

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

Manassas, Virginia

January 2013



WWII POW Comrade Merle Hancock speaks on the value of teachers at our annual youth awards ceremony on December 10.

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COMMANDER'S REPORT

2012 has been a very busy year for our Post.

We've definitely seen an increase in participation by our comrades. The results of this have greatly strengthened our Post and given us better community awareness.

Our Post is well represented at both the department and national levels. Rick Raskin, Peter MacLeod and I are serving on National Committees, and with Rick and I chairing Department Committees, Post 7589 is recognized as "*A Post that Can*". I want to thank Rick and Peter for their service to the veterans of our nation.

On the District level, I want to thank Steve Botello for serving as District Service Officer, and Stephen Meade for serving as District Quartermaster.

I had the privilege of installing Joel Chase as our new Post Chaplain. Joel was elected by the membership when Sam Nealey tendered his resignation. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest thanks and appreciation to Sam for his services as Post Chaplain and also for his dedication to our Post and to the VFW. *Sam, Thank you for a job well done.*

During the month of December, our Post held two very special events:

First was our Educational Awards ceremony. Many thanks to Peter MacLeod for organizing the ceremony; it was a great success. Over the past years Peter has done an outstanding job with the Youth Program. This year, the Post received over 200 entries for the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and the Teacher of the Year awards. Peter along with the members of the Youth Committee organized a great event to honor the students and educa-

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AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I trust everyone had a happy and safe holiday season and all your wishes were fulfilled.

We, the members of the Francis Cannon 7589 Ladies Auxiliary wish to welcome two new members. They are: **Ms. Coral Lee Bishop and Ms. Lauren Link.** I would like to “thank” the members of the Auxiliary who assisted in achieving the goal of 100% for the 2012-2013 year.

We want to congratulate all the winners for the VOD, Patriot's Pen and the Citizenship Education Award for the 2012-2013 year. We want to give a special “Thank You” to Ms. Valerie Nealey for printing all the award certificates. To all the different businesses who gave an award donation to the winners, we “Thank You”. Our next deadline of March 15th will be the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest for the high school students. If you know of any high school or home schooled student that wishes to submit an original painting, please contact Mary Corkhill at 703/361-8950 or email mcorkhill@comcast.net.

I would also like to thank all the individuals from Post/Auxiliary that attended the Wreaths Across America event at Quantico National Cemetery on December 15th. There were about 1,300 individuals from different originations that participated in this year's event. After the Memorial Ceremony, wreaths were placed at the assigned location. It is a sight to see when all the wreaths have been distributed.

The next event on the schedule will be VFW Day on the Hill in Richmond, VA on Thursday, January 10th. The Winter Conference will be held on January 11-13 in Williamsburg, VA.



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FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Greetings, Comrades:

Happy New Year to all of you! With the challenging times and cherished moments of 2012 behind us, let's focus together on our future in 2013.

If I had the power to do so, I would declare 2013 to be the *Year of the Veteran*. Collectively, we have much work to do in the coming months to ensure that our state and national leaders and legislators renew their commitments to preserve and protect veterans' entitlements; guarantee that military pay, allowances, benefits and retirements remain intact; support veterans and their families in need; and keep our military the strongest in the world.

We have two upcoming opportunities to tell our elected leaders how we feel. On January 10th we will visit our state legislators and leaders in Richmond. In early March we will visit our national representatives and senators in Washington, DC, and we will attend the VFW Commander-in-Chief's testimony to the House and Senate veterans' affairs committees. We have a responsibility to educate and inform these legislators, most who never served in the military but have benefited substantially from the sacrifices veterans have made on their behalf.

If you are unable to attend these events in person, please take a few moments to send a letter, an email, or an online communication to your state and national representatives to let them know that you support veterans and military rights.

Together we can ensure that our Veterans voices are heard loudly and clearly. Please help us in any way you can!

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tors. I would also like to thank Pat Templeton who arranged for this year's guest speaker Dr. Bryan Brown, a professor of film and communications at Northern Virginia Community College. He was an outstanding speaker speaking to the students and telling them "*It's time to seize the moment*". Also speaking was World War II veteran and Post member Merle Hancock. Comrade Hancock spoke about his time in captivity as a POW. Rounding out the kudos for this event, I would like to especially thank Valerie Nealey for making the award certificates and also the Ladies Auxiliary for providing the refreshments.

The second event was our holiday get-together at the Post. Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and the Sisters of the Auxiliary did an outstanding job in decorating the Post. Thanks also to Past Commander Jerry Martin for bringing a World War II veteran to the dinner. A great time was had by all.

As you can see by the pictures in this issue, the Post renovation is in full swing. The two new offices are completed and currently the hall itself is undergoing the final phase of renovation. When completed the Post will meet all current building codes and ADA requirements. Thanks to Charter Commander John Gregory for overseeing this renovation.

On behalf of the executive board I want to wish each and everyone of you a very healthy and happy new year.

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As always, please keep collecting the Campbell's soup labels for the VFW National Home for Children. We are very happy to receive any labels from the public. Please bring the labels to the Post.

