

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
March 2016

Nominations for 2016—2017 Post Officers March 7 — 7:30 pm



VFW Auxiliary members with National President Francisca Guilford join Manassas Mayor Hal Parrish at the Post Home for the reading of a proclamation on February 23, 2016.

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CANNON NEWS—2015 National VFW Publications Silver Award
2013, 2014 and 2015 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for
Most Outstanding Post Publication/Newsletter, VFW Department of Virginia

Commander's Message

Pete MacLeod



Do you like pressure? Do you like having the spotlight on you? Then you would love the annual "Storming the Hill" by the VFW at its National Legislative Conference which takes place in Washington in late Feb. and early March. It is an impressive sight: literally hundreds of VFW members from all 50 states and many territories walking up Capitol Hill to meet with members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate and push for legislation that helps the nation's veterans. Let me tell you it is a daunting experience to find yourself in the office of a Congressman or woman or a Senator you have only seen on TV and tell him or her why they should support this or that bill. Back in 2012 I had my first experience doing this as I followed former state commanders Doc Crouch and Dan Boyer around. I will tell you this: You had better have done your homework on the legislation in question because many of the representatives and senators already know about the bills. I had my "deer in the headlights" moment in a Va. Congressman's office when I talked about a threat to cut health care for veterans and was told quickly by an aide to the Congressman that "that had already been taken care of weeks ago" as everyone laughed. But 95 percent of the experience is positive and again, makes you proud to be a member of the VFW.

There is a smaller, but no less impressive, version of this that takes place on the state level in Richmond every January. It is hard work as you go from office to office hoping you can catch a delegate or at least the top assistant.

One of the big topics last January was a bill which would close a loophole that was allowing communities to consider taxing the buildings of not for profits like the VFW. It would mean financial ruin for many VFW Posts around the state. This is just an example of how important this work is.

Here is a brief overview of the national legislative talking points being used by the VFW this year:

As you might expect, health care for veterans is again front and center. 6.7 million veterans rely on Veterans Administration health care professionals. But there are snags in delivery of care. The VFW wants the VA to establish Veteran-Centered Integrated Health Care Networks and smoother integration of private sector health care programs into the VA health care system. The VFW wants Congress to get away from establishing arbitrary access standards like 30 days and 40 miles and allow veterans and their doctors to decide how long veterans should wait or how far they should travel to receive their health care. The VFW is urging the Veterans Administration to establish a nationwide urgent care system for veterans and as in past years, the VFW is urging the VA to quickly recruit, hire, train, retain and discipline its workforce.

Care and concern for women veterans is a huge topic this year. The VFW wants the VA to make sure female veterans have ac-

cess to mental health care providers who understand women-specific mental health conditions. Very simply, the VFW is demanding that the VA train its workforce to treat women veterans with the respect and dignity they have earned. And the VFW wants Congress to expand VA's successful child care pilot program to make sure homeless and at risk veterans have access to childcare services health care and job training services. And finally the VFW wants Congress to undertake several initiatives to help homeless women veterans get help and counseling and job training.

That is just a snapshot of some of the work in front of the annual VFW Legislative Conference this year. You can listen to and watch our National Commander summarize some of these goals on March 2. His address to Congress will be carried "live" on the national website, www.vfw.org at approximately 10:00 am.

Sadly the charter at VFW Post 7589 will stay draped this month as we mourn the passing of Comrade Jack Battle. For many years Jack was a fixture at the Wednesday morning Bingo games, working hard and having a friendly word or joke for everyone. But I remember him best working with Comrade Paul Purtell when they would travel a "circuit" of assisted living centers in Manassas on Veterans Day week calling the veterans in each facility together, telling stories of old Manassas and talking with them. Not "talking at them" but "talking with them." And in many cases visiting veterans in their individual rooms. And then Jack and Paul would lead a contingent of Post #7589 members as we would "storm" Walmart or Kmart looking for sweatpants and sweaters for veterans. We would then go back to the Post and wrap them as Xmas presents. Jack was a Korean War veteran but I remember him for being a leader in helping his fellow veterans.

High school students across the country recorded audio-essays on this year's theme: **"My Vision for America."**

The VFW has selected one winner from each state to qualify for the grand prize, a \$30,000 scholarship to the college or trade school of their choice.

The VFW's Voice of Democracy competition allows high school students to compete for more than \$2.2 million in scholarships and incentives.

The grand-prize winner was announced on Monday, February 29, at the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

Show your support for these patriotic teens by [sharing](#) their audio clips with your friends and family.

Together, we can celebrate the next generation of proud Americans!

