

THE CANNON NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 6

Next Meeting: Monday, December 1, 2008

December 2008/January 2009

GREETINGS FROM THE COMMANDER

Since the last newsletter went out, our Post has been busy! This past month the Post and Ladies Auxiliary participated in the Manassas Fall Jubilee, held our annual Veterans Day observance at the Manassas Veterans Memorial, placed flags on the graves of veterans at the Manassas Cemetery, participated in the Veterans Day observance at American Legion Post 10, and started coordination with American Legion Post 28 in having a Christmas Party for the families of the 266th Military Police Company. We are also participating in this year's Manassas Christmas Parade on December 6.

I recently participated with our Quartermaster Rick Raskin and Comrade Dave Lashman with helping Big John Miska take some wounded warriors from Walter Reed Hospital to the Arlington VFW Post for their excellent Sunday morning breakfast. It was a great feeling seeing the veterans and their families relaxing by being out of Walter Reed Hospital grounds

For those of you who've been receiving these newsletters since I first became Commander, know how much I prize our memberships in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. For the past several newsletters, I've refrained from urging those annual members who haven't yet renewed to do so. I didn't want to sound like a "harpy".

However, I need to impress upon those annual members who haven't renewed yet, the need to renew their memberships NOW. At the end of December, those members who haven't renewed will no longer be members in good standing. This means that they will no longer receive the national magazine for the VFW and they will no longer be able to attend the monthly membership meetings. Our Post does an amazing amount of work for our community, for veterans past, present, and even in the future. We are a relatively small Post and yet we achieve quite a lot. I'm proud of what this Post has accomplished so far, during my tenure as Post Commander. Even if you haven't been active in what we've accomplished locally, don't for an instant think that your membership has achieved nothing. Recently, Congress approved the new GI Bill for the 21st Century. This was due in many respects, because of your membership and the membership of ALL members of the VFW and other service organizations. Congress has to pay attention to organizations who represent as many potential voters such as the VFW. With those number, the VFW has clout when they go before Congress, and Congress knows it. Renew now, you won't regret it.

We started a new activity several months ago. We started having a drawing for those members present at the meeting, and the winner **wins a gift card** for a local restaurant at no cost to the Post. Think of it as a "Door Prize" for attending the meeting. Win the gift card one time and you've recouped the cost of your membership for the year! Your chance of winning the gift card are much better than winning the state lottery!

Newsletter Editors: Steve Meade—(703) 408-0875 & Valerie Nealey—(703) 368-7636

email: sameade@verizon.net or cmdr7589@verizon.net

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

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the upcoming year bring you even more joy and rewards than this past year.

Your Post Commander
Stephen A. Meade
cmdr7589@verizon.net

Virginia District 8 as of Friday, November 21, 2008

Post	Life	New	Rein-stated	Continu-ous	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Division	City	N/R LM
1177	46	23	3	10	82	94	87.23	9	LEESBURG	0
1811	175	2	0	0	177	189	93.65	6	MANASSAS PARK	0
2524	186	2	3	41	232	268	86.57	5	CULPEPER	0
3103	208	29	2	75	314	350	89.71	4	FREDERICKSBURG	0
7589	161	60	3	57	281	291	96.56	5	MANASSAS	1
7728	28	1	0	10	39	48	81.25	11	REMINGTON	0
8208	34	0	0	16	50	294	17.01	5	STANARDSVILLE	0
9835	41	0	0	9	50	56	89.29	10	WARRENTON	0
District Total	879	117	11	218	1225	1590	77.04			1

DISTRICT MEETING - MARCH 8TH

The next District 8 Meeting is Sunday, March 8th at 1:00 PM at VFW Post 3103, Fredericksburg, Virginia. As always, we meet at the Post just prior to 1100hrs and then we car pool to the District Meeting.

Commander Stephen Meade

VETS GROUPS SUE VA OVER CLAIMS DELAYS

Two veterans groups, the Vietnam Veterans of America and the **Veterans of Modern Warfare**, are suing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) over what they call "unacceptable delays" in veteran's claims. The lawsuit demands that the VA provide an initial decision on every veteran's claim for disability benefits within 90 days and resolve appeals within 180 days, and seeks relief to provide a lifeline of interim benefits if the VA delays last beyond the limit. For more information, visit the **Veterans of Modern Warfare** website and the **Vietnam Veterans of America** website.

