

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
August 2024



DAVID JONES

On July 18 Governor Glenn Youngkin signed into law legislation restoring VMSDEP benefits

In This Issue:

- VFW Department of Virginia statement on restoration of VMSDEP benefits.
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs on VMSDEP restoration
- Avoid scam websites that offer to help you get or renew your passport
- VFW Action Alert — The Major Richard Star Act
- Skill games remain illegal in Virginia, but some businesses are evading the ban
- Veterans Tribute at the Shenandoah County Fair
- Manassas 5th Annual 9/11 Event
- Manassas Ballet Theatre 2024-25 Season

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

Commander's Message



Wayne Moore

Observe the 80th Anniversary of the G.I. Bill

Upon its passage 80 years ago, not all Veterans benefitted equally. Racial and gender disparities made it difficult for all Veterans to access and use the benefits they earned. While the VA cannot tell this story without including this truth, today, equity and access have become part of the VA's top priorities.

The VA remains committed to support-

ing America's Veterans of every generation as they strive to realize their American Dreams.

In the coming days, we'll publish more news stories about the benefits derived from the SRA, including employment and training benefits available to some disabled Veterans, the origin of the Veteran Readiness and Employment program, and more info on VA's home loan benefits.

Many of the VA's benefits or services can be traced back to June 22, 1944. That's when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (SRA) of 1944, otherwise known as the G.I. Bill of Rights.

"This generation," said Roosevelt, "has a rendezvous with destiny." More than 16 million Americans served in World War II. Nearly 300,000 died in battle. Many were returning home to uncertain futures.

But these Veterans had determined allies.

Harry Colmery was a World War I Veteran, a former National Commander of the American Legion, and a former Republican National Chairman. He and the committee of legionnaires he led had a plan: a law to assist new Veterans in their transition from military service.

Colmery wrote the original language of the bill that would eventually be sponsored by U.S. Representative Edith Norse-Rogers (R-Mass.), who eventually chaired the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

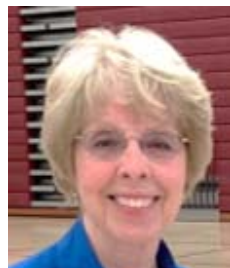
The SRA provided WWII Veterans funds for college, unemployment insurance and housing benefits. By the end of the World War II era in 1956, roughly 8 million out of 16 million WWII Veterans had used their G.I. Bill benefit for some kind of training.

"With the signing of this bill a well-rounded program of special Veterans' benefits is nearly completed," Roosevelt said. "It gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American people do not intend to let them down."

The G.I. Bill put tools and resources into the hands of young Americans looking to create a better life for themselves and their families, helping to create and strengthen the American

(Continued on page 3)

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill



The Coast Guard will celebrate their 234th birthday on August 4th. They enforce the laws and stop terrorists, criminals, and drug dealers from entering our country from the nation's coasts. It is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security.

By the time this article is published, I will be at the National Convention in Louisville, KY where the National Officers will be elected for the coming year. The new National President will be Brenda Bryant of Hawk Point, MO. During her year, she will be traveling to all the Departments to visit with members. There are also five (5) candidates from the Southern Conference running for National Guard. We wish them well.

Some of the upcoming events:

- District 8 meeting and SOI — August 10th at Post 7728 Southern Fauquier — 10:00 AM.
- Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) — September 7th at VFW National Home, Eaton Rapids, MI.
- Flag Retirement and Pizza Party — September 11th, starting at 6:30 PM
- The POW/MIA Remembrance Day — September 20th, (American Legion Post 10)
- The Manassas Fall Jubilee — October 6th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- **Deadline** for the VOD, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year contests is October 31st.
- Breakfast for the Veterans before the Northern Virginia Veterans Parade is November 8th at 7:30 AM.
- The Northern Virginia Veterans Parade is November 2 in Old Town at 11 AM.
- Sponsorship deadline for the Auxiliary's Wreaths Across America fundraiser is November 30th.

The VFW National Home serves as a living memorial to America's veterans by helping our nation's military and veteran families during difficult times. Their web address is <https://www.vfwnationalhome.org>, where they can assist you with more information. You can support the VFW National Home by purchasing a Life membership for \$50.00, a personalized tribute brick or a donation.

Unfortunately we recently lost three Auxiliary members who departed this earth and went to their Heavenly Home: Ms. Jacquelyn Levesque (June 17th), Mr. Charles Cummings (June 21st) and Ms. Ann Mitchell (July 3rd). Please keep their families and all individuals who are ill, hospitalized and who have gone to their heavenly home, in your thoughts and prayers. Remember, we are still in uncertain and challenging times so please stay safe and let your loved ones know how much they are loved.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
Auxiliary President



Youth Committee



Lou Filippone

The Youth Committee hopes everyone is having a wonderful summer and enjoying family, travel and the outdoors. Unfortunately, it flies by and is over before you realize it. We held our last meeting on Thursday, 18 July at the post. We had a limited turnout since a lot of our members were away for the summer. Those in attendance were Comrades Alex and Tina Bliem, Auxiliary President Mary

Corkhill and me. We received a quick rundown of Scouting activities from Alex. I will let Alex elaborate on the details in his report but would just like to say the Scouts are having a wonderful summer and are actively involved with their summer camps. Because of a reorganization at the National level, the Boy Scouts of America is adopting a name change in order to be more inclusive. They will hereafter be called Scouting America. Our Troop 1372 is enrolled in a pilot program to help National Scouting determine the effects and ramifications of this important organizational change. It will enable females to join Scouting with males in the same Troop, and not be relegated to the only Girl Scouts units. To quote Bob Dylan, "The times they are a-changin'".

