

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

Manassas, Virginia

December 2013



Comrade Merle Hancock at the Manassas Veterans Parade on November 9
Photo by Sergei Moskalev

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Commander's Report



It is short and sweet this month:

I want to wish everyone the merriest Christmas and a very healthy New Year.

As we look at the coming year, there are a few items on our plate:

- Membership
- Community Activities
- Legislative Issues
- Taking Care Of Our Veterans

Taking care of our veterans during the Holiday period should be a priority. Please, if anyone comes across a veteran in need, contact any of our Service Officers—Steve Botello, Wayne Moore, or Stephen Meade. If there is an urgent request—you can contact Rick Raskin or myself.

Again, All the best this season

Ron



Auxiliary President's Report



The Ladies Auxiliary held their Buddy Poppy drive on November 9th and I wish to thank the following members who assisted: Yvonne

Sullivan, Patsy Gough, Janet Raskin, Dawn Moore, and Ginger Harvey. As you know, the donations for this drive assist Veterans and their families.

Our Veterans Day, November 11th, started off with a Wreath laying ceremony at the Manassas Veterans Memorial. With the assistance of a Boy Scout laying the Wreath, Commander Ron Link gave a short speech. We traveled to the Manassas Cemetery to place another Wreath at Francis Cannon's grave site, with the assistance of a Girl Scout. After the ceremony, flags were placed at 70 Veterans grave sites.

Our 8th District meeting will be December 1st at Post 7589 in Manassas and the event will start at 1:00 pm. We will have a few special guests attending. During this meeting, raffle tickets will be sold for Cancer Aid and Research, so please bring a wrapped gift. Food will be served after the meeting, so bring your appetite.

Just a reminder that Wreaths Across America will be at Quantico National Cemetery on December 14th at 12:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

Another event to attend is the VOD/Patriots Pen/Teacher Awards cere-



mony on December 15th at 3:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided by the members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Department President's Special Project is the Federation of Virginia Food banks. We are taking donations of food to distribute to churches and food pantries. If you know of a facility that needs our assistance, please let me know.

I would like to thank you for all the Campbell Soup labels that you have dropped off at the Post. This will help the VFW National Home for Children in purchasing a new bus. The VFW National Home for Children is a community that has 42-family homes including a chapel, community center, guest lodge, child care center, playgrounds and recreational facilities. This setting provides the perfect atmosphere for children and families.

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

Please have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year's holiday.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill
Ladies Auxiliary President

Service Officer's Report



As we prepare to close out 2013 and open up 2014 I ask that you, our Members, help your Service Officer Team, at VFW Post 7589. We want to bring to

our members the best service and support possible but also other veterans who need and/or desire assistance with their veterans needs as they look to VFW Post 7589.

If you can suggest anything more our service officer group can do to help and assist our veterans here in the Manassas and/or Prince William area please let us know.

Your service officers Wayne Moore, Stephen Meade and myself are constantly striving to provide the best veteran services possible to you and we are open to any suggestions and ideas that will bring a higher level of service or provide a greater level of care.

Please feel free to email us at: so7589@verizon.net or call us at 1-703-659-0849 or just pull one of us aside and tell us a suggestion of service that we can provide. Our number one goal is service to our veterans and their families.

Please do enjoy your Christmas and New Years and we will see you in 2014!

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

*VFW Post 7589 / Ladies Auxiliary and District 8 Educational Award Winners 2013-2014***POST 7589 & Ladies Auxiliary****Patriot's Pen, Grades 6-8:
"What Patriotism Means to Me"**

First Place: Alhassan Buhisi, 8th Grade, Parkside Middle School, Manassas

Second Place: Conner J. Mackert, 8th Grade, Parkside Middle School, Manassas

Third Place: Joseph M. Lavigne, 8th Grade, Seton School, Manassas

Honorable Mention: Corey A. Shepard, 8th Grade, Parkside Middle School, Manassas

Honorable Mention: Sebastien Cotto, 6th Grade, Manassas Christian School, Manassas Park

