

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
April 2016

Post Elections
April 4 — 7:30 pm



Comrade Jerry Martin (R) with Commander Pete MacLeod
upon being recognized Manassas Volunteer of the Year

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Officer Nominations for 2016-17

Commander: Pete MacLeod
Senior Vice-commander: Ron Link
Junior Vice-commander: Wayne Moore
Quartermaster: Rick Raskin
Chaplain: Joel Chase
Trustee 3: Lou Filippone

Nominations are open until the April 4 meeting.

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



It is "recruiting season" at Post 7589. On Saturday, April 9 we are at J.E. Rice Hardware on Mathis Ave. in Manassas from 9am to 1pm trying to find more than a few good men and women to join Post 7589. We are also talking with Manassas Park about a "joint recruiting" day that would benefit both Posts. We have already had a couple of "calling nights" at the Post to try and get former members of the Post back in the fold. Memorial Day weekend is just ahead with recruiting a major bonus of our annual Buddy Poppy Drive.

Why is recruiting so important? We all have seen the statistics and the continuing falling VFW national membership from year to year. But a recent fact sheet sent out from national is of even more interest. You look at this fact sheet and you realize just how vital this Veterans of Foreign Wars organization is. We just cannot allow the VFW to be weakened.

Let's start with the VFW Military Assistance Program which our own former commander Ron Link leads in Virginia. Since 2005, MAP has hosted 2,012,631 service members and their families at events.

Take the figure \$3.3 million. That is the amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives that the VFW distributes every year to middle school and high school students through Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen, the two major patriotic essay competitions. In addition the VFW's "Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program has awarded another \$1.8 million in scholarships to more than 444 veterans and service members.

When you get those letters in the mail from the VFW asking for money you may be quick to toss the request in the trash. But here is what a \$20.00 donation to the VFW can do: educate 30 separating service members on how to receive their earned VA benefits, provide 500 minutes of phone time to homesick American troops stationed overseas, help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war or serve 5 "welcome home" meals to service members recently back from combat.

But here are some stats that will impress the politicians and other community leaders: 8.9 million volunteer hours contributed by VFW members every year to their communities, \$49.3 million contributed each year by local VFW Post members to local community service projects, \$13 million raised each year through Buddy Poppy Drives to help needy veterans.

This just scratches the surface. There are 1,733 VFW-accredited representatives across America helping veterans fight for benefits they have earned. In the last three years alone, the VFW network helped more than 255,000 veterans recover \$4.5 billion in earned benefits.

As a local example, Historian/Adjutant Paul Chase, one of the leaders of our aluminum can tab collection effort to raise money for the Boston Burn Center, just informed me that the BB&T Bank in Warrenton had collected over 6,000 tabs which can be recycled, raising money for the Burn Center which treats needy children with severe burns for free. This is just one of a number of businesses in our area collecting those tabs which directly help injured children. (Tractor Supply in Manassas had collected an incredible 40,000 tabs by early Feb.)

So out on the recruiting trails this Spring, don't be afraid to tell veterans what a great outfit they will be joining by signing up with the VFW! In short, this VFW organization founded in 1899 cannot be allowed to be weakened in any way, locally or nationally. There are too many people depending on us!

Youth News and Notes

Here are the winners from the March 12 VFW/Auxiliary District 8 Teacher of the Year judging which was held here in Manassas at our Post 7589:

Grades K-5: Ms. Tiffany Payne, a 5th grade teacher at Haymarket Elementary School who was Post 7589's entry.

Grades 6-8: Ms. Alexandra Turner, a teacher at W.C. Taylor Middle School in Warrenton, an entry from Post 9835.

Grades 9-12: Mr. Michael Hardy, a high school Social Studies teacher at Mountain View Alt. High School in Centreville and lead advisor of the school's on line newspaper. Mr. Hardy was Post 7589's entry in that category.

These teachers will be honored and will receive their awards at the District 8 Convention and meeting at 1:00 pm on Sunday, April 17 at VFW Post 2624, 1375 Sperryville Pike in Culpeper.

If you have never been a judge, either for the essays from the students, or the teacher entries, consider trying it next year! Geoffrey Lyster of Post 9835 did a very professional job in organizing the judging and there was some spirited discussion about the entries. Decisions were not always unanimous but that is good and healthy and the way it should be. We also had a good mixture of Post and Auxiliary members doing the judging.

