

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
June 2024



JANET RASKIN

On Memorial Day Rick Raskin & Mary Corkhill salute as Taps is played at the Manassas Veterans Memorial

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CANNON NEWS—Multiple award winner at both the State and National levels, including 2024 National Grand Award.

Commander's Message



Wayne Moore

THE COST OF WAR

“The Major Richard Star Act”

Maj. Richard Star, USAR (Ret) served in Iraq and Afghanistan as a combat engineer and died of cancer in 2021. Before his death, he pushed for legislation that would support and assist over 52,000 combat-injured veterans forced into early retirement. H.R. 1282 and S. 344 advocate that combat-injured veterans should qualify for Defense Finance

and Accounting Service and authorize concurrent receipt of DoD retirement pay and VA disability compensation.

War plans and equipment procurement are well-detailed for cost and execution. However, the men and women who fought the wars are often an afterthought that must engage in another battle for health care and the right to a quality life after service.

Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee is the only legislator to acknowledge the human price of wars. He stated, “If we’re not willing to take care of the folks we send off to battle when they get back home, then we shouldn’t send them off to battle to begin with.” Additionally, he commented that passing this bill is the cost of war!

“The injustice is so obvious that every American who hears about it knows it is something we need to do, said Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho). The Military Coalition represents 5.5 million veterans and 35 organizations. All concerned believe passage of the bill is close and hope to get it done this year. Military Officer Association of America (MOAA) strongly supports this bill and its efforts for passage. Any veteran retiring or being medically retired but can continue future employment and benefit from this bill your voices matters.

It behooves military retirees to be aware and engage with legislation that enhances or diminishes our benefits. The Star Act if passed would eliminate compensation having any effect on our retirement pay, while strengthening servicemembers' ability for employment within the government by reducing the bureaucracy.

Extracted from the article by Tony Lombardo, MOAA

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill



On June 6, 1944, the D-Day invasion at the Normandy beaches by troops from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and other countries during World War II was codenamed Operation Overlord. The United States played a big part in the planning and execution of that operation.



Both President Wilson, in 1916, and President Coolidge, in 1927, issued proclamations asking for

June 14th to be observed as National Flag Day. It wasn't until August 3, 1949, that Congress approved the national observance, and President Harry Truman signed it into law.



Father's Day is an annual holiday honoring fathers and the influence of fathers in society. It is celebrated on the third Sunday in June. This year it's on June 16th. **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!**

We have started to distribute the upcoming year's contests information to the local schools. The deadline for Voice of Democracy ("*Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?*") Patriots Pen ("*My Voice in America's Democracy?*") and Teacher of the Year is October 31, 2024. The Scout of the Year deadline is March 1, 2025. The Auxiliary's contest for Continuous Education deadline is February 15, 2025. Applications are submitted directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters in Kansas City, MO. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest (Grades 9-12), "Get Excited for the Red, White & Blue" (K-12) singing competition and Illustrating America (K-8) art contest deadline is March 31, 2025. If you wish to know more about the different contests, please let us know.

There are two upcoming dates to remember: The Department Convention scheduled for June 12-16, 2024 at Fort Magruder Hotel in Williamsburg, VA and the National Convention in Louisville, KY from July 27-Aug 1, 2024.

I have been giving you information about the VFW National Home for years. There are several ways you can assist them in their mission: purchasing a life membership for \$50, support their tribute brick program and/or a donation. You can do all mentioned above in an email to the VFW National Home website: <https://vfwnationalhome.org/you-can-help/membership/>. Thank you for your support.

