

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

Manassas, Virginia

September 2012



*August 10: Groundbreaking for the Post Home addition.
(L-R): Manassas City Council Member Mark Wolfe, Post Commander Ron Link,
Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, Manassas Mayor Hal Parrish, Charter Post
Commander John Gregory, District Commander Rick Raskin and Amanda
Maddox representing BB&T Bank.*

In This Issue:

A new look on tap for VFW Post 7589

Youth committee update

Appointments now needed to see DVS Representative

Post 7589 welcomes home Staunton NG unit

Iraq / Afghanistan committee report

Cast your absentee ballot by Email

COMMANDER'S REPORT



After almost 3 years of dealing with zoning and planning boards of the city, we finally received our building permit to start the expansion of the Post H home. **John Gregory**, our Charter Commander, and his construction company are overseeing the construction. Our plans are to have the construction done in time for our Holiday Dinner to be held on 1 December.

Our Holiday Dinner is open to all members, families and guests. It is a dish to pass meal with the Post providing the meat entrée. Last year's dinner was small but very successful. We hope to see more of the members

this year. More details to follow.

This year, we are going to have a booth at the Fall Jubilee...stop by and say hello. Fall Jubilee is 6 October.

On November 10th, the 4th Annual Veterans Day Parade will be held in Old Town Manassas. The parade honors all veterans and this year we are especially honoring the **Cold War Veterans**. Many of these veterans put the uniform on, served the country, and came home. No fanfare! No Welcome Home Ceremony! This is our way, *One Veteran to Another*, to say thank you for your service.

Remember, due to the Holiday, the membership meeting is 10 September.

Thanks to all
Ron

From the Nealey Family:

On August 22nd, tragedy struck our family when our 23 month old grandson, Elijah Nealey, died from an accident at home. He was the son of Michael and Jenn Nealey, both members of the Post and Auxiliary. He was also the nephew of Angela Fromm, also an Auxiliary member. We would like to thank everyone who attended the viewing and/or funeral for Elijah. We greatly appreciate Commander Ron Link, President Mary Corkhill and members for coordinating the reception afterwards. The outpouring of love has shown that we are truly a family.

Respectfully,

Sam and Valerie Nealey

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



With the new year under way, we have a new Ladies Auxiliary National President, Leanne Lemley, who was elected at the National Convention in Reno, NV on July 25th. Our Department President Cathy Graham, 8th District President Lorrie Allen-Smith and I will always be available to assist you. Your new officers for Auxiliary 7589 are:

President, Mary Corkhill	703 361-8950
Sr. Vice, Carol "Cookie" Cullen	703 361-2571
Jr. Vice/Secretary, Ann Mitchell	703 361-5285
Treasurer, Elanor Doczi	703 361-4795
Chaplain, Patricia Sutton	703 392-3870
Conductress, Renee Bramer	571 292-2330
Guard, Patsy Gough	703 368-2697
Historian/Trustee 3, Janet Raskin	703 369-2732
Trustee 1, Renee Bramer	571 292-2330
Patriotic Instructor/Trustee 2, Yvonne Sullivan	703 368-8621

Ladies, we are so close to reaching our 100% goal in membership. If you have NOT paid your 2012 Dues, please mail them to the Auxiliary Treasurer, Elanor Doczi, 7415 Roxbury Ave., Manassas, VA 20109 or mail to the VFW Post, PO Box 10206, Manassas, VA 20108. Dues are \$20. Please make your check payable to "Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 7589". We would like to reach this goal of 100% by September 30th.

The plans for the National President "Official" visit on September 13th dinner at 6:00 pm is in the final stage. Since seating is limited and you plan to attend this event, please RSVP to Mary Corkhill at 703/361-8950 by September 5th. The non-profit Wreaths Across America ("WAA") organization has provided the Auxiliary the opportunity again to fundraise for our organization's needs along with helping WAA gather sponsorships for wreaths. We are working with WAA to place more wreaths than ever before on Veterans' graves at Quantico National Cemetery. We ask for your support because this is a major fundraiser for the Auxiliary. Sponsorships are \$15 per wreath. Sponsorship forms can be printed from our website www.vfw7589.org or contact Valerie Nealey at 703-368-7636 or jvnealey@verizon.net. To learn more about WAA or if you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit www.wreathscrossamerica.com and remember to include our **Sponsoring Group ID No. VAVFW7589 and Cemetery ID No. VAQNCT. DEAD-LINE** is November 16th.

(Continued on page 5)

A new look on tap for VFW Post 7589

By JULIA LeDOUX
jledoux@insidenova.com

Finally.

That's the reaction of many members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7589 in Manassas, which broke ground Aug. 10 on an addition to its building on Centreville Road.

