

# THE CANNON

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

**SFC Leroy Petry**  
United States Army  
Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient



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## *The Cannon News*

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
P.O. Box 10206  
Manassas, VA 20108  
[www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org)

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## Post Commander's Notes

Ron Link

Thanks to the Youth Committee for their outstanding success at their First Annual Yard held on September 10th. The yard sales netted over \$600.00 for the Youth programs. Congradulations are in store to Peter and the committee for their endeavors. Great Job!!!!

In August, **Rick Raskin** and I attended the 112th Annual Convention of the VFW in San Antonio, TX. Rick is a National Committeeperson with the Resolutions Committee and I am a National Committeeperson with the Military Services Committee (UnMet Needs, MAP and Operation UpLink). Several National By-laws changes were approved by the delegates. **Richard L. DeNoyer**, a resident of Middleton, Massachusetts, was elected VFW Commander-in-Chief. Comrade DeNoyer is a member of Post 1012 and retired from the USMC. Also elected were **John Hamilton**, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, of St. Augustine, Florida. John is a member of 7909 in Jacksonville, FL and served in the USMC. **William "Bill" Thien**, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, of Georgetown, Indiana. Bill is a member of Post 3281 in New Albany, IN and server in the U.S. Navy.

During Commander-in-Chief DeNoyer's acceptance speech, he outlined 10 specific veteran and military programs which Congress is considering eliminating or greatly reducing in funding. "The sheer magnitude of these cuts and the potentially damaging and far-reaching consequences they would impose upon our military and veterans are of historic proportions," stated DeNoyer. "We fully understand the difficult fiscal decisions our nation must make, but the programs and benefits veterans and military families have earned and deserve have already been paid for through their honorable service and sacrifice."

The 10 ways Congress is targeting military and veterans' benefits during today's difficult fiscal times are to:

- Increase healthcare premiums for military retirees on TRICARE
- Increase pharmaceutical fees for troops, families and retirees
- Eliminate presumptive service-connected conditions for disabled and ill veterans
- Lock out or increase fees for Department of Veterans Affairs Priority Groups 7 and 8 veterans
- Reduce cost-of-living allowances
- Freeze military pay
- End government subsidies to military commissaries
- Eliminate Department of Defense elementary schools stateside
- Eliminate the 20-year military retirement plan
- Eliminate DOD tuition reimbursement programs for service members

**Betty Knowles** has offered to teach the AARP Driver Safety Program to any military veteran—active duty, retired, National Guardsmen or Reservist—at no charge (normally at \$12.00 fee). Also, spouses of the military are eligible. A person completing the course could receive a discount on their auto insurance. Deadline for signing up is October 15th. See the ad in this newsletter. Thank

(Con'd on page 11)

## VFW National Leadership Team



John E. Hamilton



Richard L. DeNoyer



William "Bill" A. Thien



Commander—from page 2

With the holidays just around the corner, some of will be traveling to visit family and friend. When driving—take short breaks, and watch out the other drivers on the road. Safety First!!!!

Once again, the Greater Way of Life Ministry, the church group who uses the hall on Sunday, in conjunction with the post will be holding the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Post Home. Last year, over 180 meals were served to needy or homeless person. From the Post, **Janet** and **Rick Raskin** worked serve the meals.

MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP—Hearing this at the National, Department and District, membership is the lifeblood of our organization. We need members; however, we greatly need the younger members. Our current membership is "graying" and we need the "Younger Comrades" to pick up the "sword" and fight for the veteran's rights. Help us by recruiting. Just one new member per comrade would defiantly put the Post on top. Also, when we discuss veteran benefits with our elected officials, membership stats really help in our conversations. HELP US!!!!!!

# SFC Leroy Petry



On May 26, 2008, while serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment, Sergeant First Class (SFC) Leroy Petry (then Staff Sergeant--SSG) was part of a Ranger helicopter assault force in the area of Paktya, Afghanistan. He distinguished himself, by risking his life above and beyond the call of duty, during an extremely close engagement with an extraordinarily determined and well armed enemy.

