CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589 Manassas, Virginia June 2015



May 14: Vietnam Veteran Rick Raskin was interviewed by Ellen Morad an 8th grader at All Saints School in Manassas. All Saints has their students interview Vietnam Veterans as part of their social studies program . This year several comrades were interviewed at the Post home.

In This Issue:

- Memorial Day weekend a big win for the Post
- VFW Publications Awards Post 7589 and Department of Virginia are winners
- Post parking lot paving update
- VFW Action Corps
- Lunch with our adopted unit the 116th IB
- Freedom Museum golf tournament
- Virginia Repertory Theatre to honor WWII Veterans
- June 6 Vietnam commemoration BBQ

Post Commander's Report

Ron Link



I just want to thank all the Comrades for allowing me the honor of serving the Post as Commander.

The Post has definitely changed over the past five years:

- The expansion of the Hall
- Paving of the Parking Lot
- Membership Growth

Our involvement at the Department Level:

- Members of the Post serve on the Department Legislative Committee
- Members of the Post as Chair of Department Resolutions Committee
- Editor of the Virginia Veteran, Department Newspaper (Awarded 2nd Place on the National Level)
- Chair, IT Committee
- Chair, Military Services
- Presidents of the Commanders' Club
- Attending "Day on the Hill" in Richmond where VFW member meet with our State Elected Officials
- Attending the "National Day on the Hill", where VFW member meet with our National Elected Officials
- Members serving as Judges for the Scout of the Year
- Attending Memorial Day Services at Arlington and with the Department Commander, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- On the Department Staff for the Southern Conference held in Williamsburg in 2012
- Member, Council of Administration (Rick serving as District Commander)
- The Cannon, Post Newsletter, awarded Top Newsletter in Essayons, the Department for the last two years running
- The collection of tabs for the Boston Burn Center
- Increase usage of the Post Building-increase rental activity; Community Organizations using the Post
- Our Educational Program is second to none...averaging

- over 150 participants per year
- Member of the Vietnam Commemoration Committee
- Member of Kuentai-USA, an organization instrumental in returning MIA to American Soil
- Increase in the number of schools requesting "Veterans in the Classroom". This is both on the K-12 Schools and the collegiate level.
- Hosting "Welcome Home Ceremonies—for 209th QM Company at Fort Lee and the National Guard Unit in
- VFW cover program for those annual members who convert to life. A program which has received Department wide interest
- Our Post used as a site for the Department of Veteran Services
- Members in the Community—Hospital Volunteers; Visiting Veterans in the Hospital and Nursing Homes; Serving on the Greater Manassas Veterans Committee; Involved with the Freedom Museum; Working with Scouting Programs; working in food pantries; Fall Jubilee: and various speaking engagement through-out the community

This happens because of a Team Effort

On the District Level, I am honored to take over the helm of the District as Commander. Also serving on the District Staff is Rick Raskin who is a Trustee and is the District Inspector. Stephen Meade is continuing to serve as District Quartermaster.

As I close my tenure as your Post Commander, I really am proud to say I am a member of VFW Post 7589—"The Little Post That Can"

Ron

2015-2016 Post Officers

Commander: Pete MacLeod Senior vice-Commander: Ron Link Junior vice-Commander: Ryan Proctor

Quartermaster: Rick Raskin Chaplain: Joel Chase

Judge Advocate: Steve Meade Surgeon: Warren Ewell

Trustee 1: Lou Filippone Trustee 2: Terry Bursey Trustee 3: Steve Meade Adjutant: Paul Chase

Service Officer: Steve Botello

The new officers assume their positions after the Department convention.

Ladies Auxiliary President's Report

Mary Corkhill





As the Nation- The National Home for Children celebrated their 90th year. They

like to thank the Ladies and Comrades from the public and members. for a very successful year. Without best at the upcoming Department Convention and a successful 2015-2016 Respectfully,

al VFW and assist families of active-duty military during a deployment or Ladies Auxil- unaccompanied tour, a veteran and his or her family during diffiiary organiza- cult times and families of VFW or its Ladies Auxiliary descend-2014- ants. As an Auxiliary, we are collecting Campbell soup labels to 2015 year come to a close, I would assist in purchasing another van. We are collecting those labels

your assistance, participation and ded- It's my understanding that M. Diane Victor-Zalenski has been ill, ication, we couldn't have completed and Dana Zank is going through her treatment. Please keep them our mission for our Veterans. I wish or any individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized the Post & Ladies Auxiliary all the in your prayers. We want to see them on the road of recovery.

year.

