

# THE CANNON

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589



Our Post Color Guard consisting of (l to r) Comrades Peter MacLeod, Michael Guttman, Warren Ewell and Rod Gillette. The Color Guard has marched in several parades as well as participated in several community functions.

## *The Cannon News*

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

P.O. Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108

[www.vfwpost7589.org](http://www.vfwpost7589.org)

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## Post Commander's Notes

Ron Link

These are great times to be a member of Post 7589. If you look at the first half report, you can say—I am a member of an active post. We hope you will continue your membership in the coming year. I am pleased three years ago, **Rick Raskin** convinced me to transfer my membership to this post. We are the “Little Post That Can”. I urge

you to continue your membership and moreover, have a voice in what is happening. One of the important items, which is needed, is for the younger generation to become more involved with Post, District, and Department level. With the technology of today, we need to find the right personnel and to make use of their knowledge. Facebook, Twitter, email, and the blog are the new ways of social communication. We need to take advantage of their use of these resources. On the other hand, every day we are losing members of the senior generation. I am sad to report we have lost three senior members of this post during the last few months. Two comrades and one auxiliary member.

- My father, **Oren Joseph Link**, died in August at the age of 95. My dad was a hero in my eyes, a WWII veteran of the South Pacific; he received the Bronze Star for Bravery and the Purple Heart. Dad took shrapnel for a grenade and for years after he was constantly removing bits of shrapnel as it worked its way out. NEVER COMPLAINING!!!

- **Joe Dazzo** died November 30, 2010. Joe was an inspiration to me and others who knew him. In fact when Warren and Fran Quick invited me to the POW/MIA ceremony in Sep 2006 (right after I moved to Virginia); it was Joe and Nancy who I had the pleasure to dine with. Joe told of his service to country and some he was always proud to have service. He was proud of the membership in the Post, the Legion (Post 10) and the 40&8. Joe often talked about his landing during the invasion on D-Day. I miss the speeches that Joe often did at the meetings, one thing for sure—you always know what side of the fence Joe stood on. He was a constant fighter for veterans and for his country. A true hero.

- Auxiliary member, **Bette Keaton**, a tireless worker for the comrades of the post, died in October. Not only did Bette serve the veteran of the Post, she was a member of The Military Order of the Cootie, a VFW organization which serves those veterans confined to the hospital recovering the ravages of war. The motto of the Cooties is “keep'em smiling in beds of white”.

Going into the second half of the year, we need to ensure we maintain the energy level. One cannot always have the time to devote hours in serve, however, we need your membership. This January, Rick Raskin and I, along with the members of the Department Legislative Committee will be visiting our elected officials in Richmond. It makes our task so much easier when we say we represent “X” of veterans and the families. The electorates become wiser and learned electorate regarding the veterans and their needs. *This is why your membership is so important.*

**Peter McLeod**, our Youth Chair has done an outstanding job with the Patriots' Pen, Voice of Democracy and the Teacher of the Year awards. Over 180 entries, Peter had

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## The Post Expansion is on Track

The officers of the Post for the past couple of years have been researching the possibility of expanding the post footprint and bringing our post in compliance with the American Disability Act. Through the efforts of Past Commander Ron Knowles who contacted our Charter and Past Commander John Gregory. Gregory Construction has been retained to oversee the expansion of the post which we hope to start next spring. This expansion will enlarge the meeting room, created two offices to the south side of the hall and bring the post in compliance with ADA requirement. The plans are to have a veranda style porch with a ramp on the parking lot side of the building. The shed located next to the post home will be relocated towards the rear of the lot. Also, we are going to plant a row of trees along the back of the lot along the property line. Currently, we are in the application process to have the property re-zoned from R-1 to B-3. This will align our property with the two adjoining properties.

For further information on this project, contact any of the officers for information or attend the monthly membership meeting held the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. Serving on the House Committee for the post is Past Commander Sam Nealey, Chair; Past Commander Steve Meade; and David Crowder. Dave is a retired Army Master Sergeant.

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### Post Commander's Notes

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to evaluate each entry and set up the judging for the awards. Then Peter set up the judging for the district awards. Another example of 7589 stepping up to the plate. In closing, remember our service men and women serving in the world's greatest military, keeping them in your prayers and thoughts.

To each of you may this year bring you happiness and good health.

Yours in service and comradeship,

**Ron**

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### Ladies Auxiliary Notes

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information can be emailed to me at [mrsbapple@cox.net](mailto:mrsbapple@cox.net) or mailed to me at 11927 Appling Valley Rd, Fairfax VA 22030-5701.

