

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
January 2015



December 6: Commander Ron Link and Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill with members of our adopted unit the 116th IB accept a framed flag in appreciation of our support.

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From the Commander

Ron Link



As I sat in my living room looking at the lights on the Christmas tree, I noticed the glow and the illusion of warmth from the tree which filled the room. It was an entire string of lights working together, not just one light by it-

self.

A successful VFW Post is the same. Its not just one person, but an entire membership, hand-in-hand, working together. It takes both the Ladies and Comrades functioning to achieve success. I am really glad our Post works together.

As Quartermaster Rick Raskin and I have traveled throughout the State and attended National Conventions, we have met comrades from many different Posts. One thing we have noticed is that not all Posts work in harmony. Comrades are rebellious within their Post; there is a rift between the Ladies and the Comrades and some Posts are not working with other VSOs (i.e. American Legion, etc.). It is sad to see a Post not working with the other organizations in their community. We have always had the belief that "one plus

one equals THREE" when we work together.

Our Post is successful. The Ladies and Comrades are in sync in supporting each other and the programs of the VFW and Auxiliary. **IT HAS BEEN A GREAT YEAR.** Thanks.

This upcoming year we, together with American Legion Post 10, will sponsor a quarterly dinner honoring veterans from various campaigns. The first quarter of 2015 we will honor those who served during WWII and in the second quarter we will honor Korean War Veterans, and so on. The dinners will be held in the hall at Post 10. Information will be published in the next edition of Cannon News and on our website. Or, you may contact Rick Raskin or myself for details.

BINGO and Hall Rentals are the life blood of the Post. Thanks to Wayne Moore and Rick Raskin for managing the rentals during the last few years. To all the Ladies and Comrades working our Wednesday morning BINGO, thank you. To Sisters Mary Corkhill, Janet Raskin, and Kay Yeager and Comrades Joel Chase, Paul Chase, Warren Ewell, Ken Lion, Peter MacLeod, Stephen Meade, Wayne Moore,

Rick Raskin, Pete Slusher, and Phil Smith—I want to thank each one for a successful year. And, I don't want to forget Dave Gill, a friend of the Post, who comes in every week and volunteers his time. Thanks Dave!

Due to the efforts of the last couple years, we have been able to continue to fund VFW programs while paying off a \$25,000 construction bill to Gregory Construction as well as reducing our mortgage debt by some \$20,000. It is a testament to our Ladies and Comrades.

Last, but not least—a program started this year, collecting aluminum pull tabs for the Shriners' Boston Burn Center. Paul Chase spearheads the effort with additional support from Joel Chase, Warren Ewell, Pete Slusher, and Nina Walker. A goal was set at 125,000 tabs but during the year, we collected over 212,000 (170% of our goal). Next year's goal is 250,000. It sure would be nice to top next year's goal by 170% too. It can be done. **Just save those tabs!**

As we go forth into the New Year, I wish each and every member of our VFW family the best.

From the Department Surgeon

Kenneth B. Wiseman, III

Comrades,

The VFW National HQ has put out a survey asking about your experiences with the VA since changes were made under recent legislation. The legislation granted Veteran's Choice Cards and helps those with extended wait times for appointments and

those who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility.

Please take the survey to help our VFW gain insight into the experiences you have had with the VA. Also, please pass this email on to those who do not use the VFWWEBMAIL system. Further, this is

for all Veterans to take so please include those who may not be in the VFW.

The link is: <https://www.research.net/s/VFWChoiceSurvey>

Thank-you for all you do and please let me know if I can be of help to you.

Ken

Auxiliary President's Report

Mary Corkhill



The members of Auxiliary 7589 hope you had a very enjoyable holiday with your family and friends. Please don't forget our troops who are defending our freedom so we can enjoy our holidays.



hill@comcast.net or mobile phone: 703/517-2629. We would love to see your artistic ability.