I have received word from Mr. Ogawa at the Navy JROTC Unit at Osbourn Park High School that they are in the process of selecting a cadet to be the recipient of the VFW award this May. There is always a very impressive ceremony that goes along with these awards at the high school.

We have known about it for several months but we received official notice from the state VFW that Manassas Christian School 8th grade student Sebastien Cotto finished third in the state judging for Patriot's Pen. That is an honor not to be taken lightly, coming in third among the hundreds of entries from around Virginia!

(Continued on page 6)

Auxiliary President



I trust everyone had an enjoyable and safe St. Patrick's Day and Easter holiday.

I would like to thank the Comrades and Auxiliary members for their assistance in promoting the National VFW Auxiliary American Creative Art Contest Patriotic Arts program. The deadline was March 31st and we were honored to have several entries this year. I will report the results in next month's news article. The first place winner's art work will be forwarded to the Department level for judging. If their art work is selected first place at the Department level, it will be forwarded to National VFW Auxiliary Headquarters in Kansas City, MO for judging. The first place winner at the National level will receive a \$10,000 scholarship.

I would also like to remind the members who have **NOT** paid their 2016 dues, you have until June 30th to do so. If your 2016 dues are not paid by that date, you will **NOT** be a member of the VFW Auxiliary and you will have to reapply for a new membership and your time as a member will have to start over. If you are unfortunately diagnosed with cancer, you will not be eligible for the Cancer grant during and after the year waiting period. Please pay your dues of \$20 for 2016 to the Auxiliary Treasurer Eleanor Doczi, 7415 Roxbury Dr., Manassas, VA 20109. Thank you in advance.

We are planning another Yard Sale on Saturday, May 7th from 7am – 2pm. We will be taking donations on Friday, May 6th from 4pm – 8pm. If you would like to donate anything, we will provide a tax receipt. Thanks in advance for your donations.

The Auxiliary will hold a Buddy Poppy drive on Saturday, May 28th at Shopper's, 9540 Liberia Ave. in Manassas. The time will be from 9am until 3pm. We are also working on a Buddy Poppy Display for the Department Convention. If you would like to assist us in one or both events, please let me know at 703/361-8950.

The election for 2016-2017 Officers will be held on Monday, April 4th during the monthly meeting. The

newly elected officers will take their positions after the Department Convention in June 2016. Please consider holding an office for your Auxiliary.


I would like to thank all the individuals who are collecting the Campbell soup labels for The National Home for Children. With your assistance, they will be able to purchase another new bus/van. We are requesting assistance from the public and the members of the Post and Auxiliary as well.

Please keep Ann Mitchell in your prayers. She had back surgery on March 16th. Please send her a card at 9900 Hynson Dr. Manassas, VA 20111. I'm sure she would appreciate the thoughtfulness. For any Auxiliary member or their family or friends who are ill or hospitalized, please keep them in your prayers.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill
VFW 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 \$25.00.

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

Happenings



March 8: Lieutenant General Ron Christmas, US Marine Corps (USMC) (Ret.) spoke to a large audience at the Freedom Museum about The Battle for Hue City in 1968. Lt-Gen Christmas, a then Company Commander, provided first-hand knowledge of the battle.



March 1: Congressman Randy Forbes (R-4VA) meets with (L to R): Pete MacLeod ,Cdr. VFW-7589 Manassas); Tom Gimble, Dept. SVC; and Dan Boyer, National Legislative Committee.



Lou Filippone & Mary Corkhill at the March Teacher Awards ceremony



The 70th Anniversary Committee has been hard at work since early Feb. planning for the June 4th celebration. Members in the photo are Lou Fillipone (chair), Ron Knowles, Paul Chase, Robert Punihaole at their March 24 meeting.



Jerry Martin address the Manassas City Council after receiving the Volunteer of the Year citation.



From Eagle CAM —Hope for the future.

First Lady with her chicks at the National Arboretum on March 25.

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EAGLES.ORG.



