

CANNON NEWS

**Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
March 2017**



The 5th District Roundup started in Floyd, VA on February 15. Pictured (L-R) State Recruiting Chair and Past Department Commander Tom Hines, State Senior Vice Commander Mike Boehme, State Judge Advocate and Post 7589 QM Rick Raskin, State Commander Tom Gimble, Floyd Post 7854 Commander James Naff and 5th District Commander Johnny Martin.

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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



VFW Post 7589 has stepped up to the plate and decided to go after the goal of 100 percent membership by late April! Chair Joel Chase is leading a Membership Committee that has already eaten into that 56 member deficit we talked about last month. Quartermaster Rick Raskin says that figure is now in the 30's and the committee has only been on the job for about two weeks. We will make it!

Other members of the committee are Comrades Ed Fishpaw and Lou Filippone. Rick and I also serve on the committee. We are planning a weekend recruiting drive at the busy Centreville Giant store for later this month (announcements will be coming soon). So far phone calling and emailing has netted us a number of members who have decided to renew their membership dues. It is this leaking out the "backdoor" that has been hurting VFW membership around the country. The committee continues to work and if you would like to join and help, contact Joel

Chase or call me anytime at 703 220-4545.

As we said last month: It is not easy. It is hard work and discouraging at times. But there is nothing sweeter than having a lapsed comrade ask you how he or she goes about catching up on their dues. Or, convincing a veteran to join the VFW for the first time!

The first week in March sees a VFW "army" overrunning Capitol Hill and the offices of members of the U.S. House and Senate with concerns about budget policies that are hurting veterans and also hurting the readiness of the U.S. military. Yes, it is the annual VFW National Legislative Conference that is centered in Crystal City but reaches out to the U.S. Congress with concerns of the nation's veterans.

The main concern this year, as has been the case for the past several years, is called "sequestration." This goes back to 2011 when the Budget Control Act set budget caps to reduce the nation's spending by \$1.2 trillion over nine years. The reductions were to be equally shared by defense related and non-defense related agencies. Since the caps were based on 2010 spending and were not based on projected needs of the agencies, they no longer reflect reality but they are still there!

I have been a participant in these "Days on the Hill" since 2012. In most of the meet-

ings with Representatives and Senators, this point about sequestration leads the discussion. Everyone Republican, Democrat and Independent, agree it is a terrible situation, and wring their hands and shake their heads, but no promises are made and we continue on making sharp and deep cuts every year.

The result of all this is that these arbitrary budget caps have significantly hurt the nation's military and have also eaten into programs for veterans. No member of either major party has yet introduced legislation to end sequestration. It just goes on and on. The VFW, in its position papers for this year's Legislative Conference, labels sequestration, "the most significant readiness and national security threat of the 21st century."

Will anything change now that a Republican president sits in the White House for the first time since sequestration began in 2011? It won't take us long to find out. But if you have time, go back and read the "Commander's Message" in the Post 7589 Newsletter of August, 2016 and read what Donald Trump promised the 2016 VFW Convention he would do for veterans and the nation's military. Another thing to remember is that President Trump's Republican Party controls both Houses of Congress. If sequestration is going to end, the time to take action is now!

Youth News and Notes

My wife, Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod, and myself were invited to the recent "Blue and Gold" banquet of Cub Scout Pack 1355, based at the Bennett School in Manassas. The venue was the spacious Prince William County Police Association Hall on Independent Hill Drive. What a show! Power Point images of Cub Scout events flashed on the large screen as speakers addressed the crowd and a delicious meal was served.

Pack 1355 has been a partner with VFW Post 7589 and the Auxiliary in projects over the past several years with Cub Master William Sedmak leading the show. He and his wife Aileen have been key in helping us place flags at the graves of veterans in Manassas Cemetery on Memorial Day

and Veteran's Day. The ranks of Scouts and their leaders at these two holiday projects keeps growing. Pack 1355 has also participated in a number of flag retirements and flag educations with Post 7589 and the Auxiliary.