Please keep in your prayers any member and/or family members who are ill, hospitalized or have gone to their Heavenly Home.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill
Auxiliary President



Youth Committee



Lou Filippone

Greetings to everyone from the Youth Committee. We hope everyone is having a pleasant spring. We held our last meeting on 16 May at the Post. Those in attendance were Comrades Lamar Baker, Alex Bliem, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and me. Comrade Peter MacLeod participated by telephone. Our main topics of discussion were as follows: Scouting reports increasing activity with our Scouts as the warm weather arrives. Alex mentioned Sea Base activities

for some of the Scouts this summer down in the Florida Keys. Specifically, he described an out-island adventure involving Polynesian war canoes which sounds very exciting. In addition, the Scouts will have their regular Summer Camp Pipsico which is between Richmond and Virginia Beach. Regarding funding requests from the Paul Chase Youth Fund, there are no new submissions at this time. As Scouting activities ramp up and the demand for funding increases, we will have more to report to you.

Unfortunately, because of other obligations, and health reasons, many of our Youth Committee members were unavailable on Memorial Day which limited our VFW community activities. Normally we place wreaths on the Veteran's Memorial in Old Town Manassas, and at the Francis Cannon gravesite. We also give a brief address on the significance of Memorial Day and recite a prayer. Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, District 8 Chaplain Janet Raskin, PSC Rick Raskin and Comrade Kelly Williams were joined by Scouts from the Seton School and conducted the ceremony at the memorial. Comrade Alex Bliem supervised the Scouts with the traditional flag placement at the Manassas Cemetery, in spite of attending a funeral on the West Coast. Thank you, Alex!

A final update on our most recent Awards Ceremonies. On Thursday, 2 May the VFW Bronze medal and certificate was presented to Cadet Lt Juan Platero Zepeda at Unity Reed High School. Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and Peter MacLeod were presenters for that ceremony. Our final awards activity of the season was the Prince William Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol ceremony. Both Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and I attended and presented the Officer and NCO Cadet CAP medals and certificates to the unit. It was held on Thursday, 21 May at the Manassas National Guard Armory and was somewhat less attended than previous years. Unfortunately, the Cadet Officer 2d Lt. Andrew Baltrinic was unable to attend the award ceremony. C/CMSgt. Teber, the winner of the NCO award was present and received his medal and certificate.

Comrade Lamar Baker is currently working on some joint Youth Committee activities with a few different groups and agencies. Since nothing has been finalized there is no information to report at this time. I will keep you posted on his progress and developments in upcoming newsletters. We are now entering the summer months and historically there is a lull in Youth Committee activity. Our next big emphasis will be on the essay contests with our schools in the late summer. During this time, we canvas our local area schools and recruit students and teachers for our Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year educational contests. Please consider helping us out with these and other youth related activities.

Next to helping veterans, the most important function we provide is youth and Scouting support, and scholarship programs. Please attend our next meeting scheduled for Thursday, 20 June at the Post at 7:00 pm. We hope to see you there.

With best regards,

Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair



Darryl Robinson, Mary Corkhill, Cadet Lt Juan Platero Zepeda, Peter MacLeod



Mary Corkhill and Lou Filippone with C/CMSgt. Teber, winner of the NCO award

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARY CORKHILL

Scouting Report



Alex & Tina Bliem
Post 7589 Scouting
Representatives

This May we had several activities between our scouting units.

Our Venturing crew just finished an all day canoe trip. They used this as an opportunity to practice their skills on the water for when they go on their High Adventure trip in a couple of weeks. They also have been performing swim tests to make sure everyone can pass when they get down there. The scouts and adults have also had a lot of mandatory training that they have had to complete just to go on the trip.

I can say that all of their preparations have been great and they are now ready to go. I have done this myself a couple of times and there is a ton of planning for these trips. I am very impressed that our scouts worked together to pulled this off on their own. The adults have been there just for support.

Both of our troops had a relaxing and fun camping trip at Quantico this month where it rained on them most of the time..."if it ain't raining we ain't training"...They are also in the process of performing their own swim tests for Summer Camp at Pipsico this summer. After months of planning and prep work they are also ready and are very eager to get going.

As was mentioned last month we welcomed a new Eagle Scout into our G troop. This month she had her Court of Honor with family, friends, and fellow scouts to celebrate this great milestone in her scouting career. A little over five years ago the BSA allowed females into the program and our own Tina Bliem formed the troop and became our first G troop Scoutmaster. Years later Tina needed to step down because of her work and she was then successfully succeeded by our own Shannon DiGiacomo. We have had a handful of Eagle ranks earned since the troops inception and more are in the works. They are all doing outstanding work.