The Ladies would like to thank our District President, Sheila Hunter, for installing 7589 Auxiliary Officers for the 2015-2016 year. The installation was held during the joint session at the May 4th meeting. The new Officers will take their positions after Ladies Auxiliary President the Department Convention.

Our second annual Vietnam Veterans BBQ will be June 6th from 11am-2pm. Please come and celebrate this event.

We are having another fundraiser scheduled at Chili's Grill & Bar located at 10600 Sudley Manor, Manassas, VA in the Bull Run Shopping Center on July 6th starting at 11am until closing. Please come and join in the fun. Also, our Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be at the same location. We will start our meeting at 6:00pm and would love to see you there. This will be the first meeting for the new Auxiliary year.

On June 14, 1777, The Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act stating, "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternated red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation." In 1949, Present Harry S Truman officially named June 14th Flag Day to commemorate this event. Please fly your flag to show your patriotism.

I would like to thank Ms. Nancy Dazzo and Ms. Cindy McIntyre who accompanied me to the B Company 116th Special Troops Battalion BBQ on May 3rd. It was nice seeing our troops again.

Our Yard Sale was a great success. Thanks to Cookie Cullen, Nancy Dazzo, Elanor Doczi, Patsy Gough, Janet Raskin, Yvonne Sullivan and Kay Yeager. A special thanks to Mr. Lyle Stever for all your hard work in assisting the Ladies with setting up and putting items in the shed after the event. We couldn't have done the heavy work without you. Thanks to all.

Mary Corkhill



2015-2016 Auxiliary Officers



Guard Pasty Gough, Historian Nancy Dazzo, Chaplain Carol Cullen, President Mary Corkhill, Conductress Janet Raskin, Sr. Vice Ginger Harvey, Secretary Ann Mitchell, Treasurer Elanor Doczi

Youth News and Notes

Pete MacLeod—Youth Committee Chair



been a busy but fun ride the past 11 iary Educational Awards Ceremony. years and I thought I would share with when it comes to youth activities and participation in the essay contests.

work has to begin in the spring for a successful year. Ron set me grams are one of the highlights of the school year for me. straight and I'm glad he did. I went to his house, we got in his car and drove straight to the City of Manassas School Depart- I want to thank Ladies Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill for her necessary to even begin to have a VFW essay program. Some- a leader in the state. how, with Ron's help, I got things off the ground but Ron continalso active at the state level with scouting and the VFW.

Cyndy Mattia is now a teacher and department leader at Parkside first met her in September of 2004. I asked if she would be inter- consistent and total support of our Post and its programs. ested in having some of her classes participate in the VFW/ Ladies Auxiliary Patriot's Pen essay contest and she quickly said I want to also thank Robert Punihaole, a fellow Vietnam Veteressays from Metz Middle School alone that year. And she has been with us for 11 years, moving to Mayfield Intermediate School and now at Parkside Middle.

of the Year in 2010-2011. But I remember her more for her work ties in the Manassas area.

It's kind of a bittersweet moment. I over the years as Principal of Seton School in Manassas and her am proud to have the support to be cooperative manner in working with Post 7589 to get as many able to take command of VFW Post Seton students as possible involved in both the Patriot's Pen and 7589 this month but at the same time I Voice of Democracy programs year after year. And she is still will be leaving as Youth Chair. It has doing it! And she almost never misses a Post 7589/Ladies Auxil-

you the memories of some people who Lisa Zilka, a teacher at Parkside Middle School is just amazing, were instrumental in making us one of coming up with 50 - 100 Patriots Pen essays from her students the leading VFW posts in the state every year and producing an incredible number of winners.