Comrade Jerry Martin made a request at our last post meeting regarding a Scout volunteer. He said that the Manassas City Council needed an Eagle Scout to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at their next meeting. This request was made by the Manassas City Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger. In no time Tina Bliem came through with very short notice and recruited a Scout to lead the Pledge. I look forward to hearing about how the event was received by the attendees.

Our youth and teacher scholarship programs, which include Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year are now underway. Not to be repetitive but the themes for this year's contests are "My Voice in America's Democracy?" for Patriot's Pen and "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?" for Voice of Democracy. Applications for these contests can be downloaded from the VFW National website or can be obtained from Youth Committee members and the VFW store. School assignments were made with the committee members and the recruiting process for our contests is now underway. If you know of any school, student or teacher you would like to recommend for our scholarship programs please notify anyone on the Youth Committee and we'll ensure the applicant receives the appropriate application.

We need a new flag retirement receptacle and are looking for some suggestions. The current flag container was made by an Eagle Scout several years ago. Over time the plywood has weathered, and the box now allows water to enter during rainfall. We are looking to replace it with a painted metal one. The problem is that we have received a few price quotes from some sheet metal shops and the boxes are extremely expensive to purchase and to ship. One suggestion that I had was to use a job site tool locker that can be purchased from Lowe's or Home Depot. We might even be able to have the store donate one or heavily discount it. We would still need someone to modify, paint and install it. That's where the Scouts come in. If you know of any Eagle Scout

(Commander from page 2)

middle class. It also had an important social impact as it played a role in the promotion of the American Dream—owning a home, getting a good education and achieving upward mobility.

Based on an article by Craig Coleman
Navy Veteran and Public Affairs Specialist
Veterans Benefits Administration

<https://news.va.gov/132445/celebrate-80-years-of-the-g-i-bill/>

candidate who would be willing to take on such a project for their Eagle rank, please give us the Scout's contact information.

Our next Flag Retirement ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, 11 September at the post at 6:30 PM. Set up for those who wish to volunteer and participate will start at 6:00 PM. Pizza will be provided for all the Scouts, adult volunteers and post members who attend courtesy of both the VFW Auxiliary and Post Comrades. Please attend and lend us a hand. From what I've been told we have at least two barrels of flags to retire and would really appreciate any help you are willing to provide.

Lastly I announce with great sadness the retirement of one of the Youth Committee's strongest supporters, Comrade Peter MacLeod. Due to health issues Peter can no longer continue on the Youth Committee and recently notified us about his decision. In addition to being the former chair of the committee, Peter was also a Past Post Commander. He mentored and inspired me to assume the reins as a chairperson about seven years ago. In addition to his dedication and knowledge, Peter could always be relied upon to contact several local area schools and receive a lot of applications for our youth contests. He networked tirelessly and was the main reason why our post has been so successful with our youth programs over the last few years. Peter promises us that he will continue to attend the general membership meetings at the post each month, which is a relief because I hate saying goodbye to people I am fond of. Peter, a big thank you for years of dedicated service to our post and the Youth Committee. We'll see you soon.

Our next meeting will be announced shortly. We usually meet on the third Thursday at the post at 7:00 PM, however I must get back to you on this month's meeting. Many of you who know me might be aware that I am starting law school in the fall. It is primarily an online program and live Zoom classes are mandatory. I have yet to receive my actual schedule and am awaiting more information about which evenings I will be attending online class. Once I have this information, enabling me to avoid a scheduling conflict, I will announce the August meeting date. In the meantime, take care and keep our committee and events in mind.

With best regards,

Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

Scouting Report



Alex & Tina Bliem
post 7589 Scouting
Representatives

July had our Troops traveling to Pipsico for an exciting week of summer camp. They had some wet days and some hot days. But they had fun, worked together, and earned many different merit badges and completed requirements for their rank advancements.

Our G troop also had one of our female scouts complete her Eagle project. Her Eagle project included dismantling two picnic tables at the Manassas Park High School, recycling the wood and metal

where possible and building two new tables from scratch to replace them. All that is left is the paperwork and the Board of Review and we should have a new Eagle Scout very soon.

We also had a scout in our G troop lead the Pledge of Allegiance for the Manassas City Council meeting. She did a great job and stayed around to listen to the meeting. This was an invitation to our scouts from the Mayor and she was selected to represent our units.



<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vVgpx2uTefYvY63w7>

Our Cubs and Crew units have basically taken the month off to spend with family and enjoy the summer heat.

The last thing to mention for this month is that our scouting council (NCAC) is participating in a new pilot program that will last for a year and then be evaluated on whether or not it will be adopted the National Organization. Our Scouts and our leaders/parents already voted to participate. We are just waiting to hear if our units will be accepted. National is piloting a program that will create a third option for scouting which will be a Co-ed program. In addition to the separate Boy Troop and Girl Troop, there would be one Scout Master, one SPL and a co-ed troop. Our scouts already do joint activities together so I do not see much changing for our units...more to come on this over the upcoming months. This can be a great thing for our youth and is how many countries around the world already run their scouting programs.