I want to thank everyone who made this holiday season at the Post one of the best. The Ladies of the Auxiliary had a very busy December with setting up and attending the Adopt-A-Unit Holiday dinner, the refreshments for the Youth & Teacher Awards Ceremony, packing and distributing Christmas gifts to the Veterans at Birmingham Green and distributing Wreaths Across America at Quantico National Cemetery. Thank you ladies, without you, we wouldn't have completed our projects. **You are the best.**

Congratulations to all recipients of the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year. The students continue to surprise us each year. A big thanks to the VFW Sr. Vice Commander/Youth Committee Chairman Pete MacLeod for a job well done. I can't forget to thank the parents and teachers for their support to our programs. Another contest for the high school student is the **Patriotic Arts**. The deadline is March 31, 2015. If you know of a high school student who would like to participate in this contest, please let us know. My email address is: mcorkhill@comcast.net

I would like to thank the annual members who have paid their dues before December 31, 2014. As you know, if your 2014 dues are not paid by that date, you are not a member of the Auxiliary in good standing. For these individuals who have **not**, please forward your payment of \$20.00 to the Auxiliary Treasurer, Ms. Elanor Doczi, 7415 Roxbury Ave., Manassas, VA 20109. We are very proud you have chosen VFW Auxiliary 7589 as your home. The National Auxiliary has provided benefits for all of us. Please check the National Auxiliary website for more information. <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.org>.

Upcoming events for the next three months are the following (subject to change):

Jan 5—Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm
Jan 9-11—Winter Conference – Williamsburg, VA
Jan 15—Day on the Hill
Jan 16—Youth Comm. Mtg. 7pm – Post

Feb 2—Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm
Feb 19—Youth Comm. Mtg. – 7pm – Post
Feb 22—District 8 Meeting – Fredericksburg, VA (3103) 1:00pm

Mar 2—Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm
Mar 20—Youth Comm. Mtg – 7pm – Post
Mar 31—Deadlines for Patriotic Arts & all department program reports

The Winter Conference will be at Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center in Williamsburg, VA from January 9 - 11, 2015. Please stop by the different tables that will be set up for the several fundraisers. There will be Ways & Means, Cancer, President's Special Project and National President's "Celebration America's Freedom Event" for 2017. If you can attend this event, it will be worth your time.

Our project of collecting Campbell soup labels for the National Home for Children is ongoing. The soup labels will be used for purchasing a new van. Please assist us with this project and bring your labels to the Post.

For individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized, please let us know. And as always, you are in our prayers.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill

Ladies Auxiliary President



Service Officer's Report

Steve Botello



The VA has several up to date ways that you and/or your family members can gain access to most all of your VA benefits AND your VA healthcare information. You will need online

access to the Internet.

Your first link is:

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>

Here you are able to apply for Veterans' Benefits Online (VONAPP), access VA Payment History, apply for VA Home Loan Certificate of Eligibility, check on Compensation & Pension Status, and much more. Family members can view TRICARE benefits, explore eLearning opportunities, and request information from State VA offices.

Your second link is your my HealtheVet site at:

https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/anonymous.portal?_nfpb=true&_nfto=false&_pageLabel=mvHome

Here veterans are able to access most of their VA healthcare information and much more. You will need to register online for either site. If needed, we can help you through the process.

I strongly encourage all VFW leadership to go ahead and do so. We also need to encourage our membership to register. Leadership by example is tremendously effective.

Please feel free to contact our Service Officer Team at any time for questions, suggestions or other needs you may have at:

so7589@verizon.net or call us at 1-703-659-0849. You can also pull one of us aside and give us a suggestion of service that we can provide.

Our number one goal is providing the best service to our veterans and their families.

Please do not hesitate to speak to our Veteran Service Officers and find out just what they can do for you! They are:

Steve Botello 1-703-659-0849

Email: SO7589@verizon.net

Stephen Meade 1-703-408-0875

Email: SO2-7589@hotmail.com

Our goal is simple. We want to take care of all our veterans with the greatest level of service that our resources will allow.