Continue to collect current and expired coupons for veterans and their families stationed at the Marine Corps Base in Iwakuni, Japan. Military shoppers are able to use the expired coupons up to six months past the expiration date. Coupons are needed no later than two months past expiration in order to let the families have time to use them. Coupons for restaurants and specific stores are not eligible for the program. Please clip and separate into food and non-food groups and total the money amount of the coupons. Bring coupons to a meeting, drop off at the Post or mail to Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 7589, PO Box 10206, Manassas, VA 20108.

Keep collecting Campbell's Soup Labels for VFW National Home for Children -- bring them to the next meeting, drop them off at the Post Home, or mail them to Sondra Burroughs at 11927 Appling Valley Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030-5701.



## Photo Page



Pictured with Anne Carroll, High School Teacher of the Year is Auxiliary President Pam Braithwaite, Mayor Hall Parrish, and Commander Ron Link.



Pictured with Cathleen Evans, Elementary Teacher of the Year is Auxiliary President Pam Braithwaite, Mayor Hall Parrish, Round Elementary School Principal Dunko, and Commander Ron Link.



Angela Jividen (center), winner of the the Voice of Democracy, is pictured with Auxiliary President Pam Braithwaite, Mayor Hall Parrish, Commander Ron Link and Osbourn High School Principal John Conti.



Second from the left is Alyson Parry, the Patriot's Pen winner. Also pictured is Auxiliary President Pam Braithwaite, Mayor Hall Parrish and Commander Ron Link.



Pictured is a contingent from the Post at the Quantico National Cemetery on December 11th to place wreaths on the graves of our "Fallen Heroes". Once again the Ladies Auxiliary of Post 7589 shines by sponsoring 299 wreaths (approx 30% of the total). Congratulations to the Auxiliary and a special thanks to Valerie Nealey and Yvonne Sullivan—co-chairs of this event. A special thanks to all who participated—both in sponsoring and in the placement of the wreaths on the graves.



## Ladies Auxiliary President's Notes

Pam Braithwaite

Welcome new members – Kathy Bennett, Mary Corkhill, Carol Cullen, Janice Long, Brenda Runnebaum, Jeanne Tomlinson, Agnes Towne, Amy VanDorn & Linda Witherel. Our membership total is at 64.

Thanks to all members who helped with the membership drive at the Fall Jubilee on October 4; filled a raffle basket with \$500 worth of gift cards and coupons from local merchants; made the Yard Sale on October 16 a success; and, talked to several prospective members at the City of Manassas Neighborhood Conference on November 13. All proceeds from the basket and yard sale will be used to help the military and their families, veterans, youth and community. Special thanks to Yvonne Sullivan and Valerie Nealey for chairing these events.

Our Auxiliary participated in the Wreaths Across America Fundraiser again and thanks to everyone who sponsored a wreath and assisted at Quantico National Cemetery on December 11. A special thanks to Valerie Nealey and Yvonne Sullivan for their time and effort in chairing this event. Quantico received a little more than 1000 wreaths which were placed on graves in Section 28, a new section. The Auxiliary sponsored 299 of those wreaths. Assisting were approximately 13 Auxiliary and Post members along with family members, two Girl Scout Troops, Osbourn Park JROTC, one Youth Group (America's Club) from Forest Park High School, one Youth Church Group (RIOT) and several individuals. We assembled at Memorial Circle for a solemn ceremony. It was a beautiful sunny day and the ceremony began with the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard -- a wreath for each branch of service was placed and a Bugler played Taps. Afterwards, each of the 200-300 volunteers were given wreaths to place on the graves. We were asked to place the wreath, read the name and give a moment of silence to think about the sacrifices given by the veteran. On this day, we Remembered the Fallen, Honored those who serve and Taught our children the value of Freedom. Please view the photos on our website [www.post7589.org](http://www.post7589.org).

The Auxiliary purchased 30 snuggies for the veterans at Birmingham Green and military patches were embroidered on each snuggie. There were 18 Army, 6 Navy, 4 Air Force and 2 Marines. Thanks to Elanor Doczi and Patsy Gough for chairing this event. The gifts were delivered on Christmas Eve and the staff distributed to the veterans. A Christmas card was also enclosed with our logo and name thanks to Debbie Shifflette.

