

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

Manassas, Virginia

June 2012

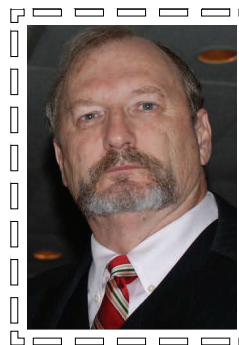


Korean War veteran Ramon Gibbons, visiting from Ohio, enjoys a visit to the Korean War Memorial made possible by assistance from Post 7589.

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COMMANDER'S REPORT



Elections and Installations: I want to thank Past Post Commander **Ken Lion** for his role as Installing Officer at the May meeting. Installed were **Ron Link**, Commander; **Peter MacLeod**, Senior Vice Commander; **Steve Botello**, Junior Vice Commander; **Richard Raskin**, Quartermaster; **Stephen Meade**, Judge Advocate; **Sam Nealey**, Chaplain; **Warren Ewell**, Surgeon; **David Crowder**, 3-year Trustee; **Rod Gillette**, 2-year Trustee; and **Travis Nelson**, Adjutant.

Buddy Poppy Drive: We had two drives over the Memorial Day Weekend. Saturday's drive was at the Manassas Mall. Thanks to **Robert Punihaole**, **Stephen Meade**, **Peter MacLeod**, **Rick Raskin**, and **Rod Gillette** for volunteering. Not only did we raise monies for the Post Relief Fund, we recruited two new members for the Post. Sunday's was at the Wellington Giant. As always, the personnel at this Giant are very supportive of the Post and its endeavors. The Buddy Poppy Drive was very successful. Thanks to **Stephen Meade**, **Peter MacLeod**, **Rick Raskin** and **Warren Ewell** for volunteering. Overall, we increased the relief fund by just over \$700.00. Thanks to all who helped.

All-State Honors: Again, this year, Post 7589 was recognized by the Department as an "All-State Honor Post". Many thanks to all the Comrades and Auxiliary Members supporting the Programs of the VFW during the year. It was a team effort.

Another Department Winner: Congratulations to Ms. **Olivia Smith** from Osbourn Park High School. She was the winner in the Ladies Auxiliary Patriotic Arts Contest at the Post level. She also placed first at the Department level and her Art Work has been forward to National Headquarters in Kansas City, MO for judging in the national competition.

Operation Freedom: Again, this year we are sponsoring "Operation Freedom" along with American Legion Post 10 and the Vietnam Veter-

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AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During the May 7th joint monthly meeting, the Post and Ladies Auxiliary installed their Officers for the 2012-2013 year. The Ladies Auxiliary Officers were installed by Valerie Nealey, Past District 8 President. I would like to congratulate the Elected and Appointed Officers for the upcoming year.

I would like to remind the annual members of the Ladies Auxiliary that the increase of your dues from \$15 to \$20 will start July 1, 2012. The one time initiation fee for new members would remain \$5.00. If you wish to take advantage of the \$5 saving, please send your dues to the Auxiliary Treasurer, Ms. Elanor Doczi, 7415 Roxbury Ave., Manassas, VA 20109.

Congratulations to the winners of the Patriotic Art Contest for 2012 and they were all from Osbourn Park High School. First Place – Ms Olivia Smith, Second Place – Ms Alexandra Michonski and Third Place – Mr. Thierran Simmons. Ms Olivia Smith also placed First in the Department and her Patriotic Art was forward to National Headquarters in Kansas City, MO to be judged with all the other first place winners from the National Departments.

District 8th convention was held at Post 2524 in Culpeper on April 22nd with the election and installation of Lorraine Allen-Smith and her Officers. The next District meeting will be August 26th at Post 7728 – Southern Fauquier at 1:00 PM.