HEAR YOUR STATE
WINNER'S ESSAY CLIP



Auxiliary President



What an unusual and very busy February we had. With the snow blowing outside and me walking on the beach, I don't know what I enjoyed the most. After I returned from the National Mid-Year Conference, the members of the Auxiliary had to finalize preparations for the National President Francisca Guilford's visit from Anchorage, AK. Upon her arrival at Post 7589 on February 23, she was greeted by President Mary Corkhill after walking through the aisle of honor. She was introduced to the Post Commander Pete MacLeod and Manassas Mayor, The Honorable Hal Parrish. She was then escorted around the room by President Mary and received greetings from the members.



National Auxiliary President Francisca Guilford

The start of our program was a small introduction of the head table and then dinner was served. After dinner, the first order of business was the presentation of the Proclamation from the Mayor. The National President also received from Auxiliary 7589, a US Flag, flown over the US Capitol Building, a wind chime with our name on the ball and a Manassas Civil War Christmas ornament. Department Sr. Vice Shema Peppers, who represented the Line Officers, and National Recruiter Patricia Jurgensen gave their cards with a token of their appreciation. The National President left 7589 around 7:15pm for 1503 in Dale City to have desserts and dancing.

I would like to "Thank" Commander Pete and Comrade Robert for their assistance in setting up the tables, QM Rick for preparing the food and of course, to the wonderful ladies of the Auxiliary who participated in the preparation for the National President's visit. This event took several months to pull together and couldn't have been accomplished without the assistance of Yvonne Sullivan, Ann Mitchell, Patsy Gough, Dana Zank, the late Nancy Dazzo, Elanor Doczi, Cookie Cullen, Cindy McIntyre, Janet Raskin, and Ginger Harvey. You all made this event a total success. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

The VFW Auxiliary is working on the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest for the high school students. The deadline for this contest is March 31, 2016. Since Auxiliary 7589 has been participating in this contest, we have been honored to have several entries that placed in the Department. If you know of any high school student (even home school students) who would like to participate in this contest, please let any Auxiliary member know or you can contact me at 703/361-8950 or mcorkhill@comcast.net.

Just a reminder of election for new Officers will be in April for

the 2016-2017 Auxiliary year. Please consider taking an office so we can continue to support our veterans. The installation for the new Officers will take place at our May meeting. The District 8 Convention will be April 17th at Culpeper Post 2524 at 1pm. Lunch will be served at noon. This is also elections for the District Officers for the 2016-2017 Auxiliary year.


We are planning to have another Yard Sale on May 7, 2016 from 7am-2pm. Set up time will take place on Friday night, May 6th from 4pm-8pm. If you plan to do your spring cleaning and want to relocate your unwanted items, please consider donating them our way. We could really use them. Thank you in advance.

I want to thank everyone who is saving Campbell Soup labels for the VFW National Home for Children. With your assistance, they can purchase another bus/van. Please drop any labels off at the Post or give them to any Post or Auxiliary member. We know what to do with them. Again, thank you in advance.

For all individuals who lost loved ones, and for any individual or family member who is ill or hospitalized, please keep them in your prayers. Just a short note, our Secretary, Ann Mitchell, will be going through another back surgery. So also keep her in your prayers as well.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
Auxiliary President





Celebration Time

WE NEED YOUR HELP
To Raise Funds
for
Dee when
she is our
National President

We are in prep-mode to Host a National Event for
Our First National President from Virginia. It will be Huge!

Dee Guillory

ANY MEMBER, AUXILIARY, POST OR DISTRICT THAT MAKES A \$50 OR MORE
DONATION BY 4-30-2016, WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE AT JUNE 2016
CONVENTION AND YOUR NAME WILL GO IN A DRAWING FOR \$25,000.

Please make your check Payable to Ladies Auxiliary VFW, VA & send your
check to our Department Treasurer Debbie Martin
539 Westwood Drive, Ruckersville, VA 22968-3676
Make sure your check is earmarked "Dee's Celebration"

Any Questions or Suggestions for Fundraisers, Contact:
Ellen Stogsdill, 757-777-6275
Patricia Jurgensen, 703-754-1244
Laine Beckwith, 757-722-0235
Mary Corkhill, 703-361-8950



February 23, 2016: Manassas Mayor Hal Parrish presents a proclamation to (L-R) Auxiliary 7589 President Mary Corkhill, National Auxiliary President Francisca Guilford and Department of Virginia President Georgette Dausey.

VFW Post 7589 and Auxiliary Citizenship Teacher Awards

Grades K-5: Ms. Tiffany Payne, Grade 5, Haymarket Elementary School, Haymarket, Va.

Grades 6-8: Mr. Mark Hoffman, 8th Grade Science Teacher, Seton School, Manassas, Va.

Grades 9-12: Mr. Michael Hardy, Grades 10 to 12 Social Studies, Mountain View Alternative High School, Centreville, Va.

