed the house. Several patrons had to be turned away because there simply wasn't any more space. To accommodate the crowd we relocated the bingo workers and setup card tables. The players were very understanding and complaints were non existent. We even passed out free water and sodas as the temperature began to climb.



With so many players it was almost a foregone conclusion that some big prize money would be claimed. Such was the case when our 90:10 Jackpot game paid \$406 to the winner. Moving right along one very lucky player won the Progressive game and was awarded 18 Ben Franklins (\$100 bills). The gentleman who won is a regular player and received a round of applause when his card was verified.

Continuing on, we also paid the \$500 Progressive Jackpot prize. Also we had record pull tab sales; selling 12 separate deals.

A very memorable day for all of us and we were able to realize a profit of over double our highest past total.

Thanks to the 15 volunteers who helped us and to those who help on a regular basis.



TRICARE PRIME ENROLLMENT FEES INCREASE

Submitted by Gunny Lewis

Enrollment fees for military retirees will increase Oct. 1 but within limits set by Congress last year. Tricare Prime enrollment fees will increase for some retired military personnel and their families by 3.6 percent and for most by 17 percent starting Oct. 1.

Tricare Management Activity announced July 2 its new annual fee structure for military retirees enrolled in Prime. For those who enrolled before Oct. 1, 2011, annual fees will increase for individuals from \$230 to \$269.28, and from \$460 to \$538.56 for families.

Those who enrolled after Oct. 2, 2011, and all new beneficiaries will pay \$269.28 a year for individuals, up from \$260, and \$538.56 for families, up from \$520.

The increases fall in line with legislation passed in 2011 restricting the amount the Pentagon can increase annual fees to the military cost-of-living adjustment. The Tricare fee increases are equal to the cost-of-living adjustment in military retired pay made Dec. 1, 2011. The Pentagon had pressed for more significant increases in their proposed fiscal 2013 budget but the higher rate structure, along with new enrollment fees for Tricare Standard, Extra and Tricare For Life, were stripped from legislation by the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

President Obama threatened to veto the House defense appropriations bill because, among other items, the bill did not include proposed increases in Tricare. The administration said the bill violated the spending caps set by the Budget Control Act because it increases the administration's defense spending request.

Survivors of active duty deceased sponsors or medically-retired uniformed service members and their dependents are exempt from enrollment fee increases. They continue to pay the rate they paid when the survivor or medically-retired member enrolled.

don't belong to any organization because no one ever asked them to join."

I guess what we need to start asking. When you meet a veteran...JUST ASK! We all believe in the great work the VFW does...just tell the VFW story.

If you need ammo in your recruiting weapon:

From September 2011 through June 2012, the VFW Military Service assisted 188 families with grants totaling over \$228,000

Provided disaster relief for 54 service members who were burdened by natural disasters totaling over \$21,000

During 2011-12, provided over 850,000 free calls for service members to call their love ones back home.

Again proving...NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

What veteran would not want to be a part of an organization that supports our young men and women in service of our country?

JUST ASK!!!!!!!

I have asked Warren Ewell to chair our Hospital Committee. Our desire is to visit hospitals and nursing homes on a regular basis—visiting veterans and thanking them for their service.

We are close to obtaining our building permit. Hopefully, we will be breaking ground next month.

Remember, our meetings are the first Monday of each month (except September when our meeting will be Sept. 10th). Hope to see you.

Thanks for all you do.

Ron



COMMEMORATION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

As we observe the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we reflect with solemn reverence upon the valor of a generation that served with honor. We pay tribute to the more than 3 million servicemen and women who left their families to serve bravely, a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved. From Ia Drang to Khe Sanh, from Hue to Saigon and countless villages in between, they pushed through jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans. Through more than a decade of combat, over air, land, and sea, these proud Americans upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces.

As a grateful Nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots—their names etched in black granite—who sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know. We draw inspiration from the heroes who suffered unspeakably as prisoners of war, yet who returned home with their heads held high. We pledge to keep faith with those who were wounded and still carry the scars of war, seen and unseen. With more than 1,600 of our service members still among the missing, we pledge as a Nation to do everything in our power to bring these patriots home. In the reflection of The Wall, we see the military family members and veterans who carry a pain that may never fade. May they find peace in knowing their loved ones endure, not only in medals and memories, but in the hearts of all Americans, who are forever grateful for their service, valor, and sacrifice.

In recognition of a chapter in our Nation's history that must never be forgotten, let us renew our sacred commitment to those who answered our country's call in Vietnam and those who awaited their safe return. Beginning on Memorial Day 2012, the Federal Government will partner with local governments, private organizations, and communities across America to participate in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War—a 13-year program to honor and give thanks to a generation of proud Americans who saw our country through one of the most challenging missions we have ever faced. While no words will ever be fully worthy of their service, nor any honor truly befitting their sacrifice, let us remember that it is never too late to pay tribute to the men and women who answered the call of duty with courage and valor. Let us renew our commitment to the fullest possible accounting for those who have not returned.