Jean and I sat at a table with a leader of the area "Friends of Scouting" whose job it is to raise money for various ongoing Scouting activities in the Prince William area. He said that the past few years have seen the ranks of Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts increase in the Manassas area. While we sat eating supper, at least five people approached this man with checks. So, despite some controversies nationally, scouting seems alive and well locally.

But beyond the financial and membership situation, what was most impressive about

this celebration was the number of young adult leaders involved with the Cub Scouts. Several women have leadership positions in Pack 1355 and the leaders, both male and female, are dedicated to the Scout ideals and goals. Sitting there you can see that the Scouts are challenged. They are not "given" those badges, they have to earn them. They are also encouraged to take leadership positions! Many Boy Scouts go back and help the Cub Scouts. As a number of Cub Scouts "crossed the bridge" to become Boy Scouts at the banquet, the older boys shook their hands and helped them arrange their new uniforms. Anytime you can get this many young people doing positive things, it is a very good situation!

(See Youth on page 3)

(Youth from page 2)



Boy Scouts welcome a new member show has crossed the bridge.



Comrade Kelly William's wife Donna and son Marshall. Donna works with the Boy Scouts and Marshall, a Boy Scout with Troop 670, helped Cub Scouts in Pack 1355 the past year.

William Sedmak passed the leadership of Pack 1355 over to Brian Albers. Will's son is moving on to Boy Scout Troop 670 at Grace United Methodist Church. We will miss him and his wife as leaders of Pack 1355, but we will continue to work to do more and more projects with Scouts in the Manassas area.

District 8 VFW/Auxiliary Citizenship Teacher judging will take place at 1:00 pm on Sunday, March 5 at the Post. Any member of the Post or Auxiliary can take part in the judging. Post/Auxiliary will have two candidates for "District Teacher of the Year."

Please be at the March 6 Post General Membership meeting at 7:00 pm when we honor this year's Post/Auxiliary "Teachers of the Year." In the Grade K-5 category this year's first place award recipient is Megan McNulty, 5th grade language arts teacher at Mayfield Intermediate School in Manassas. Ms. McNulty was nominated by her school Principal Kara Mills who wrote, "Megan ignites in students a passion for learning." Ms. McNulty has also been the woman behind the very successful Veteran's Week programs at Mayfield. This past November more than 1200 Mayfield students at two

assemblies interacted with members of Post 7589 and watched a movie about the Vietnam War. If I was to describe the event in one word it would be: "Respect."

The Post/Auxiliary "Teacher of the Year" in the Grade 6-8 category is Ms. Erin Merrill, a 7th and 8th grade social studies teacher at Pennington School in Manassas. She was nominated by fellow teacher Sara Bosse who wrote, "Ms. Merrill makes being an active and patriotic citizen a priority for all of our students and includes simulations and real life actions in her social studies classes." Ms. Merrill also has worked with the U.S. Marine Corps Museum to bring in veterans and talk about America's role in the wars of the 20th Century. She also has her students do a research project where they design a new monument or memorial in honor of a U.S. event in the post World War II era.

Please come, greet and congratulate these two teachers at 7:00 pm on March 6 at the Post.

Pete MacLeod, Youth Chair



District 8 Voice of Democracy winners at the awards ceremony held at Post 7728. (L-R) Caitlin Orr, Seamus Koehr and Maria Luetkemeyer



Maria Luetkemeyer reads her 1st place essay. Maria was sponsored by Post 7589.

Auxiliary President



We would like to welcome the newest members to 7589 Auxiliary: a transfer, Ms. Connie Mayhugh, a re-join, Ms. Jen German, and three new members;

Ms. Shaquana Palmer, Mr. Bryan Corkhill & Mr. Thomas Corkhill. Welcome all of you to our family of this great organization.

As of August 2015, the Auxiliary had their name changed to the VFW Auxiliary and therefore National Headquarters has given the Auxiliaries 5 years to change everything that had "Ladies Auxiliary" to the new name. On behalf of the members of this Auxiliary, I would like to say **"THANK YOU"** to the Post and their members for assisting our Auxiliary with the purchase of our new Banner. I also want to say **"THANK YOU"** to Ms. Cindy McIntyre for donating the remaining amount in memory of her parents, Joe & Nancy Dazzo. This was a total surprise to the members of the Auxiliary and we appreciate the assistance. There aren't enough words to express our gratitude for such a wonderful gift. Thank you so very much.