VFW District 8 Education Award Recipients for 2015-16!

Voice of Democracy – “My Vision for America”

First Place – George P. Tryfiates, Post 3103

Second Place – Brendan Rogers, Post 7589

Third Place – Shane M. Rice, Post 9835

Patriot’s Pen – “What Freedom Means to Me”

First Place – Sebastien Cotto, Post 7589

Second Place – Peter Nosal, Post 9835

Third Place – Juliette C. Orr, Post 7589



Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill attended the Auxiliary Mid-Year Conference in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic while the rest of us were battling the blizzard of 2016.

Youth News & Notes

Pete MacLeod

Please make sure you are in attendance at VFW Post #7589's General Membership Meeting on Monday, March 7 at 7:30 pm. Not only is it the night for nominations for Post officers for 2016-17 but it is the night we honor 3 local teachers with the VFW Citizenship Education Teacher Award. We will have a joint meeting with the Auxiliary to present awards which will begin promptly at 7:30. These teachers were nominated and chosen as Teachers of the Year because they emphasize citizenship education and love of country in their classrooms and because all of them are excellent educators. They are in 3 categories: Grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

Let's meet them:

Grades K-5: Ms. Tiffany Payne, 5th grade teacher, Haymarket Elementary School, Haymarket, Va. Ms. Payne was nominated by a parent of one of her students. She was praised for making new students in her classroom feel at home and feel like they belonged to a happy family. She is a teacher that gets to know each of her students and learns their special interests and strengths and weaknesses. She is described as a teacher that uses guided reading instruction to improve skills in that important area, she uses math manipulatives and uses different learning methods with each student to try and insure that none fall behind. Probably most important of all she is praised for teaching her students to respect each other. The final sentence of the nominating essay states that Ms. Payne is "an amazing teacher who exemplifies how one can make a difference!"

Grades 6-8: Mr. Mark Hoffman, 8th Grade Science Teacher, Seton School, Manassas, Va. Mr. Hoffman was nominated by a fellow teacher. Students in his classes are quoted as saying, "he makes sure everyone understands what is covered in class." "He always seems to have time for my questions." "He uses power point presentations and makes things more interesting." Mr. Hoffman is praised by the head of the Seton Science Department for "impeccable classroom management" (in other words the kids pay attention). Mr. Hoffman also helps guide the Sea Perch Club which is a hands on learning club supported by the U.S. Navy using unmanned undersea vehicles. Seton had national award winners in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015. Mr. Hoffman also works with the Seton VEX Robotics Club with the goal of enticing students to consider college majors in Science, Technology, and Engineering or Math. Mr. Hoffman is a retired Civil Engineer.

Grades 9-12: Mr. Michael Hardy, Social Studies Teacher, Mountain View Alt. High School, Centerville, Va. Mr. Hardy was nominated by his school Principal. This third year teacher is described as not only a good teacher but a passionate leader who cares about the learning of his students. He is a teacher who believes his students should have learning experiences that go beyond the time they are at Mountain View High School. He has set up a video conferencing session with the Plymstock School in England which allowed students in both schools to give each other a good idea of their different cultures and experiences. Mr. Hardy is praised for pushing his students to complete their current events assignments and submit them to the school's online

newspaper. Finally the nominating essay for Mr. Hardy ends with the simple fact that Mr. Hardy cares for his students.

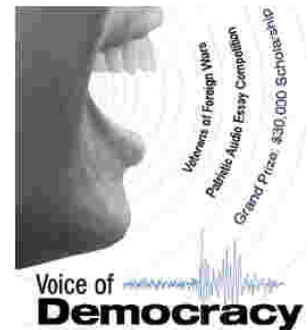
There you have it, 3 teachers in the Manassas area who obviously are dedicated and are making a difference in the lives of their students and at the same time teaching American values. All 3 will be competing next at the VFW / Auxiliary District 8 level and if they finish first there, they head to the state competition. Perhaps they can follow in the footsteps of Mrs. Anne Carroll of Seton School who was the VFW Virginia Teacher of the Year in 2011!

I want to thank the VFW / Auxiliary Youth Committee for their hard work in getting these nominations together, especially the outreach work of Trustee Lou Filippone and new Post 7589 member Kim Thomas.

And don't forget, if you know a high school student, have them submit a work of Patriotic Art before the March 31st contest deadline. See President Mary Corkhill of the Auxiliary for details.



Sebastien Cotto receives his award from (L-R) Geoff Lyster, District 8 Youth Chair; Sheila Hunter, District 8 Auxiliary President; and Ron Link, District 8 Commander.



From the Trenches

By Paul Chase

The New DoD Retirement System



I have been itching for some time to say something about the new retirement system for military personnel. To say it is complicated is an understatement so I am not going to try to cover every detail.