Be safe,

Alex & Tina Bliem
VFW Post 7589
Pack, Troops, Crew 1372



<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vVgpx2uTefYvY63w7>

Legislative Update



Monti Zimmerman

The Virginia VFW came out of the VMSDEP problem with a win for veterans and the Virginia VFW. We now appear to be a partner with the General Assembly to solve problems.

We continue to present a positive attitude with our legislators, unlike some splinter groups who have presented a hostile attitude.

Even if we are opposed to a legislative action we must remember that positive human interactions matter.

We are now well positioned to take on the Claim Shark issue with our own Senator Roem of Manassas and Delegate Sewell of Prince William County championing the bill.

Thanks to all of the VFW members who worked countless hours to secure the win on VMSDEP.

PSC Rick Raskin also contributed to my report.

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July 18, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: April Phillips, VFW Public Affairs Officer, 757-309-2916

State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia Statement on the restoration on the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Program (VMSDEP)

The State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia, Mitch Rubenstein, expressed the VFW's appreciation to the bipartisan leadership and membership of the Virginia General Assembly for unanimously passing bills to restore the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Program and to Governor Youngkin for signing the bills.

"Today ends over 2 months of uncertainty and anxiety endured by the families of our fallen and disabled military personnel and first responders," said Rubenstein. "Today actions keep the promises Virginia made to our fallen and disabled military personnel, first responders and their families."

"On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Virginia, I thank the bipartisan leadership of the General Assembly, and the Governor, for their work to restore VMSDEP," added Rubenstein.

"I understand that some legislators believe changes need to be made to ensure the long-term viability of this program. We ask that the VFW and other veterans' service organizations; first responders' groups and families be included in the process," Commander Rubenstein said.

"I also want to thank the families of our fallen and disabled comrades that have worked so hard over the past few months to restore the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Program after it was cut in the May budget," Rubenstein added.

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The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia has 126 Posts and 36,000 members and auxiliary members in every region of the Commonwealth of Virginia. State Commander Mitch Rubenstein is a retired veteran of the United States Army, Army Reserves and a retired police officer.



A Special Message

From Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Craig Crenshaw



Fellow Virginia Veterans and Family Members-

I am so pleased to share with you that Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin has signed HB6004 and SB6012 repealing and reversing the changes made to the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) earlier this year. This could not have been accomplished without the dedicated commitment of time and advocacy from our family members, military service members, veterans, and first responders. Your voices mattered and will continue to matter in this Commonwealth. In addition to reversing and repealing the changes to the program, the General Assembly also added significant funding for Virginia's public colleges and universities to help fund the tuition and required fee waiver that is at the heart of the VMSDEP.

This is a key step in the right direction of honoring the service and sacrifice of our military service members, veterans, first responders, and their families. Your support in this process and your voices to your state senators and delegates will continue to be important and welcome.

The General Assembly has affirmed by this action today that the Commonwealth of Virginia will continue to be the best place for military service members, veterans, and their families to live, work, and raise a family.

To stay up to date on the *Preserving VMSDEP Task Force* please visit the Task Force page at www.dvs.virginia.gov/education-employment/vmsdep-task-force.

If you are a veteran in need of general assistance, please do not hesitate to visit www.dvs.virginia.gov to learn more about how your Virginia Department of Veterans Services can serve you and your family or email info@dvs.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

Craig Crenshaw
Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs



Welcome to Summer! The heat has come quickly, both literally and figuratively.

As I promised in my last message to you and your families, I am committed to keeping you informed of all updates regarding our Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP). I have heard comments from all corners of our military, veteran, and family community. While not unanimous, the over-whelming support for this program is reflective of how much our Commonwealth appreciates all that serve and are committed to recognizing those that have paid in both service and sacrifice ... above and beyond.

Beginning in early June, our family members and veterans spoke with great poise, courage, and character; regarding their individual experiences and the value of this program to their families in front of the Governor's directed "Preserving VMSDEP Task Force". VMSDEP program students, families and supporters have told their stories over the past few weeks in the General Assembly's House and Senate chambers. It's difficult for me to communicate how proud I am to have been involved to watch this group stand together to address these legislators. They have clearly made a difference.

In early July, the Virginia House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia proposed a complete repeal of the language in the recent state budget which changed the eligibility requirements for VMSDEP. Lawmakers from both chambers have now voted and approved the complete repeal and Governor Youngkin signed the final bill.

The Preserving VMSDEP Task Force will continue to meet over the next few months to offer suggestions to the General Assembly and Governor to explore more ways to assure the sustainability of the program through possible additional legislative measures if needed in the next Session of the General Assembly and for years to come. The General Assembly has directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to study and propose potential sustainability measures for this program.

BOTTOM LINE: your voice, our voices matter! In this state, as much and perhaps more than many others, we service members, veterans and family members are substantially important. Let's stay connected. Please continue to write, email and call. Vote your conscience. Protect us against becoming unseen and unheard in an increasing confusing time.

Should you wish to stay up to date on the Task Force please visit the VMSDEP Taskforce page [here](#). If you are a veteran in need of general assistance, don't hesitate to visit www.dvs.virginia.gov to learn more about how your Virginia Department of Veterans Services can serve you and your family or email info@dvs.virginia.gov.

You will also note in this edition, our Governor and First Lady spent a couple of hours in our headquarters late last month. Their energy and interest in our work, and our service members, veterans, and family members was authentic and impressive. Their message at the end of briefings on all that we do was direct: let's not settle for being 'among the best'...let's continue to work to be the #1 state in the nation for veterans to live, work, and raise a family.