Our cubs had a good showing for the Memorial Day flag placement at Manassas Cemetery. Luckily the weather cooperated for them. We had participation from all of our units as well as Pack 1355 which came out to pay respects with the rest of our scouts. Unfortunately, Tina and I could not be there this time, but we still had Auxiliary and Post support with the scouts...thank you all!!

Be safe,

Alex & Tina Bliem

VFW Post 7589
Pack, Troops, Crew 1372



ALEX BLIEM

Our Venturing crew just finished an all day canoe trip



ALEX BLIEM

"If it ain't raining we ain't training"



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Our cubs had a good showing for the Memorial Day flag placement at Manassas Cemetery

Legislative Update

Neeley McAllister's life changed forever on Jan. 24, 2018.

Her husband, Sgt. Maj. Samuel Morris McAllister, was killed during an Army freefall parachute accident. No words of comfort can ever bring him back, but at least Neeley knew that her children, then ages 8, 11 and 12, would be provided for when it came time for them to go to college.

She also knew that her own transition might eventually require an MBA or some other advanced degree; fortunately, [Virginia's Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program](#) (VMSDEP) would be there for McAllister and her children.

All that changed on May 13, 2024, when Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed Virginia's newest biennial budget, gutting the program and leaving Neeley and her children with virtually nowhere to turn. Virginia is home to more than 700,000 veterans. More than 200 have been killed in action since 9/11, and many more died in the line of duty or as a result of their military-acquired disabilities.

Until the new budget effectively gutted the program, Gold Star Families, immediate family members of fallen service members who died during a time of conflict, and the children of the most seriously disabled veterans were granted tuition waivers at Virginia's 15 public colleges and universities, and community colleges. This eight-semester program could even be used for the advanced degrees that many surviving spouses find necessary to provide for their families — now that they are raising those families alone.

Virginia's 15 public universities, represented by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, have long disliked this program because universities had to waive tuition and fees with no offset. Their argument is that the program's growth is unsustainable as they face mounting pressure to keep college costs down.

What university officials often don't mention is that they calculate the cost per student in this program by dividing the cost of the entire university enterprise by the total student enrollment in order to tell a distorted story about what the program actually costs. Nevertheless, even if we concede that the costs are high, it hardly seems appropriate to balance the budget on the backs of those killed in action or those permanently maimed by their service.

The new budget's changes are significant and constitute a serious hardship on the most deserving veterans and their families.

These changes limit the ability of spouses to obtain the education necessary for the 21st-century economy by dropping master's degrees from the program; requiring families to participate in the troubled Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process and pay — out of pocket — the “expected family contribution”; and requiring families to exhaust both the GI Bill and the Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program authorized by federal law.

Adding insult to injury, the legislation offered a “grandfather

clause” in which current recipients could be protected — but gave them less than 48 hours in which to apply. In summary, these changes turn this program from one of the most generous in the country to one of the least generous. All Virginia veterans should be outraged; those who benefit from the heroic sacrifice of our Gold Star Families and disabled veterans should be livid.

It's not too late to fix this monumental error. Youngkin should immediately convene a special session of the General Assembly to repeal these draconian cuts and require a study on the long-term viability of the program. Among other items, the study should require universities to calculate the actual marginal cost of enrolling VMSDEP students, uncover how to deconflict the use of VMSDEP from other earned benefits (like the GI Bill), remove the requirement to pay the family portion of the contribution in the FAFSA program, and find ways to identify and conduct outreach to qualifying families in order to determine the required future commitment from the commonwealth.

Few issues unite Republicans, Democrats and independents like the solemn obligation that society owes to Gold Star Families and disabled veterans who have borne the immense weight of sacrifice. These remarkable individuals have faced the ultimate loss — loved ones who gave their lives, health or body parts in service to our country. Gold Star spouses and children, who have lost their fathers, mothers, husbands and wives, and disabled veterans who carry the physical and emotional scars of their service deserve unwavering support and recognition.

