

# THE CANNON NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 5

Next Meeting: Monday, October 6, 2008

October/November 2008

## GREETINGS FROM THE COMMANDER

The **Fall Jubilee** is just around the corner! A fun time is usually had by all who help us at our display stand. Join Us! We're only asking for a couple of hours per person. Work a little bit then take a break and enjoy the festivities of the Jubilee. The date—**Saturday, October 4—Downtown Manassas from 1000hrs to 1700hrs.**

The **266th Military Police Company** is setting off for **Mosul, Iraq** on October 9th. The **departure ceremony** starts at 1200hrs on October 8th at the Boys and Girls Club of Manassas. Our Post has invited a number of local and Federal dignitaries with a good number saying yes. Due to the 1200hrs starting time and since it's a Wednesday and that is our Bingo Day, I'll be leaving a little early. It would be a great show of support to our Brothers and Sisters in Arms, if our Post has a good showing in attendance. The unit knows that we've adopted it since we donated the **Bug Guard** (aka Skin-So-Soft by Avon). Believe it or not, the lotion is probably the best bug repellant available. We've had reports that those individuals who used theirs came back bite free while the others, well . . . . While we're on the subject of the 266th, the Post is planning on giving the families of the deployed, a holiday party to hopefully lift their spirits. We're still in the planning stages for it, please contact our Judge Advocate Ron Link at 703.392.5038 or [ron.link10@gmail.com](mailto:ron.link10@gmail.com).

We're coming up on the Xmas season and we have the veterans residing at Birmingham Green to think about. While we haven't officially voted on it, we have in the past (I can't remember how many years), donated gifts to the veterans at BG. Providing that it gets approved, is someone interested in spearheading this years efforts, if so, please contact one of the following: Commander Meade 703.408.0875 [cmdr7589@verizon.net](mailto:cmdr7589@verizon.net), Senior Vice-Commander MacLeod 703.794.1103 [jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net](mailto:jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net), Junior Vice-Commander Nealey 703.368.7636 [jvnealey@verizon.net](mailto:jvnealey@verizon.net), or Quartermaster Raskin 703-369-2732 [raraskin@verizon.net](mailto:raraskin@verizon.net).

In December we have our Winter Social. If there is anyone willing to step up and volunteer to head a committee to "make it happen", please contact one of the four horsemen already mentioned above.

As reported in the last newsletter, VFW volunteers from our Post are assisting "Big John Miska" in his efforts at getting some wounded warriors from Walter Reed Hospital over to the Arlington VFW Post for a Sunday Morning Pancake Breakfast. If you're interested, please contact our Quartermaster Rick Raskin whose information is above.

At last month's time enforced "quick" meeting, we inadvertently forgot to have the drawing for the Gift Card. Well, we're going to rectify that oversight. At this month's meeting, we will have two raffles each having a Gift Card to a local restaurant as the prize. Please make sure it's not the same person winning each month! I want to make sure everyone understands, these Gift Cards are not being bought by the Post!

Come out and see what your Post is all about!!!!

**Your Post Commander**  
**Stephen A. Meade**  
[cmdr7589@verizon.net](mailto:cmdr7589@verizon.net)

**Newsletter Editors: Stephen A. Meade—(703) 408-0875 & Valerie Nealey—(703) 368-7636**

**email: [sameade@verizon.net](mailto:sameade@verizon.net) or [cmdr7589@verizon.net](mailto:cmdr7589@verizon.net)**

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

**Virginia District 8 as of Tuesday, August 26, 2008**

Post	Life	New	Rein-stated	Continu-ous	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Division	City	N/R LM
1177	46	22	3	6	77	94	81.91	9	LEESBURG	0
1811	175	1	0	0	176	189	93.12	6	MANASSAS PARK	0
2524	185	1	2	35	223	268	83.21	5	CULPEPER	0
3103	208	26	1	57	292	350	83.43	4	FREDERICKSBURG	0
<b>7589</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>84.19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>MANASSAS</b>	<b>1</b>
7728	28	1	0	8	37	48	77.08	11	REMINGTON	0
8208	33	0	0	13	46	294	15.65	5	STANARDSVILLE	0
9835	40	0	0	7	47	56	83.93	10	WARRENTON	0
District Total	875	85	9	174	1143	1590	71.89			1