Thank you for your service!

**VA DVS AGENT SERVICE
AT POST 7589
HAS BEEN SUSPENDED**

Future Dates TBD

**In the interim
please visit the Fairfax office.**

**11198 Lee Hwy., Ste. D4
Fairfax, VA 22030**

703-359-1210

Youth News and Notes

Pete MacLeod—Youth Committee Chair



2014 was a very memorable year for youth activities at Post 7589.

In March professors and students from the film club at the Woodbridge campus of Northern Virginia Community College converged on the Post headquarters to produce an excellent video on wartime experiences by Post 7589 members. Professors Bryan Brown and Chris Stallings spearheaded the project. They set up shop and interviewed veterans for several hours and their finished product was excellent and released on YouTube. Just meeting the students, some of them veterans themselves, was a great experience and the respect they showed for members of the Post had to make you feel good.

Later, in March, Quartermaster Rick Raskin announced that Royce Maynard Picot of Manassas was selected as the VFW Post 7589 Scout of the Year. He is an Eagle Scout and made an impressive presentation.

In April, Ms. Elizabeth Chung of Osbourn Park High School placed first in the Manassas area Ladies Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.

In late April several of us were honored to be part of "Career Day" at Baldwin Elementary School in Manassas. It was part of an effort by the Manassas Museum to involve the entire Manassas community. We spoke to five classes. The highlight of the day for the students was an old Army

canteen! That drew more attention and interest than all of our "war stories" put together.

On an afternoon in late May about 20 Social Studies students from Stonewall Jackson High School showed up at Post Headquarters to interview comrades of Post 7589 for a class project. There were actually more than 100 students involved in the "Veterans Interview" project. The Stonewall teacher leading the project was Mr. Blake Ferreira. At least a dozen Post members took part. Many of us saw first hand the high tech wonders of today as the young students used their handheld devices to record audio and video as they interviewed us.

On Memorial Day about 30 Scouts and leaders from Pack 1355 again helped Post 7589 and the Ladies Auxiliary at ceremonies at the Manassas Veterans Memorial and later with flag placements at Manassas Cemetery.

In June, Osbourn Park High School student Cadet Cari Rozi received a VFW Bronze Junior ROTC medal from Post 7589. She is part of the Navy ROTC program at the high school.

In early September the annual Youth Yard Sale raised over \$600.00 for our Youth Awards Prize Fund. Thanks to comrades of Post 7589 and members of the Ladies Auxiliary for untold hours of "heavy lifting" and just plain "time" which is always part of any yard sale.

As part of Veterans Day week activities members of Post 7589 spoke at schools in

the Manassas area including Manassas Christian School, Mayfield Intermediate School, Round Elementary School, Haydon Elementary School and Weems Elementary School. Special thanks to Quartermaster Rick Raskin for help in producing a 20 minute video taken from my "Vietnam home movies." It was a hit with more than 200 fourth graders at both Haydon and Weems.

Again, on Veterans Day, Scouts from Manassas and Haymarket helped Post 7589 and its Ladies Auxiliary with ceremonies and flag placements.

The culmination of the Youth Activities for 2014 was the annual essay contests including Patriot's Pen (grades 6-8) and Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12) and the VFW Citizenship Teacher of the Year competition. We had 94 teachers and students from the Manassas area taking part this year representing 9 different schools. Again, thanks to the comrades of Post 7589 and the Ladies Auxiliary for more hours of help in putting all of that together including a very successful Awards Ceremony on December 7. And a special thanks to the Post for allocating \$2,150.00 in prizes for the award recipients.

Thanks to Post 7589 Commander Ron Link who oversaw and approved each project. Also thanks to Mary Corkhill, Yvonne Sullivan, Janet and Rick Raskin, Ann Mitchell, Robert Punihaole, Warren Ewell and Terry Bursey for your year long service above and beyond the call of duty. Without your help and that of others none of this could have happened!