The Ladies Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Drive was held at Wellington Giant, Saturday, May 26th from 10-2. The Memorial Day Activities on May 28th will start off with a ceremony at Manassas Veterans Memorial at 8:30 AM. Immediately after the ceremony, flags will be placed on all Veteran's gravesites in the Manassas Cemetery. An Open House will be held on June 2nd from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM

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POST ASSISTS OHIO VETERAN'S VISIT TO KOREA MEMORIAL

The following letter was received from Richard Humphries



On April 27, 2012, our family was blessed with an event that touched our lives and will be cherished for years to come. My grandfather visited Washington D.C. for the first time...a remarkable eighty six year lifespan where he served as a US Army Combat Engineer during the Korean War. Reverence and privilege barely describe the impact of witnessing his visit to the Korean War Memorial. Through hours of research and conversation, we discovered he was a **pioneer**; a military specialist in using the tools and techniques of engineering under combat conditions.

To ascertain the various facets, responsibilities and dangers of this profession warrants the utmost respect and adoration for his service. Four (4) generations were able to share this experience; a



tribute and symbol of veneration to a man we distinguish as "papaw Ray". The memorial, dedicated to the idea that "Freedom Is Not Free," provided a somber backdrop and reminder of papaw Ray's courage, perseverance and love for his coun-

*US Army: Korean War 1950-1952
Corporal Ramon Elmer Gibbons / Indiana
1st Cavalry, Combat Engineer, Company D*



try. He views these admirable qualities as common attributes amongst servicemen. "I didn't do nothing special over there," he claims. I argue the mere willingness to sacrifice life and limb for your country is special. We love, honor and thank you papaw!

This experience was made possible through the graciousness of Rick Raskin, Commander of the VFW Virginia 8th District and Quartermaster of VFW Francis Cannon Post No. 7589 located in Manassas.

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RON LINK ELECTED TO THIRD TERM POST COMMANDER

Installation of the new slate of Post Offices was conducted at the general membership meeting on May 7. Former Post Commander Ken Lion conducted the ceremony while recovering from cataract surgery that very morning. Talk about a real trooper!

Officers for the 2012—2013 membership year are:

Commander: Ron Link

Senior Vice Commander: Pete MacLeod

Junior Vice Commander & Service Officer: Steve Botello

Quartermaster: Rick Raskin

Judge Advocate: Stephen Meade

Surgeon: Warren Ewell

Adjutant: Travis Nelson

Chaplain: Sam Nealey

Trustee 3: Dave Crowder

Trustee 2: Rod Gillette

Trustee 1: Mike Guttman



May 7: Former Post Commander Ken Lion installs the new slate of officers for the 2012-13 membership year.

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Through his actions we were able to borrow a wheelchair at no cost. Post 7589 played an essential role in contributing to a veteran's dream coming true! We are sincerely grateful and indebted for the support of the Post.

Richard Daniel Humphries Jr (Grandson)

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to celebrate the 66th Anniversary of the Post. The Post will provide the Hamburgers and Hot Dogs. The members of the Post and Ladies Auxiliary will provide a Potluck dish. Please plan to attend this celebration and socialize with good friends.

The Department Convention will be held June 7 thru the 10, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza Fort Magruder, Williamsburg, VA. We hope you will be able to attend.

Yours in Loyalty,
Mary Corkhill, Ladies Auxiliary President



Patsy Gough, Guard; Elanor Doczi, Treasurer; Carol Cullen, Senior Vice-president; Mary Corkhill, President; Ann Mitchell, Secretary & Jr. Vice; Patricia Sutton, Chaplain; Janet Raskin, Trustee 3 & Historian; and Yvonne Sullivan, Trustee 2 & Patriotic Instructor

**VFW NATIONAL IRAQ / AFGHANISTAN VETERANS
COMMITTEE**

By Pete Macleod pmacleod26@hotmail.com

I am a representative on the committee from Post 7589 and the Department of Virginia. The young VFW men and women from around the country who are on this committee have a number of goals:

1. A national media campaign with a national spokesperson to spotlight the returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan and the need for employment.
2. Concerns about proposals to change the military retirement system so that a 401K system is put in place instead of the traditional pension. There is worry that enlisted personnel would not be able to afford the 401K contributions. Young veterans meeting on March 3, 2012 in Crystal City, Va. were unanimous in their thoughts this would deal a blow to the voluntary military. There was also concern about another proposal from the Congressional Commission to restrict when a retiring military person could tap into their retirement. Some of the commission members want to force retirees to wait until age 62 to begin receiving their 20 and 30 year pensions.
3. Official VFW recognition of military dates relating to Desert Storm, Bosnia and Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. This is expected to be brought to the floor at the National VFW Convention in Reno this July.
4. Work to get a representative from Desert Storm, Bosnia/Kosovo, Iraq/Afghanistan into the "national chairs" for 2015/2016. Try and get a candidate from each of the geographical VFW conferences.