**DISTRICT MEETING - NOVEMBER 16TH**

The next District 8 Meeting is Sunday, November 16th at 1:00 PM at VFW Post 1177, Leesburg, Virginia. As always, we meet at the Post just prior to 1100hrs and then we car pool to the District Meeting. This month's State Rep is our Department of Virginia Senior Vice-Commander Rex Faris. **Commander Stephen Meade**

**VETERANS STILL ELIGIBLE FOR STIMULUS**

Thousands of veterans across the country are running out of time to get their economic stimulus checks. **Retired or disabled veterans have until Oct. 15, 2008** to fill out a simplified tax for to get their stimulus check. For more information, visit the [Internal Revenue Service](#) (IRS) website or call the IRS at toll free at 866-234-2941. **Military.com—Benefits**

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES**

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services of the Commonwealth of Virginia and VFW Post 7589 had joined into an agreement for our Post to provide space every first and third Tuesday of the month to Veterans Claim Agent Mr. Angel Lugo. Unfortunately, Mr. Lugo suddenly resigned from the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. We are impatiently waiting for a replacement Claim Agent to be assigned to our Post to replace Mr. Lugo.

**Commander Stephen Meade**

### **MANASSAS CITY FALL JUBILEE**

The City of Manassas will celebrate their annual Fall Jubilee on Saturday, October 4, 2008. It will be held in downtown Manassas City from 1000hrs to 1700hrs. The Post hands out our highly prized Trick-or-Treat bags which are highly reflective and we provide safety tips inside each bag. Volunteer for just a couple of hours and enjoy the festivities. We've been doing this for a number of years now and everyone who's helped out has enjoyed themselves. If you didn't signup at last month's meeting, you can still help! Come out and help represent our Post!.

**Commander Stephen Meade**

### **POW/MIA DAY**

The Post conducted our annual observance of POW/MIA Day on Friday, September 19 at 1630hrs at the Manassas City Veterans Memorial on Main Street next to the Manassas Museum. Unfortunately, your Post Commander was unable to attend the observance due to a Whopper of a stomach ache! -- **Commander Stephen Meade**

### **VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES**

**SPEAKERS** -- Once again this Veterans Day week we have been invited by several Manassas area schools to provide speakers to come in and meet students and talk about their military service. At last month's meeting, we had a number of people signup, however, any member of the Post who is interested should contact Senior Vice Commander Pete MacLeod (703 220-4545, 703 794-1103). A signup sheet will still be available at the next two monthly meetings. You will be notified of exact times and dates. **Commander Stephen Meade**

**BUDDY POPPY DRIVE** -- This Veterans Day weekend members of Post 7589 will be distributing buddy poppies outside the entrance to the Wellington Giant store from 9am to 1pm on Saturday, November 8th and outside the Liberia Ave. Wal-mart from 9am to 1pm on Sunday, November 9th. Sign up sheets will be available at the Post monthly meetings.

**Commander Stephen Meade**

### **VIRGINIA MILITARY SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Military Survivors and Dependents Program (MSDEP) provides educational benefits to spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who became at least 90 percent disabled as a result of military service in an armed conflict. Military service includes service in the United States Armed Forces, United States Armed Forces Reserves, the Virginia National Guard, or the Virginia National Guard Reserves. Armed conflict includes military operations against terrorism or as the result of a terrorist act, a peace-keeping mission, or any armed conflict after December 6, 1941. This program may pay for tuition of fee at any state-supported college or university in Virginia. Benefits are available for up to four years.

**Military.com—Benefits**

### **Get Credit for Your Life Experience**

Copyright Eric Salveggio

Don't start over! Get college credit for your life experiences, college courses, military schools and training.

Leaving the military is a scary and drastic change for many – especially for those who never bothered, didn't have the chance, or didn't finish their degree while on active duty. The thought of having to do a job search, fill out resumes, and go to interviews is enough to give even the most jaded non-com that cotton-mouth feeling. To make matters worse, they generally hear that they would have been hired if they had a degree. For those who have put 15-20 years of their lives in the service of our country, this can be very frustrating.