We are proud of what we are doing to be at or near the top, but also humbled enough by the task, and what you deserve. So, we have more to do, starting today. Help us by staying connected and giving us your feedback!

As I have noted before, I continue to look forward to meeting more of you as I travel around Virginia and attend veterans events. Please visit our team members at your local DVS office or email me directly at Commissioner@dvs.virginia.gov.

Enjoy your Summer and may the Lord bless you, all our veterans and their families, our Commonwealth and our great Nation which remains the bastion of freedom for the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Zingler".

Chuck Zingler, Commissioner
Virginia Department of Veterans Services

VFW presence on Capitol Hill for the VMSDEP repeal & restore legislation



The VFW team with Senator Bryce Reeves. (L-R) Ed Mann, Rick Raskin, Doug Hoffman, Senator Reeves, Mitch Rubenstein and Hal Roesch



Governor Glenn Youngkin addresses the gathering prior to signing the repeal of VMSDEP changes.



State Commander Mitch Rubenstein addresses the Senate Finance & Appropriations Committee prior to the vote advancing VMSDEP restoral



The VFW team with Senator Tara Durant. (L-R) Rick Raskin, Mitch Rubenstein, Senator Durant, Doug Hoffman, Monti Zimmerman, Ed Mann and Hal Roesch



The VFW team met with Senator Danica Roem who agreed to support our effort to ban Claim Sharks.



SELFIE by lobbyist David Jones with Senator Lucas, Mitch Rubenstein, Rick Raskin and Monti Zimmerman

Avoid scam websites that offer to help you get or renew your passport

Do you need to apply for or renew your passport? If you search online, the top results might show official-looking websites that say they can renew or get you a passport. Some of these websites are private companies that charge you for services that are free on the U.S. Department of State website...while others are scammers trying to take your money and personal information.

[Travel.State.Gov](https://travel.state.gov) is the official government website for passport services. [Some companies](#) registered with the U.S. Department of State charge extra fees to submit your application and pick up your passport if you're busy or need help. But you won't get your passport faster than if you applied on your own without the extra cost.

But scammers also set up sites with similar names, flags, and seals, pretending to be affiliated with the government. For \$60 to a few hundred dollars (on top of the regular passport fee), they promise to help you get a passport. But if you pay, you'll lose your money and might be giving your personal information to scammers who could sell it to identity thieves.

To avoid passport scams, know this:

The [U.S. Department of State](https://www.state.gov) is the government agency that handles passport services, but your top online search results might be phony passport application websites. Go directly to [Travel.State.Gov](https://travel.state.gov) to avoid clicking on a scammy website.

- **There's a charge to get a passport, but the forms to renew or apply are free.** Anyone who asks you to pay for forms is a scammer.

It's free to set up an appointment if you need a passport to travel right away. The Department of State's passport agencies and centers don't charge for appointments, and paying someone to set it up for you won't get your passport faster.

Contact PassportVisaFraud@state.gov if you spot a scammy passport application, website, or if you paid someone who turned out to be a scammer. And tell the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov). Visit [IdentityTheft.gov](https://identitytheft.gov) if someone has misused your personal information.

SS SF

Submitted by Gunny Lewis



Background:

More than 53,000 veterans have been discharged from military service because they sustained injuries while serving our country in combat. These veterans were denied the ability to accomplish their military career goals, by no fault of their own. To make matters worse, the benefits they receive as a medical retiree are reduced if they receive earned VA benefits.

This demeaning offset, created by Congress to save money, forces those who have shed blood, sweat, and tears for our country in combat to do without benefits they need to provide for their families.

We must ensure that benefits for combat-wounded veterans are improved, not eroded.

Take Action and Tell your Senator:

Vote Yes to include the Major Richard Star Act in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

TAKE ACTION

Click the link below to log in and send your message:

https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/7UuMjklv4__8lzbGfdvg



Skill games remain illegal in Virginia, but some businesses are evading the ban Former delegate tells businesses 'pre-reveal' games are OK

BY: [GRAHAM MOOMAW](#) - JULY 11, 2024

Virginia lawmakers banned skill games years ago after rejecting the argument that slot machine lookalikes don't count as gambling because they involve more skill than luck. An industry push to convince the General Assembly to repeal that ban failed earlier this year.

Despite that failure, a new type of machine is showing up in Virginia convenience stores based on the legal theory that some skill game variations involve no skill at all.

A chief proponent of that theory is former Virginia delegate Steve Heretick, a Hampton Roads-area lawyer who has issued written opinions used by skill game companies and convenience store owners to claim some of the machines can be operated in Virginia because, skill game branding aside, there's zero skill involved.

In an interview, Heretick said his interpretation only applies to so-called "pre-reveal" games, which give players the option of looking ahead to see whether upcoming spins will produce a winning combo of symbols or not. Because players can study the machine to see what's coming next and choose not to play, Heretick argues, there's no element of chance that would make the games a form of gambling.

With no way for the player to change an outcome that's already fixed and knowable, Heretick said, the machines are a form of visual entertainment that involve even less skill than a traditional arcade game like pinball. Therefore, he contends, they're not subject to the skill game ban and should be considered legal unless a court rules otherwise.