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5. Introduce the idea of so-called "virtual posts" where meetings take place online using Skype or other services for video. This would help amputees, mentally disabled and older members who find it difficult to attend meetings in person at traditional VFW Posts. It would also be a new way to get Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entries from rural areas filed directly to the Post website. Virtual Post 12117 in Texas had 65 members as of March 3, 2012.

These men and women, who were at the March meeting in Crystal City are VFW members. Many are also still on active duty with Reserve and National Guard units. Many have also served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. They believe in the VFW and are dedicated members but want a stronger voice for younger veterans. They want any change to take place within the current structure of the VFW. These members also think a high priority for the VFW is to recruit younger members and to get young veterans and active duty military personnel interested in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER

<http://tinyurl.com/7wmp4tt>

Manassas Ladies VFW Fundraising Store
800-897-1004



Attractions Dining and Value Guide is a fundraising partner for **Manassas Ladies VFW**. Items purchased from the store will be fulfilled by **Attractions**, and **Manassas Ladies VFW** will receive a credit for each item purchased. The charge will appear on your credit card statement as "Attractions Online Store."

ITEMS NEEDED FOR YOUTH COMMITTEE YARD SALE

The Youth Committee will be holding a yard sale at the post home on September 8, 2012 from 7am to 4pm.

Items are now being gathered and can be stored at the MacLeod garage at 8385 Sinclair Mill Rd. in

Manassas. To donate goods please call (703) 220-4545 or email jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE PATRIOT'S PEN, VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY AND TEACHER OF THE YEAR PRIZE FUND

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY: Sun, 17 June. "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years." ~ *Mark Twain*

A father is a guide, a mentor, the family stone, the glue that holds the family together. All in all a father is someone to talk to and someone who listens. He knows how you feel.

VIRGINIA VETERANS ID CARD AVAILABLE FROM DMV

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) have joined as partners to offer a veterans ID card. Governor McDonnell will announced the ID card on May 30 during a news conference at the McGuire VAMC.

Veterans frequently ask us for an identification card that shows their status as a veteran of the U.S. military. While retired military and veterans with a disability rating from the VA are issued ID cards, these men and women comprise just a fraction of the state's veterans population. The remaining veterans have no way to show veteran status other than by their DD214. The DD214 is the official discharge document and not something most veterans carry with them.

This is unfortunate because thousands of Virginia restaurants and retailers offer discounts and other special promotions to veterans and military, especially around Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Virginia's new veterans ID card will enable veterans to easily show veteran status and also will enable retailers, restaurants, and other organizations to easily verify the individual's status as a veteran.

Beginning May 30, veterans may apply for the Virginia veterans ID card through these DMV service outlets:

- DMV customer service centers
- DMV 2 Go mobile offices
- www.dmvNOW.com
- U.S. mail: P.O. Box 27412, Richmond, VA 23269-0001
- Fax: (804) 367-1112

You must have a valid Virginia driver's license or identification card. You will also need a copy of your DD- 214 indicating any discharge status other than dishonorable. There is a \$10 one-time cost for the card. Virginia Veterans ID cards never expire. You will receive your new Virginia Veterans ID card in the mail within a week.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Ms. Anne Atkins on (804 371-0441) or email (anne.atkins@dvs.virginia.gov) .

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ans of America Chapter 617. The broadcast of the show is on Comcast Cable of Prince William/Manassas and Manassas Park each Saturday at 8:00 PM. Each show features an interview with local area veterans.

