

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

Manassas, Virginia

October 2013



Comrade Mike Guttman displays Trick or Treat safety bags at a prior Manassas Fall Jubilee. We'll be there again on October 5. See Page 7.

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Commander's Report



THIS IS A CALL TO ARMS

Help us.

At our last meeting a member spoke on the problems the returning veterans of the Iraqi and Afghanistan Campaigns are having with the Veteran's entitlements. This got me thinking. We need to *mount an offensive or rally a counterattack*.

What we need is **AMMO**.

The ammo I am talking about is membership, membership, membership. The National and Department Leadership teams have the guns. However the ammo is missing.

Currently, we have four Post members on the Department's Legislative team, Rick Raskin, Pete McLeod, Steve Bottello and I. When we meet with our elected officials, we tell them about the number of members we represent and discuss the entitlements we are fighting for. We say we represent approximately 350 members at the Post level. Each member on the average influences 2.5 votes. Candidates understand votes. When a candidate says he supports the Veteran's Community, we will hold him to his promise.

If each Comrade asked 5 veteran friends to join us in the fight --A CALL TO ARMS -- and recruited just one of them to enlist in the fight by joining the VFW -- we could really

fight for the entitlements long overdue.

Some of these fights are:

- The backlog of VA claims
- The shortage of field representatives
- The overworked and understaffed VA Medical Centers
- The cutting back on retiree's benefits, especially in the health care arena.

The other day I was talking to one of the staff members at a local VA Medical Center. She told me the doctors are so over booked with patients during a working day that they do not have time to consult with the nurses regarding patients who have called in for information. Some days there are 30 or 40 messages left by patients, but the work schedules do not allow for prompt reaction to their questions. SAD, BUT TRUE!!!

We need to fight the mindset in our State and Federal Legislative bodies. This requires AMMO. Every member counts. On the Post level...350 can be 700. On the Department Level, 40,000 can become 80,000 and on the National Level, 360,300 could be 2,720,600. Now we're talking!!!!

We have the AMMO and we can fight.

However, it starts at each Post and each Comrade...Lets get that **AMMO**.

Auxiliary President's Report



Ladies, I regret to inform you of our Department President, Laine Beckwith's husband, Winfred H. Beckwith (known to most of us as "Beck" or "Honey") passed on September 11th after a long battle with cancer. There was a Celebration of Life held at VFW Post 3219 Phoebus, VA on September 28th, 2013. If you wish to send her a card, her address is 41 Kings Point Drive, Hampton, VA 23669. She would love to hear from you.

We are still active with our fundraiser for Wreaths Across America ("WAA"). This not-for-profit organization has provided our Auxiliary the opportunity again to raise funds for our organization's needs along with helping WAA gather sponsorships for wreaths. We are working with WAA to place more wreaths than ever before on Veterans' graves at Quantico National Cemetery. We ask for your support because this is a major fundraiser for the Auxiliary. Sponsorships are \$15 per wreath. Sponsorship forms can be printed from our website www.vfw7589.org or contact Ginger Harvey at 571-641-5350 or gch1130@aol.com. To learn more about WAA or if you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit www.wreathscrossamerica.com

and remember to include our **Sponsoring Group ID No. VAVFW7589 and Cemetery ID No. VAQNCT. DEADLINE is November 29th.**

For all who attended our fundraiser at Noodles & Company on September 12th and all the donations for our Yard Sale on September 28th, I "Thank you". There will be another Yard Sale in the Spring.

I would like to remind you of the Manassas Fall Jubilee on Saturday, October 5th, from 10:00am – 5:00pm. As in years past, this annual event gives us the opportunity to meet and greet the public and pass out valuable information about our organization and its programs. We will have some freebies and will be running a raffle for a lamp that was made. Please contact me 703 / 361 - 8950 or mcorkhill@comcast.net to let me know of your availability to assist in helping with the booth.

The National President will make her Official visit to Virginia on October 20th-22nd in the Virginia Beach area. Check the Ladies Auxiliary website <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.org> for more information. Starting this year, we

will celebrate **America's Freedom** in Vicksburg, MS on October 28th. In

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Service Officer's Report



help yourself and others.

On October 5, 2013 we will be available and offering to meet and provide information to veterans at the Fall Jubilee in the City of Manassas. This should be a great time to come out and speak to your Service Officer. We want to help you!

Also please let us know if there is any other veterans benefit information and/or services we can help you with. We are open to providing the best veterans services we can but we need to know what you may want.

Also don't forget that this upcoming Veterans Day is Monday, November 11, 2013. There will be much activity so please stay tuned for more information as the date gets closer.

Please do not hesitate to speak to any of our Veteran Service Officers and find out just what they can do for you! They are:

Wayne Moore 1-703-361-5554
Email: mgr7590@verizon.net

Stephen Meade 1-703-408-0875
Email: SO2-7589@hotmail.com

Our goal is simple here. We want to take care of all our veterans with the

greatest level of service that our resources will allow. Thank you for your service!

If you have any questions please feel free to reach us at our VSO phone line of: 1-703-659-0849 or Email: SO7589@verizon.net. Thank you.