TICKETS ON SALE AT THE POST



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS BASS PRO RAFFLE

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia and Bass Pro Shops of Hampton Roads proudly announce a 50 prize raffle with the winners being determined at the VFW State Convention in Williamsburg on June 18, 2016. The fifty prizes are listed on the back of each ticket. The value of the 50 prizes is approximately \$20,000. As a winning ticket is drawn it will be placed back in the drum to have a chance at the remaining prizes. Tickets are \$5.00 each and we are asking each VFW member to purchase at least one ticket and sell as many as you can. Tickets are available from your Post Commander or State Headquarters. All proceeds will be used to support Veterans Programs and Activities.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. HENRY GOLDEN BOY .22 CAL | 26. LANDMAN FIRE PIT |
| 2. YETI ROADIE | 27. BASS PRO RAIN JACKET |
| 3. SAVAGE 16 .243 CAL | 28. \$ 500.00 BPS GIFT CARD |
| 4. QUANTUM BAITCASTER OUTFIT | 29. BASS PRO CAMP KITCHEN |
| 5. THUNDER HAWK CROSSBOW | 30. \$ 500.00 BPS GIFT CARD |
| 6. OA OCEANMASTER REEL W/B | 31. ORVIS FLY OUTFIT |
| 7. RUGER 10/22 .22 CAL | 32. YETI TRUNDRA 45 |
| 8. FRONTIER REVOLVER .45 CAL LC | 33. MASTERBUILT ELECT. SMOKER |
| 9. COSTA 580P SUNGLASSES | 34. REDHEAD 10 GUN SAFE |
| 10. \$ 500.00 BPS GIFT CARD | 35. BROWNING BPS 12GA |
| 11. MINN KOTA TROLLING MOTOR | 36. TRAEGER PELLET GRILL |
| 12. CHAR-BROIL PROPANE GRILL | 37. PENN BATTLE II & OA BAG |
| 13. TEKNETICS METAL DETECTOR | 38. BROWNING ROD STORAGE |
| 14. BUSHNELL BINOCULARS | 39. YETI 125 |
| 15. \$ 500.00 BPS GIFT CARD | 40. \$500.00 BPS GIFT CARD |
| 16. REMINGTON 870 | 41. BASS PRO BAITCAST |
| 17. RUGER MK111 | 42. BUSHMASTER .223MSR |
| 18. ASCEND C156 CANOE | 43. WINCHESTER SX3 13GA |
| 19. PARKER ENFORCER C'BOW | 44. BROWNING SPINNING CB |
| 20. \$ 500.00 BPS GIFT CARD | 45. YETI 65 |
| 21. BROWNING TWO BURNER | 46. \$ 250.00 BPS GIFT CARD |
| 22. YETI HOPPER 20 | 47. UBIRITE .45CAL PISTOL |
| 23. TIKKA T-3 .308 CAL | 48. PENN SENATOR R&T |
| 24. HENRY BIG BOY .44 MAG | 49. BROWNING MAXUS 12GA 1,349.99 |
| 25. BASS PRO 4 P'SN TENT | 50. \$ 250.00 BPS GIFT CARD |

(Continued from page 2)

We have set a tentative date of Saturday morning, June 11 for Flag Retirement ceremonies at the Post. We hope to have local Scouts on hand once again to help out and learn.

The VFW Essay themes for this coming school year, 2016-17:

Patriot's Pen: *"The America I Believe In"*

Voice of Democracy: *"My Responsibility to America"*

The Youth Meeting for April 19 is cancelled. We will start fresh with our May 17 meeting at 7:00 pm at the Post Hall!



Tiffany Payne—Post 7589 and District 8 Teacher of the Year (K-5) with Commander Pete MacLeod, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and Committee Chair Lou Filippone.



Michael Hardy — Teacher of the year (9-12) for Post 7589 and District 8.



Mark Hoffman — Post 7589 Teacher of the Year (6-8) for Post 7589.


Wounded Warrior Project Fires Top 2 Executives After Reports Of Overspending

As a follow-up to our February 2016 article about the Wounded Warrior Project, on March 10 the organization's board of directors fired its CEO and Chief Operating Officer after media reports charged massive overspending and waste. The charity has received hundreds of millions of dollars in yearly donations.

"CEO Steve Nardizzi and COO Al Giordano are no longer with the Organization," the charity announced in a news release that also reported the results of an independent review of its finances.


The review was prompted by a series of CBS News reports that said the Wounded Warrior Project uses some 40 percent of its funds on overhead expenses and pays millions of dollars for staff conferences and meetings in luxurious settings.





VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.




The Virginia VFW Then and Now Member Publication Project is about to begin!

Starting soon, Publishing Concepts (PCI) will be contacting you via mail, phone and email to request that you update your information.

We understand security and privacy are concerns, but please know that PCI is a trusted partner of Virginia VFW.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to be included!

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www.publishingconcepts.com

From the Trenches

By Paul Chase

Our Broken Campaign System



This is not meant as a partisan message. It really isn't. Our national political candidates undergo an exhausting year or more long trial by fire where they are subject to every possible attack. Governors of states and Senators are good candidates for presidential office. To campaign they need to be away from their offices for a year or more. That's wrong! We don't elect them to be absentee office holders. If they can be gone campaigning for a whole year on travel throughout the Nation what good are they? Britain has found a solution by having national campaigns of only 90 days. The next outrage is campaign financing. Be it Democrats or Republicans they get the vast majority of their money from super rich donors. Don't play me for stupid. They don't give away their riches because they like the looks of their candidates or for fun and games. They do it for access and influence which ultimately results in the direction of legislation that affects us all in ways that only their money can make happen. Jeb Bush reportedly spent 47 million dollars in his campaign in the small state of New Hampshire. That was probably hundreds if not thousands of dollars for each voter in the state. That's wrong! Britain has only public financing for national elections. I'm not advocating adoption of the British system but they have some solutions to problems we are experiencing. The next problem is "Winner Take All" primaries. This effectively disenfranchises whole groups of voters of a state, maybe with just a few votes. Primaries should all be "Proportional" where delegates should be given in the proportion of their votes. I'm not optimistic any of these solutions will ever be adopted, but at least we should know they are there.

Update on Post 7589 Aluminum Tab Collections

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7589 of Manassas, VA began collecting aluminum can tabs in April 2014. The proceeds from the recycling of the cans go to Shriners Hospitals and the Boston Burn Center which provide cost free medical services for burn victims and those who cannot afford expensive and life-saving medical care. Our 2014 goal was to collect 100,000 and we collected 125,000. Our goal for 2015 was to collect 200,000 and we collected 300,000. Our goal for 2016 is again 200,000 and we have already collected 85,000 as of the end of March. Thus, in a little less than two years VFW Post 7589 has collected over **ONE HALF MILLION TABS**. The collection of these tabs helps bind the community together in a common charitable cause without having donors dig deep into their pockets for hard earned cash. The following organizations deserve special recognition for their contributions to this worthy program:

Significant Tab Donations

Manassas Host Lions Club	Rankins Hardware, Warrenton
Tractor Supply, Manassas	Giant Food Haymarket
Chicago, IL Fire Department	Warrenton Walmart
Hampton Inn, Manassas	Linton Hall School Bristow
Home Depot, Warrenton	Shoprite Foods, Manassas
Grace United Methodist Day School, Manassas	Country Chevrolet, Warrenton
Benedictine Sisters Convent, Bristow	

Spotlight on Robert Punihaole



Comrade Robert Punihaole enlisted in the U.S. Navy from Honolulu, Hawaii in January 1964 and quickly showed his technical abilities as an Electrician's Mate. He served nearly his entire four years in the Navy aboard the Destroyer USS VANCE, first in a deployment to the Aleutian Islands where he learned what "Rough Seas" were like. His second deployment was off the coast of Vietnam. He and his shipmates had the distinct honor of rescuing a U.S. pilot who had ditched in the South China Sea. His ship also shelled enemy coastal machine gun nests and fortifications with their 3" guns. They went on to serve with Operation Market Time doing the hazardous job of searching coastal Junks for enemy soldiers, weapons and contraband.

Comrade Punihaole joined VFW Post 7589 in 2010 as a Life Member. He has since been a major contributor to the Post's events and activities. He has been especially effective in our recruiting drives. When hard work is needed Robert is there to put his shoulder to the wheel. He is very dependable at our monthly meetings and has served as the Officer of the Day, conducting appropriate ceremonies for our fallen and lost comrades. In the community Comrade Punihaole has volunteered his time as a member of Manassas CERT (Community Emergency Response Team).

Comrade Punihaole you have earned our respect, admiration and thanks for your service to our country, community and VFW Post 7589.