Virginia's political leadership seems to have forgotten that lesson. They can still make it right, but we must hold them accountable to do so. For the McAllisters and thousands of others, we call on the governor to fix this major error.

Retired Col. Michael Dick, chairman of the Virginia Board of Veterans Services and former Department of Justice attorney, can be reached at shortwall@hotmail.com.

Retired Col. Monti Zimmerman, legislative chair of the Department of Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars, can be reached at zoomeruw@gmail.com.

Sen. Bryce Reeves, R-Orange, can be reached at senatorreeves@gmail.com. Gary Adams

Gary Adams

State Commander - Dept of Virginia
All American Post & District Quartermaster
Cell phone (276) 733-9633
GAdams@vfwva.org

Governor Glenn Youngkin Announces First Meeting Date and Members of “Preserving Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program Task Force”

RICHMOND, VA - Following his issuance of Executive Directive Seven, which established a task force to address recent changes made by the General Assembly to the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP), Governor Glenn Youngkin ... announced the first meeting date of the Task Force.

The Preserving VMSDEP Task Force’s first meeting will be held on June 10th at the Virginia War Memorial from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. After opening remarks and staff presentations on the program and changes enacted in the budget, the Task Force will take public comment. RSVP to attend or receive information about remote participation options at PreservingVMSDEP@governor.virginia.gov.

“I am proud that so many Virginians, especially the many veterans who have already reached out to volunteer on behalf of our military families and all Virginians, are coming together to offer solutions to help preserve and sustain this important program for the future,” **said Governor Glenn Youngkin**. “The Task Force will give stakeholders a venue to provide important information on the program, express their concerns and offer feedback on implementation guidance and suggestions for changes.”

The Administration has invited General Assembly members to formally participate in the Task Force and is coordinating with General Assembly leadership to determine the representatives.

Virginians who wish to participate by providing feedback to the Task Force ahead of the June 10th meeting should contact PreservingVMSDEP@governor.virginia.gov.

The Task Force will be co-chaired by Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Craig Crenshaw, a retired Major General in the United States Marine Corps, and Secretary of Education Aimee Rogstad Guidera. Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, Attorney General Jason Miyares, and their offices will participate in the Task Force’s work.

The Task Force will also include:

- General John P. Jumper (USAF, Ret.), Chairman-elect of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and 17th Chief of Staff of the United States Airforce
- President William G. Kelly, Christopher Newport University, a retired Rear Admiral of the United States Navy
- Commissioner Charles “Chuck” Zingler, Department of Veterans Services, a retired U.S. Navy Captain
- Monti Zimmerman, Vice-Chairman of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations and Virginia National Guard Association
- Director A. Scott Fleming, SCHEV
- President Michael Rao, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Deborah Dickerson, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, George Mason University
- President Corey McCray, Paul D. Camp Community College, a Navy veteran
- Dr. Daniel Gade, Board of Visitors, Christopher Newport University, a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel
- Caitlin Goodale-Porter, Friends of VMSDEP
- Katherine Martinez, Student Veterans of America
- Robert “Bob” Eisiminger, Member, Board of Veterans Services
- Mike Flanagan, COL, USA (ret.)
- Tim Pillion, Board Member, Virginia Veterans Services Foundation
- David J. DePippo, Quartermaster, Second Class (QM2), USCG.
- Sarah Ross Geisen, Drew Ross Memorial Foundation
- Bre Kingsbury, Navy League of Hampton Roads

VFW Virginia's position on VMSDEP, Charitable Gaming and Skill Games

Department urges members to use restraint in dealing with policy makers

The VFW Department of Virginia is very much aware of the problem with the lack of funding for the **Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Program** in the budget approved last week. We are tracking it and other issues important to Virginia veterans and VFW members.