Manassas Christian School Principal Linda Bare was the recipient of one of the first "cold calls" I made in September of 2004 to I received a phone call in late August of 2004 from former Post try and get schools involved in the VFW programs. She could Commander and Scout/Youth leader Ron Knowles. I thought I not have been nicer or more enthusiastic. And her students are was ready to begin with the essay contests not knowing that the still participating, 11 years later. Her Veterans Day student pro-

ment first and then to the Prince William County School Dept. excellent leadership of the Patriotic Art Contest the past seven headquarters. It finally began to dawn on me the "seed work" years. Again, the Post 7589/Ladies Auxiliary educational team is

ued to guide the Scout program until a few years ago and he was Also, thanks to Valerie Nealey who did a lot of work to format the disclaimer we have to use for County Schools and also helped me get Stonewall Jackson on board with VOD.

Middle School. She was a teacher at Metz Middle School when I I want to thank Manassas businessman Greg Orndorff for his

yes. What a surprise! I had been told by some that the public an, for his work on the Youth Committee the past six or seven schools resisted involvement in the "patriotic essays." Ms. years and people like Yvonne Sullivan, Janet Raskin, Rick Mattia, coming from a family with many who had served, was Raskin, Pat Templeton, Rod Gillette, Warren Ewell, Terry just the opposite. With her work we received 120 Patriot's Pen Bursey and Lou Fillipone for giving hours of help to the many Yard Sales and Educational Awards Ceremonies.

And thanks to the VFW commanders I have served under including Sam Nealey, Steve Meade and Ron Link for their total sup-Mrs. Anne Carroll was the Virginia, Grade 9-12, VFW Teacher port in what we have been trying to do in supporting youth activi-

2015—16 Essay Topics

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8) "What Freedom Means to Me"

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9–12) "My Vision for America"

Post

By Rick Raskin

Memorial Day weekend began Friday afternoon with distributing Buddy Poppies at the Centreville Giant. Eight comrades were there to meet and greet the public and present them with Buddy Poppies. We spoke with quite a few people and everyone had good wishes to share. They were also very generous with donations to our Relief Fund contributing over \$650.

Lion we recruited 3 new members in addition to netting almost \$800 in donations between the two locations. We were able to muster enough help to cover both locations and with Food Lion not starting until noon the job was easier. We welcomed 2 new flag placements. Our thanks for their great help. members at Tractor Supply and one at Woodbine.

Memorial Day weekend a big win for the Sunday we continued distributing Buddy Poppies at the Liberia Avenue Shoppers Food Warehouse. Six comrades enabled us to cover both entrances and we took in another \$640 in donations.

> At all of our locations we distributed information about our Post and a handout for children explaining the significance of the Buddy Poppy.

> Our total donations for the three days came to just over \$2090, the most we have taken in in many years. Many thanks to all of the generous people who donated and a warm welcome to the three veterans who joined the fold.

Continuing on Saturday at Tractor Supply and Woodbine Food Monday morning we held our traditional wreath ceremony at the Manassas Veterans Memorial and placed flags on veterans' graves at the Manassas Cemetery. Cub Scouts from Pack 1355 (Bennett School) assisted with both the wreath ceremony and the





Clockwise from top left:

--Welcome The Best--Poppies at Centreville Giant Front (L-R) Eric Cruz, Ron Link, Ed Fishpaw Rear (L-R) Robert Punihaole, Pete MacLeod, Paul Chase, Joel Chase

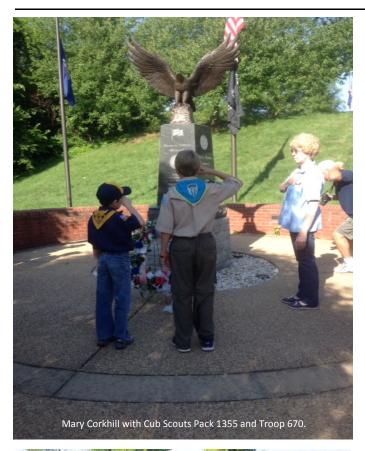
Ron Link & Mary Corkhill with Cub Scouts from Pack 1355

Manassas Mayor Hal Parish and Ron Link at the Manassas Veterans' Memorial

Mary Corkhill and Cub Scouts at the grave of Post 7589 namesake Francis Cannon









Warren Ewell observes flag placement on a veteran's grave.





Ed Fishpaw with Scouts from Pack 1355 and Troop 670.



Ron Knowles with Cub Scouts from Pack 1355.

Notes from the trenches

Paul Chase



and keep your elected representatives aware of your concerns.