Officially the new system will go into effect Jan 1, 2018. Between now and then personnel can continue with the current system or opt for the new one. Those that opt into the new system will pay into a fund called the Thrift Saving Plan (TSP) in amounts as small as 1 to 5% of their monthly base pay. DOD will match the contribution up to 5%. The TSP will operate similar to a corporate 401K plan. Funds deposited will be subject to a 10% penalty if withdrawn before the service member reaches age 59 ½. Service members will be able to receive payment of the TSP funds prior to reaching retirement eligibility. The monthly contributions by the service members will be tax free. Lump sum withdrawals will be allowed, with the provision that it will reduce their retirement percentage. Otherwise the TSP will be paid out monthly after retirement. Retirement at 20 years of service will be 20% less than the current 50% of base pay.

When the plan was first proposed almost two years ago DOD said they had to do something to rein in military retirement costs. Now they say the plan is cost neutral to DOD. It can't be both. Let me try to do some math: A service member contributes 5% and DOD contributes 5% and retirement at 20 years is 20% less. That seems to me to be a negative 15% or at best negative 10% loss to the service member. If the service member contributes less than the maximum of 5 % the percentage of retirement loss will be even more, approaching 20%. I don't view the program as anything other than a sophisticated screw the troops deal. The only benefit I see will come from the service members who will separate prior to reaching 20 years of service. They will be able to get their TSP with the 10 % early withdrawal penalty (I think). We've got service members taking food stamps now, so how are they going to be able to make contributions to the TSP?

I think the major Service Member organizations (VFW, American Legion, and DAV to name a few) should get briefings on the program and ask the tough questions that need to be answered.

Spotlight on Joel Chase



I knew the time would come for me to do a spotlight article on my brother Joel and am honored to do it.

Joel was a reckless teenager and graduated last in his high school class but somehow was accepted at Elizabethtown College in PA. During my senior year he was my roommate as a freshman. Although that is

usually a recipe for trouble, blood was spilled only once in awhile. Joel struggled academically, and I constantly nagged him to "ride" his desk to no avail. Both of us played soccer in college, and I convinced him to try out as the back-up goalie although he had never played the position before. He became the starter the next year and several of his records still stand today: most career saves, 576; most saves in a game, 28; and most shutouts in a season, 9. Joel was one of the first ten members to be inducted into the college's Athletic Hall of Fame.

He graduated in 1967 and the following year became a recruiter's dream by knocking down the door of a recruiter to enlist in the Army. He graduated from OCS in the top 20% of his class and was promptly assigned as a tactical officer (OCS drill instructor) at Fort Benning. He volunteered for Vietnam reporting in August 1969 as a Rifle Platoon Leader with the 1st Air Cav. After nine event filled months humping the boonies, his life nearly came to an end at Fire Support Base David in Cambodia on 14 June 1970. I remember nervously watching the news of the combat there. He ended up playing a critical role in preventing the fire base from being overrun, at a personal cost of life threatening wounds, a year at Walter Reed and a life of painful disability. His awards tell the story: Silver Star, Bronze Star with "V" and Oak Leaf Cluster, 2 Purple Hearts, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with "V" and Combat Infantry Badge.

In 2008 he and his wife Dorothy moved from California to Warrenton, VA much to our great pleasure. He immediately immersed himself in the VFW where has been Post Chaplain for several years. Joel can be found at the Post every Wednesday selling pull tabs. He also played a lead role in the Post 7589 aluminum can tab collection program. He has spent years documenting the upper tier Valor awards of others for inclusion in the Military Times Hall of Valor. Lastly, he has been inducted into the Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

It is an honor to have you as a brother and a member of the Spotlight hall of fame.



Pete Slusher, WWII and Korean War Veteran, the senior manager of the VFW Post 7589 aluminum can tab collection program, looks over 40,000 tabs recently collected by Tractor Supply Co. of Manassas. The proceeds from the recycling of the tabs go to the Boston Burn Center which provides cost free medical services to needy families who have suffered

burns. Tractor Supply has been an outstanding supporter of VFW Post 7589 programs and deserves special recognition for their efforts on our behalf.

Facts are facts! It's always good to know the facts when talking with those who don't.

Lieutenant General Christmas to Speak at the Freedom Museum

Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 7:30 PM

Lieutenant General Ron Christmas, US Marine Corps (USMC) (Ret.) will speak at the Freedom Museum about The Battle for Hue City in 1968 during the Vietnam War. Lt-Gen Christmas, a Company Commander then, will provide first-hand knowledge of the battle.