To add to the frustration about five years ago, employers started looking for those holding a degree – AND certifications, AND experience. In today's workplace, you stand a better chance if you have all three. How well I know, as I was caught up in all of it. The frustrating part for all servicemembers, veterans and for this author as well, was having all this military schooling, (a few) college courses, [CLEP exams](#), and military courses that everyone keeps telling you can be turned into college credit, is the fact that many schools won't give, or recognize [the credit recommended by the American Council on Education](#), and we have to start at rock bottom, which no one wants to do.

For those who want to finish their schooling, and don't want to start over again, there's good news; it's called the Credit for Life Experience program - also known as a Prior Learning Assessment. Many colleges and universities now offer these programs, giving servicemembers the ability to turn their experience, college courses, military schools and training into viable college credits.

While it may vary from school to school, the package generally consists of a very detailed 'autobiography', transcripts, military training records, a copy of your DD-214 (for veterans), certificates, and basically every scrap of evidence you can provide to verify your experience. The amount of credit awarded varies from just a few credits to granting an actual degree.

Thanks to this program numerous servicemembers and veterans are well on their way to, or have already graduated with their Bachelor's degrees. In fact, if it hadn't been for this program, I wouldn't have been able to obtain my Masters degree, or be accepted in a PhD program. You can bet that this type of program can benefit you too. So don't delay, there's no time like the present to start.

**Military.com—Education**

### **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY - PATRIOTS PEN - TEACHER CONTESTS**

#### **The VFW school speech and essay contests have a November 1st deadline.**

The **Patriot's Pen** essay theme for 2008-2009 is "*Why America's Veterans Should Be Honored.*" The length of the essay should be 300-400 words. Students in Grades 6 thru 8 are eligible.

The **Voice of Democracy** speech and essay theme for 2008-2009 is "*Service and Sacrifice by America's Veterans Benefit Today's Youth by.....*" A 3-5 minute essay recorded on a standard cassette or CD is required. Students in Grades 9 thru 12 are eligible.

The VFW also recognizes the nation's best teachers with its **National Citizenship Education Teacher Award**. There are three categories: Grades K-5, Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12. Any teacher who emphasizes community service, patriotism and good government and citizenship in their classrooms is eligible.

One important point to make is that students do not have to enter thru their school but can enter by submitting their work directly to VFW posts by the deadline date.

Here at Post 7589, you can submit the entries directly to Senior Vice Commander Pete MacLeod or any member of the Post. Call 703 220-4545 (cell) or 703 794-1103 (home) for more information. Home schooled students are encouraged to enter!

**Senior Vice-Commander Pete MacLeod**

### **Veteran's Voter Registration Bill Passes House**

Week of September 22, 2008

Hundreds of thousands of veterans would have widespread and direct access to voter registration services through Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offices under a landmark bill that was passed by the House of Representatives yesterday, the Veterans Voting Support Act (H.R. 6625), introduced by Rep. Robert Brady. A companion bill sponsored by Senators Diane Feinstein and John Kerry (S. 3308) may be acted on by the Senate in coming days. The House and Senate bills would create new opportunities for the nation's 25 million veterans to register to vote at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Military.com—Benefits**

### **New Report on Post-Deployment Health Issued**

Week of September 22, 2008

A new report issued earlier this month by the Government Accounting Office (GAO) has found several problems with Department of Defense (DoD) oversight of the post-deployment health reassessment (PDHRA) and that the Department is unable to determine whether servicemembers are completing their reassessments. This report noted that while DoD agreed to the recommendations in the GAO's earlier, [June 2007](#) report, the Department failed to incorporate those recommendations into its oversight practices. In response, DoD has concurred with some of GAO's recommendation, but also suggested that oversight is beyond the scope of the quality assurance programs. [Read the full article](#) on Military.com.