Council which is a group of more than 30 community service Wood, MO; Fort Jackson, SC and Fort Bragg, NC. organizations and am getting as many of them involved as possible. As of the end of May 2015 we have 40,000 tabs. Our end of year goal is 200,000 so we have a long way got go.

This month has been a bad month for the Department of Veterans Affairs. First was the one billion dollar over-run on the VA hos- Ron has been active in the VFW and American Legion and pital in Denver. There has to be dereliction of duty as a minimum by VA construction officials if not more. There is also the Rick Raskin got him to transfer his membership from National strong possibility of contractor fraud also. Second is the VA con- Member at Large to Post 7589. As our Commander Ron was a tracting scandal where billions have been given in "no-bid" con- dynamic leader who successfully interfaced with the public and tracts to medical device providers in direct violation of contract- civilian leaders of Manassas. Ron melded the members of the ing laws.

Lastly, is the outrage of doctors prescribing non FDA pain proud of his Post Team he is proud of his four accomplished chil-"creams" to veterans who they never see at a cost of up to \$15,000 per month. This scam will cost Tri-Care and DOD medical services \$2 billion in 2016 if not stopped.

individuals to "retire" is not accountability. I have written Senator Mark Warner and asked that he ensure these cases are investigated and report back to me how the guilty are held accountable. I'll let you know the results.

And now another in a series of "Spotlight Articles" which highlight the exceptional contributions and accomplishments of a senior post member. It is especially fitting that this article be about Ron Link as he is about to step down after 5 years as the Commander of VFW Post 7589 Manassas, Virginia.

Ron's inspiration was his father, TSgt Oren Link, a U.S. Army World War II combat hero who was twice wounded and decorated for bravery. He was assigned to the 1279th Engineer Battalion and served in the Pacific where he was severely wounded by a grenade in close quarters combat with the Japanese. His father was truly one of the "Greatest Generation" we hear so much about.

The sequestration situation looks more Born in Sacramento, California, Ron was the oldest of four boys ominous that what I previously report- and a girl and attended public schools and attended Sacramento ed. Both major political parties are City College. After a year, he was through with school and wantnot willing to compromise on the Fall ed to do something so he joined the Army to follow in his fa-2015 budget. It is very political so I ther's footsteps. On August 18, 1964, he raised his hand and recommend you all become informed took the oath of enlistment in the U.S. Army.

Ron served in the Army 33 years in Infantry, Combat Engineer, Recruiting; Instructor; and Operations--Battalion, Brigade and The Aluminum Can Tab collection Division duties in U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR), Berlin, Fulda program is going slower than de- Gap, Heilbronn, Munich, and Stuttgart. Stateside duty included sired. Joel and Rick have given it a recruiting in Upstate New York; Fort Dix, NJ; Buffalo, New boost, Rick has made slick collection York, Fort Ben Harrison, IN; Fort Sill, OK, Fort Ord, CA; Rochjugs to facilitate contributions. I've joined the Inter-Service Club ester, NY; Fort Sheridan, IL; Fort Hunter Liggett; Fort Leonard

> Ron melded the members of the Post into a highly functioning team...

served as Commander of our Post and Chair of Military Services. Post into a highly functioning team which is reflected in the fact that the Post was awarded "All State" for 2014. Just as he is dren and their families.

Ron just cannot stop serving. Although he is stepping down as our Commander he has just been elected as our District Com-I've mentioned several times over that the lack of accountability mander. Ron, we honor your service and appreciate your unceasfor guilty individuals is at the heart of the problem. Allowing ing dedication to your Comrades. We are very glad you are not leaving, just serving in a different capacity.



Ron at the 2012 Southern Conference in Williamsburg where he served on the transportation committee.

Winners of VFW Publications Contest

CANNON NEWS and Virginia Veteran win silver awards

May 08, 2015

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — VFW has announced the winners of the 3rd Pennsylvania VFW News 2015 National Publications Contest. This year, the publications David A. Sandman, Editor contest underwent significant changes to encourage continued participation. The contest's reorganization created two new cate- Small Frequency (printed 1-3 times per year) gories: Magazine and Best Feature Article.

Two non-VFW-affiliated journalism professionals served as Ski Kuczynski, Editor judges for the competition. This is designed to guarantee impartiality and objectivity in the judging. To reiterate, VFW staffers 2nd Virginia Veteran play no part in judging the entries.