The members of the Ladies Auxiliary wish everyone a prosperous and happy New Year

YOUTH AWARDS CEREMONY—DECEMBER 10, 2012

Our annual Education Awards Night was held on December 10, 2012. Awards for the best essay in the Patriot's Pen contest and best essay with presentation in the Voice of Democracy contest were presented to the top three finalists and two honorable mentions in each category. Additionally, the two first place winners read their essays to an enthusiastic audience. Awards were also presented to three community educators for their outstanding patriotic educational support. Two guest speakers, Bryan Brown, an Assistant Professor at NVCC and Merle Hancock a WWII POW addressed the audience. The ceremony concluded with a round of pictures followed by refreshments provided by the Ladies Auxiliary.



Patriot's Pen

Jaden Beard, Elizabeth Shope, Saloni Deshpande and Erica Campos

Back Row: Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, Commander Ron Link and Education Chair Pete MacLeod



National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

Jennifer Boaz, Lisa Zilka and Kristen Schaffer



Voice of Democracy

Alexandra Vassel, Timothy Cook, Melissa Angel, Steven Tian and Jeremy Nelson



Guest speaker Bryan Brown
Assistant Professor of Film Studies and
Communication at NVCC

Guest Speaker Merle Hancock
Former Prisoner of War in WWII
and member of VFW Post 7589



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As a final note, I would like to pay tribute to Senator Daniel Inouye, World War II veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, who passed away recently. For many years, he fought tirelessly for the rights and benefits for veterans, and we are all diminished by his passing.

Yours in Comradeship,
Margo Sheridan
Department Commander

VFW DAY ON THE HILL

The Department of Virginia Legislative Committee will be visiting members of the Virginia Senate and House of Representatives on our annual Day on the Hill, January 10, 2013. Post Commander Ron Link and Quartermaster Rick Raskin have been serving on the committee for several years and will be attending.

Any VFW member may also attend and “ride along” with the teams as they meet with our legislators. Please contact either Ron or Rick if you’d like to be a part of this worthwhile effort.

The agenda is set forth by the Joint Leadership Council, a consortium of Veterans Service Organizations. This enables each VSO to meet with the legislators with a concise agenda and gives a unified voice among VSOs

2013 JLC Initiatives

Position papers may be viewed by clicking on the links provided with each item.

In Executive Order 29 (EO29), Governor McDonnell directed the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) to propose legislation to be considered by the Governor for introduction in the 2013 General Assembly. The JLC submitted its recommendations on August 15, 2012. Below is a summary of the actions proposed by Governor McDonnell as part of his Veterans and Military Initiatives for the 2013 General Assembly.

1. Provide for the electronic return of absentee ballots by overseas voters. [JLC 2013 01](#)
2. Set aside land for the future Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center on the site of the state-owned Northern Virginia Training Center. The training center is scheduled to close in 2015.

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[JLC 2013 02](#)

3. Provide a Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Veterans Service Organizations. [JLC 2013 03](#)
4. Create business incentives for employers for hiring veterans. [JLC 2013 04](#)
5. Clarify the Code of Virginia section regarding In-State Tuition Eligibility for veterans. [JLC 2013 05](#)
6. Ensure that the surviving spouses and dependents attending a Virginia public college or university as part of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program have the financial resources necessary to pursue their education by increasing the stipend for room, board, books, and supplies to \$2,000 per year and appropriating an additional \$600,000 (GF) for the program. [JLC 2013 06](#)

VFW SCHOLARSHIP THEMES FOR 2013-14

December 28: The VFW has announced the themes for the 2013-14 Educational contests:

Patriots Pen

“What Patriotism Means to Me”

Voice of Democracy

“Why I’m Optimistic About our Nation’s Future”

The deadline for entries at the Post is November 1, 2013. For further information contact Pete MacLeod [[email](#)].

POST ASSISTS WITH CAR DONATION

Commander Ron Link, Linda Bare,
Darrell Harvey and Steve Bare

Scott & Linda Bare had a goal. Linda's late father, a veteran, had passed on his car to their family. Both Scott & Linda felt her father's military service was so important that they wanted to honor him while helping another veteran. They chose to pass on her father's legacy by donating his vehicle to a needy veteran. They contacted the VFW and Post

Service Officer Steve Botello assisted them. Working with Scott & Linda, Darrell Harvey, a VFW member and service-disabled veteran was selected.. On Saturday, December 22, 2012, Darrell received the keys to the 1999 white Ford Taurus, 4-door sedan. We are very grateful to be able to bring together the honor of a veteran's service and to help both families during this holiday season.

**Need help with filing VA
claims?**

**VA DVS AGENT SERVICE
2nd & 4th THURSDAYS
0900 - 1500**

**Post 7589
9304 Centreville Rd.
Manassas, Virginia**

APPOINTMENTS PLEASE

703-359-1210

or

kim.isler@dvs.virginia.gov

**WORK CONTINUES ON THE HALL ADDITION
WITH THE RECONFIGURATION OF THE INTERIOR.**



Parking now include two handicapped spaces.



The interior after demolition of the old office and closet spaces.



New office for the CDR, QM and Auxiliary.



Francis Cannon Post 7589

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