

THE CANNON NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 3

July/August 2008

GREETINGS FROM THE COMMANDER

First off, I would like to thank the membership for your vote of confidence in me by re-electing me as your Post Commander. The new year of service started at the State Convention in Richmond after the new State Commander, Hal Roesch and the rest of the new state officers were sworn in.

I am pleased to report that our Post was awarded All State status while we were at the convention. I proudly accepted the banner which is now displayed on the wall at the Post. Only 20 Posts out of 169 are awarded All-State status. It is through the efforts of the members of the Post doing the business of the VFW which enabled us to achieve this recognition. We've had a very productive year in service to veterans, community, and youth.

This past month, we've joined with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services of the Commonwealth of Virginia in providing one of their Veterans Claim Agents, space within the Post for the purpose of assisting ANY veteran, or spouse of a deceased veteran with claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Whether assisting with the establishment new claims, existing claims, or assisting surviving spouses of deceased veterans who had been receiving compensation with obtaining their rightful surviving spousal benefits, they are here every first and third Tuesday of the month between 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. No appointment necessary.

We are in the process of adopting the 266th Military Police Company (National Guard) based out of the Manassas National Guard Armory. We will be planning activities to encourage morale to those who are deployed and for their families here at home. Anyone with ideas on how we can assist them, please come to a meeting and make your proposal!

If you know someone who's eligible to join our Post as a member of the VFW, ask them to consider joining the largest and in my opinion, the best combat veterans organization in existence. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is you. There is no VFW without members. Help us continue to help those of us who may still be serving in harm's way, who may be recovering from wounds suffered while in defense of our nation. For those of us who are Vietnam vets, we remember how we were received when "we came back to the world". Many of us have promised that that kind of treatment will never happen again. Many younger veterans have families, jobs, and other important aspects of life that have a higher priority than belonging to a service organization that would divert time and energy away from their loved ones. But have them consider their comrades who didn't make it home or sustained serious and life changing wounds. What about them or their loved ones. What needs do they or their families have that can't be met without assistance. Who will help? Each of us giving a little bit of time can make a huge difference in the lives of our fellow comrades and their families. We need more members to continue to do the business of the VFW. Help us do that. It's not difficult. On July 5th, Senior Vice-Commander Pete MacLeod, Quartermaster Rick Raskin, Adjutant Mike Guttman, Post member Ramon Feliciano, and myself manned a booth at the "Car Show for the Troops" held at Old Dominion Speedway. All proceeds from this event went to support the Fisher House in DC. Each of us who participated had a good time while there, and we were able to recruit 11 new members to the Post. It is not difficult to recruit a new member if you speak from your heart.

Your Post Commander

Stephen A. Meade

cmdr7589@verizon.net

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This is your Newsletter, therefore your input is not only welcome, but encouraged.

National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008 (Public Law 110-181)

The following was announced at the State Convention held in Richmond last month.

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008 (Public Law 110-181) signed by the president on January 28, 2008 includes Section 294 "CONDUCT BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS OUT OF UNIFORM DURING HOISTING, LOWERING, OR PASSING OF UNITED STATES FLAG". According to the law, "all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

Quartermaster Rick Raskin

DISTRICT MEETING - SEPTEMBER 14TH

The next District 8 Meeting is Sunday, September 14th at 1:00 PM at VFW Post 2524, Culpeper, Virginia.

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services of the Commonwealth of Virginia and VFW Post 7589 have joined into an agreement for our Post to provide space every first and third Tuesday of every month to Veterans Claim Agent Mr. Angel Lugo.

The purpose of this agreement is to assist ANY veteran, or spouse of a deceased veteran with claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Whether assisting with the establishment new claims, existing claims, or assisting surviving spouses of deceased veterans who had been receiving compensation with obtaining their rightful surviving spousal benefits, Mr. Lugo is here every first and third Tuesday of the month between 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. No appointment necessary. This will save you from having to travel long distances to try and work your claims. With the price of gas and diesel these days, not only will it save you time but significant money.

For those of you who are Vietnam vets who have Diabetes Type II, you are presumed to have come into contact with Agent Orange and you are eligible for compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. I know this for a fact because I've gone through the application process and in my particular case, I've been awarded a 40% compensation. This money is tax free. You were exposed to Agent Orange, you should get the compensation due you!

Commander Steve Meade

POST 7589 WEB SITE

The Web Site has had a complete redesign and you should check it out. The web site contains information on both the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary. The address is: www.vfwpost7589.org. Any questions pertaining to hall rentals can be directed to our Post Quartermaster at qm7589@verizon.net or call the Post and leave a message at 703-361-5554.