The budget was finalized and approved by the Virginia General Assembly last week (with support from Republicans and Democrats) and signed by Governor Youngkin. We are committed to fighting for more money for VMSDP and will continue to work to protect the benefits all veterans have earned and, where appropriate, fighting for new ones. We will work on VMSDP for the remainder of this year and work with legislators and Governor Youngkin to secure more funding in the next legislative session, which starts in January 2025.

Unfortunately, the VMSDP funding issue has become very partisan, and a few individuals have been personally attacking the Governor and legislators. Partisan, personal, or disrespectful attacks on policymakers are counterproductive, especially when the VFW is advocating on several different important issues.

While everyone has the right and are encouraged to express their views, in order to keep our non-profit status, the VFW must be non-partisan and work with all. We must remain out of the business of name calling and attacking politicians. I understand the frustration and restraint can, at times, be difficult and challenging. But personal attacks, especially those which misuse the VFW's good name, should be toned down and members frustration should be focused on respectful messages encouraging policymakers to increase funding in the next legislative session.

Furthermore, attacks on policymakers can backfire and harm the VFW's efforts to secure future VSMDP funding and other important issues we are working on.

The VFW continues to defend against attacks on regulated charitable gaming, which many VFW Posts rely on for their survival. We are also fighting to stop so called "skill" slot machines from being permitted in every neighborhood convenience store, bar, and restaurant in Virginia. For almost 5 years, the manufacturers of these gambling machines operated despite being banned by the state. The presence of these gambling machines

in every neighborhood could drastically harm income to Virginia's VFW Posts. Hurting VFW income hurts programs that support veterans as well as charities in our communities that we support. It's also a matter of fairness--while VFW's charitable gaming was heavily regulated and following the rules, skill companies knowingly operated without oversight or regulation. We continue to advocate for a veto of SB212.

We advocated for strong legislation to stop Claim Sharks in the Commonwealth during this session. Our Veterans deserve to keep all their earned benefits in their pockets for themselves and their families.

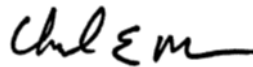
We will continue to go to the State Capitol to make our presence known on multiple issues, including VMSDP. We intend to work on funding for the remainder of this year and work with the legislators and the Governor to secure more funding in the January 2025 legislative session.

Members should refrain from personally attacking lawmakers or the Governor, which will backfire on us. If they still choose to post personal or partisan attacks, they should not use VFW's good name in those attacks.

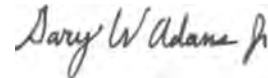
Thank you for your concern about VMSDP and the many issues of concern to Virginia's veterans and VFW members.

Please reach out to me with any concerns.

Official:
By Order of:



Ed Mann
State Adjutant



Gary W Adams, Jr.
State Commander

D-Day at 80: Regional events commemorate anniversary of epic Assault

By Glenda C. Booth / For InsideNoVa (May 23, 2024)

It was the most ambitious and complex amphibious landing in history when, on June 6, 1944, 175,000 men and 50,000 vehicles, from motorcycles to armored bulldozers, crossed the English Channel and landed in Nazi-occupied France.

Almost 11,000 airplanes and 5,333 ships and crafts of all types supported the invading troops.

Code-named Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion on Normandy's beaches was the culmination of meticulous planning, led by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. The massive military operation led to the liberation of France and the eventual end of World War II.

In a 1964 interview with CBS anchor Walter Cronkite on Omaha Beach, Eisenhower said, "It's a wonderful thing to remember what those fellows 20 years ago were fighting for and sacrificing for, what they did to preserve our way of life. Not to conquer any territory, not for any ambitions of our own. But to make sure that Hitler could not destroy freedom in the world."

June 6 marks the 80th anniversary of what came to be called D-Day. Events and exhibits will honor those who sailed, flew, landed, survived and died during the assault. Here are some within driving distance.

Virginia War Memorial, Richmond

From June 6 through the summer of 2025, the War Memorial will share the stories of some Virginians who participated in the invasion. Visitors can see interviews and read oral histories collected over two decades ago.