The Post/Auxiliary presented certificates and monetary awards to the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Citizenship Education Teacher winners on Monday, January 31 at 7 pm at the Post. Mary Corkhill and Patsy Gough chaired the Refreshments Committee. Thank you for attending and showing support to our youth and teachers for a great job! City of Manassas Mayor Parrish was be our guest speaker. Debbie Shifflette and Pete MacLeod appeared on Brad Bradshaw's Cable TV show to discuss the VOD/Patriots Pen and Teacher Awards. You can view it on the Post web site [www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org).

Enclosed is a survey ([See Page 8](#)) the ladies have been working on requesting information from all members. Please, take a minute to complete it within the next two weeks. The

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# FRANCIS CANNON VFW POST 7589 EDUCATIONAL AWARDS FOR 2010-2011

Sr. Vice Commander Pete MacLoed has announce the 2010-2011 School year Education Award winners sponsored by the Post and the Auxiliary. A total of 182 teachers and students in the Manassas area entered the competition this year. This was a monumental task going over each entry and ensuring the winners stay within the parameters of the contest as directed by VFW-National.

The flagship contest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is "Voice of Democracy", an audio/essay competition begun in 1947. The theme this year is "Does My Generation Have a Role in America's Future?" This contest is for students in grades 9 - 12. "Patriot's Pen" is an essay contest for students in grades 6 - 8 with the theme this year: "Does Patriotism Still Matter?" The "National Citizenship Education Teacher Award" recognizes classroom teachers who emphasize citizenship education and promote America's history, traditions and institutions. We will recognize our winners at a special ceremony on January 31st at the Post Home. The ceremony will include the first palce winners reading the essays. Notable community leaders will assist in the presentation. The District 8 winners will be recognized on January 9th in Manassas. The winners from all 50 states are honored in Washington, D.C. on March 5-9, 2011.

## **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, Grades 9-12, audio essay "Does My Generation Have a Role in America's Future?"**

First Place: Angela L. Jividen, Senior , Osbourn High School , Manassas

Second Place: Peter T. Foeckler, Senior, Seton School , Manassas

Third Place: Alayna M. Nagurny, Senior, Seton School , Manassas

Honorable Mention: Elisa B. Ballschneider, Westfield High School

Honorable Mention: Bradley S. Strylowski, Home Schooled student, Manassas

Honorable Mention: Chelsea Dinsmore, Stonewall Jackson H.S., Manassas

Honorable Mention: Jasmine Lee, Stonewall Jackson H.S., Manassas

## **PATRIOT'S PEN, Grades 6-8, essay "Does Patriotism Still Matter?"**

First Place : Alyson Barry, 7th Grade, Parkside Middle School

Second Place : Isha Ghodgaonkar, 6th Grade, Manassas Christian School

Third Place : Brett A. Kellogg, 8th Grade, Seton School

Honorable Mention: Jonathon C. Keller, 7th Grade, Parkside Middle School

Honorable Mention: Matt S. Yost, 8th Grade, Manassas Christian School

Honorable Mention: Alayna N. Powers, 8th Grade, Manassas Christian School

Honorable Mention: Thomas A. Shaw, 8th Grade, Seton School

Honorable Mention: Casey S. Quinn, 6th Grade, Mayfield Intermediate School

## **NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD**

### **Grades K-5**

Cathleen M. Evans, 4th Grade Teacher, G.C. Round Elementary School , Manassas

### **Grades 9-12**

Anne W. Carroll, History Teacher, Seton School , Manassas

*Introducing some of this year's winners in the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year contests are:*

Angela Jividen of Manassas, a senior at Osbourn High School, took first place in Voice of Democracy writing on the topic, "Does My Generation Have a Role in America's Future?" Angela warns that her generation's apathy and inaction can make just as much of an impact as motivation and perseverance. She is going to attend college with the goal of becoming a doctor. Her two older sisters are studying to be an accountant and a systems engineer. They have all had outstanding grades at Osbourn High School.

This year's Patriot's Pen essay winner is Alyson Parry, a seventh grader at Parkside Middle School on Mathis Ave. in Manassas. Her topic was, "Does Patriotism Still Matter?" You know what? She answered that question in her essay, that's why she grabbed first place. In her essay, Alyson want all the way back to the Revolutionary War to show the importance of patriotism. She focused on George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. And she didn't forget Abraham Lincoln. She said that without patriotism, it's open to question if any significant number of young men and women would volunteer to defend our country. She used history to show that patriotism does indeed still matter. How about our Teacher of the Year in Grades K-5! Ms. Cathleen Evans is a fourth grade teacher at Round Elementary School on Hastings Drive in Manassas. But this young woman is responsible for one of the best Veterans Day programs I have ever seen. If you've been to Round on Veterans Day, you know what I mean. Each class prepares a play or song, there are power point presentations with powerful messages about the sacrifice of veterans, and this year they had the novel approach of interviewing veterans on stage. The students had some great questions too!