Adopt-A-Unit

The Post/Auxiliary is in the process of adopting the 266th Military Police Virginia National Guard Unit based out of the Manassas National Guard Armory. The Unit will be deployed to Iraq in November. The Auxiliary will be planning activities for the troops and their families.

2008—2009 Dues

You may or may not have received it yet, but dues notices are being sent out by National to all Annual Members. When you get your notice, pay your dues as soon as possible. This will help us to determine where the Post and the VFW as a whole is in membership. Also, if you do it now at the beginning of the new dues year, it won't seem like you "*just sent in the money for your dues*" for last year. If you've been inactive and believe that your membership is a waste of money, **numbers count**.

It is important so our National Organization can show Congress that they represent a certain number of veterans who have the potential to influence elections for those representatives who don't respond favorably towards protecting the appropriations for veterans entitlements. With the exception of the new GI Bill for the 21st Century, Congress has been reducing or eliminating programs for veterans. These are not "*benefits*", they are entitlements. You've earned each and every "*benefit*" that has been on the books. For those of you who currently don't have any interaction with the VA, someday in your future you probably will. What assistance for your needs will still be in existence? What currently unknown needs will need to be address in the future? Unfortunately, numbers do count. The members of Congress have a vested interest in protecting their ability to be re-elected. Believe it or not, your membership in organizations like the VFW do protect veterans rights.

VFW and American Legion Donations Enable Wounded Vet to Obtain Racing Bike

Jonathan Pruziner was a member of 3rd Striker Brigade when he was hit with an IED on September 11, 2007. He was 21 years old and had been in country for less than two months. His wounds led to the loss of his left leg below the knee, and his long term treatment and rehabilitation has been at Walter Reed.

Jon has long held a goal to be a competitive cyclist, and with his new prosthetic he revived this dream as part of his rehabilitation plans. His Army pay just didn't give him the means to purchase a bike that would meet his demands.

VFW Post 7589 in Manassas provided the first donation to this cause, with American Legion Post 10 adding to it and handling the banking. Additional donations were made by AL Posts 364 in Woodbridge, 247 in Remington, and 1711 of Levittown, NY, where Jon's grandfather is a member. In addition Walter Wood of Woodbridge, Paul Brown of Bealeton, and Theresa and Tom Wahl of Manassas made individual contributions.

On May 29, Jon and his girlfriend Erica drove from the Walter Reed Fisher House to Manassas to visit A-1 Cycling. Manager Ben Williams took the time to fit Jon to a full carbon fiber bike as well as helmet, shoes, and some other essential accessories. Jon's prostetist has since fit him with a lower section especially made for riding.

Jonathan has been welcomed as a new member of VFW Post 7589 and American Legion Post 10, both in Manassas. He has decided that the Capital Area is pretty friendly, and is working on a permanent transfer to the area.

VFW Post 7589 and American Legion Post 10 Member Tom Wahl



LADIES AUXILIARY 7589 NEWS

Editor: Valerie Nealey - 703-368-7636; jvnealey@verizon.net

Message From Your Auxiliary President

I am proud to announce that at the Department Convention I accepted, on behalf of the Auxiliary, a Banner for completing all program requirements and attaining 100% in membership. Our Auxiliary was also presented with the First Place award for the best Membership Recruiting Event in the State along with several other National and Department awards. You should be pleased with your Auxiliary's accomplishments. I am sure that with each member's support and help we will make the 2008-2009 year just as successful. All Auxiliary Presidents and Officers assumed their responsibilities on June 15 when the new Department President was installed. I am your President again and I know that with your help and support we will succeed.

At the close of the Convention, Pam Braithwaite, District 8 President, was installed as a member to the Department Council of Administration. Pam also serves as our Senior VP/Secretary. I was recently notified by the Department that I was chosen as Deputy Chief of Staff for District 8. Pam and I will be attending a School of Instruction in Lexington on July 19 for a learning experience.

Adopt-A-Unit: The Post/Auxiliary is in the process of adopting the **266th Military Police Virginia National Guard Unit** based out of the Manassas National Guard Armory. The Unit will be deployed to Iraq in November. The Auxiliary will be planning activities for the troops and their families.

Girl Scouts: On behalf of the Auxiliary, **Kathy Drummond** has presented three Citations to Girl Scouts who received their Gold Award. This is the highest award that a Senior Girl Scout can earn. She also presented Citations to five Girl Scouts who received their Silver Award. The Silver Award is the highest award that a Cadette can earn.