Military.com– Benefits

DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM EXPANDED

The Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the expansion of the Disability Evaluation System (DES) pilot to 19 installations across the country, representing all military departments. The pilot tests the new process design eliminating the duplicative, time-consuming, and often confusing elements of the two current disability processes of the departments. The pilot was recently expanded to Fort Meade, Md., and Fort Belvoir, Va. The remaining 17 installations will be introduced to the pilot during a seven-month period from November 2008 to May 2009. Key features of the DES pilot include one medical examination and a single-sourced disability rating.

Military.com– Benefits

MANASSAS CITY CHRISTMAS PARADE

The City of Manassas will celebrate their annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6, 2008. Post 7589 will be joining with American Legion Post 10 in joint but adjacent entries. If you're interested in coming out and representing the Post, please come to the December 1 meeting so we can coordinate how we'll setup our entry.

Commander Stephen Meade

SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR VETERANS AVAILABLE

Veterans for America released "The American Veterans and Servicemembers Survival Guide." The guide is free and is available for download at <http://www.veteransforamerica.org/survival-guide/survival-guide-download/>. The new Survival Guide is a follow-up to the 1985 national bestseller, "The Viet Vet Survival Guide," and covers the benefits, assistance and resources available as well as giving step-by-step directions for navigating the government agencies that serve our troops and veterans.

Military.com– Benefits

UNCLE SAM PAYS FOR COLLEGE

As a Veteran you may not have to pay for college. The GI Bill will cover up to \$47,556 of the costs of getting a degree. This is free money that can move your career forward and increase your earning potential. Plus, many schools will offer you college credit for military service. Don't let your GI Bill go unused -- let Uncle Sam pay for your education. Visit the **Veteran Education Benefit Users Guide** to get more information. URL for the site is: **<http://education.military.com/money-for-school/veteran/veteran-education-benefits-users-guide?ESRC=vr.nl>**

Next Step: The first thing you need to do is find a school that will work around your schedule and offer you college credit for service. **Request information from Military-Friendly schools now.** URL for the military-friendly schools is: **<http://edu.military.com/gibill/?ESRC=vr.nl>**

Military.com– Benefits



LADIES AUXILIARY 7589 NEWS

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

Welcome New Members **Danielle Brown** and **Joyce Schrock**. As of 11/1/2008, our **2009 Membership is 57**. Please remember to pay your 2009 dues. Dues are \$15. Please make check payable to "Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 7589" and mail to Treasurer, Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 7589, PO Box 10206, Manassas, VA 20108.

THANKS

I would like to thank the members that assisted with the Fall Jubilee, Halloween party for the children of the MP Company, Buddy Poppy Drive and Veterans Day Activities.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA™ FUNDRAISER

I would like to thank those who have supported our **Wreaths Across America™** Fundraiser. You still have time to sponsor a wreath. **The deadline is December 1, but any wreaths sponsored after the December 1 cut-off date will be applied toward the 2009 event and our Auxiliary will still receive the fundraising portion now.**

If you need a form, please let me know. Ask family, friends and businesses to sponsor a wreath. For each sponsorship we raise, a wreath will be placed on a Veterans grave at a participating cemetery. It's a great program and \$5 of each sponsorship will support our Auxiliary directly so we may continue to assist veterans and their families as well as our community. **Please mail all checks and forms directly to Wreaths Across America™**

If you wish to purchase your sponsorship with a credit card, or would like to designate a cemetery outside of Virginia, please visit **www.wreathscrossamerica.org**. If you purchase online, please be sure to enter our **Sponsoring Group Number VAVFW7589**. On **Saturday December 13th at 12:00 Noon (EST)** there will be simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies at over 300 locations. If you have any questions, please contact Valerie at 703-368-7636 or **jvnealey@verizon.net**.

Classroom Visit—On Monday, November 10th, Pam Braithwaite visited her granddaughter's second grade class to discuss veterans and their role in protecting our freedoms. The 17 children were very interested and asked many questions. She presented them with pencils, flags, stickers and a Young American Award for knowing the Pledge of Allegiance.

Campbells Soup labels—Remember to bring in the Campbell's Soup labels for the VFW National Home. A list will be provided at the December Auxiliary meeting of acceptable products. If you are unable to make the meeting, feel free to mail them to Pam Braithwaite at 11927 Appling Valley Rd, Fairfax VA 22030-5701.

ADOPT-A-UNIT UPDATE

The 266th MP Company of the Virginia National Guard will be deploying to Iraq in December. We will keep you updated on our activities for the soldiers and their families throughout the deployment.

Our Post and American Legion Post 28 are giving a Christmas Party for the children of the MP Company on Sunday, **December 14 from 12 Noon to 4:00 pm**. The party will take place at the Legion Post in Triangle. On Saturday, December 13 at 1:00 pm we will need volunteers to help decorate, set-up and wrap presents. We want to make this a special time for the children—if you would like to help with the party and/or decorating, etc., please contact Valerie at 703-368-7636 or jvnealey@verizon.net. This would be an opportunity to meet some of the family members of the MP Company.