VFW Post Announces Youth, Teacher Awards

From Prince William Today — December 18, 2014

VFW Post 7589 and its Ladies Auxiliary held the annual Youth Essay Awards and Teacher of the Year ceremonies on Dec. 7 at the Post headquarters, 9304 Centreville Road, Manassas.

Ninety students, teachers, VFW and auxiliary members, friends and relatives were in attendance and 94 students and teachers from Brentsville District High School, Battlefield High School, Seton School, Metz Middle School, Parkside Middle School, Rocky Run Middle School, Nokesville School, Mayfield Intermediate School and Manassas Christian School participated in this year's competition.

Guest speakers at the ceremony were Manassas Deputy City Clerk Toni Elgart, a two-time Voice of Democracy essay contest winner and Post 7589 Commander Ron Link, a combat veteran of Desert Storm.

The following contest winners were honored at the ceremony:

Patriot's Pen, essay on the theme: **"Why I**

Appreciate America's Veterans:"

- First Place - Samantha Marie Ita, seventh grade, Metz Middle School;
- Second Place - Mary C. Krynitsky, eighth grade, Seton School;
- Third Place - Sebastien Cotto, seventh grade, Manassas Christian School;
- Honorable Mention - Zachary R. Tait, seventh grade, Manassas Christian School;
- Honorable Mention - Aidan Thomas O'Malley, seventh grade, Metz Middle School.

Voice of Democracy, audio-essay on the theme: **"Why Veterans are Important to our Nation's History and Future:"**

- First Place - Josephine Haneklau, ninth grade, Brentsville District High School;
- Second Place - Kimberly Y. Zhang, 10th grade, Battlefield High School;
- Third Place - Hannah Rosa, 11th grade, Brentsville District High School;
- Honorable Mention - Andrew C. Marchesseault, 12th grade, Seton School.



Voice of Democracy Award Recipients: Ladies Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, Kimberly Zhang of Battlefield High School, Josephine Haneklau of Brentsville District High School, Post 7589 Commander Ron Link, Hannah Rosa of Brentsville District High School, Post 7589 vice Commander Pete MacLeod.

VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

- Trinette Drake, seventh grade language arts teacher, Parkside Middle School;
- Traci Vergara, middle school history and debate teacher, Manassas Christian School.



Our 2014 Patriot's Pen Winners



Our 2014 Educators of the Year

Aluminum Tab Collection Program Update

Comrade Paul Chase



We blew through 200,000 tabs just before the end of the year! That's about \$200 to the Boston Burn Cen-

ter. What a Christmas present!!!

That represents 75,000 over the goal we set for ourselves last April. I'm going to consult with our collection team before setting our goal for 2015. This project represents the best of the VFW. We get things done without being a burden to the community and spread and give credit to those who made it happen. The collection team wants to thank you all for making this a success and wish you all Happy Holidays.

Pete Slusher
Warren Ewell
Joel and Paul Chase

VFW Charter Change Becomes Law

VFW Action Corps Weekly—Dec. 12, 2014

The president signed the VFW's new charter into law last week. The two requested changes — replacing men with veterans, and widows with surviving spouses — was prompted by Resolution 301 passed at the VFW's 115th National Convention in July, and supported by two companion bills introduced by Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and House VA Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fla.). According to the VFW Magazine, this was the fifth charter change since the original was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936. The other four amendments were:

- 1953 – changed the “Act of Incorporation” to cover all services, since the Air Force wasn't created until 1947.
- 1995 – opened membership to those

who served in Korea or its territorial waters for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days after June 30, 1949.

- 2002 – opened membership to those who receive hostile fire or imminent danger pay.
- 2006 – added a clause noting that the VFW has “perpetual existence.”