Kuentai partners with BSI to bring WWII fallen soldiers home

By Frauline S. Villanueva-Dizon



Kuentai-USA chair Usan Kurata holds the dog tag of World War II American soldier Thomas Davis that the organization found on Saipan. They will soon deliver the dog tag to his family in Ohio. (Frauline Villanueva-Dizon)

A non-profit organization whose mission is to bring the remains of fallen soldiers home has partnered with the biggest developer on island. Kuentai-USA and Best Sunshine International, Ltd. has established their partnership last week to work on some of BSI's properties in the northern part of the island to collect World War II remains.

In an interview with Kuentai chair Usan Kurata and secretary general Yukari Akatsuka, they said that it is a "great idea" and a "great opportunity" for them to partner with the said developer. "We have a rich experience. We have been here for six years already. We opened up many burial sites so we can train then for the educational purpose they have to know the culture and history of the island," Yukari said. Yukari said that since BSI has some properties up north, they will most likely come across the remains as well. They added that with the partnership, they will be able to work alongside

BSI's corporate social responsibility volunteers to help them with the tremendous work before them.

Kuentai said they are also thinking of bringing in volunteers from Japan as a form of cultural exchange to help with their dig.

Just recently, Kuentai was able to find a dog tag belonging to a World War II American soldier named Thomas Davis. His family was traced and this item belonging to him will soon be returned home. Dog tags, unlike other soldiers' items, are considered a rare find in digging. To date, Kuentai has found 800 Japanese and eight U.S. World War II soldiers from the Achugao area

However, there are 28,000 more missing Japanese and 400 Americans soldiers missing and buried somewhere around the islands. They have also identified a number of mass burial graves as well as individual graves on the island. "That's still a big number and not so easy," Usan said. Last November, Kuentai was able to dig several remains from a burial site but had to stop with the project and reburial them.

Aside from Saipan, Kuentai also has projects in Tinian, Guam, and the Philippines.

For BSI chief services officer Tao Xing, the project is very "honorable" and that Kuentai's work has been "amazing." "It is a very noble cause. The concept is to bring home the soldiers for the U.S and Japan," Xing said. "We're very much interested and will be very much supporting their cause," he added.

saipantribune.com
CNMI'S DAILY ONLINE NEWSPAPER

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

From the



Senate Military Personnel Hearing:

The VFW testified Tuesday, March 8 before the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee regarding the Pentagon's fiscal year 2017 budget submission as it applies to military personnel posture. The VFW can support a lot of initiatives currently on the table, such as Force of the Future, and better suicide and sexual assault prevention and response programs. Some initiatives we want tweaked, such as matching military pay raises to the Employment Cost Index, increasing the government's Thrift Savings Plan contribution to 6 percent and extending it through retirement. Some initiatives the VFW opposes, such as starting the government's TSP match in Year 5 instead of Year 3, dismantling TRICARE on the promise that better service will follow after enrollment fees are first created or increased, and anything that impacts morale, such as the continuation of sequestration, which remains the law of the land. Watch video of the hearing and read the VFW's prepared statement at: <http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/16-03-08-military-personnel-posture>.

Veterans Given a Year to Close Incomplete VA Enrollment Applications:

The VA announced that it will conduct intensive outreach to the 545,000 veterans with pending incomplete enrollment applications. In a year, VA will close incomplete applications, meaning veterans would have to reapply if they are not able to complete their applications within a year. The VFW will work with VA to ensure veterans who have incomplete applications are contacted and given the opportunity to complete their applications. If you would like to confirm the status of your enrollment application or would like to apply for VA health care, contact the VA Health Eligibility Center at: 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

House Hearing on Gulf War Illness:

On Tuesday, March 15, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittees on Oversight and Investigations and Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a joint hearing entitled, "Twenty Five Years After the Persian Gulf War: An Assessment of VA's Disability Claim Process with Respect to Gulf War Illness." The subcommittees wanted to explore why over 80 percent of claims for Gulf War Illness are ultimately denied. In his testimony, VFW Deputy Legislative Director Aleks Morosky stated that the main problem lies in the way that VA conducts separate exams for each symptom veterans are experiencing, leading to diagnoses other than Gulf War Illness. Since the individual diagnoses usually cannot be connected to the veteran's service on their own, the claim is denied. The VFW believes that these veterans should receive one exam which considers all their symptoms as interconnected, leading to more accurate Gulf War Illness diagnoses. At the conclusion of the hearing, Chairman Ralph Abraham (R-LA)

announced that the committee plans to send a letter to VA, asking them to implement the VFW's suggestions immediately. To read the testimony or watch a webcast of the hearing, visit: <http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/twenty-five-years-after-the-persian-gulf-war-an-assessment-of-va-s-disability-claim-process>. To read the Stars and Stripes article about the hearing, click here: <http://www.stripes.com/news/vfw-charges-va-with-working-to-deny-gulf-war-illness-claims-1.399391>.