Throughout this Commemoration, let us strive to live up to their example by showing our Vietnam veterans, their families, and all who have served the fullest respect and support of a grateful Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 28, 2012, through November 11, 2025, as the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to honor our Vietnam veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families, and all who served with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

BARACK OBAMA

**SUMMARY OF VFW POST 7589/AUXILIARY
YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING OF 7/16/12**

The meeting began at 7pm at the Post Home. Members present were Ron Link, Jerry Martin, Robert Punihaole, Ron Knowles, Mary Corkhill, Pete MacLeod.

We went over, revised and improved, our power point presentation, "Welcome to VFW Post 7589." We also have new pictures of Arlington and Quantico National Cemeteries taken over the past two weeks and Mary Corkhill forwarded some great pictures of the flag retirement process at the Post Home. We can of course use any pictures you have that follow along with the Draft #7 narrative. Please forward them digitally to Pete MacLeod if you can. jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net

Yard Sale on Saturday, 9/8, 7am-2pm.

- Advertising through the newspaper, flyers, putting up a notice on the door for our Bingo players both advertising the yard sale and asking for donation of items.
- Table rental set at \$20.00. We will have VFW tables inside the Post Home, rentals outside with signs directing people to the VFW tables inside. We will not provide electricity to outside tables.
- Parking in back and we will talk to the fire dept. about using their spaces.
- Signs pointing to parking in back of the Post Home and labeling of items on set up night (9/7)
- Food sales: Coffee, soda, donuts.
- Set up time: Friday, Sept. 7, evening, 6pm –
- Cleanup: 9/8, 2-3pm.
- Solicitation for items: Phone, meetings, Bingo
- We will have "duty" list at August meeting.
- For storage of items: 703 220-4545, MacLeod garage.
- No adult clothing, only children are for sale.
- Receipts available if people want them for items they donated.

VOD, Patriots Pen, Teacher of the Year

- Positive response from Battlefield, Stonewall, Patriot High Schools about VOD.
- Continue to work on Osbourn, Metz, All Saints, Stonewall

Middle and Home Schooled.

- Seton, Parkside, Manassas Christian and Mayfield are on board again!
- The Awards Ceremony will be on Monday night, December 10 at 7pm.
- Invitations to speaker, NOVA film professor Bryan Brown and to guest, Pearl Harbor veteran Steve Krawczyk will be sent out by Pete MacLeod immediately.
- Mary will forward contest flyers produced by Pat Templeton to Pete MacLeod for updating and printing and can be put on bulletin boards and given to the schools.
- VFW official VOD, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year brochures will be available for the August meeting. Of course individual entry forms can be downloaded and printed now from the www.vfw.org website.
- Letters of permission from the Prince William County schools and Manassas City Schools and a letter of introduction to contests from Post 7589 are available now from Pete MacLeod.

Scouting – Ron Knowles

- Ron said that in 2013, instead of the Feb. trip to Valley Forge, Pa., Scouts from all the VFW posts in Virginia will now go to Richmond and the Veterans Memorial there and stay overnight at the Mechanicsville VFW Post. The trip is planned for late March or early April of 2013.

Patriotic Art – Mary Corkhill

- Mary said that the VFW Auxiliary in Virginia has now placed all of the educational contests such as Patriotic Art, VOD, etc. under its scholarship programs. Deadline for the 2012-2013 Patriotic Art contest is March 31, 2013.

There was no other old or new business to discuss.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. Next meeting of the Youth Committee will be Thursday night, August 16, 2012 at 7pm at the Post Home.

Submitted by Committee Chair Pete MacLeod.

JURY DUTY SCAM*RAO Bulletin, July 2012*

A classic scam is back in action. People across the country are receiving fake voicemails and text messages informing them they missed jury duty and need to pay \$500 or face arrest. More than a dozen states have issued warnings about this scam, which tries to scare victims into parting with personal information. The scammers leave voicemails and text messages telling recipients they missed jury duty and must return the call immediately to avoid jail time. Scammers have used a variety of phone numbers with area codes originating in different states. When the victim calls back, the scammers then ask for personal information, including social security and/or credit card numbers. With enough details, scammers can assume a person's identity and drain his or her bank account. As a rule, jurors are not summoned via text message or phone. The court normally communicates through mail. Do not provide credit card or social security numbers to anyone claiming to represent the court system over the phone. If you ever question whether you need to appear for jury duty, call your local court system to check.

"I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."
— **Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)**

It is Official

On July 30, the City of Manassas issued the building permit for our expansion.

We will have a "Ground Breaking" ceremony—Details will be announced on our website (www.vfw7589.org) and Facebook (VFW Manassas).

**VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION — RENO, NV
JULY 21—26, 2012**



Part of the Virginia Delegation.



President Obama's address on 7/23



Gov. Romney's addresses on 7/24



The Virginia team prepares for the patriotic rally.

**VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION — RENO, NV
JULY 21—26, 2012**



Department Commander Margo Sheridan



Department Commander Margo Sheridan and Spencer, the National Buddy Poppy child for 2012-13.



The view from the VA hospitality suite.