"If you know what's going to happen and you do it anyway, I can't say that I would be awfully entertained by that," Heretick said. "But at the same time, there seem to be an awful lot of peo-



Despite skill games being illegal in Virginia, a Henrico County convenience store is still advertising them to passersby. (Graham Moomaw/Virginia Mercury)

ple who are."

It's not clear how many skill games or pre-reveal machines remain active, but the brazenness of the effort by some businesses to continue making money from slots-like machines shows the continued weakness of Virginia's gambling enforcement efforts.

Heretick, a Democrat who served in the House of Delegates from 2016 to 2021, acknowledged his theory hasn't been fully tested. He said some of his clients have had criminal charges brought against them for operating pre-reveal games, but he's trying to convince the courts those charges shouldn't

stick because the games aren't illegal.

"As an attorney, I cannot ever advise a client to commit a crime," Heretick said. "I can't and I won't."

Tad Berman, a Richmond horse racing enthusiast who closely follows gambling issues in Virginia, feels that's exactly what Heretick is doing.

"Mr. Heretick's contempt for the law is disturbing enough, but through his actions it is also glaringly obvious that he is encouraging others to break the law," Berman said in an email this month to the office of Attorney General Jason Miyares. "Mr. Heretick needs to explain himself and the businesses that have resumed operating under the pretense of his letter should be ordered to immediately stop operations or be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

The attorney general's office declined to comment when asked if Miyares has looked into the issue or offered guidance to local law enforcement authorities on whether pre-reveal games fall under

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

the skill game ban. When the Supreme Court of Virginia reinstated the skill game ban last year, Miyares offered guidance to local prosecutors on how they should enforce a law that his office had successfully defended in court. The skill game industry had challenged the ban by arguing the machines technically aren't a form of gambling, but the Supreme Court didn't buy that claim.

Heretick said his advice to clients would change if a court determines pre-reveal games are in fact banned in Virginia.

'No Skill'

The text of Virginia's skill game ban seems to at least attempt to cover pre-reveal games. Skill games, the law states, "are no less gambling devices if they indicate beforehand the definite result of one or more operations but not all the operations."

Heretick zeroed in on that line in his legal memo, arguing that definition doesn't apply to pre-reveal games because they do reveal "all the operations" of the machine.

Political activist Josh Stanfield said he observed machines labeled "No Chance Game" up and running in the Yorktown area. A photo he took at a local store shows machines with signs saying "No Skill" and "View All Outcomes Before Playing."

Del. Paul Krizek, D-Fairfax, who specializes in gambling policy in the General Assembly, said the new emphasis on pre-reveal games shows some companies are "contributing to lawlessness in the commonwealth."

"Everybody knows what gambling is," he said. "You put money in and you have the chance of winning money. It doesn't matter how it happens."

At least one company that makes a brand of machines still seen in Virginia contributed money to a PAC that has in turn made donations to General Assembly leaders. North Carolina-based Banilla Games, one of the companies whose games Heretick declared legal, gave \$10,000 to the Virginia Skill Game PAC. A representative for Banilla said the company has not retained Heretick, does not directly operate any machines in Virginia and does not make money from any Banilla machines that may be operated by third parties. The company does not agree with Heretick that its games can be operated legally in Virginia.

That PAC, also funded by a variety of convenience store interests, gave more than \$126,000 to General Assembly members across 2023 and 2024. That amount includes \$20,000 to House of Delegates Speaker Don Scott, D-Portsmouth, \$8,000 to Senate Minority Leader Ryan McDougle, R-Hanover, and \$5,000 to Senate Majority Leader Scott Surovell, D-Fairfax.

Another company whose games have been cleared by Heretick, Royal Skill Games, contributed \$50,000 to the Virginia Asian American Store Owner Association, which has made more than \$200,000 in contributions to Virginia politicians.

Pace-O-Matic, the Georgia-based skill game company that's one of the biggest players in efforts to legalize the machines in Virginia, hasn't turned its machines and has not tried to argue pre-reveal games are legal. A spokeswoman for the company said the confusion is all the more reason for Virginia lawmakers to take

action clarifying the issue.

"Inconsistencies in the interpretation of the law is one of the major reasons why lawmakers should return to Richmond as soon as possible to pass legislation on skill games," said Pace-O-Matic spokeswoman Rachel Albritton.

Heretick agrees that the state should "get its act together and deal with these things once and for all." But he insisted he and his clients are following the letter of the law.

"If the General Assembly wants to outlaw all games, it certainly can," he said. "But it didn't."

Though Gov. Glenn Youngkin and state lawmakers have agreed to continue discussing skill games despite the governor's decision to [veto the skill game legalization bill in May](#), it's unclear whether those talks will continue this year or be put off until 2025.

There appears to be at least some overlap between convenience stores continuing to operate skill games in defiance of the law and the lobbying coalition that has been trying to convince policymakers to change the law.

A convenience store in western Henrico County had a sign in its window touting skill games on Wednesday afternoon, and the Virginia Mercury observed machines being played inside.

Property and business records for that store point back to a Chesterfield County address that was listed in [lobbying disclosures](#) for the Virginia Amusement Coalition, an advocacy group that hired lobbyists to push for skill game legalization at the General Assembly.

The Chesterfield location was also listed as the mailing address for the Virginia Skill Game PAC that gave money to General Assembly leaders.