On January 30, 1968, at the beginning of the lunar New Year (Tet), the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and the Viet Cong (VC) started a major battle in the city of Hue. The NVA attacked with 10 battalions of troops and met 11 battalions of Army of Vietnam (ARVN), 2 US Army battalions and 3 US Marine (USMC) battalions. The reason for the battle was that Hue sat astride the major supply route for US and allied troops in the northern part of South Vietnam. **Lt Gen Christmas** received the Navy Cross for his heroism while Commanding Company H, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam in Hue City.

A native of Philadelphia, General Christmas received a commission in the USMC upon graduation from the University of Penn-

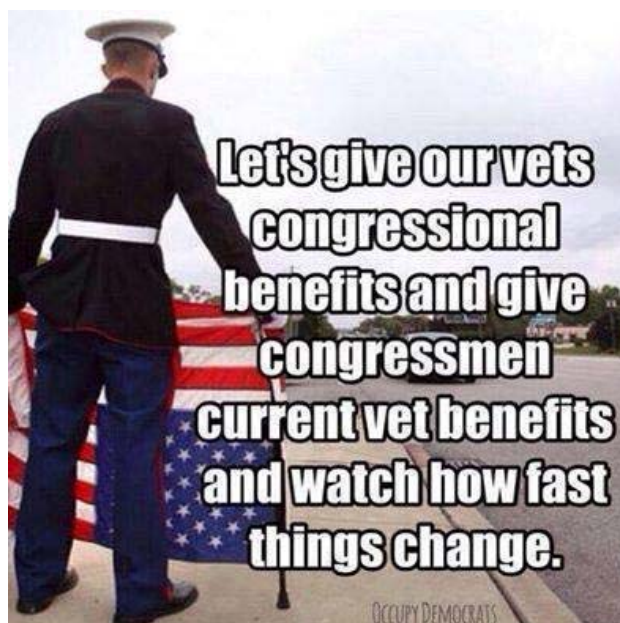
sylvania. During his 34-year career, he assumed many command, staff, instruction, and joint service positions. He has also directed a private company and was the President and CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation during the conception and building of the Marine Corps Museum,

Admission to the Freedom Museum is free and refreshments will be served. The presentation will be from 7:30 PM to 8:45 PM at the Museum, which is in the Manassas Airport Terminal, 10600 Harry Parrish Blvd., Manassas, VA 20110.

For further information and directions to the museum, visit www.freedommuseum.org.



Manassas Airport Terminal
10600 Harry Parrish Blvd.
Manassas, VA 20110.



Marianas Variety

MICRONESIA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER SINCE 1972

Kuentai-USA back on island

25 February 2016

By Cherrie Anne E. Villahermosa - cherrie@mvariety.com - Variety News Staff

KUENTAI-USA has returned to Saipan. It's a non-profit organization whose mission is to help retrieve the remains of American and Japanese soldiers who died on Pacific battlefields during World War II. This time the group has partnered with Best Sunshine International which hired a team of archaeologists to study the ancient human remains found at the casino investor's hotel project site in Garapan.

Kuentai-USA's Yukari Akatsuka and Usan Kurata said with Best Sunshine's help, they can retrieve more remains on Saipan. They said they are working closely with the CNMI Historic Preservation Office to ensure that they comply with its requirements.

Just recently they found a dog tag belonging to an American soldier, Thomas Davis.

Kuentai-USA started digging on Saipan six years ago and, since then, has retrieved the remains of 800 Japanese and eight American soldiers. Akatsuka said there are around 28,000 Japanese and 400 Americans soldiers buried here.

Tao Xing, BSI community service officer, said they are interested in Kuentai-USA's mission, adding that it is a noble cause. "The concept is to bring home the soldiers, and I believe that's a very honorable cause and a fascinating mission. So it is important to assist them," Xing said.

In the Philippines, Kuentai (Japan) has recovered the remains of 17,000 soldiers in the past 10 years. Kurata said the remains of 370,000 soldiers in the Philippines have yet to be found. Their group, he added, will stay here for a couple of weeks before heading to the U.S. and Japan. They will be back on island in July to continue digging and retrieving remains.



Photo by Cherrie Anne E. Villahermosa

KUENTAI-USA's Yukari Akatsuka shows a dog tag that belonged to an American soldier, Thomas Davis.

Fallen US WWII hero's Army dog tag found on Pacific island

By CHRIS CAROLA —Feb. 21, 2016 2:37 PM EST

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Dorothy Hollingsworth was just 7 when her brother Tom left the family farm in Indiana to join the Army a few months before the United States entered World War II. She never saw him again.

Now, more than 70 years after Pfc. Thomas E. Davis was killed in one of the war's final, major battles, a tangible reminder of her beloved sibling has been found on the Pacific island of Saipan — one of his Army dog tags.