Keep Spirit of '45 Alive

VFW Action Corps Weekly—Dec. 19, 2014

The VFW attended a kickoff ceremony at the National Press Club the week of December 15th to support “Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive” through the coming 70th anniversary of the end of World War II next August. With fewer than 10 percent of the 16 million men and women who served during WWII still with us, now is the time to recognize their service and sacrifice not only then, but the accomplishments they made to America after they returned home. Numerous events are being planned in cities and towns, battlefields and cemeteries, both nationally and around the globe. Learn more at: <http://www.spiritof45.org/home0.aspx>.

Prescription Tracking

VFW Action Corps Weekly—Dec. 19, 2014

VA recently implemented a new tool that allows veterans to track the delivery of their VA prescriptions through My HealtheVet. This tool grants veterans the opportunity to track their medication refills online, 24/7, without having to rely on calls to their VA medical facility for status updates. VA reports that more than 4,000 veterans currently use the prescription tracker every day. Read more: https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/resources/jsp/help.jsp?helpDirectRequest=VA_Prescription_Tracker_Learn_More.html.

Defense Bill Adds New Child Custody Protections

VFW Action Corps Weekly—Dec. 19, 2014

Included in this year's annual defense authorization bill is a new rule that prevents state judges from using military deployments against troops in child custody cases. According to Military Times, versions of the measure have passed in the House 12 times since 2007, but Senate and Pentagon objections have repeatedly sidelined the changes, primarily because military leaders wanted the states to voluntarily adopt their own regulations dealing with military custody issues. Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio) and former Kentucky National Guard Capt. Eva Slusher said those efforts do not account for the transient nature of military life. After waging a successful two-year fight all the way to the Kentucky Supreme Court, Slusher had pushed for a national law to prevent others from facing the same heartbreak. “This is about having peace of mind,” she said. “When you're deployed, there are so many things to deal with. Worrying about your kids shouldn't be one of them.” This action now fulfills VFW Resolution 414, passed by delegates attending the VFW's 113th National Convention, which urged Congress to prevent permanent changes to child custody arrangements while service members are deployed. Read the Military Times article at: <http://www.militarytimes.com/story/military/capitol-hill/2014/12/15/ndaa-military-custody-fights/20303991/>.

To sign up new veterans' advocates, click here: <http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>

World War II, Through Patton's Lens

By Mark Hartsell

The Library of Congress Gazette—December 12, 2014¹

Imagine, military historian Kevin Hymel writes, if George Washington or Ulysses S. Grant had carried a camera and photographed war as he experienced it. How important would those images be as documents of history?

Gen. George S. Patton, the brilliant but often-troublesome U.S. Army commander of World War II, did just that during his campaigns across North Africa and Europe from 1942 through 1945.

Patton, an amateur photographer who carried an Army-issued Leica camera, took hundreds of photos of the war he lived: ruined towns, dead soldiers, destroyed tanks, civilian refugees, ancient monuments, his palatial headquarters in Sicily (where, he said, all the maids gave him the fascist salute) and, sometimes, soldiers simultaneously taking pictures of Patton as he photographed them.

Those images today reside in the Library of Congress's Manuscript Division. Patton died following a car accident in Germany just months after the war ended, and in 1964 his family donated his papers – and photo albums – to the Library.

Hymel appeared at the Library on Nov. 18 to discuss the photos and his own book about them, "Patton's Photographs: War as He Saw It." The event was sponsored by the European Division.

The general, Hymel said, mailed the photos home to his wife, Beatrice, to build a historical record of his experiences.

"I'm going to send you photographs and letters so that some future historian can make a less-untrue history of me," Patton told her.

Beatrice wrote captions and placed his photos into albums along with images of the general taken by others: Patton wading ashore during the Sicily invasion; meeting with Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower; playing with his pet bull terrier, Willie; posing beside a tank in headgear of his own design – a gold football helmet bearing the stars of his rank.



George S. Patton Papers / Manuscript Division—Library of Congress



George S. Patton, photographer: Engineers (clockwise from top) pose on a bridge they built over the Sauer River into Germany; Silhouetted infantrymen cross a snowy field during the Battle of the Bulge; GIs get stuck in the mud in France.