The winning publications category in each

Magazine

1st Texas VFW News Roy Grona, Editor

Best Feature Article

"PA Commander Delivers VFW Support to PA Troops in Iraq/Kuwait"

by David Sandman - Department of Pennsylvania

"Four New Vans for Nebraska Veteran's Home" 2nd by Department of Nebraska

"Honoring Veterans Who Didn't Come Home" 3rd by Jim Daly, The Daily World Department of Washington

Department Publications

Large Frequency (printed 4+ times per year)

1st Wisconsin VFW News Marla J. Morgan, Editor

2nd Illinois VFW News Barbara Wilson, Editor

1st VFW Arizona News

Rick Raskin, Editor

are: 3rd Idaho Veterans and Auxiliary News Susan Thompson, Editor

District/Post Publications

Large Frequency (printed 4+ times per year)

1st VFW Post 7319 Newsletter (Post 7319, South Dakota) Jerry Seiner, Editor

2nd Cannon News (Post 7589, Virginia) Rick Raskin, Editor

3rd Post 9639 Newsletter (Post 9639, Pennsylvania) Michael Stephens, Editor

Small Frequency (printed 1-3 times per year)

1st The Guardian (Post 2554, Washington) Judy Donahue, Editor

2nd VFW Post 216 Newsletter (Post 216, Pennsylvania) Heather Berger, Editor

3rd Fort Sisseton VFW 3342 (Post 3342, South Dakota) Tammy Chase, Editor

Post paving project update

Parking lot paving is 60% completed

By Rick Raskin

Thanks to generous donations the Post was able to repay the front money loaned to accelerate the paving project. The City of Manassas, as a condition of issuing our building permit to expand the Hall, requires that we complete paving the parking lot within five years of the issuance of the permit.

However, that doesn't mean we are done. We are ahead of the curve to meet the City's demand, but still need to complete paving from the south end of the building to the property boundary with the Manassas Fire Company.

I recently spoke with the paving contractor and received a ballpark estimate of \$8500 to do the necessary work. Of course that was without measurements or consideration of the future cost of materials. We are looking at doing the work this Fall and this time, obligating Post funds.

Our contractor frequently rents our facility for family functions. In exchange for rental time, we have been able to reduce the overall paving cost.

So far our rentals and bingo proceeds are dong well and we should be able to squeak by. However there is no guarantee that either of these funding sources will produce the needed revenue.

Therefore, we are again asking for donations. If you care to donate please send your contribution to:

> VFW Post 7589 PO Box 10206 Manassas, VA 20108-0668

Please earmark your check "Parking Lot" so that I'll know to deposit the funds to the proper account. We maintain a separate account for such projects and the money therein is restricted for use for improvements to the Post property.

All donations will be acknowledged with a letter sent by return

Our thanks to the following persons who donated during the previous phase of construction:

Brad Bradshaw Jack Lilley Terry Bursey Paul Losigno Joel Chase Shannon Macioroski Paul Chase Pete MacLeod Patricia Drotleff Jerry Martin Warren Ewell Steve Meade Lou Filippone Greg Orndorff Ed Fishpaw Ryan Proctor Rod Gillette Rick Raskin Gunny Lewis Phil Smith



Fighter Aces Receive Congressional Gold Medal

"ace" by shooting down five or more enemy aircraft. America's nerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2015. All of these bills last air aces came during the Vietnam War, and due to the ever- now go to the Senate for consideration. Check back in with the evolving nature of aerial warfare, there may never be another. In Action Corps Weekly for updates as they continue to move recognition of this group's extraordinary contribution to clear the through the legislative process. skies, Congress on Wednesday bestowed its highest civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal, on 77 surviving members To sign up new veterans' advocates, visit: of the American Fighter Aces Association. Read more here:

http://www.americanfighteraces.org/2014award.htm.