BIRMINGHAM GREEN HOLIDAY VISIT

Please join us on **Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 pm** and visit with the 15 veterans at Birmingham Green to give them their holiday gifts. We will be joining American Legion Auxiliary Unit 10 for this event. I would like to thank Elanor Doczi and Patsy Gough for chairing this project.

If you know of any members or their families ill or in distress, please contact Chaplain Bettie Keyton at 703-369-2209 or genebettie@verizon.net.

If you would like to receive, via e-mail, reminders of auxiliary events, meeting, updates, alerts, etc., please send your e-mail address to President Nealey at jvnealey@verizon.net.

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, December 1 & January 5 – 7:30 pm

Auxiliary 10th Anniversary - November 29

Pearl Harbor Day - Sunday, December 7 - 1:00 pm wreath-laying ceremony at the Manassas Veterans Memorial on South Main Street next to the Manassas Museum

266th MP Company Children's Party - Sunday, December 14 - 12 Noon - 4:00 pm at American Legion Post 28 in Triangle

Birmingham Green Holiday Visit - Sunday, December 14 - 3:00 pm

Winter Conference—January 16 -18, 2009 in Williamsburg

I wish everyone a Happy & Safe Holiday Season!

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

9304 CENTREVILLE ROAD - MANASSAS, VIRGINIA 20110

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 Pres.	Pam Braithwaite	703-278-8076
Jr. Vice Pres.	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	Elanor 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

2008-2009 EDUCATION AWARDS

VFW Post 7589 of Manassas, Va. and its Ladies Auxiliary are proud to announce the Education Award
Winners for 2008-2009:

Patriot's Pen Essay Winners

"Why America's Veterans Should be Honored"

First Place – Austin P. Bond - 8th grade - Metz Middle School - Manassas
Second Place – Antonio M. Dattoli, - 7th grade - Parkside Middle School - Manassas
Third Place – Brian F. Majewski - 8th grade - Seton School - Manassas

Voice of Democracy Speech & Essay Winners

"Service and Sacrifice by America's Veterans Benefit Today's Youth by....."

First Place – Kathryn M. Ostrich - 12th grade - Seton School - Manassas
Second Place – Angela L. Jividen - 10th grade - Osbourn High School - Manassas
Third Place – Theresa L. McCullough - 12th grade - Seton School - Manassas

VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Awards

Grades K-5 – Betty Ann Blanton - Reading Resource Teacher, - Haydon Elementary School - Manassas
Grades 9-12 – Timothy Heisler - English - Economics and Math Teacher - Seton School - Manassas

Awards will be presented on February 2, 2009 at 6:30 pm before the regular meeting

Pete MacLeod, Chairman

HELP NEEDED

Birmingham Green - Sunday, December 14 - 3:00 pm - presentation of holiday gifts to veterans. We will be joining our Ladies Auxiliary and American Legion Post 10 & Ladies Auxiliary.

Family Christmas Party for 266th MP Unit - Sunday, December 14 - 12 Noon to 4:00 pm. The party will be held at American Legion Post 10 in Triangle. Help also needed to decorate and wrap presents on Saturday, December 13 at 1:00 pm

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.vfw7589.org.

Any questions pertaining to hall rentals can be directed to our Post Quartermaster at gm7589@verizon.net or call the Post and leave a message at 703-361-5554.

If you have suggestions or additional ideas on how the web site should be used, please give us your input! The web site represents our Post on the world wide web.

Commander Stephen Meade

January 2009

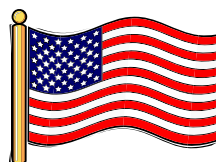
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5 VFW & Auxiliary Meetings 7:30 pm	6	7 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	15	16 Winter Conference Williamsburg	17 Winter Conference Williamsburg
18 Winter Conference Williamsburg	19 Martin Luther King Holiday	20 Inauguration Day	21 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	29 Executive Board 1830hrs	30	31

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 VFW & Auxiliary Meetings 7:30 pm	2	3 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	4	5	6 Manassas City Christmas Parade
7 Pearl Harbor wreath-laying 1:00 pm	8	9	10 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	11	12	13
14 266th MPC Holiday Pty Noon - 4pm Birm. Green - 3 pm	15	16	17 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	18 Executive Board 1830hrs	19	20
21	22	23	24 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28	29	30	31 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm			

The Cannon News

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
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www.vfwpost7589.org



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December 2008 - January 2009

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