**Military.com—Benefits**

### **Senate Votes to Repeal Widows' Offset**

Week of September 22, 2008

By a 94-to-2 vote, the Senate for a fourth straight year agreed to repeal a law that bans "concurrent receipt" for military surviving spouses. The intent is to end reduced annuities under the military [Survivor Benefit Plan](#) (SBP) when a surviving spouse opts to draw [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#) (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs. For more information, [read the article](#) on the Military.com website. **Military.com—Benefits**

### **New Service for Wounded Warriors**

Week of September 22, 2008

The Military OneSource service established a Wounded Warrior Resource Center telephone number and e-mail address for servicemembers and their families if they have concerns or other difficulties during their recovery process. Servicemembers and their family members and caregivers can now call (800) 342-9647 or e-mail [wwrc@militaryonesource.com](mailto:wwrc@militaryonesource.com) 24/7 to request support from specially trained consultants. Assistance provided by the resource center will not replace the specialized wounded warrior programs established by each of the military services, but it will offer another avenue of assistance for military facilities, health care services, and/or benefits information.

To find career resources for the severely injured, visit the Military.com [Severely Injured Career Center](#). **Military.com—Benefits**



## **LADIES AUXILIARY 7589 NEWS**

**Editor: Valerie Nealey - 703-368-7636 [jvnealey@verizon.net](mailto:jvnealey@verizon.net)**

### **MANASSAS CITY FALL JUBILEE – SATURDAY - OCTOBER 4 – 10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM**

Members are needed to hand out flags, pencils, informational material and to sign up new members. We are also having a Cancer Aid & Research raffle and we will be promoting our fundraiser, Wreaths Across America™. Our booth will be located on Battle Street on the side closest to the Train Depot. If you can give a few minutes or a few hours, please contact Valerie Nealey 703-368-7636 or [jvnealey@verizon.net](mailto:jvnealey@verizon.net)

### **266<sup>th</sup> MP UNIT DEPARTURE CEREMONY – OCTOBER 8 – 12 Noon**

The departure ceremony for the 266<sup>th</sup> MP Unit of the Virginia National Guard will take place on Wednesday, October 8 at 12 Noon at the Boys & Girls Club in Manassas. This is the Unit that we recently adopted and we need to demonstrate to the troops and their families that they have our full support. If you are interested in attending, please contact Valerie or Sam Nealey for further details -- 703-368-7636.

### **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA™ FUNDRAISER**

I would like to remind you again about our fundraiser - **Wreaths Across America™**. A **Wreath Sponsorship Form** is included in this newsletter. Make copies of the form and ask family, friends and businesses to sponsor a wreath(s). For each \$15 sponsorship we raise, a wreath will be placed on a Veterans grave at a participating cemetery. On **Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon (EST)** there will be simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies at over 300 locations all across the World. 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. **Wreaths Across America™** is one of the national programs of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW which we will be promoting at the Fall Jubilee. **All checks and forms should be mailed 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](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org). If you purchase online, please be sure to enter our **Sponsoring Group Number VAVFW7589**. **Deadline for Orders is December 1.** I hope you can help with this important fundraiser. If you have any questions, please contact Valerie - 703-368-7636 or [jvnealey@verizon.net](mailto:jvnealey@verizon.net)

**A Little Background:** **Wreaths Across America™** became a non-profit in 2007. It was created in response to the requests of many people who wanted to get involved with the annual wreath-laying that took place at Arlington National Cemetery over the last 17 years. Back in 1992, Morrill Worcester, the President of Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine was left with nearly 5,000 wreaths close to the end of the holiday season. With no market but a strong memory of a childhood trip to DC where the vistas of Arlington National Cemetery made an impression on him, he asked for permission and brought the wreaths to be placed on head stones of that sacred ground. The first year there were only half dozen volunteers and the wreaths were placed in one of the older sections of the cemetery that received few visitors.

This year we will have over 300 participating locations and thousands of wreaths will be placed this December. Worcester Wreath continues to donate wreaths (nearly 15,000 last year) and they make all the wreaths for all the locations. The live balsam greens come from Worcester Wreath land where they maintain a balsam forest just for that purpose. The red bows are hand-tied in Maine. On the commercial side, Worcester Wreath is the largest maker of balsam holiday products and works with a number of large retailers. For example, if you have ever ordered a wreath from LL Bean - you received a Worcester Wreath product.