The memorial's executive director, Clay Mountcastle, said, "D-Day was one of the most significant dates in our history. With each passing year, fewer and fewer people understand the significance. There's no better way to understand it than through the veterans that experienced it."

Exhibits will cover the troops' training, the landing, paratrooper and glider operations, hedgerow fights, the Battle of Saint-Lo and the Normandy Breakout. The museum will also display 65 World

War II artifacts, including uniforms, helmets, photos, letters and other items.

National Museum of the U.S. Army, Lorton

The National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir is hosting a D-Day exhibit and educational programs until mid-November.

At "D-Day: Freedom from Above," museum-goers can "parachute" behind enemy lines using interactive "HistoPad" technology and learn the stories of Army paratroopers, who, loaded with gear, leaped out of airplanes behind enemy lines on D-Day to support the ground forces.

The exhibit also features stories of individual soldiers' landings and their actions on the ground after landing, including friendly overtures by French villagers who provided food and medical aid.

Visitors can see four medals of honor awarded to soldiers for actions performed on D-Day, medals never before previously displayed together.

D-Day Memorial and Bedford Boys Tribute Center, Bedford

On June 6, the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, in southwest Virginia, will host a ceremony recognizing veterans with speakers, music, flyovers, a wreath laying, exhibits, an authentic Higgins boat and book signings.



GLENDAC. BOOTH / FOR INSIDENOVA

The D-Day Memorial in Bedford honors those who were lost that day

Virginians had some of the heaviest losses on Normandy's beaches with 171 killed. Bedford suffered the country's highest known per capita D-Day loss of any community. The town and county of Bedford had 44 soldiers, sailors and airmen at Normandy, and 20 of those died, known as the "Bedford Boys."

On June 6, the Bedford Boys Tribute Center will hold a wreath-laying in front of the courthouse, and the courthouse bell will ring once for each man killed in action. At 6:44 p.m., all of the county's church bells will ring for one minute.

Eisenhower Historic Site, Gettysburg, Penn.

The Eisenhower National Historic Site in Gettysburg, Penn., will host a World War II weekend titled "1944: The Great Crusade" Sept. 20-22.

Visitors can enjoy three days of programs and living history, including speakers, ranger-guided tours and family activities.

Commissioner's Corner



Here at the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, there are many military-related days, weeks and months that we commemorate.

We honor the birthdates of each of our military branches throughout the year and the birth of our Nation on Independence Day July 4. We remember those who did not return home on POW/KIA Day each September. We salute our Virginia women veterans in March and military children during April. But no two national observances receive and deserve more attention each year than Veterans Day on November 11 and Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.

Unlike Veterans Day on which we celebrate and recognize all Americans who have worn and who continue to wear the uniforms of our Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves, and Space Force, Memorial Day is a more solemn commemoration – the day in which we honor and remember those brave and unselfish service men and women who fought for our freedoms and gave the ultimate sacrifice – their precious lives – in doing so.

On Memorial Day, we gather to pray for these heroes and also pray for the Gold Star families – those who lost their sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, sisters and brothers – who never returned home alive. It is always those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice, that we mourn and honor on this day, and that echoes in the words of our leaders. "Their sacrifice was great, but not in vain. All Americans and every free nation on earth can trace their liberty to the white markers of places like Arlington National Cemetery. And may God keep us ever grateful." - President George H.W. Bush, 2003.

Unfortunately wars continue to rage throughout our world despite our prayers for peace. May we take solace in knowing we still have men and women who are willing to risk their lives fighting the forces of evil that are around us.

This year on May 27, DVS will host Memorial Day ceremonies at four locations throughout Virginia. The Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony will be held for the 68th time at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond – where "every day is Memorial Day" and the stories of service and sacrifice of nearly 12,000 fellow Virginians are always passed on.

Ceremonies will also be held at our three DVS veterans cemeteries – the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. I am honored that I will be giving the keynote address at the ceremony in Amelia. More details regarding each of these ceremonies and their distinguished speakers is included in this edition of *DVS eNews*.