Call Center Created to Handle VA Billing Issues:

A Community Care Call Center has been set up for veterans experiencing adverse credit reporting or debt collection resulting from inappropriately billed Choice Program claims. Veterans experiencing these problems can call 1-877-881-7618 for assistance. The VA acknowledges that delayed payments and inappropriately billed claims are unacceptable, and has caused much stress to veterans and providers alike. The new call center is the first step in addressing these issues. Read more at: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2764>.

Vietnam War Commemoration:

The president proclaimed May 28, 2012, through Nov. 11, 2025, as the "Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War." During this span of time, more than 9,700 commemorative community partners throughout the country will be sponsoring events to welcome home all Vietnam veterans, and to thank them for guaranteeing that future generations of war veterans are properly recognized and receive the welcome home their generation did not receive. One such ceremony will be at 8:30 a.m., March 29, when the Department of Veterans Affairs conducts a solemn wreath laying ceremony at the Vietnam Wall in Washington. Other VA facilities and veterans' and civic organizations will sponsor different events as the commemoration continues. All VFW Posts are highly encouraged to become a commemorative partner. Learn more at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>.

VFW Calls on Vietnam Veterans for Help:

The VFW is calling on Vietnam veterans to search their wartime memorabilia for any artifacts that might help Vietnam to determine the fate of its estimated 300,000 MIAs. Being requested are photos and sketch maps of battle sites or burial locations, as well as personal artifacts that contain names, family photos and personal letters. No weapons, please! Veteran-to-veteran initiatives generate goodwill and further assist the U.S. government's own efforts to investigative and recover Americans missing from the war. Please mail your memorabilia to Joe Davis, Public Affairs Director, VFW Washington Office, 200 Maryland Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002. Everything collected will be turned over to the Vietnamese Embassy in Washington.

Upcoming Events

April 4	General Membership Meeting -- Election of 2016 - 2017 officers
April 9	Recruiting at J E Rice Hardware - 9:00 am - 1 pm
April 14	70th Anniversary Committee meeting -- 7:00 pm
April 17	District 8 Convention -- Culpeper Post 2524 -- Lunch 12:00, Meeting - 1:00
April 22- 24	Nation's Gun Show -- Chantilly, VA -- Department of Virginia Recruiting
April 28	Executive Committee meeting -- 6:30 pm 70th Anniversary Committee meeting -- 7:00 pm
May 2	General Membership Meeting -- Installation of 2016 - 2017 officers
May 17	Youth Committee Meeting—7:00 pm
June 15 - 18	VFW Department of Virginia Convention—Location TBD
June 22- 24	Nation's Gun Show -- Chantilly, VA -- Department of Virginia Recruiting
July 23 - 27	VFW National Convention - Charlotte, NC

**VA DVS AGENT SERVICE
AT POST 7589**

**2nd & 4th Thursdays
0900– 1500**

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Warriors And Veterans
As Models*




★ Dinner

★ Silent Auction

★ Raffles

Saturday, April 2, 2016
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

fashion courtesy of



Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club
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Tickets \$75. Table for 10 Sponsorship \$750. Sponsor a Warrior \$75
VIP table for 10 Sponsorship \$1000 or VIP table for 8 with a warrior/guest \$1000. Please indicate.
Admission includes Dinner, Dessert & Beverage Cash Bar

Purchase tickets online www.willingwarriors.org/fashion (online service fees apply) or check made out to SOWW with a note stating 2016 Fashion Show and menu selection. Mail to: 5501 Merchant Square #263, Haymarket, Va. 20169. Menu is online.

For more information contact Carole Gathright at carolegathright@comcast.net
SOWW tax ID# 46-0683036

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Please send photos as attachments and not imbedded in your article.
We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.