**CHILD PHOTO ID PROGRAM**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25 - 10 AM TO 12 NOON – POST HOME**

This program will be conducted by the Prince William County Sheriff's Department at the Post for the children of the families of the National Guard 266<sup>th</sup> MP Unit and Post/Auxiliary. Each child will be photographed and given a laminated Photo ID card. Upon arrival at the Post, Parents/Guardians only need to complete a short form with the child's information – all ages are welcome. If you are interested in participating or would like to help, please contact Valerie Nealey 703-368-7636 or [jvnealey@verizon.net](mailto:jvnealey@verizon.net)

**NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome **Kellie Coombs** and **Judith Zeigler**. Our **2009** Membership is now at 53.

**2009 DUES**

Ladies, don't forget 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

**BUDDY POPPY DRIVE**

The Auxiliary will be conducting a Buddy Poppy Drive on **Saturday, November 8 – 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM** in front of the Giant Food at the Manassas Junction Shopping Center (corner of Rt. 28 and Liberia Avenue). If you can help distribute poppies, contact Valerie at 703-368-7636 or [jvnealey@verizon.net](mailto:jvnealey@verizon.net)

**JUST A LITTLE TIDBIT**

**OUR AUXILIARY'S 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY IS NOVEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>**

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](mailto:genebettie@verizon.net)

Notify the Editor if you have any comments and/or suggestions about this newsletter.

If you would like to receive reminders of auxiliary events, meetings, updates, alerts, etc., please send your e-mail address to President Nealey at [jvnealey@verizon.net](mailto:jvnealey@verizon.net)

**WEB SITES**

VFW Post 7589: [www.vfwpost7589.org](http://www.vfwpost7589.org)

Virginia Ladies Auxiliary VFW: [www.vfwvaux.org](http://www.vfwvaux.org)

National Ladies Auxiliary VFW: [www.ladiesauxvfw.com](http://www.ladiesauxvfw.com)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Meetings:** Monday, October 6, November 3, December 1 – 7:30 pm

**Manassas Fall Jubilee:** Saturday, October 4 - Downtown Manassas – 10 AM to 5 PM

**MP Unit Departure:** Wednesday, October 8 – 12 Noon—Boys & Girls Club

**Child Photo ID Program:** Saturday, October 25 – 10 AM – 12 Noon – Post

**Buddy Poppy Drive:** Saturday, November 8 – 9 AM–1 PM – Giant - Manassas Junction

**Auxiliary 10th Anniversary:** November 29

**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

**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](http://www.vfw7589.org).

Any questions pertaining to hall rentals can be directed to our Post Quartermaster at [gm7589@verizon.net](mailto: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**



# The Cannon News

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October/November 2008

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## November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 VOD/Patriot Pen/Teacher Deadline
2 Daylight Savings Time Ends	3 VFW & Auxiliary Meetings 7:30 pm	4 Election Day	5 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	6	7	8 Buddy Poppy Drive - 9 am - 1 pm Wal-Mart Liberia Ave
9 Buddy Poppy Drive - 9am - 1 pm - Wellington Giant	10	11 Veterans Day	12 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	13	14	15
16 District 8-Leesburg No Ladies	17	18	19 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26 Bingo	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29

## December 2008

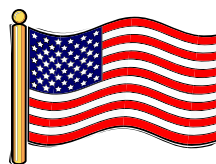
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 VFW & Auxiliary Meetings 7:30 pm	2	3 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	4	5	6
7 Pearl Harbor Day Man. Vet Mem 1630	8	9	10 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28	29	30	31 Bingo			

# October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	2 Executive Mtg.— 6:30 pm	3	4 Manassas City Fall Jubilee 10 AM - 5 PM
5	6 VFW & Auxiliary Meetings 7:30 pm	7	8 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	9 Yom Kippur	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day	14	15 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Bingo 8 am—12:30 pm	23	24	25 Child Photo ID Program Post 7589 - 10 AM - Noon
26	27	28	29 Bingo	30 Executive Mtg.— 6:30 pm	31 Halloween	

## The Cannon News

**Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589**  
**PO Box 10206**  
**Manassas, VA 20108**  
[www.vfwpost7589.org](http://www.vfwpost7589.org)



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**October 2008 - November 2008**

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