Our Teacher of the Year in grades 9-12 is Mrs. Anne Carroll a history teacher at Seton School in Manassas. All she did was not only win our local contest, but she captured the District Teacher of the Year title and then won the state and is being honored at the VFW Winter Conference in Williamsburg as the Va. Teacher of the at 7pm at Post Headquarters. Year in grades 9-12. She will of course also be entered in the national competition. One of the interesting teaching methods of Mrs. Carroll is to bring in "real people" to speak to her students about history. She has invited a Holocaust survivor to speak to her students about World War Two, an FBI agent to speak about the U.S. effort in Afghanistan, a Desert Storm veteran to talk about fighting Iraq and the supposedly invincible Army of Saddam Hussein. She has taught history for 35 years.

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**General Membership Meetings—Post and Auxiliary  
1st Monday Night of each month  
1930 hours**



# LADIES VFW AUXILIARY QUESTIONNAIRE

What meeting time or day would be good for you?

What program would you like to participate in? (see enclosure)

What ideas do you have for our programs?

Is there anything we can send you that would be of interest to you?

What type of social activities would you like to see at the Post?

Do you have children or grandchildren that would come for children's activities? What is their gender and ages?

If you are not currently coming to meetings, what can we do that would make you feel welcome and important as a member?

What are your thoughts regarding the auxiliary and its activities?



*National Commander  
Richard L. Eubank*

## Commander-in-Chief takes Action Regarding VFW-PAC

During the last election, the Veterans of Foreign Wars-Political Action Committee (VFW-PAC) endorsed several candidates for national offices which did not meet with the approval of the veteran members of the VFW. The National Headquarters was inundated with emails, letters and phone calls regarding the endorsements asking the Commander-in-Chief to take action and tell the VFW-PAC to rescind the endorsements. The action requested was not in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the membership in the creation of the PAC. The PAC was set up as an independent body governed by the appointees by the Commanders-in-Chief over the past few years.

What Commander Eubank has done was first to apologize to the entire membership as stated in the letter posted on the VFW website "First of all, I am deeply sorry because many of you were disappointed, angered or felt betrayed following the endorsements made by the PAC. The process used by the PAC was clearly biased toward the incumbent and as a result, patently unfair."

He explained in the letter how the PAC is a separate organization and the VFW and/or its membership does not nor will not endorse individual candidates for any political office. He also explained how the confusion regarding the relationship between the PAC and VFW affected the VFW ability to service our service members, veterans and their families those services the VFW has rendered over the years.

Commander Eubank also stated "As VFW national commander, I have taken significant steps to correct the negative impact this situation is having on the Veterans of Foreign Wars and to regain the trust of our loyal members and supporters. As Commander-in-Chief, I propose to offer a resolution to amend the by-laws at the 112th National Convention for the purpose of dissolving the PAC. Meanwhile, under the authority granted to me, I have withdrawn all PAC appointments effective October 15, 2010, thus effectively rendering the PAC inoperable."

In his message to the membership, he cannot dissolve the PAC nor can the line officers do so since the PAC was created by the membership and can only be dissolved by the membership. He was saddened by all of this and is hoping the quick action will restore the confidence in the National offices of the VFW and once again restore the founding promise of the VFW to ensure no veteran will ever again be left to care for themselves.

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## Post 7589 65th Anniversary Dinner 4 June 2011

# It has been a banner first six months for your Post:

## First Six Months

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**National Convention, Indianapolis, IN:** This year Commander Ron Link and Quartermaster and Rick Raskin attended the 111th National VFW Convention. The value of attending in the networking one can take advantage to assist with a smoother running post operation. Meeting the personnel serving at the National level who handle the day-to-day operation of the VFW is very helpful.

**Fall Jubilee:** Both the Post and the Auxiliary participated in this year's Old Town Manassas Fall Jubilee held October 4th. The post handed out over 3,000 Halloween bags with the Halloween Safety message. During the day, four new members were recruited. The comrades manning the booth were Peter Slusher, Rod Gillette, Dallas Kennedy, Peter MacLeod, Sam Nealey, Mike Guttman, Ron Knowles, Daryl Braymer, and Ron Link

**Veterans' Day Parade:** On November 6th, the Post Home was a busy place. It served as the staging area for the Korean War Veterans (Honored Era for this year's parade) where the post once again provided coffee and donuts to the veterans. Our Post Color Guard consisting of Peter MacLeod, Mike Guttman, Warren Ewell, and Rod Gillette did a fine job representing the post. Jerry Martin, Rick Raskin, and Ron Link welcomed the Korean War Veterans along with the few World War II veterans in attendance.