"He was a great guy," said Hollingsworth, 82, who lives outside Dayton, Ohio, noting that some of her earliest memories are of the tall, thin sibling 17 years her senior who always sat next to her at the dinner table. "He was always laughing and singing and whistling."

Cultural historian Genevieve Cabrera told The Associated Press in an email that she found the discolored metal tag sticking out of the soil of a farm field on Saipan in early 2014. It was embossed with Davis' name, serial number, hometown and other information.

Cabrera recently gave the tag to members of Kuentai, a Japan-based organization that has found the remains of five 27th Division soldiers on Saipan. The group notified the AP this month about the dog tag's discovery in the hope that his relatives could be found. The AP tracked down members of the soldier's family with the help of Anthony Barger, the archivist for the Putnam County Public Library.

Kuentai representatives said they'll arrange to meet the Davis family in the U.S. to hand over the tag.

While it is relatively common to find canteens, weapons and even unexploded shells from the 100,000 Americans and Japanese who fought for 25 days on the 46-square-mile island, dog tags remain a rare find, Cabrera said. The tags, attached to a chain worn around the neck, were the only item of military-issued gear a soldier wore daily that included potentially life-saving information such as blood type and when a tetanus shot was administered.



This Feb. 13, 2016 photo provided by Genevieve Cabrera shows World War II Pfc. Thomas E. Davis' Army dog tag that was found in a farm field in Saipan in early 2014. Davis earned one of the nation's highest military honors after surviving the bloody fighting on Saipan only to die during the even bloodier battle for Okinawa nearly a year later. (Genevieve Cabrera via AP)

A year before Davis died in the battle for Okinawa in April 1945, he earned one of the nation's highest military honors after surviving the bloody fighting on Saipan.

According to war-time records kept at the New York State Military Museum,

(Continued on page 10)

Department of VA to publish VFW directory

The Department of Virginia has partnered with PCI (also known as Publishing Concepts) to produce our new Members Publication. PCI is a company located in Dallas, TX that publishes directories for educational institutions, fraternities, sororities and military organizations across the nation. This project allows the Virginia VFW to receive important updates to our database so we know more about our members and how we can better serve you and future members. The email you receive from Kim DeShano is completely legitimate and your response is appreciated. Your participation is totally optional. For FAQ visit <http://vfwva.org/home/pci-membership->



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

IMPORTANT MEMBER VERIFICATION NOW DUE
Please Call 1-877-889-4709 Immediately

Your Personal ID#: [Number]

Dear [Name]

We are asking all Virginia VFW members to contact us to update their member information as part of a comprehensive data verification project. We've assembled the information currently listed in our members' files and now need your assistance to confirm the accuracy of your member data.

Please give Publishing Concepts (PCI) a call so that we may verify your information. PCI is a trusted partner of the Virginia VFW.

We need your help. Please call 1-877-889-4709 (toll-free) to verify the accuracy of the data currently listed on file.

Your prompt assistance is greatly appreciated. Please call the dedicated, toll-free Virginia VFW member data verification line today. For more information about this project, please [Click here](#).

Sincerely,

Kim DeShano
Adjutant/Quartermaster

▶ ID#[Number]

☎ 1-877-889-4709

🕒 Hours of Operation (CT):
M-F: 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Sat: 8:00 AM - 4:45 PM
Sun: 11:00 AM - 4:45 PM

(Dog Tag from page 9)

home to many of the 27th Division's documents, Davis earned the Silver Star on Saipan in June 1944 for risking his own life to rescue a wounded comrade "at a time when the American front was undergoing brutal Japanese artillery and mortar fire."

Davis went into the Army in September 1941, three months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor drew the U.S. into WWII. He served in the 165th Infantry Regiment of the 27th Infantry Division, a New York National Guard unit mobilized into active service in 1940.

Davis was with the 27th when it took part in the Okinawa invasion, which began on April 1, 1945. Three weeks later, he was shot by a Japanese sniper while again helping a wounded soldier, according to what Hollingsworth says military officials told the family. Davis died April 30, two months shy of his 28th birthday. Four years later, his body was brought back for reburial in his hometown.

Davis was born and raised on his family's farm in Roachdale in Putnam County, Indiana, 30 miles west of Indianapolis. His mother died when he was a young boy, and his father remarried. Davis had six siblings: an older brother, Harold, three half brothers and two half sisters, including Hollingsworth. The brothers have died. His other half-sister, Hazel Priest, 81, lives in Victoria, Texas, and several nieces and nephews live in Texas, Ohio and Indiana.

Hollingsworth said Tom Davis, of Victoria, a 57-year-old machinist who was named after his uncle, will likely get the dog tag.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/bd23b176b5a344cdaeb6bbe9f919677d/fallen-us-wwii-heros-army-dog-tag-found-pacific-island>

Service Officer's Report



Our Service Officer program exists to help and serve all veterans here in the Manassas/Prince William area. If you know of a veteran in need please contact us and let us know.