His citation:

*Staff Sergeant Leroy A. Petry distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy in the vicinity of Paktya Province, Afghanistan, on May 26, 2008. As a Weapons Squad Leader with D Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Staff Sergeant Petry moved to clear the courtyard of a house that potentially contained high-value combatants. While crossing the courtyard, Staff Sergeant Petry and another Ranger were engaged and wounded by automatic weapons fire from enemy fighters. Still under enemy fire, and wounded in both legs, Staff Sergeant Petry led the other Ranger to cover. He then reported the situation and engaged the enemy with a hand grenade, providing suppression as another Ranger moved to his position. The enemy quickly responded by maneuvering closer and throwing grenades. The first grenade explosion knocked his two fellow Rangers to the ground and wounded both with shrapnel. A second grenade then landed only a few feet away from them. Instantly realizing the danger, Staff Sergeant Petry, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his safety, deliberately and selflessly moved forward, picked up the grenade, and in an effort to clear the immediate threat, threw the grenade away from his fellow Rangers. As he was releasing the grenade it detonated, amputating his right hand at the wrist and further injuring him with multiple shrapnel wounds. Although picking up and throwing the live grenade grievously wounded Staff Sergeant Petry, his gallant act undeniably saved his fellow Rangers from being severely wounded or killed. Despite the severity of his wounds, Staff Sergeant Petry continued to maintain the presence of mind to place a tourniquet on his right wrist before communicating the situation by radio in order to coordinate support for himself and his fellow wounded Rangers. Staff Sergeant Petry's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, 75th Ranger Regiment, and the United States Army.*

SFC Petry currently serves as a liaison officer for the United States Special Operations Command Care Coalition-Northwest Region, and provides oversight to wounded warriors, ill and injured service members and their families.

He has served eight tours of deployment—two tours to Iraq and six tours to Afghanistan. SFC Petry and his wife Ashley have four children, Brittany, Austin, Reagan and Landon.

	<b>OUR MISSION:</b> To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.	<b>OUR VISION:</b> Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.	<b>OUR CORE VALUES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Always put the interests of our members first</li><li>• Treat donors as partners in our cause</li><li>• Promote patriotism</li><li>• Honor military service</li><li>• Ensure the care of veterans and their families</li><li>• Serve our communities</li><li>• Promote a positive image of the VFW</li><li>• Respect the diversity of veteran opinions</li></ul>
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# Auxiliary President's Notes

Mary Corkhill



With our new year under way, we have a new Ladies Auxiliary National President, **Gwen Rankin**, who was elected at the National Convention on September 1st. We are excited to see what the new year brings. The Ladies Auxiliary welcomes **Stacy Vaka** as our newest member and congratulates her on the birth of her daughter, Lucy Maria. We will meet your new addition soon. Ladies, we only need 12 members to reach our 100% goal in membership. If you have NOT paid your 2012 Dues, please make your check payable to "Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 7589" and mail to Auxiliary Treasurer, VFW Post, PO Box 10206, Manassas, VA 20108. Dues are \$15. We would like to reach this goal of 100% by December 1st.

The not-for-profit Wreaths Across America ("WAA") DEADLINE is November 18th. Sponsorship forms can be printed from our website ([www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org)) or contact **Valerie Nealey** at 703-368-7636 ([jvnealey@verizon.net](mailto:jvnealey@verizon.net)). Sponsorships are \$15 per wreath. Please join us at Quantico National Cemetery on Saturday, December 10 at 12 Noon, all wreaths are placed by volunteers.

The Comrades and Ladies Auxiliary will participate in the Manassas Fall Jubilee on Saturday, October 1st, from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. We will have some freebies and will be running a raffle for Cancer Aid & Research. Please contact me to let me know of your availability to assist in helping with the booth.

Our second annual Yard Sale on Saturday, October 15th inside the Post home from 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We will be taking donations along with setting up on Friday, October 14th from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. We will accept baby clothes, small furniture and items that are clean and in good condition.

The Statue of Liberty celebration will be held on Friday, October 28th. There are preliminary plans for transportation by the Department to departure in the Norfolk/Virginia Beach and Washington DC area. Additional information will be in the October General Orders on the web site ([www.vfwvaux.org](http://www.vfwvaux.org)).

Voice of Democracy essay based on the 2011-2012 themes: "Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military?" is open to High School student's grades 9-12. The Patriot's Pen essay theme for 2011-2012 is: "Are You Proud of Your Country?" and is 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's DEADLINE is November 1st. There will be an Education Awards Ceremony on December 11th at 3:00 PM at the Post home.

The Veterans Day activities are as follows: On Friday, November 11th starts off with a ceremony at Manassas Veterans Memorial at 8:30 AM. Immediately after the ceremony, flags will be placed at the Manassas Cemetery. The Ladies Auxiliary will be distributing Buddy Poppies from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Giant in Wellington

(Con'd on page 5)

## National Convention Photos



Commander Ron Link enjoy a moment with Commander in-Chief Richard DeNoyer at the National



Department Commander Charlie Absher and his wife, Laura



Rick Raskin and Mary Corkhill at the Southern Conference Banquet



Scene for the Youth Committee's Yard Sale



Legionnaire Gunny Lewis and Commander Ron Link emcee the First Joint POW/MIA Ceremony held at American Legion Post 10



Collecting money at the Yard Sale is right down Peter alley

## Post Youth Committee Report

The Youth Committee raised \$625.46 for the essay contest prize fund at a yard sale held at the Post Home on September 10th. The Comrades and Ladies who helped included **Pat Templeton** in charge of refreshments; **Pete MacLeod** and **Ron Knowles** collecting money; **Yvonne Sullivan** and **Mary Corkhill** helped organized and talked with customers; **Sam** and **Valerie Nealey** helped with the setup; and **Rick Raskin** coordinated use of the Post Home. It was fun and there is plenty of stuff left over for the Ladies Auxiliary Yard Sale on October 15th. We'll do even better next year!