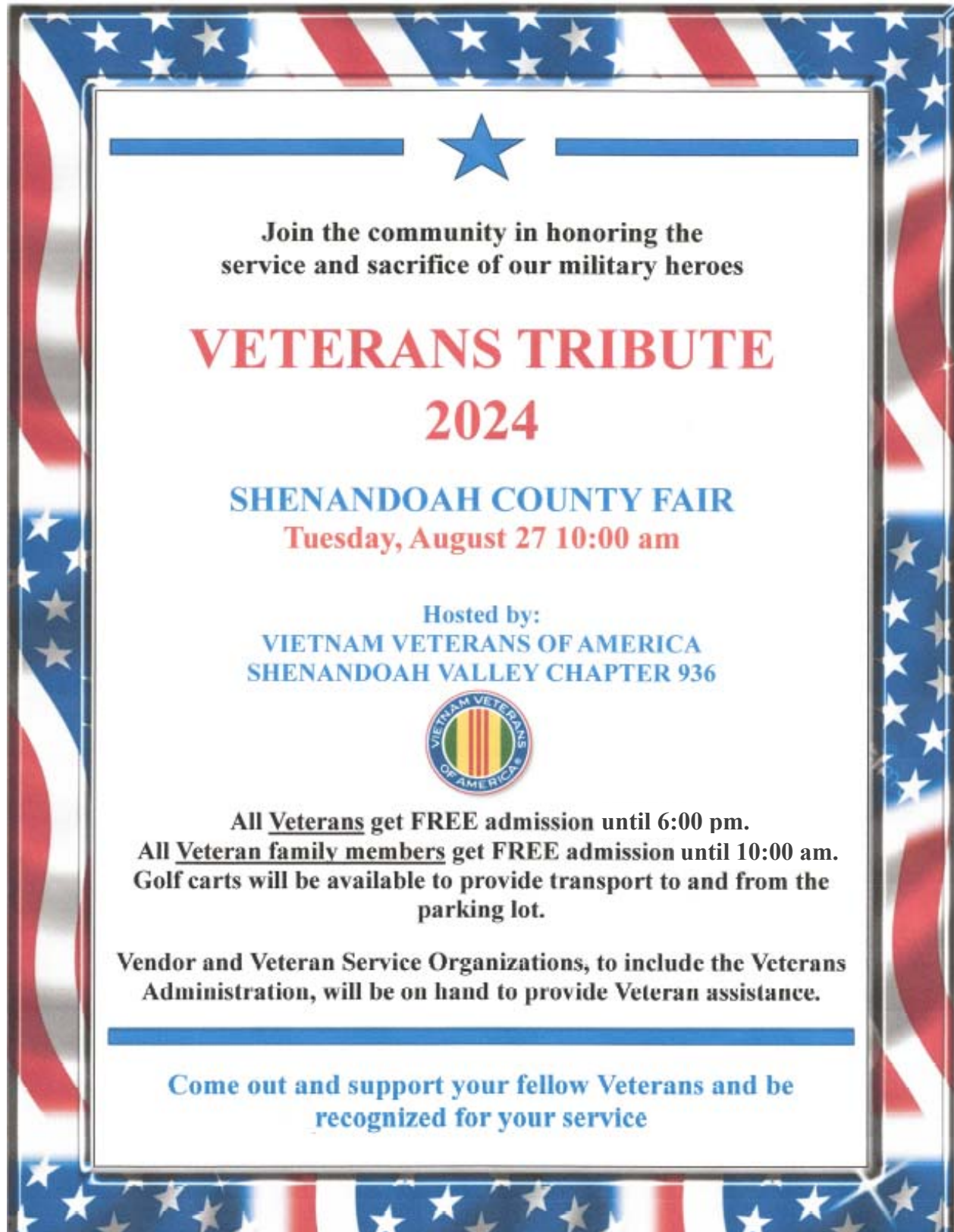
Sunil Patel, the treasurer of the PAC, said in an interview that he owns the Henrico building where skill games were operational Wednesday, but had leased it to someone else who is in the process of closing the store, which also doubles as a smoke shop. He said the store's imminent closure is an example of how small businesses have been hurt by the ban on skill games, but he acknowledged the machines should not have been on at his building.

"Nobody should operate the skill games," he said.

The anti-skill game group Virginians Against Neighborhood Slot Machines, which is funded by casino interests, said the continued existence of skill games despite the ban shows those pushing the "shady machines" shouldn't be trusted to act in good faith.

"It's laughable that they say they want to prevent illegal games when they're the ones operating illegal games," said Nick Larson, a spokesman for the group.

Editor's note: This story has been corrected to reflect the fact that Banilla Games has not retained Steve Heretick nor asked for his advice on the legality of its machines in Virginia. The company says it only manufactures the machines and is not responsible if a third party is operating them in Virginia.




Join the community in honoring the
service and sacrifice of our military heroes

VETERANS TRIBUTE 2024

SHENANDOAH COUNTY FAIR
Tuesday, August 27 10:00 am

Hosted by:
**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHAPTER 936**



All Veterans get **FREE** admission until 6:00 pm.
All Veteran family members get **FREE** admission until 10:00 am.
Golf carts will be available to provide transport to and from the
parking lot.

Vendor and Veteran Service Organizations, to include the Veterans
Administration, will be on hand to provide Veteran assistance.