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

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

Stephen Meade 1-703-408-0875

Email: so2@vfw7589.org

Our goal is simple here. 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!

If you have any questions please feel free to reach us at our VSO phone line of: 1-703-659-0849 or Email: so@vfw7589.org Thank you.

Steven M. Botello

Post Service Officer
Veteran of Foreign Wars Post # 7589
(Office) 1-703-659-0849
(FX) 1-703-991-0677
Email: SO@vfw7589.org

The Assault on Firebase David

By Joel Chase

In early May 1970, the 1st Air Cavalry Division was inserted deep inside Cambodia to search and destroy caches of NVA food, weapons and munitions in preparation for the withdrawal of all US troops from South Vietnam. Due to the draw-down of personnel and lack of replacements, all elements were less than half their allocated strength.

I was a platoon leader with D Co. 1st of the 5th, and our Battalion Fire Support Base (FSB) David was located ten miles inside the Cambodian border. FSB David consisted of fifteen bunkers circling about four acres of real estate. The bunkers were linked together by a berm about three feet high to offer defilade from enemy fire. There were two glaring deficiencies as to FSB David's position: it was beyond fan fire support from any other firebase and there was a steep ravine about fifty meters from the berm in one sector of the perimeter that offered natural cover to the enemy. Approximately two hundred personnel manned the firebase.

When my Company was pulled out of the jungle and assigned security at FSB David, guess who got the bunkers facing the ravine? We immediately began making improvements to our position by building secondary fighting positions between our four assigned bunkers. The bunkers were like magnets to NVA B-40 rockets, so I instructed my men to stay out of them if we were attacked. Claymore mines were brought back and dug into the berm to deter the enemy from turning them around toward us. We installed fifty trip flares in front of each bunker in every direction possible. Our organic mortar tubes were zeroed in on the ravine. I suspected that the enemy planned to attack FSB David and had mapped the location of our defensive positions, so after darkness fell we moved everything around. Each man was assigned a place to be and a field of fire. We were as ready as we could be.

At 0300 hours on 14 June a trip flare went off in front of one of my bunkers and the guard took a shot when he thought he saw something move. I recommended we go to 100% alert on the perimeter. Dense fog limited visibility to about fifty feet, and mortar illumination was of no help. We visually searched the area for nearly thirty minutes with no results. As I stood behind the berm, a burst of AK-47 fire erupted which was intended to give me a new belly button. However, the rounds struck the berm and grazed my scalp. Suddenly the darkness was filled with red and green tracers and men were scurrying to their assigned positions. I got on the radio to the mortar guys and asked them to commence their preplanned fire into the ravine. My CO called and asked me: "What the hell is going on?" My sector was the only one under attack at the time, but soon the entire firebase was under siege by NVA. About five minutes later a Chi-com grenade took me out of the fight, but my guys continued to perform marvelously until dawn and the enemy withdrew. During the three hour battle, gunships circled above FB David but could not fire due to the dense fog.

Due to the extent of my injuries I was unable to witness the dam-

age the Cav had inflicted on the enemy, but I had read the Daily Log, Manning Report and After-Action reports that told the story. There were 28 NVA to bury and numerous blood and drag trails to illustrate the carnage we brought on the enemy. There were 29 wounded Americans needing evacuation when the fog cleared but not one man was killed during the battle. Later that morning the Commanding General of the 5th Cav flew in with a footlocker full of medals to present including ten Silver Stars. He was giddy with praise for the troops who had beaten the NVA's best at their own game saying: "This was the finest defense of a firebase he could imagine".

The After-Action report said the NVA hit us with 250 to 300 of their regular army. Our troops fought a great fight, but a little luck and a single trip flare played a huge role in preventing the firebase from being completely overrun.

Was I prepared to become a platoon leader after graduating from OCS? **HELL NO!** However, I was blessed with great NCOs and an understanding Company Commander who helped me learn how to get from point A to point B while keeping my men from getting killed or accidentally killing one another. After nine months of OJT I kind of knew what I was doing and could smell trouble a mile away. That was the "luck" we experienced at FSB David. After visually searching the area for thirty minutes following the trip flare going off, everyone wanted to call it quits and go back to bed - except me. I knew the NVA was there just waiting to unleash their deadly attack. I was unwilling to ignore the warning signal of the trip flare. I had listened on the radio as other fire bases such as Eagle and Illingworth were being overrun. I had vowed not to let that happen at David and neither did my troopers. I know I'm probably obsessive about this but it was an important event not just in my life, but in the lives of many other American soldiers.