2009 Dues: 2009 Dues Notices were mailed in May. For those of you who have not submitted your payment, dues are \$15. Make checks payable to "Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 7589" and mail to **Ladies Auxiliary, VFW Post 7589, PO Box 10206, Manassas, VA 20108**

If you would like to be reminded of auxiliary news and events via e-mail, send your e-mail address to President Nealey at jvnealey@verizon.net

Message From Senior-Vice Pam Braithwaite

Ladies, we are into the heat of the summer and we have a lot of hot ideas to help our community and military families. Be sure to come to our next meeting when we will talk about our thoughts and plans --- we need your input and ideas. July is the start of our new year and we are ready to make our work known to more people and the more participation, the more people we can reach.

Have you ever been to the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA? It is a wonderful memorial and well worth the time to visit. Also, if you are going to be in the Williamsburg area, the Presidents' Park is truly fabulous. It is a very peaceful place to learn about our Presidents. I learned at the State Convention that the new owners don't want to keep it there and may send the statues to various locations. If you have an interest to visit, you may want to go soon.

VFW National Home for Children: **Sondra Burroughs** is our new National Home Chairman and will be collecting the Campbell's' labels. You can give the labels to Pam. With your help, the Home was able to purchase their 4th van. The van is used to transport residents to events and drive visitors.

Overseas Coupons: Pam is continuing to collect coupons for our overseas military families. Restaurant and store specific ones (like Target or Petsmart) are not eligible for the program. She is very thankful to all who clipped, separated into food and non-food groups and totaled the coupons. If you can't do it all, just do what you can and she'll do the rest.

WEB SITES:

VFW Post 7589: www.vfwpost7589.org

Virginia Ladies Auxiliary VFW: www.vfwvaaux.org

National Ladies Auxiliary VFW: www.ladiesauxvfw.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meetings: Monday, July 7, August 4, September 8 (meeting changed due to Labor Day)

National Guard 266th MP Unit Family Picnic: Saturday, July 20 – 1 pm – American Legion Post 28 - Triangle.

District Meeting: Sunday, September 14 – 1 pm – Post 2524 – Culpeper

Department Fall Conference: Saturday, September 20 – Lexington

**VFW 7589
FRANCIS CANNON POST
703-361-5554**

2008-2009 POST OFFICERS

Commander	Steve Meade	703-408-0875
Sr. Vice Cmdr	Pete MacLeod	703-794-1103
Jr. Vice Cmdr	Sam Nealey	703-368-7636
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin	703-369-2732
Adjutant	Mike Guttman	703-330-3925
Advocate	Ron Link	571-921-9220
Chaplain	Ron Knowles	703-368-4743
Surgeon	Dick Lemmon	703-330-3376
Off of the Day	Rod Gillett	703-361-8358
Guard	Dallas Kennedy	703-393-9632
Service Officer	Sam Nealey	703-368-7636
Historian	Ed Fishpaw	703-335-5422
Trustee 1 year	Joe Dazzo	703-361-6041
Trustee 2 year	Bob Pace	703-680-1229
Trustee 3 year	Mike Guttman	703-330-3925

2008-2009 AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President	Valerie Nealey	703-368-7636
Sr. Vice President	Pam Braithwaite	703-278-8076
Jr. Vice President	Jenn Nealey	703-331-1214
Secretary	Pam Braithwaite	703-278-8076
Treasurer	Angela Fromm	703-330-3931
Chaplain	Bettie Keyton	703-369-2209
Conductress	Kay Yeager	703-791-6665
Guard	Patsy Gough	703-368-2697
Historian	Eleanor Doczi	703-361-4795
Patriotic Inst.	Yvonne Sutton	703-392-3870
Trustee 1	Polly Tibbs	703-361-9462
Trustee 2	Nancy Dazzo	703-361-6041
Trustee 3	Joanna Roberts	703-392-3870

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bingo	3	4 Independence Day	5
6	7 VFW & Auxiliary Meetings 7:30 pm	8	9 Bingo	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Bingo	17	18	19
20 Picnic for Troops American Legion Post 28 -Triangle	21	22	23 Bingo	24	25	26
27 School of Instruction—Dale City	28 Executive Mtg.— 6:30 pm	29	30 Bingo	31		

August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 VFW & Auxiliary Meetings 7:30 pm	5	6 Bingo	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Bingo	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Bingo	21	22	23 Recruiting @ J.E. Rice 9 AM—1 PM
24/31	25 Executive Mtg.— 6:30 pm	26	27 Bingo	28	29	30

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day VFW & Auxiliary Meetings 7:30 pm	2 VJ Day	3 Bingo	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Bingo	11 Patriot's Day	12	13
14 District 8 Meeting 1:00 Culpeper	15	16	17 Bingo	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Bingo	25	26	27
28	29 Executive Mtg.— 6:30 pm	30				

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Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

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July 2008—August 2008

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