For the past few years, the show was hosted by Past Post Commander **Brad Bradshaw**. Brad is stepping down as host and our Junior Vice Commander **Steve Botello** has assumed the role of host—Good Luck to Steve.

(Note: You can view any show by going to our website www.vfw7589.org and clicking on the Videos button. Then select any program to view it. Some of the Comrades of our post who have appeared on the program include Sam Nealey, Jerry Martin, Ron Knowles, Roy Kennedy, Tom Wahl, Warren Ewell, Steve Meade and Virginia State Senator Chuck Colgan. Also, you can view the program of a great soldier, Joe Dazzo.)

New Slogan: National has adopted a slogan for the VFW which better states the true meaning of what it means to be a veteran.

“No One Does More for Veterans”

Membership: We made “100%” during the last month. We now have 330 members in our Post. This puts us at 101%. Currently we only need 24 members for our Post to reach “All-American” status. This is a national recognition and would be nice for the Post.

Please renew your membership

Memorial Day: Our Post had a couple Memorial Day activities: Thanks to **Peter MacLeod** and **Mary Corkhill** for conducting the ceremony at the Manassas Veterans Memorial. Surgeon **Warren Ewell** served as Chaplain during the ceremony. I want to thank all those who attended. Looking at the photos, it was nice to see the Scouts honoring those who gave their lives in defense of freedom. Thanks to the parents of the Scouts who accompanied them. Thanks also to all who placed flags at the graves of the veterans at the Manassas Cemetery. It was a great turn-out and is greatly appreciated by the Comrades. Quartermaster **Rick Raskin** and I had the honor of accompanying Department

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Commander **Charlie Absher** to the Memorial Service at Arlington National Cemetery. Commander Absher was representing the National Commander-in-Chief **Richard DeNoyer** in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was a very solemn ceremony.

One of the nice things I enjoyed was shaking hands and thanking hundreds of the young military men and women for their service to our country. Talking to some of them, it's great to see our military is in good hands. The values we lived by while we were serving are still in place.



Another was seeing the **National VFW Honor**

Guard assisting those laying wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. ***Our VFW in action.***

Closing: I want to thank each Comrade for a great year at Post 7589. Some of the additional highlights are:

- Our Comrades meeting with State and Federal Elected Officials... discussing the needs of our veterans.
- **Peter MacLeod** being appointed and serving on the National VFW Iraq- Afghanistan Committee and meeting with members of Congress to discuss the entitlements for our returning veterans.
- **Jerry Martin** and **Peter MacLeod** organized a group of World War

11 veterans to speak at Mayfield Middle School. These veterans were well received by the students.

- Veterans also spoke at Manassas Christian School, Hayden Elementary and Round Elementary.
- **Sam Nealey** and **Warren Ewell** represented the post at the Manassas Neighborhood Conference at the Boys and Girls Club.
- We participated in the Veterans Day Parade, Manassas Christmas Day Parade, and the St. Pat's Parade.
- We held our 1st Annual Holiday Dinner. It was a great time for fellowship among the Post Family.
- Over 150 entries in our Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen were received by the committee. The ceremony was held on December 11th. Thanks to the Auxiliary for the reception.

DURING THE UPCOMING SUMMER...BE SAFE, ENJOY

Again thanks,

Ron





Pictures from our Memorial Day Weekend

Manassas Mall, Wellington Giant, Manassas Veterans Memorial
and Arlington Cemetery



Above picture courtesy of Herman Salley
Department Commander Washington, D.C.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 2** Post 7589 66th Anniversary Picnic & Open House
1100 - 1430 at the Post Home
- June 7 - 10** Department Convention - Williamsburg
- June 21** Planning Meeting - Members invited to attend
- August 26** District 8 Meeting - Post 7728 - Southern Fauquier - 1300
- September 8** Youth Committee Yard Sale

66TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC—JUNE 2, 2012



Be sure to join us on June 2nd
for our 66th anniversary picnic.

Post and Auxiliary members and
their families.

Bring a covered dish or dessert.

11:00 am —2:30 pm