"It's a total upgrade to the building," explained Post Commander Ron Link. "We'll be able to serve the community better."

The building's bathrooms, electrical and plumbing systems will all be upgraded as a result of the project. The structure, which is about 60 years old, will also be expanded to allow it to accommodate up to 120 people.

"We're going to bring the whole post up to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) code," continued Link. "The air conditioning will be brought up to 2012 standards."

Post Quartermaster Rick Raskin and Link each noted that many organizations have expressed interest in using the building for meetings with 120 people in attendance, but the post has had to turn them down because the facility currently can only accommodate 80 people.

The post began working on the project about five years ago, and established a restricted account to pay for the upgrades, which are expected to cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

"We have 25 percent of the cost in reserve," said Raskin, who explained that the post took out a mortgage with a 20-year amortization with BB&T to help pay for the project. "We anticipate paying it off in five [years]," he added.

Raskin also said that the post's membership has increased by approximately 15 percent over the past three to four years.

"Our community involvement has also increased," he said. "Anything that the community has that involves veterans, we're there."

Link said the post has also been recognized throughout Virginia as a "can do" post.

"We no longer sit on the sidelines," he said. "We're very involved in the com-

munity.”

Many members of the VFW post are also members of American Legion Post 10 in Manassas, Link said. “When the Legion and the VFW work together, we can get do more. We’re very in tune with one other,” he said.

The construction work should take about 60 days and is not expected to impact the post’s scheduled meetings.

Military editor Julia LeDoux can be reached at 703-369-5718.

(Continued from page 3)

On Saturday, October 6st, from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, the Comrades and Ladies Auxiliary will participate in the Manassas Fall Jubilee. As in the years past, this annual event gives us the opportunity to meet and greet the public and inform them of our organization. We will have some freebies and will be running a raffle for Final Salute, Inc. Please contact me to let me know of your availability to assist in helping with the booth.

On Saturday, October 13th, inside the Post home will be our annual Yard Sale from 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We will be taking donations along with setting up on Friday, October 12th from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. We will accept baby clothes, small furniture and items that are clean and in good condition.

Voice of Democracy essay based on the 2012-2013 themes: *Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?* is open to High School student’s grades 9-12. The **Patriot’s Pen** essay theme for 2012-2013 is: “**What I Would Tell America’s Founding Fathers**” and open to Middle School students from grades 6-8. The **Teacher of the Year** recognized three exceptional teachers (grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12) for commitment to teach Americanism and Patriotism to their students. The three categories **DEADLINE** is November 1st. There will be an Education Awards Ceremony on December 10th at 7:00pm at the Post home.

Please keep collecting the Campbell’s Soup Labels for the VFW National Home for Children. Please bring them to a meeting or drop them off at the Post Home.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
Ladies Auxiliary President

Youth Committee Update

By PETE MacLEOD

Post 7589 Educational Awards Ceremony is set for Monday, December 10 at 7pm at the Post Home. We don't have final word on the speakers yet but the invitations are in the mail.

Manassas area schools participating in Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year this school year include: Stonewall Jackson High School, Osbourn High School, Patriot High School, Battlefield High School, Seton School, Mayfield Intermediate School, Metz Middle School, Parkside Middle School and Manassas Christian School. Teacher Lisa Zilka at Parkside called recently and said she had 60 students in her advanced English classes who will be taking part in Patriot's Pen this year and she needs brochures and entry forms. Now those are the kind of calls you like to get!

If you know of a young person at a school not taking part or a home schooled student who wants to enter the contests; tell them they can print the entry form for either Patriot's Pen or Voice of Democracy from the vfw.org national website (<http://www.vfw.org/Community/Programs/>). Or call me at (703) 220-4545 and we will mail you or give you an entry form and brochure. Deadline for the essay contests is November 1, 2012. Any Virginia student can enter through VFW Post 7589.

**Need help with filing VA
claims?**

**VA DVS AGENT SERVICE
2nd & 4th THURSDAYS
0900 - 1500**

**Post 7589
9304 Centreville Rd.
Manassas, Virginia**

APPOINTMENTS PLEASE

703-359-1210

or

kim.isler@dvs.virginia.gov

Post 7589 Welcomes Home Staunton National Guard Unit

On August 5 we helped to sponsor a MAP event for the National Guard in Staunton, Virginia. Answering a request from the local FRG (Family Readiness Group) we marshaled forces when the local VFW Post was unable to assist. Commander Link is chair of the Department Military Services Committee and because of his position he was able to have National VFW commit to funding. We were there to represent the VFW and supplied a small portion of the food; basically frozen hamburgers and hot dogs that we had left over from our Summer picnic at the Post.