Youth Committee fund raising continues with the selling of sponsorships in the Awards Ceremony booklet. Special one line sponsorships can be obtained for only \$10.00. Individual and Businesses can sponsor with the purchase of a quarter-page, half-page, or full page ad. For further information, please contact Pete MacLeod (jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net), Pat Templeton, 29hooligan@gmail.com or any Youth Committee member. Phone contact is 703 220-4545. All money raised goes towards the essay and teacher contest prize fund. Our Awards Ceremony will be held at 4:00pm on Sunday, December 11th at the Post Home.

In this year's contests, the schools taking part in the Patriot's Pen essay contest with the theme of *"Are You Proud of Our Country?"* are Manassas Christian School, Seton School, Mayfield Intermediate School, Metz Middle School and Parkside Middle School. The following schools are taking part in the Voice of Democracy audio-essay contest with the theme, *"Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military?"*; Seton School, Osbourn High School, Patriot High School, Stonewall Jackson High School, and Battlefield High School. If you know a classroom teacher who emphasizes citizenship education in his or her classroom and you would like to nominate that teacher for VFW Teacher of the Year, contact **Pete MacLeod** at 703 220-4545. Any Virginia student, including home schooled students, can enter these contests through our Post.

Please help us with our Veterans Day speaker program! Comrade Jerry Martin is organizing a World War II veterans forum for the students at Mayfield Intermediate School. Post 7589 usually speaks at Mayfield, Seton, Manassas Christian, Round elementary and Hayden elementary. If you would like to help and tell the students about your military experiences, please call 703 220-4545 or 703 361-5554 to volunteer. You will never regret it, it's a great experience, and the kids ask the best questions you'd ever hear!

One of the all time great speakers from the post was the late Comrade Joe Dazzo who passed away last year. Joe may have been a few generations removed from the students but he connected with them like no one else I've seen. Joe could answer questions from the students better than anyone. It was unforgettable to watch Joe hold the attention of the students by merely holding up his pictures of Hitler and telling them what it was like to land on the shores of France on D-Day!

If you would like to help with various youth projects, please come to our next Youth Committee meeting on Thursday, October 20 at 7:00pm at the Post Home. We need people and your ideas!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## October

- 9 -- District 8 Meeting—Fredericksburg Post 3103—1300
- 15 -- Ladies Auxiliary Yard Sale, Post Home—0700 to 1400

## November

- 4 -- Buddy Poppies, Gainesville Giant—1400 to 1800
- 5 -- Buddy Poppies, Wellington Giant—0900 to 1300
- 11 -- Veteran's Day Remembrance, Manassas War Memorial—0830
- 11 -- Flag Placements at the Manassas Cemetery—0900
- 12 -- 3rd Annual Veterans Day Parade, Old Town Manassas (this year—special honors to the Vietnam Veterans)—1100
- 12 -- Welcome Home Celebration, Harris Pavilion—1200-1700
- 18 -- Deadline for the Wreaths Across America sponsorships
- 24 -- 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the Needy, sponsored by the Greater Way of Life, Post Home—time TBD

## December

- 3 -- Manassas Christmas Parade
- 3-- Holiday Dinner at the Post Home—1700 to 2000
- 10 -- Wreaths Across America, Quantico Cemetery

Shopping Center. The Veterans Day parade on Saturday, November 12th, at 11:00 AM is to honor the Vietnam Veterans followed with a Welcome Home Celebration at the Harris Pavilion from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Another date to remember is November 29th which celebrates the Ladies Auxiliary 13th anniversary. December starts the Christmas season with the Manassas Christmas Parade on December 3rd. Our next newsletter will have more information of projects and events which is planned after the New Year.

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.