The National President Colette Bishop will be making her official visit to Virginia on March 8-10 in the Richmond area. The planning committee has several events planned for her. If you wish to attend, please let me know and I will pass your



request forward.

As in years past, the Auxiliary is working on the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest for the high school students. The deadline for this contest is **March 31, 2017**. We have been honored to have one of our entries from last year's contest place 2nd in the Department. If you know of any high school or home schooled 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.

Next month is election for new Auxiliary Officers for the 2017-2018 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 8th District Convention will be April 23rd at Culpeper Post 2524. Lunch will be served at noon with the joint meeting at 1pm. On the agenda will be elections of the District Officers for the 2017-2018 Auxiliary year. Also, this is the year that our own National Sr. Vice President Dee Guillory will become National President. I'm sure we will enjoy the coming year. There will be a lot of interesting events planned.

We are planning our annual spring Yard Sale on May 6, 2017 from 7am-2pm. Set up time will take place on Friday night, May 5th from 4-8pm. If you plan to do your spring cleaning and want to clear out your unwanted items, please consider donating them our way. We could really use them. Thank you in advance for all your support.

I want to thank everyone for assisting us with our coupon project. Since July, we have collected over \$11,500.00 for our Veterans overseas. For your information, there is an extension of six months to the expiration date on the coupons. Another reminder is our VFW National Home for Children and their Life Membership of \$35.00. This money assists them with the work at the National Home. Thank you for supporting them and the families at the National Home.

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 Treasurer, Elanor Doczi's husband is going through a difficult time so please keep the family in your prayers as well.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill
Auxiliary President



Astronaut to Speak at Freedom Museum



On Tuesday, March 21st at 7:30 PM, Jeffrey N. Williams (Colonel, U.S. Army, Ret.) and NASA Astronaut will speak at the Freedom Museum about the NASA space program and its future. Col. Williams joined NASA

in 1996 and set a record in space on his fourth mission to the space station as the American who has spent the longest time in space.

Col. Williams, a Wisconsin native, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1980 and became an Army Aviator in 1981. After service in Germany, he gained a Master's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering and was selected for assignment to the Johnson Space Flight Center. So far, during four missions to the International Space Station, Col. Williams has logged a record of more than 534 days in space,

including nearly 32 hours in five spacewalks. In July 2002, he commanded a nine-day coral reef expedition off the coast of Florida.

Col. Williams retired from active duty in 2007 after more than 27 years of service, is married, has two sons and 3 grandchildren. The Freedom Museum is located in the Terminal Building at the Manassas Regional Airport, 10600 Harry Parrish Blvd, Manassas, VA 20110. The event is from 7:30 PM to 8:45 PM, admission is free, and light refreshments will be served.

National SVCNC Keith Harman to visit Virginia



Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy has designated Senior vice Commander-in-Chief Keith E. Harman to represent the national organization at our Department Membership Roundup, April 09-14, 2017, throughout the State of Virginia.

Keith E. Harman was elected Senior vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 27, 2016, at the 117th VFW National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

Keith served in the U. S. Army from 1967 to 1969. He served in Vietnam as a crew chief and door gunner on UH-1 Huey helicopters. His decorations include the Air Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze service stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citations, and the Aircraft Crewmember Badge.

Keith joined the VFW in 1983 at Post 3035 in Delphos, Ohio, where he is a Gold Legacy life member. He has served in elected and appointed positions at Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as commander of the VFW Department of Ohio in 2004, where he achieved All-American status. On the national level, he has served on several committees, including chairman of the National Veterans Service Committee.

Our Roundup will begin at Post 9808 in Mechanicsville on Monday where we will meet Post members over breakfast. Over four days we'll make a circle tour of the State finishing at Dale City Post 1503 on Thursday.