The day was a great success and we recruited 5 new members. Thanks to Ron Link, Rick Raskin and Warren Ewell for volunteering their time.



Iraq Afghanistan Committee Report

By PETE MacLEOD

The VFW National Iraq Afghanistan Veterans Committee met on July 24, 2012 in Reno, Nevada at the VFW National Convention.

The big news was what happened the day before (July 23) when the convention passed, without debate, the recognition of a series of modern military dates as amendments to the National VFW Ritual. They were the ones discussed at our Post 7589 meeting on May 7:

- February 28, 1991, Liberation of Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm.
- March 31, 1995, End of Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.
- March 24, 1999, Start of Kosovo Campaign.
- October 9, 2001, Start of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.
- August 31, 2010, End of Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- October 18, A day to recognize Women in Military Service.

The meeting on July 24 began with a pep talk from Marine Sergeant Van Fonda who wants VFW Posts to help Wounded Warriors. He wants VFW volunteers to listen to the wounded warriors and concentrate on their abilities not their disabilities.

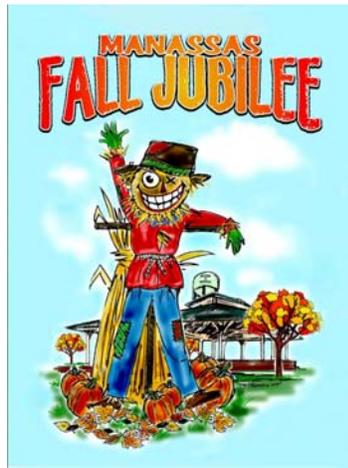
The outgoing VFW National Commander Richard De Noyer spoke to the committee, again emphasizing the depressing membership figures on the national level and the absolute need to recruit more veterans to the VFW if we want to continue as a viable organization. He said the two big targets are young people and women.

A USO representative Lisa Carter spoke and said the two largest USO centers in the world are now under construction in the Washington area: at Bethesda/Walter Reed and at Fort Belvoir. She said now only 12 percent of what the USO does is entertainment. Most of the work involves helping active duty personnel with education and finding jobs when they leave the military. She said many VFW and American Legion posts in the Washington area volunteer to help at USOs. She said volunteers are always needed and if you are interested, call Lisa Carter in Arlington at (703) 740-4938 or lferrari@uso.org

The update on the Texas Virtual VFW Post: They have gone from 33 members to 400 across the state since the first of the year and they are being evaluated monthly by national with a complete evaluation on how it is working by the end of the year. Problems include slow computers and incompatible software. Quorum is 15 online; average meeting attendance is 25-30. There is a

problem with older veterans: Many don't have computers. And this whole thing is aimed at them as a way around the problem of older vets not wanting to drive to meetings at night. It is working better for younger disabled vets who now can attend a meeting without leaving their homes. The Virtual VFW Post is based in Austin.

There is a new national advertising campaign being put together to help get more veterans into the VFW. If you are interested in helping, contact dparker@vfw.org Iraq and Afghanistan veterans surveyed by the VFW say the most important thing in deciding whether to join the VFW is feeling safe and comfortable in the Post.



The 30th Annual Fall Jubilee, in Historic Old Town Manassas will be held on October 6, 2012 from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. This year's Jubilee will include an assortment of live entertainment for both kids and adults.

The Fall Jubilee is a free to the public, community event and is scheduled rain or shine.



Gary Wagner, Rick Raskin, Doug Keller, Chris Birch, Buddy Weekley, Kim DeShano and Ron Link prepare for the political rally at the 2012 VFW National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

Active Military

**You can now use email
to cast your absentee
ballot!**

Visit www.fvap.gov for details.

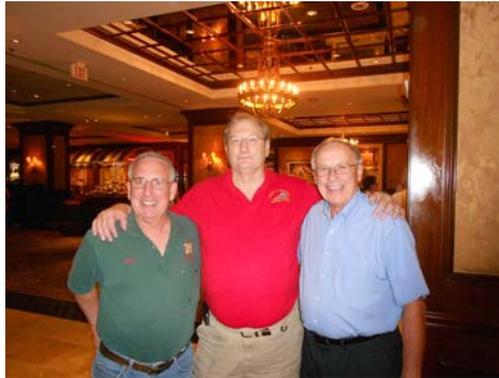


Department Commander Margo Sheridan and Commander in Chief John Hamilton



Part of the Virginia Delegation ready to rock and roll!

VFW
Convention



Rick Raskin, Ron Link and Pete MacLeod



Mary Corkhill (second from left) with members of the Ladies Auxiliary

Reno, Nevada
July, 2012



The shed was relocated prior to breaking ground.

It found a new home at the back of the parking lot.



New offices will be located on the right side.

Handicapped parking and ramp access will be near the kitchen door.