As citizens of this great Nation and Commonwealth, I encourage you to take a few hours from your holiday on the unofficial start of summer to attend and participate in one of these ceremonies nearby your home or even one of many other community Memorial Day ceremonies held throughout the state. I further encourage you to bring along your families and friends and most especially your children and grandchildren to inspire in all the sense of patriotism and love of country that binds us all together as Americans.

As another of our great presidents, Ronald Reagan, said at a Memorial Day ceremony years ago, *"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We did not pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on to them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."*

This Memorial Day, please join with your fellow citizens and veterans to remember those who must never be forgotten. Pray for each of them and pray for the families and loved ones they left behind. May God bless these fallen heroes and guide us to a time of no more wars and peace and good will among all the peoples of the world.

As Commissioner, I continue to look forward to meeting more of you as I travel around Virginia and attend veteran events. I also continue to seek your input on how DVS can better serve veterans such as you and your families. Our DVS team members and I want to hear your comments and suggestions and how we can assure that Virginia remains the #1 state for veterans in America. Please visit our team members at your local DVS office or email me directly at Commissioner@dvs.virginia.gov.

And one more final request, if your out at a Memorial Day event this weekend, a somber event, or a shared event with other veteran families, ship mates, old platoon buddies, squadron mates, and the like, take a picture and send them in. We at DVS would love to post them on our office walls and share in your great company.

Have a safe and pleasant summer!

Chuck Zingler, Commissioner
Virginia Department of Veterans Services

The Commissioner's article was published prior to Memorial Day and is included for your information. — Ed



**DON'T
FEED
THE
SHARKS**

VFW submitted its fourth Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to VA requesting documentation about unaccredited companies that provide services to claimants seeking VA benefits. We have received two interim responses from VA to date on this request and anticipate additional responses to be forthcoming. Among the documents provided is a letter sent to a company called REE Medical, dated January 4, 2024, in which VA points out that REE Medical is prohibited from assisting in the “preparation, presentation, or prosecution of VA benefits claims.” VA requested a response from REE Medical within 30-days of receipt of the letter to address the concerns raised in the letter. No response was provided in the documents received.



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net)
or text to **838255**

Post 7589 Service Officer

Monti Zimmerman

703-223-2211

Don't throw away your old laptop or computer.



**Bring it to the
Post and
we'll take it to**

**TECH
FOR TROOPS.**

Sorry, we cannot take CRT
monitors or Printers.

The VFW National Home for Children



The VFW National Home for Children offers a once in a lifetime **opportunity** for military and veteran related families.

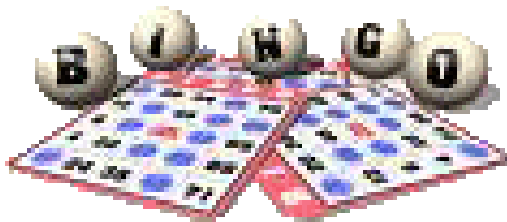
If you know of a family in your community that could use our help, please encourage them to call!

We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.

Most qualify to apply. Caring staff will help families to determine eligibility.

A Great Place to Call Home!

800-313-4200



**SIGN UP TO JOIN
VFW ACTION CORPS**

RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER
AND ACTION ALERTS

Use camera mode to scan code



or
Text "VFW" to 50457
or
Visit [vfw.org/JoinActionCorps](https://www.vfw.org/JoinActionCorps)

30 Games Including:

- \$750 Jackpot**
(Starts with 51 numbers)
- Lucky 7 Progressive**
- 90:10 Jackpot**
(Prize = 90% of sales)
- Pull Tabs & Hard Cards**
- \$10.00 Bingo Book**
(includes Early Birds)

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DOORS OPEN 7:30 AM

GAMES START AT 9:15 AM

SPECIAL
BUY 2 BOOKS
GET A 1/2 BOOK FREE

**Virginia Department
of
Veterans Services**

Manassas Office

9300 W. Courthouse Rd.
Suite 305
703-479-7437

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Appointments only 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.
Closed for lunch daily from 12 - 1 p.m.