House Passes Multiple Veterans' Bills

On Monday, (May 18) the House passed several bills that the VFW testified in support of earlier this year. These included H.R. 474, the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015, H.R. 1038, the Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act, H.R. 1313, the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act, and H.R. 1382, the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act. Two other bills that passed Only 1,447 American pilots have earned the coveted title of are H.R. 91, the Veteran's I.D. Card Act, and H.R. 1816, the Vul-

http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm

May 3, 2015 — Lunch with our adopted unit the 116th IB Photos: Rick Raskin















JOIN US FOR A VIETNAM WAR **50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION EVENT** AND POST 7589'S 69TH ANNIVERSARY

JUNE 6, 2015 A BARBEQUE AT VFW POST 7589 9304 CENTREVILLE ROAD MANASSAS, VIRGINIA 1100-1400 OPEN TO ALL VETERANS & THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES (DONATIONS ACCEPTED)

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> > 703-359-1210

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SPECIAL RATES FOR POST 7589 & AUXILIARY 7589 MEMBERS

Contact: Wayne Moore 571-285-7904 Visit our website: www.vfw7589.org



3RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURAMENT FUNDRAISER FRIDAY, JUNE 26th, 2015 BRISTOW MANOR GOLF CLUB



Time: Pre -Play Start 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM Shotgun Start

Venue: Bristow Manor Golf Club

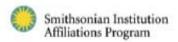
ADDRESS: 11507 Valley View Dr., Bristow, VA

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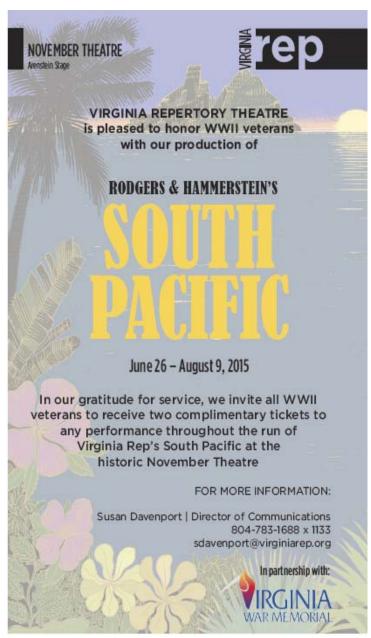
GOLF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIP LEVEL INFORMATION:

www.freedommuseum.golfreg.com

www.freedommuseum.org

Your Donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law

Virginia Repertory Theatre to honor WWII Veterans with complimentary tickets to *South Pacific*



Virginia Repertory Theatre is proud to honor WWII Veterans with complimentary tickets to our summer production of Rodger's and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* at the Historic November Theatre, located at 114 West Broad Street in downtown Richmond. The facility has valet parking for \$8, wheelchair accessibility and a hearing loop system that is compatible with t-coil enabled hearing aids. We also have headsets.

All veterans can take advantage of a a 10% discount by using the code SPVETERAN to save \$5 off of any ticket. Active military save 50% on all tickets up 4 tickets.

The Richmond Times Dispatch will be doing a story on this program and we are looking for WWII veterans who might want to be available for an interview. In addition, Virginia Rep is collecting digital copies of photos of WWII veterans who served in the South Pacific. We will display these photos in our lobby and on a video. If you know of anyone who is interested please contact Susan Davenport at daven-port@virginiarep.org or 804-783-1688 ext 1133.

To arrange for complimentary tickets for WWII simply call our box office at 804-282-2620 and make a reservation.

The show runs from June 26 - August 9 with performances on these dates:

- Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. July 1, July 22
- Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. July 8
- Thursday at 7:00 p.m. July 2, July 9, July 16, July 23, July 30, August 6
- Friday at 8:00 p.m. June 26, July 3, July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31, August 7
- Saturday at 2:00 p.m. June 27, August 1, August 8
- Saturday at 8:00 p.m. June 27, July 11, July 18, July 25, August 1, August 8
- Sunday at 2:00 p.m. June 28, July 5, July 12, July 19, July 26, August 2, August 9

For more information about the show and purchasing tickets please visit: http://va-rep.org/show_south_pacific.html or call 804-282-2620.

Upcoming Events

June 1 General Membership Meeting — 1930

June 6 Post Anniversary BBQ and Vietnam Veteran's Celebration

June 11—14 VFW Department of Virginia Convention — Williamsburg, VA

June 26 Freedom Museum Golf Tournament

July 6 General Membership Meeting — 1930

June 26—Aug 9 South Pacific — Virginia Reparatory Theater — See page 13

July 18—22 VFW National Convention — Pittsburgh, PA



CANNON NEWS

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Editor: Rick Raskin Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to quartermaster@vfw7589.org
Please send photos as attachments and not imbedded in your article.

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