**Veterans' Day Ceremony:** First, we want to thank each and every one of you for your service to your country. A special thanks to the Auxiliary members for the service to the veteran of our nation. Due to an emergency, your Commander was out of town, Peter MacLeod conducted the ceremony as the Manassas War Memorial.

After the service, the comrades in attendance along with the Auxiliary members and the Cub Scouts from Pack 858 in Bristow, VA placed flags on the graves of the veterans entombed at the Manassas Cemetery. Special honors were paid to the gravesite of Francis Cannon and the gravesite of the Medal of Honor recipient from the Civil War.

**POW/MIA, September 17th:** This is a solemn day for our nation and unfortunately only one day where a nation gathers to honor those still missing and/or uncounted for. The comrades of our post along with the Auxiliary gathered at the Manassas War Memorial to renew our efforts to ensure our leaders are doing everything they can to bring home those POW/MIA casualties from all wars. Members of our Post also assisted with the Ceremony at American Legion Post 10 later that evening. Tom Wahl, member of our post and the Post Commander of Post 10, Rick Raskin, Ron Link, Joe Ortiz, and Jim Brock assisted.

**Bingo:** Every Wednesday morning, our post conducts BINGO for the community. Under the direction of Bingo Manager, Rick Raskin, the post conducts over 30 games and sells various other games. This is one of our major fund raising projects. Helping in this endeavor are Janet Raskin, Kay Yeager, Mary Corkhill, Ken Lyons, Warren Ewell, Peter MacLeod, Peter Slusher, Steve Meade, Jack Battle, Phil Smith and Ron Link.



Pictured with Retired USMC COL Jack Kelly are Ron Link and Jerry Martin

**Quartermaster of the Year:** Rick Raskin was nominated by Past (then) Post Commander Steve Meade for the honor of Post Quartermaster of the Year for the Department of Virginia. This award is based not only on the handling of the finances but the dedication to the entire programs of the VFW and how the individual supports those programs. It also shows and rewards how the individual incorporates his position to serve the veterans. Rick has set high standards as our Quartermaster and We (Post 7589) congratulate Rick on his achievement.

**Boy Scout Jamboree:** This year (2010) the Boy Scouts of America are celebrating a 100th anniversary. The Chairman of our Scout Committee and a member of the VFW National Scout Team, Ron Knowles, attended the 10 day 2010 National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill VA. He served as a staff member of the Woodcarving Merit Badge in The Merit Badge Midway. He spent one day in the VFW Scout booth distributing special post cards for the Scouts and leaders of the Jamboree to sign to be mailed to our troops in Afghanistan. A total of 3000 cards were signed and mailed. The VFW Scout Team is working to recruit Eagle Scouts to apply for one of the VFW Scout of the Year National Scholarships (\$5,000, \$3,000, \$1,000).

**65th Anniversary Coin designed:** We have designed a special commemorative coin for our 65th year. This is a special year for our post and we are planning a gala celebration. I have asked our Junior Vice Commander Steve Botello to chair the event, along with Past Commander Jerry Martin and Auxiliary Member Debbie Shifflett are the committee members.

**Thanksgiving Day Dinner:** Over 150 dinners were prepared, served, and/or delivered to the community on Thanksgiving Day. In cooperation with two local church groups, our Post Home was the focal point of the event. Assisting with the Raskin Family during the day.

**Sponsored Welcome Home Ceremony at Fort Lee:** With the help of a grant from the VFW National Military Services committee, our post was able to sponsor a homecoming celebration for 220 members of the 267th Quartermaster Company located at Fort Lee. The 225 member unit served in the Afghanistan region for approximately 18 months. The entire unit came home (no casualties) and marched into the field house. A true testament to the leadership of the unit. Along with COL Cherry, Brigade Commander, Rick Raskin and Ron Link were on hand to welcome the unit home and a job well-done.

## The Francis Cannon VFW Post 65th Anniversary Coin



Front Side



Back Side

Get your 65th Anniversary Coin, it is a nice commemorative coin to remember the important occasion in the history of our Post.

**Only \$10.00**

For you—see Ron Link—703-673-6046 or Rick Raskin—703-887-0076  
Or Stop by the Post on Meeting Nights or Wednesday Morning Bingo

## Help Wanted

**Bingo—9:00 to 12:00  
Wednesdays**