CLOSED on the last business day of the month.
<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/locations/manassas-benefits-office>

Upcoming Events

June 3	Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
June 10	Auxiliary Meeting — 2:00 PM
June 12—16	State Convention — Fort Magruder Hotel, Williamsburg
June 20	Youth Committee Meeting — 7:00 PM
June 27	JLC Meeting — Virginia War Memorial — 10:00 AM Veterans Dinner — Manassas Park Community Center — Time TBD
July 2	Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
July 9	Auxiliary Meeting — 2:00 PM
July 18	Youth Committee Meeting — 7:00 PM
July 27—31	National Convention — Louisville, KY

We need 31 people to renew their annual membership to reach 100% and 42 to make 102%

We can do it. Please renew soon!

Legacy Life membership

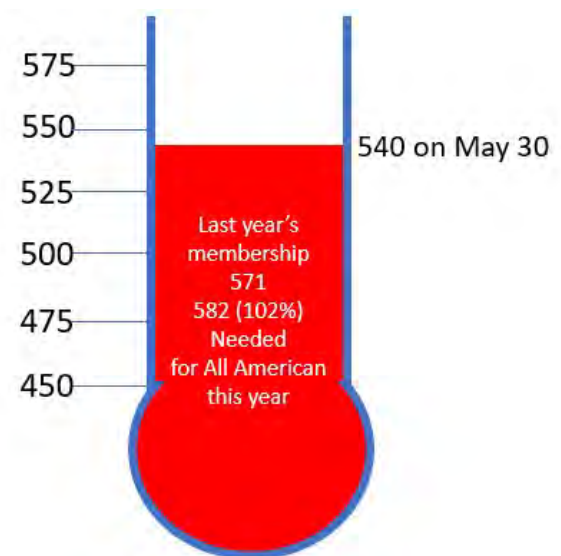
This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

<u>Levels</u>	<u>Posts</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
Gold-	\$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver-	\$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze-	\$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

ANNUAL MEMBERS PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



2024-25 Post Officers

Commander	Wayne Moore
Senior Vice Commander	Lou Filippone
Junior Vice Commander	Ron Link
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Chaplain	Monti Zimmerman
1 Year Trustee	Chris Morgan
2 Year Trustee	Lamar Baker
3 Year Trustee	Tina Bliem
Adjutant	Ron Link
Service Officer	Monti Zimmerman
Judge Advocate	Bobby Knight
Surgeon	Alex Bliem

2024-25 Auxiliary Officers

President	Mary Corkhill
Senior Vice President	Ellie Smith
Junior Vice President	Cindy McIntyre
Secretary	Lorrie Allen Smith
Treasurer	Elanor Doczi
Chaplain	Cookie Cullen
Conductress	Janet Raskin
Guard	Patsy Gough
Trustee 1	Yvonne Sullivan
Trustee 2	Jan Germain
Trustee 3	Janet Raskin
Historians	Jan Germain Patsy Gough Yvonne Sullivan
Patriotic Instructor	Lorrie Allen Smith



RICK RASKIN

Our minimal setup at Mission BBQ in Gainesville on May 18. Despite the rain we received \$128 in donations for our relief fund. Thanks to Wayne Moore, Rod Burr and Rick Raskin for staffing the table.

VIRGINIA SENATORS		
Mark Warner		202-224-2023
Tim Kaine		202-224-4024
VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVES		
Rob Wittman	1st District	202-225-4261
Jennifer Kagans	2nd District	202-225-4215
Bobby Scott	3rd District	202-225-8351
Jennifer McClellan	4th District	202-225-6365
Bob Good	5th District	202-225-4711
Ben Cline	6th District	202-225-5431
Abigail Spanberger	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Jennifer Wexton	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492



CANNON NEWS

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Editor: Rick Raskin
 Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to quartermaster@vfw7589.org no later than the 28th of the month.
 We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.