"His photo albums are just like yours and mine," Hymel said. "They're photographs that we take and photographs that other people take that we like and put into our albums."

The albums also chronicle Patton's time in limbo following two infamous incidents in the Sicily campaign – he slapped soldiers suffering battle fatigue, drawing the wrath of Eisenhower and Congress. Awaiting a new assignment, Patton restlessly toured forts in Malta, pyramids in Egypt and battlefields and cemeteries in Sicily.

"A year ago, I commanded an entire corps," he wrote after visiting the 2nd Armored Division cemetery. "Today, I command barely

my self-respect."

Patton claimed one photo saved his life. The general stopped to photograph artillery in action and, seconds later, a shell landed in the path ahead – just where, Patton said, he would have been if he hadn't stopped to use his camera.

Patton took the near-miss as a sign that God was saving him for greater achievements.

"It's only a few days later," Hymel said, "that he gets the call to come to England and command Third Army for the invasion of France and the eventual invasion of Germany."

¹Reprinted with author's permission



Serving the residents of Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park

Need Home Repairs? Habitat Can Help.

Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing. We partner with low-income homeowners who live in Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park to make exterior and interior home repairs that alleviate critical health, life and safety issues or housing code violations.

How you qualify

- ✓ Do you live in Prince William County, Manassas or Manassas Park?
- ✓ Do you own your home or are you currently making mortgage payments?
- ✓ Do you earn less than 60% of the Area Median Income? (See chart)
- ✓ If a veteran lives in the home, do you earn less than 80% of the Area Median Income? (See chart)
- ✓ Can you demonstrate a challenging circumstance such as limited income, disability, illness or age that prevents you from making the repairs?

	Home Preservation, Critical Home Repairs & Weatherization	Critical Home Repairs for Veterans
Family Size	Max. Income	Max. Income
One	\$44,940	\$47,950
Two	\$51,360	\$54,800
Three	\$57,780	\$61,650
Four	\$64,200	\$68,500
Five	\$69,360	\$74,000
Six	\$74,520	\$79,500
Seven	\$79,620	\$84,950
Eight	\$84,780	\$90,450

703-369-6708 www.habitatpwc.org info@habitatpwc.org

Learn More

Attend a Home Repair Interest Meeting

Wednesday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church
1st Floor Conference Room
9750 Wellington Road
Manassas, VA 20110

Tuesday, February 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Georgetown Village Offices
17290 River Ridge Blvd
Suite 103
Woodbridge, VA 22191

RSVP or for more information: programs@habitatpwc.org or 703-369-6708

Habitat for Humanity Prince William County
9300 West Courthouse Road, Suite 105, Manassas, VA 20110
Mailing Address: PO Box 3111, Manassas, VA 20108
habitatpwc.org

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 5** **General Membership Meeting -- 1930**
- Jan. 9-11** **Winter Council, Williamsburg, VA**
- Jan. 15** **VFW Day on the Hill — Meet at Post 9808 — 0800**
Youth Committee Meeting -- 1900
- Feb. TBD** **Appreciation Dinner for WWII Veterans — Sponsored by VFW 7589 & American Legion Post 10**
Location: American Legion Post 10; Time TBD
- Feb. 2** **General Membership Meeting -- 1930**
- Feb. 19** **Youth Committee Meeting -- 1900**
- Feb. 22** **District 8 Meeting – Fredericksburg, VA (3103) - 1300**
- Mar. 2** **General Membership Meeting -- 1930**
- Mar. 20** **Youth Committee Meeting -- 1900**
- Mar. 31** **Deadlines for Auxiliary's Patriotic Arts Contest entries**



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The official publication of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US
Francis Cannon Post No. 7589
P.O. Box 10206
Manassas, VA 20108-0668

Please visit our website at www.vfw7589.org

Editor: Rick Raskin
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Please email articles to qm7589@verizon.net
Please send photos as attachments and not imbedded in your article.
We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for clarity and syntax.