Steven M. Botello

Post Service Officer

Veteran of Foreign Wars Post # 7589

(Office) 1-703-659-0849

(FX) 1-703-991-0677

Email: SO7589@verizon.net

Need help with filing VA claims?

VA DVS AGENT SERVICE
2nd & 4th THURSDAYS
0900 - 1500

Post 7589
9304 Centreville Rd.
Manassas, Virginia

APPOINTMENTS PLEASE
Walk-ins Accepted
703-359-1210

Youth News and Notes

Post 7589, for many years, has been sending speakers into the Manassas area schools on Veterans Day week. We have an added wrinkle this year as our Power Point presentation, "Welcome to Post 7589" is complete and we can show that to the students. We will have a complete schedule of school visits available for next month's News and Notes but if you are interested in speaking to the young people or simply appearing at the schools for some very impressive programs, please call me at 703 220-4545 or call the Post at 703 361-5554. There will also be a signup sheet at the October 7 Post 7589 General Membership Meeting.

In recent years when we have appeared before school classes, the most interesting part has been the question and answer sessions. As you can imagine, the students can, and do, ask you about anything from drug use in Vietnam to "Did you ever shoot anybody?" But the vast majority of questions are sincere and very

good. And sometimes they come from the very young. We have spoken to third and fourth grade classes that asked sophisticated questions about World War Two battles and Mayfield Intermediate School is always a pleasure because the teachers there talk about the military in the days leading up to our appearance and the kids are primed. It's a lot of fun and a great experience. We invite you to take part.

It is a very busy time of year. Students are beginning their Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essays at Brentsville High School, Battlefield High School, the Air Force ROTC unit at Stonewall Jackson High School, Parkside Middle School, Seton School and Manassas Christian School. The deadline is November 1, and then judging begins. Not only will we be judging the Manassas area essays but once again, Post 7589 is hosting the District 8 judging on Sunday, November

(See Youth on page 8)

Post annual dues increases to \$35.00 January 1

In accordance with the actions taken by the delegates of the 114th VFW National Convention, Bylaw Amendment B-14 to amend Section 606 – National Dues was approved.

This \$10.00 dues increase will automatically be applied to all annual members on January 1, 2014.

Those who renew at \$25.00 prior to January 1, 2014 will not be affected

until their next renewal date at which time their fee will be \$35.00.

We encourage all annual members to consider converting to life membership by making a one time payment or using the installment life plan. As a life member you will never be affected by a future dues increase. Contact the Post QM for additional information or assistance.

Change Affecting TRICARE for Life Beneficiaries who Use VA

VFW Washington Weekly
September 6, 2013

Beginning October 1, TRICARE for Life (TFL) beneficiaries who are Priority Group (PG) 8e and 8g (non-service connected, over income and not enrolled as of January 16, 2003) will be responsible 80 percent of the cost of the care they receive at VA medical facilities. Earlier this month, TRICARE sent out letters to the approximately 12,000 beneficiaries affected by this change, which resulted from a review of previously overlooked provisions of the 2001 NDAA. Until now, PG 8e and 8g TFL beneficiaries have only been responsible for 20 percent of the cost of their care at VA, in accordance with a 1995 Memorandum of Understanding be-

tween VA and DOD. It is highly recommended that those affected by this change should seek care from Medicare-authorized community providers in order to avoid the increased costs. It is important to realize that this change will only affect vets who are Priority Group 8 and ineligible for VA enrollment but choose to use their TFL benefits at VA anyway. TFL vets who are eligible for VA enrollment will still only be responsible for standard VA copays which generally range from \$15 to \$50 per visit for non-service connected care. Care for service connected conditions remains free of charge. More information can be found here: http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/8_14_13_TFLVA.aspx

VFW Members Storm the Hill for Veterans

VFW Washington Weekly
September 20, 2013

Seventy VFW Legislative Committee members representing every state visited all 535 members of Congress to discuss issues important to veterans, service members, military retirees and their families. Asking Congress to Finish Strong for Veterans, the committee members stressed five critical issues including the budget/ sequestration, military sexual assault protections, in-state tuition for GI Bill recipients, grandfathering the Tricare Prime benefit for all retirees, and providing advanced appropriations for all VA

programs. As part of the fall VFW Legislative Conference, they urged their elected members to resolve these five critical issues before the end of the current fiscal year.

[SVC Pete MacLeod was there as a member of the Department of Virginia contingent. Ed.]

Read the one-page issue paper at http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/VFW_in_DC/Congress%20Finish%20Strong.pdf.

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years past, we have attended the Statue of Liberty on her Birthday.

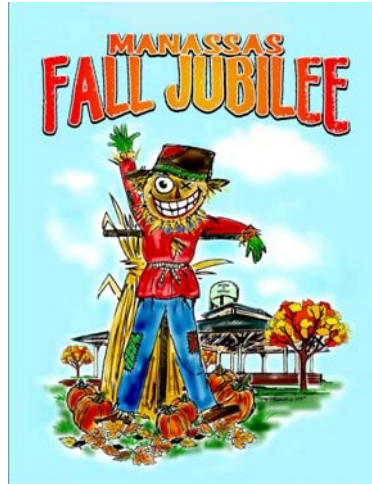
As always, please remember the VFW National Home for Children. We are collecting **Campbell's soup labels** to assist them in purchasing a new bus. We are happy to receive any labels from the public. Please drop them off at the Post.

For individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized, you are in our prayers.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill

Ladies Auxiliary President



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
OLD TOWN MANASSAS**

The Comrades and the Auxiliary will have information booths. Come out and give us a hand recruiting, distributing Trick or Treat bags and just generally meeting the public.

Sign up for the free VFW Washington Weekly

ALL Comrades should be signed up to receive the Washington Weekly. This bulletin provides us with a snapshot into what's taking place relative to legislative issues concerning the VA, national security, our armed forces and other items that affect Veterans and their families.

It provides you with a means to stay abreast with what's going on in Washington DC and around the world.

If there is an item featured and you

want to learn more about it because it affects you personally or someone you know, it can direct you to more in-depth information. Informed Veterans are ready to ask the right questions of their legislators and legislators know that **VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES VOTE.**

To sign up for this important e-mail service please contact Doc Crouch at cgdc1@juno.com or (703) 319-0845.

Legacy Life Membership enables current Life Members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization.

When you become a Legacy Life Member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW—where NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS. tributions to our organization are helping not only today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow.

3 prestigious levels of Legacy Life Membership are available, (Gold, Silver, or Bronze). Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life Members.

Once your Legacy Life Membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department, and the organization. You will feel confident knowing your con-

Future generations will know and remember you for the sacrifices you've made during your time in uniform in addition to the contributions you've made as a VFW Legacy Life Member.

For any questions regarding Legacy Life Membership, please contact the VFW Membership Department at 816-756-3390. We will gladly provide you with more information on this prestigious and rewarding membership.

Youth from page 5)

24 at 2pm, at the Post Home. Winners from the District competition advance to the state finals. We have had several Manassas area students finish second or third in the state in recent years and one teacher, Anne Carroll of Seton School, came in first.

We will have brochures/applications for any student who still wants to enter the contests, available during the Manassas Fall Festival on Saturday, October 5 at the Post 7589/Ladies Auxiliary booths in Old Town. In fact we plan to have the winning essays from last school year on display and there will be someone from the Youth Committee present all day from 10am to 5pm to answer any questions concerning VOD or PP or Teacher of the Year.

Once again, the very good themes this year are: "What Patriotism Means to Me" for Patriot's Pen and "Why I'm Optimistic About Our Nation's Future" for Voice of Democracy. If you are looking to honor a hard working classroom teacher, please pick up a nominating brochure. They are available at the Post Home or just call me at 703 220-4545. There is still time to enter the contests and any Virginia student, whether enrolled in a public or private school or home schooled, can enter through Post 7589.

You can also print out an application from the national website, www.vfw.org. Just click on *Community and Programs* on the main page.

Pete MacLeod, Youth Chair, jeanand-petermacleod@verizon.net



Actors from the Castaway's Repertory Theatre practice a scene from their upcoming production "The Tragedy of Macbeth". 8:00 PM performances October 18, 19, 25, 26, November 1 & 2 with a matinee November 3 at 1:00 PM. Location: The Ferlazzo Building, 15941 Donald Curtis Dr., Woodbridge, VA.

The Company has made some complimentary tickets available to the Post. Contact QM Rick Raskin for further information.



Customers browse the selections at the Youth Committee yard sale on September 7.

Congratulations to Comrade Pete Slusher on the occasion of his 160th blood donation to the American Red Cross on August 26. 160 pints is 20 gallons!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 5** Manassas Fall Jubilee
- November 5** Election Day
- November 8—10** Buddy Poppies (Locations & Times TBD)
- November 11** Veterans Day
- November 24** District 8 VOD/PP Judging
- December 1** District 8 Meeting - Post 7589 - Manassas - 1300
- January 8 - 13** 2014 Winter Council of Administration meeting - Williamsburg
- February 23** District 8 Meeting - Post 3103 - Fredericksburg - 1300
- April 27** District 8 Convention - Post 2524 - Culpeper - 1300
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Francis Cannon Post 7589

P.O. Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108



Tax ID 20-8362270

Wreath Sponsorship Form

*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased 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: (To receive our FREE email newsletter) _____

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual- 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Family- 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business- 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate- 100 Wreaths or more	\$15.00 each wreath		
		Grand Total	

****SORRY - WE CANNOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS****Sponsoring Group ID Number: VAVFW7589Cemetery Designation: Quantico National CemeteryCemetery ID Number: VAQNCTPlease make checks payable to:**Wreaths Across America TM**Mail to:

PO Box 249

Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Questions? Please call 877-385-9504

Cut-Off Date is November 29, 2013

*WAA ceremony will take place at Quantico National Cemetery on
Saturday, December 14 at 12 Noon.*

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

Please note that all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

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



Cannon News
2013 Clair B. Poff
Public Relations Award
Most Outstanding Post
Publication/Newsletter
VFW Department of Virginia