**Come out and support your fellow Veterans and be
recognized for your service**



NORTHERN VIRGINIA VETERANS ASSOCIATION

With Community Partners Presents



5th Annual 9/11 Event

**Honoring Those Who Gave All
Stories From Those Who Were There**

Wednesday, 11 September 2024

3pm to 4pm

Open to the Public

**Registration
Required**



Register Here:

[https://novavets.org/
events/911-event/](https://novavets.org/events/911-event/)

Manassas Historical Museum Lawn

9101 Prince William Street, Manassas VA 20110

SONY

Thank you, SONY Corporation of America, for being our 9/11 Event Sponsor!

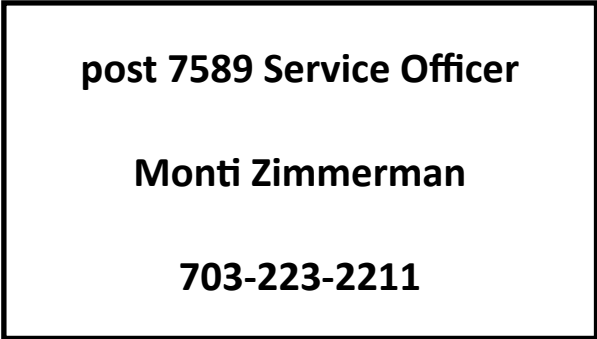


VFW submitted its fourth Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to VA requesting documentation about unaccredited companies that provide services to claimants seeking VA benefits. We have received two interim responses from VA to date on this request and anticipate additional responses to be forthcoming. 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.



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	\$18.00
Silver-	\$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze-	\$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00



 **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



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

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

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>

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

Upcoming Events

August 5	Post Meeting — 7:30 PM
August 10	District 8 Meeting — Post 7728, Morrisville — 10:00 AM
August 12	Auxiliary Meeting — 2:00 PM
TBD	Youth Committee Meeting — 7:00 PM
August 27	Annual Veterans Tribute — Tuesday, Aug 27, 2024 at the Shenandoah County Fairgrounds.
September 7	Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) — VFW National Home
September 9	Auxiliary Meeting — 2:00 PM Post Meeting — 7:30 PM (In lieu of Labor Day holiday)
September 11	5th Annual 9/11 Memorial event — Manassas Museum — 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Flag Retirement — 6:30 PM (Pizza party to follow) Auxiliary Food Drive starts at Bingo — Free 1/2 book with 4 food item donation
TBD	Youth Committee Meeting — 7:00 PM
September 20	POW/MIA ceremony — American Legion Post 10

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

The official publication of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
Francis Cannon post No. 7589
P.O. Box 10206
Manassas, VA 20108-0668

Cannon News is emailed to post and Auxiliary members with email addresses on file.
Cannon News is also available on our website www.vfw7589.org

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.

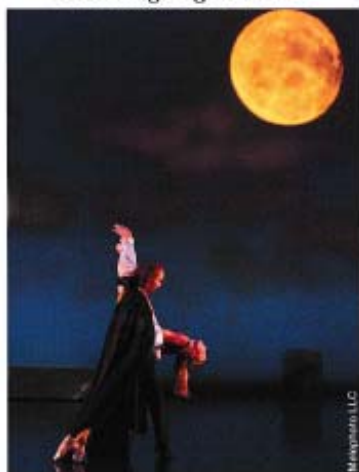


MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE 2024-2025 SEASON



DRACULA

Oct. 18, 19 at 7:30 pm
Oct. 20 at 3:00 pm
Streaming Begins Nov. 2



The classic vampire tale of *Dracula* opens Manassas Ballet Theatre's 2024-2025 season; this chilling and blood curdling production will transport you to Transylvania as Dracula's quest for eternal life and love leads the way. The original score by Kim Reynolds and played by The Kim Reynolds Band will draw you in to the chilling and sensual performance by the dancers of MBT.

LOVE

Mar. 7, 8 at 7:30 pm; Mar. 9 at 3:00 pm
Streaming Begins Mar. 22



Join us for the premier performance of Kim Reynolds' new ballet, *Love*, performed by The Kim Reynolds Band. Ahmed Nabil will set the stage with his original choreography of this beautiful expression of love and infatuation that will leave you breathless. The ballet *Love* consists of multiple vignettes each representing a different aspect of the complex thing that is love. You will not want to miss this contemporary work heralding in Spring!

NUTCRACKER

Evening Performances at 7:30 pm; Dec. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
Matinée Performances at 3:00 pm; Dec. 21, 22, 23
Streaming Begins Dec. 24



Experience Drosselmeyer's whimsy and magic and travel with Clara and the Nutcracker Prince as they make their way through a dreamy journey of fantasy with treats and sweets along the way. The *Nutcracker* is a wonderful holiday show for all ages, featuring an international cast of company dancers accompanied by the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

May 9, 10 at 7:30 pm; May 10, 11 at 3:00 pm
Streaming Begins May 24



Manassas Ballet Theatre will close the season with the timeless classic *Sleeping Beauty*. Princess Aurora is gifted a curse of death at her christening by the evil Carabosse, but it is softened to a gift of blissful sleep where she can only be awakened by the kiss of a true love prince. Come enjoy this exquisite production by the beautiful dancers of MBT accompanied by the MBT orchestra.

RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW
Hilton Performing Arts Center
10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas, VA 20110

Seating Chart



STAGE



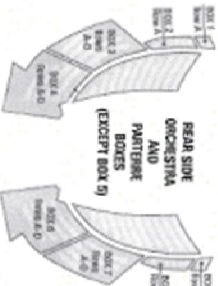
Price Level A:
\$250.00

STAGE



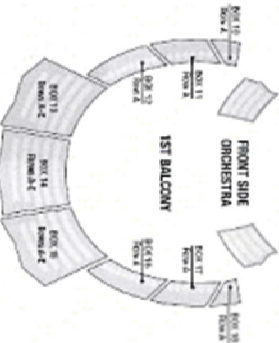
Price Level B:
\$215.00

STAGE



Price Level C: \$185.00

STAGE



Price Level D: \$150.00

Virtual Only
Purchase Tickets
to Stream
all Four Shows
for only \$80.00

Upgrade to **GOLD CIRCLE** Membership
For **ONLY \$30** more enjoy:
**Complimentary Champagne • 10% Discount at Concessions
and an informative "Chat with the Artists" at each show!**

SEASON MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Savings of 20% off regular ticket prices and no ticket fees
- No fee for ticket exchange (subject to availability, some restrictions apply)
- Guaranteed seating at all MBT 2024-2025 productions
- Email notification of upcoming Manassas Ballet Theatre events
- Meet and Greet* receptions with the dancers after each final performance
- Recognition in the program

2024-2025 SEASON MEMBERSHIP
SUBSCRIPTION FORM



Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, & Zip Code: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____

PERFORMANCE CHOICES

Dracula	Friday, 10/18/24, 7:30pm
	Saturday, 10/19/24, 7:30pm
	Sunday, 10/20/24, 3:00pm
Streaming Beginning Sat. 11/21/24 at 7:30pm	
Nutcracker	Evening Performances:
	Wednesday, 12/18/24, 7:30pm
	Thursday, 12/19/24, 7:30pm
	Friday, 12/20/24, 7:30pm
	Saturday, 12/21/24, 7:30pm
	Sunday, 12/22/24, 7:30pm
	Matinee Performances:
	Saturday, 12/21/24, 3:00pm
	Sunday, 12/22/24, 3:00pm
Streaming Beginning Mon. 12/24/24, 7:30pm	
Love	Friday, 3/7/25, 7:30pm
	Saturday, 3/8/25, 7:30pm
	Sunday, 3/9/25, 3:00pm
Streaming Beginning Sat. 3/22/25, 7:30pm	
Sleeping Beauty	Evening Performances:
	Friday, 5/9/25, 7:30pm
	Saturday, 5/10/25, 7:30pm
	Sunday, 5/11/25, 3:00pm
Streaming Beginning Sat. 5/24/25, 7:30pm	

PAYMENT INFORMATION

of Season Tickets _____ Price Level _____ Section Request _____
or Virtual Only ☐

Amount Due	Gold Circle Amount (if applicable)	Total Amount Due	Amount Paid	Date Paid	Payment Method (Cash, Receipt, Check, A.MEX., Visa, MC, Discover)

Card Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVC # _____
Signature _____
I am not interested in a season membership at this time, but would like to make a donation in the amount of \$ _____.
Please send form and payment to:
Manassas Ballet Theatre
9004 Marlin Ave., Manassas, VA 20110
703-257-1811 info@manassasballet.org
www.manassasballet.org

Date Rec'd. _____
SM since _____
Gold Circle _____
Date Tx Mailed _____

For Office Use Only:

As part of our community involvement, Post 7589 supports Manassas Ballet Theatre in memory of Lance Corporal Colin Wolfe who was killed in action in Iraq.

WreathsAcrossAmerica.org



SPONSOR A WREATH FOR A VETERAN'S GRAVE

Since 2007, Wreaths Across America carries out its mission **REMEMBER** the fallen, **HONOR** those that serve and **TEACH** our children the value of **FREEDOM** in part by placing wreaths on Veterans graves during the holiday season.

The **Francis Cannon Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589** is working with Wreaths Across America (WAA) to help place more wreaths than ever before on Veterans' graves at Stonewall Memory Gardens Cemetery. **Deadline Date is November 30, 2024.**

Sponsorships are \$17 each. We are participating because we think it is a great program and \$5 of every sponsorship will support the Francis Cannon Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589 directly so we may continue to assist veterans and families as well as our community.

Wreaths Across America will be at **Stonewall Memory Gardens Cemetery** to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

PLEASE JOIN US -- All wreaths will be placed by volunteers on **Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 12 Noon.** (Advance notice: the time is subject to change.) This is a moving experience that you should make part of your holiday tradition. With your help our local heroes will be remembered this Holiday Season. **How many sponsorships can we count on you for?**

For more information visit www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org, or call 877-385-9504.
You can also email infor@wreathsaacrossamerica.org



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Tax ID 20-8362270

Wreath Sponsorship Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org. If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to:

Wreaths Across America
4 Point Street, PO BOX 249
Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.

Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Sponsorship Type	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
2 Wreaths	\$34.00		
Family - 5 Wreaths	\$85.00		
10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
		Grand Total	

GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED ON THIS FORM

In Honor of:

Below, please provide email or mailing address of "In Honor of" recipient so we can notify them of your sponsorship in their honor. If you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet.

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall. Below, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided.

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

State: _____

Please note, ALL sponsored wreaths are shipped directly to the location and NO wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: VASMGM Fundraising Group ID: VA0040P

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash: _____ Total: _____ Date Received: _____

Total No. Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____

MO: _____

Entered: _____

GEN: _____