A year later while I was recuperating at Walter Reed there was an awards and decorations ceremony in the Commanding General's office for a number of us wounded. I wasn't aware that the Silver Star was one of my awards and quite frankly at the time, didn't care. Afterward, my party simply departed for lunch in the officer's mess.

Today I have a much higher respect for those who merited medals. However, I feel that my decorations should belong to those I served with. They were the true heroes; I was just a wounded warrior.



FSB David, near O Rang Cambodia

From the



Vietnam Wall “In Memory” Program:

More than 58,000 names meet the Defense Department’s criteria to be etched into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, but those who survived the war — but later died as a result of their service — are not. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund acknowledges their service and sacrifice through an online “In Memory” Honor Roll. Causes of death that fit the criteria for inclusion in the program include exposure to Agent Orange, PTSD-related illnesses/events, cancer, diabetes, heart attacks, etc. The program is free and the application process is simple. To honor a loved one, you only need to submit the veteran’s DD214 to show their proof of service in the Vietnam War, a copy of their death certificate, and a photograph. The application deadline for inclusion in the 2016 ceremony is March 4. For information or to submit applications, go to: <http://www.vvmf.org/InMemoryProgram>.

VFW Shares Concerns with President:

VFW National Commander John Biedrzycki met with President Obama in the Oval Office Feb. 24 to share the issues and concerns of America’s largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Biedrzycki voiced the organization’s strong support of VA Secretary Bob McDonald and his team, whose ongoing efforts to reorganize the department into a more veteran-centric, customer service-oriented organization is long overdue, plus the VFW’s support of a blended health care system that maximizes the best of VA and non-VA health care in the communities where veterans reside. Also discussed was better serving women veterans, homeless veterans, and ways to improve the overall disability claims and appeals process, as well as the VFW’s strongest support of America’s Full Accounting Mission. “Taking care of people also includes those who gave their lives to this country and their families,” he said. “Any effort that helps to recover, identify and return more missing servicemen to their loved ones is a positive initiative, and the VFW looks forward to working with every president and their administrations to make that happen.”

House Hearing on Persian Gulf War:

On Feb. 24 the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to discuss Gulf War Illness and recent studies evaluating the health care conditions related to service during the Gulf War. Subcommittee Chairman Mike Coffman (R-CO), a Gulf War and Iraqi War veteran, expressed concern with the lack of progress by VA to determine what causes Gulf War Illness and identify effective treatments. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) summarized its recent report which was unable to identify the cause of Gulf War Illness due

to limited research since IOM’s last review. To view a video of the hearing, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpUFebVc2EM>.

SASC Hearing on Health Care Reform:

On Feb. 22, the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel held a hearing to discuss proposed reforms of the Military Health System. Subcommittee members pressed Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Jonathan Woodson on what service members, military retirees and their families would gain with the Pentagon’s plan to increase Tricare fees and cost shares. The VFW strongly opposes the notion that the only way to improve the Military Health System is to first ask military retirees and their families to pay more for their health care. To view the video of the hearing, visit: <http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/16-02-23-defense-health-care-reform>.

KW Wall of Remembrance Bill Passes:

The VFW-supported bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance to be added to the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C., passed by voice vote in the House on Wednesday. H.R.1475, *Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2015*, would memorialize the names of more than 33,700 American battle deaths, and at the VFW’s recommendation, include the names of the 2,835 non-battle but still in-theater deaths. The bill, which now moves to the Senate, was introduced by Korean War veterans Rep. Sam Johnson (R-Texas), Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-N.Y.), and Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.).

State of the Coast Guard:

The VFW was in attendance Feb. 22 for an upbeat State of the Coast Guard speech by its commandant, Adm. Paul Zukunft, who said his service’s FY2017 budget submission includes the largest acquisition program in the Coast Guard’s history. The funding would shore up aging infrastructure as well as invest in new air and sea assets, to include heavy icebreakers, of which America has only one. On the people side, the commandant said he has reinstated tuition assistance back to 100 percent; new mothers are now allowed 12 weeks of maternity leave; and occupational credentialing is ongoing to help ease transitioning issues. He was, however, critical of the federal government’s overall hiring practice, in that it takes, on average, 145 days to hire new civilian employees, with many highly qualified candidates simply finding work elsewhere instead of waiting in limbo. Learn more about their budget request at:

https://www.uscg.mil/budget/docs/2017_Budget_in_Brief.pdf.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 28—March 3	National Legislative Conference — Washington, D.C.
March 7	Post/Auxiliary Meeting—7:30pm
April 9	Recruiting at J. E. Rice
April 17	District 8 Convention—Post 2524, Culpeper
April 22—24	Nations Gun Show—Chantilly, VA — VFW will have a recruiting booth
June 15—18	Department of VA Convention—Williamsburg

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