The agenda for the Northern Virginia area includes Post 9760 in Berryville from 2:30— 4:00 PM and arrival at Post 1503 in Dale City at 5:30. Dinner is scheduled for 6:30PM. Members are encouraged to meet Keith at a Post in their area. For further information on accommodation please contact either Post 9760 or 1503.

The complete itinerary is listed in the March Department General Orders available at www.vfwva.org. Let's show Keith some real Virginia hospitality!

Navy Federal Credit Union available for all veterans

Navy Federal Credit Union is excited to announce that we now welcome all Veterans to join!

Why join Navy Federal Credit Union?

- NFCU is the largest Credit Union in the world with over 270 branches here and abroad and 24/7 service available by both by phone and online.
- We have been proudly serving our military members and their families since 1933.
- Because we are a not-for profit, member-owned credit union, we can offer lower loan rates and higher savings rates.

Join today by visiting the Manassas Parkridge branch at 10980 Bulloch Drive Manassas VA 20109 our hours are Monday-Friday 9-6 and Saturday 9-2.

Ed: NFCU is opening a new office on Liberia Avenue in the new shopping center across from Staples. Date TBD

W-2 and Tax and Email Phishing Scams

During the 2016 tax season, the IRS has seen an approximate 400% surge in phishing and malware incidents. The surge in email, phishing, and malware schemes were designed to trick taxpayers, or other employee personnel, into providing personal information that could result in identify theft. According to IRS Commissioner, John Koskinen, "This is one of the most dangerous email phishing scams we've seen in a long time. It can result in the large-scale theft of sensitive data that criminals can use to commit various crimes, including filing fraudulent tax returns."

As with other suspicious emails, people should avoid opening surprise emails or clicking on internet links claiming to be from the IRS, which suggest big tax refunds, tax bills or which request personal information. According to the IRS Consumer Alerts web site, the IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text message, or social media channels to request personal or financial information. In addition, IRS does not threaten taxpayers with lawsuits, imprisonment or other enforcement action.

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/tax-scams-consumer-alerts>



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Calling all artists: The National Veterans Day poster contest now under way

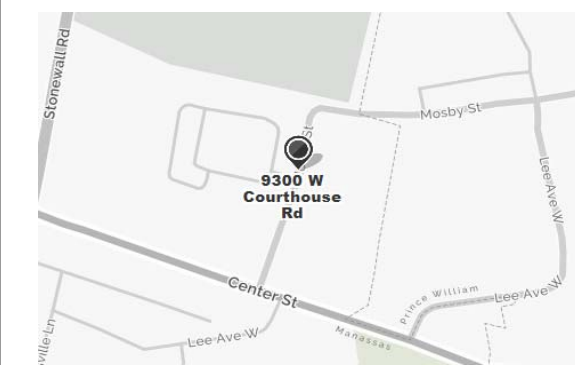


The 2017 Veterans Day Poster Contest is now open for submissions from all artists. The selected poster will be distributed to all VA facilities and military installations, as well as serve as the cover of the official Veterans Day program at Arlington National Cemetery. The submission deadline is April 15. Get additional submission details and submit your entry today.

<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/34903/calling-artist-national-veterans-day-poster-contest-now-way/>

Virginia Department of Veterans Services to open Manassas office.

The office is scheduled to open on or about March 1, 2017 and will be located at 9300 W. Courthouse Rd. At that time the DVS program at Post 7589 will be discontinued.



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

Comrade Paul Chase participates in honoring Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier

Honoring veterans can come in many different ways. Our Nation's first veterans fought for our independence from the shackles of Britain in the American Revolution. The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and Daughters of the Revolution (DAR) are direct descendants of patriots who fought or supported the Revolution. These patriotic organizations help keep the public aware of the cherished valor of our patriot ancestors.

Shown here are Compatriot William Schwetke (Vietnam Veteran,



Commander of the Virginia State SAR Color Guard and former President of the Culpeper Minutemen) with Compatriot **Paul Chase (Vietnam Veteran, thirty year life member of the VFW, Post 7589 Adjutant and Historian** and member of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the SAR) with two members of the DAR.