Your Auxiliary Officers are:

President, Mary Corkhill	(703) 361-8950	Guard, Patsy Gough	(703) 368-2697
Sr. Vice, Angela Fromm	(703) 989-5502	Historian, Debbie Shifflette	(703) 753-2372
Jr. Vice, Jenn Nealey	(703) 895-0145	Patriotic Instructor, Agnes Towne	(571) 208-0444
Secretary, Valerie Nealey	(703) 368-7636	Trustee 1, Debbie Shifflette	(703) 753-3272
Treasurer, Elanor Doczi	(703) 361-4795	Trustee 2, Renee Bramer	(571) 292-2330
Chaplain, Patricia Sutton	(703) 392-3870	Trustee 3, Yvonne Sullivan	(703) 368-8621
Conductress, Renee Bramer	(571) 292-2330		



**Ladies Auxiliary  
2nd Annual Yard  
Sale**

**OCT. 15, 2011  
7:00AM TO 2:00PM**

**VFW Post 7589  
9304 Centerville Rd  
Manassas, VA**

**For Details—Contact:  
Mary Corkhill  
703-361-8950**

**Safety Tip**

*The Flu Season Is  
Fast Approaching*



**Get your shot!!!**

## Military Trivia

How many "General of the Armies" have there been and who were they?

ANSWER: The full title of the military rank is "General of the Armies of the United States", although the rank is commonly referred to simply as "General of the Armies". The only people in history to hold the title General of the Armies were John J. Pershing and George Washington

# Vietnam War Foundation Museum a Labor of Love

Craig LaMountain is the curator and founder of The Vietnam War Foundation Museum in Ruckersville, Virginia. Situated on Craig's thirty-two acre's, it has become his labor of love. The museum is located at 6265 Spring Hill Rd. Ruckersville, VA. Craig, a Vietnam Veteran and life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (Manassas Post 7589), lost both his brother and cousin in Vietnam.



The museum's main objective is to tell the Vietnam story through narration and static displays of actual equipment used by those who served in Vietnam during the 10 year history of that conflict.

The Vietnam War Foundation (VWF), a not-for-profit public educational foundation was formed under Section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS code. ([www.vietnamwarfoundation.org](http://www.vietnamwarfoundation.org))

One of the unique functions of the VWF is to obtain, restore and maintain, in near operable condition, examples of historic equipment representing the Vietnam Era. No other known educational foundation is totally dedicated to preserving this unique Vietnam era equipment and memorabilia. Following acquisition, the VWF has three primary tasks:

- To locate veterans who are experienced with the equipment and to guide the volunteers in its restoration.
- Restoration of the equipment to its original specifications and to ensure display of the equipment is realistic to the time and place of its use.
- Research the equipment's military history and integrate it into the educational presentations.

Additionally, Vietnam era memorabilia, "Vietcong" artifacts, weapons, and civilian "peace" symbols of the Vietnam Era augment the displays. The VWF provides school children and the general public the opportunity to hear veterans share their stories and see our military legacy.

The museum officially opened on Memorial Day in 2009 when over four hundred people from politicians, school children, Vietnam Vets and the general public visited. Craig has never charged an admission fee. He has collected almost everything in the museum by himself and with his own money. The project continues to grow as more and more vets visit and decide to leave war mementoes for permanent display. Needless to say, Craig La Mountain has honored our Vietnam



Vets and preserved a part of this country's history for all to remember.

*Editor note: Thanks to Marty Cavanagh for submitting the article*



## AARP Driver Safety Program

Offering any military veteran—Active Duty, Retired, National Guardsmen or Reservist and Spouses of Military Veterans

# Free

# Deadline October 15th

If Interested  
Contract Ron Knowles  
703-368-4743

[Rknowles703@comcast.net](mailto:Rknowles703@comcast.net)

Classes consist of two-four days. Normal fee is \$12.00 (for AARP members, \$14.00 for non-members), however, AARP has extended this offer during the month of November. Some insurance companies will offer an additional discount on your auto insurance—check with your agent. Class Instructor is Betty Knowles.

## The Flag of the United States Army



The 175 streamers attached to the Army flag staff denote campaigns fought by the Army throughout our nation's history. Each streamer (2 3/4 inches wide and 4 feet long) is embroidered with the designation of a campaign and the year(s) in which it occurred. The colors derive from the campaign ribbon authorized for service in that particular war.

The concept of campaign streamers came to prominence in the Civil War when Army organizations embroidered the names of battles on their organizational colors. This was discontinued in 1890, when units were authorized to place silver bands, engraved with the names of battles, around the staffs of their organizational colors. When American Expeditionary Forces units in World War I were unable to obtain silver bands, General Pershing authorized the use of small ribbons bearing the names of the World War I operations. In 1921 all color-bearing Army organizations were authorized to use the large campaign streamers currently displayed.

"The Army Flag and Its Streamers" was originally prepared in August 1964 by the Office of the Chief of Military History, in cooperation with the Office of the Chief of Information, and the U.S. Army Exhibit Unit, to provide general summaries of each of the campaigns displayed on the Army flag. It was subsequently updated by the Center of Military History to add the campaigns from Vietnam. It is our hope to update the work at some time in the future to cover the missing Armed Forces Expeditions and the campaigns in Southwest Asia.