On February 20, 2017 they participated in a formal wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier in the cemetery of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, VA. Following the ceremony members of the SAR and DAR participated in the annual Alexandria Virginia George Washington Birthday Parade witnessed by tens of thousands of cheering citizens.

Get your Post 7589 Challenge Coin



Status of JLC 2017 Initiatives – as of February 24, 2017

Initiative	Recommendation	Status –
JLC 2016-01 <i>Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly change the Code of Virginia to revise the charter of the VVFS; release \$393,494 to DVS in FY17; authorize 21 new positions in FY17 and FY18; and appropriate an additional \$700,000 (GF) in FY18 to convert VVFS to an all-state employee service delivery structure.	Introduced budget: \$610,128 plus the \$393,494 in the “lock box”. Additional Budget Amendment – N/A Legislation: HB2206 (Delegate Cox) 2/3: Passed House (95-0) 2/16: Passed Senate (40-0) 2/21: Sent to Governor
JLC 2016-02 <i>Virginia War Memorial</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$100,000 (GF) FY18 to ensure the Virginia War Memorial has the resources necessary to accomplish its dual mission of honor and education.	Introduced budget: None Legislation: • None
JLC 2016-03 <i>Guard Income Tax Subtraction</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly increase the state income tax subtraction level for members of the Virginia National Guard from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.	Introduced budget: None Legislation: HB1397 (Delegate Fowler) 1/18: Laid on the Table
JLC 2016-04 <i>In-state tuition for all members of the Reserve Components</i>	That the Governor and the General Assembly change the eligibility for in-state tuition to include all members of the Virginia National Guard and the Reserve components, thus recognizing their service to the Commonwealth and treating them equally to the active components and veterans	Introduced budget: \$900,000 for VMI Legislation: HB1724 (Delegate Anderson) 2/1: Laid on the Table
JLC 2016-05 <i>Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly approve legislation creating the <i>Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program</i> under the Department of Veterans Services and appropriate \$900,000 (GF) per year in FY18 and FY19 to award grants to companies that provide entrepreneurship training to veterans. Also, that the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) continue its work on veteran entrepreneurship and develop additional recommendations for consideration.	Introduced budget: \$900,000 for FY17 and FY18 Legislation: HB1841 (Delegate Stolle) 1/24: Reported out of General Laws and re-referred to Appropriations 2/7: Left in Appropriations SB1114 (Senator McPike) 2/2: Passed By Indefinitely (16-0)
JLC 2016-06 <i>VMSDEP</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly remove the requirement that a veteran’s disability rating be combat related. Instead, a permanent service-connected disability rating of at least 90%, plus satisfaction of the other requirements currently in the Code, would qualify a veteran’s spouse or child for VMSDEP benefits.	Introduced budget: None Legislation: HB2357 (Delegate Torian) 2/1: Reported out of Education with an Amendment (21-0) 2/2: House rereferred to Appropriations 2/7: Left in Appropriations Budget Amendment: 144 #2h - \$900,000 in FY18
JLC 2016-07 <i>Electronic Ballot Return</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support of a pilot program for the electronic return of absentee ballots by Virginia’s deployed military service members to enfranchise their voting privileges.	Introduced budget: None Legislation: SB1490 (Senator DeSteph) 2/2: Reported from Finance with Amendment (16-0) 2/7: Passed Senate (36-4) Assigned to House P&E, Elections Sub-Com Elections Subcommittee will not meet the last week of Session, therefore the bill will be left in committee

Stop that Island! The remarkable story of HNLMS Abraham Crijnsen

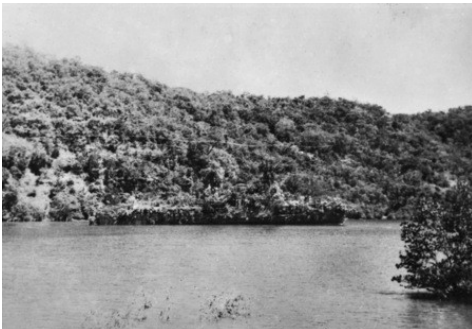
Sometimes in life, the guy with the so-crazy-it-just-might-work ideas hits one out of the park and saves the day. This is what happened in 1942 aboard the HNLMS Abraham Crijnsen, the last Dutch warship standing after the Battle of the Java Sea.

Originally planning to escape to Australia with three other warships, the then-stranded minesweeper had to make the voyage alone and unprotected. The slow-moving vessel could only get up to about 15 knots and had very few guns, boasting only a single 3-inch gun and two Oerlikon 20 mm canons making it a sitting duck for the Japanese bombers that circled above.

Knowing their only chance of survival was to make it to the Allies Down Under, the Crijnsen's 45 crew members frantically brainstormed ways to make the retreat undetected. The winning idea? Turn the ship into an island.

You can almost hear crazy-idea guy anticipating his shipmates' reluctance: Now guys, just hear me out. But lucky for him, the Abraham Crijnsen was strapped for time, resources and alternative means of escape, automatically making the island idea the best idea. Now it was time to put the plan into action.

The crew went ashore to nearby islands and cut down as many trees as they could lug back onto the deck. Then the timber was arranged to look like a jungle canopy, covering as much square footage as possible. Any leftover parts of the ship were painted to look like rocks and cliff faces



these guys weren't messing around.

Now, a camouflaged ship in deep trouble is better than a completely exposed ship. But there was still the problem of the Japanese noticing a mysterious moving island and wondering what would happen if they shot at it. Because of this, the crew figured the best means of convincing the Axis powers that they were an island was to truly be an island: by not moving at all during daylight hours.

While the sun was up they would anchor the ship near other islands, then cover as much ocean as they could once night fell praying the Japanese wouldn't notice a disappearing and reappearing island amongst the nearly 18,000 existing islands in Indonesia. And, as luck would have it, they didn't.

The Crijnsen managed to go undetected by Japanese planes and avoid the destroyer that sank the other Dutch warships, surviving the eight-day journey to Australia and reuniting with Allied forces.

Sometimes in life, the guy with the so-crazy-it-just-might-work ideas hits one out of the park and saves the day. This is what happened in 1942 aboard the HNLMS Abraham Crijnsen, the last Dutch warship standing after the Battle of the Java Sea.



After the war, Abraham Crijnsen operated on anti-revolution patrols in the East Indies, before returning to the Netherlands and being converted into a boom defence ship in 1956. Removed from service in 1960, the vessel was donated to the Netherlands Sea Cadet Corps for training purposes. In 1995, Abraham Crijnsen was acquired by the Dutch Navy Museum for preservation as a museum ship.

Read more at:

<https://dirkdeklein.net/2016/06/19/stop-that-island-the-remarkable-story-of-hnlms-abraham-crijnsen/>

Upcoming Events

March 1	Executive Meeting – 12:30
March 6	Educator Awards — 7pm Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm — Nominations for 2017-2018 Officers
March 8-10	National President Visit to Virginia (Richmond area)
March 29	Executive Meeting – 12:30 (After Bingo)
March 31	Deadlines for Patriotic Arts & Department Program Reports
April 3	Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm — Election of Officers
April 10 –13	Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Keith Harmon visits Virginia
April 23	District 8 Convention -- Culpeper Post 2524 – 1pm — Nomination, Election and Installation of Officers
April 26	Executive Meeting – 12:30 (After Bingo)
May 1	Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm — Installation of 2017-2018 Post/Auxiliary Officers
May 5	Auxiliary Yard Sale Setup - 4pm to 8pm
May 6	Auxiliary Yard Sale - 7am to 2pm
May 27	Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Drive – 9am – 2pm / Giant in Centreville
May 28	Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Drive – 9am – 2pm / Giant in Centreville
May 29	Veterans Day Activities - 8:30am - Manassas Veterans Memorial
May 30	Executive Meeting – 12:30 (After Bingo)
June 3	71 st Post Anniversary (TBD)
June 5	Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30pm
June 15-18	Department Convention, Williamsburg, VA
July 22-26	National Convention-New Orleans, LA



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A HALF MILE OF MAYHEM

CANNON NEWS

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Please email articles to quartermaster@vfw7589.org

We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.