**Voice of Democracy, Grades 9-12:
topic: "Why I'm Optimistic About
Our Nation's Future"
(this is an audio-essay)**

First Place: Gabriel Holms, 11th Grade, Home-schooled student, Bristow

Second Place: Audrey M. Allman, 12th Grade, Seton School, Manassas

Third Place: Seshasayan Ekambarapu, 12th Grade, Westfield High School

Honorable Mention: Benjamin R. McCuen, 12th Grade, Battlefield High School, Haymarket

Honorable Mention: Anastasia P. Tohill, 12th Grade, Seton School, Manassas

**VFW Citizenship Education
Teacher Award**

Daniel J. Maher, 7,8th Grade Reading and World Culture Teacher, Seton School, Manassas (Advances to District 8 Competition)

Patricia Good, 7th Grade Civics Teacher, Parkside Middle School, Manassas

Linda Bare, Principal, Manassas Christian School, Manassas Park

District 8**Patriot's Pen:**

Peter C. Nosal, 6th Grade, Auburn Middle School, Warrenton, Va. Submitted by VFW Post 9835.

Voice of Democracy:

Daniel W. Clapps, 12th Grade, Kettle Run High School, Nokesville, Va. Submitted by VFW Post 9835.

VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award:

Daniel J. Maher, 7th and 8th Grade World Culture, Math and Religion Teacher at Seton School in Manassas, Va. Submitted by VFW Post 7589.

November — Classroom Visits, Manassas Veterans Parade, Buddy Poppies and Ceremonies keep Post and Auxiliary members really busy.



Pete MacLeod at Haydon Elementary



Paul Chase & Rod Gillette



Paul and Joel Chase



Ron Link & Mary Corkhill



Jack Lilley & Paul Chase at Mayfield Elementary



Merle Hancock



Robert Punihaole, Ron Link, Paul & Joel Chase



Scouts help place a wreath at the Veterans memorial



Norb Beville, Mary Corkhill, Pete MacLeod and Joel Chase



Ken Lion



National Conductress Dee Guillory, Past Dept. President Kathy Graham, Dept. President Lane Beckwith, 7589 President Mary Corkhill and Past Dept. President Darlene Mays Titman at Vicksburg MS.

Photos supplied by:
Mary Corkhill, Pete MacLeod, Doc Crouch,
Sergei Moskalev* & Rick Raskin

*Voice of America (Russian-language division)

Post to pay dues for WWII Post annual members

Last year the Post authorized the Quartermaster to pay the annual dues for our WWII annual members. Accordingly I searched our database and identified several comrades whose dues have been paid.

If you are an annual member who served in WWII and your dues have not been paid by the Post we need to hear from you. Please contact me at

703-361-5554 (leave a message) or send an email to m7589@verizon.net. Alternately you can mail me at:

VFW Post 7589
P.O. Box 10206
Manassas, VA 20108-0668.

Rick Raskin
Quartermaster

Post will purchase a VFW cap for annual members who convert to life membership

Now is a good time to consider converting your membership to life. With the pending dues increase it is only a matter of time before life membership fees will likely increase. Currently there is no plan to increase life membership fees but given past history, one can count on it happening.

Any annual member who converts to life membership will receive a free VFW cap from the Post. The caveat is you have to attend a post meeting to be recognized.

This policy is retroactive to July 1, 2013, the beginning of the current membership year.

Please contact the Quartermaster if you have any questions or need additional information.

Also, you will need to know your hat size before we can place the order.



The cap will include a Life Member patch.

Installment life plan participants will be eligible for a cap after they achieve life member status.

**Annual Members
Renew before 2014
Remember, dues goes up to \$35.00
on January 1st.**

Becoming a legacy member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars here in Virginia

As a life member of the VFW, you know what commitment means. Each year your post can rest assured knowing that your name will still be on that roster of members we take with us as we face Congress and show them the names of America's finest who deserve the benefits we have earned. It also means that a payout in membership money comes to your post to help fund the many things we do in this great organization.

In the spirit of that, I am writing to you today to encourage you to take the next step with your membership and become a legacy life member of the VFW. Legacy membership allows you to leave a lasting legacy to your post here in Virginia. At 3 levels of Gold, Silver or Bronze, you earn benefits and your post, Virginia and the national VFW earns extra money annually through the legacy endowment to help the mission continue.

What else can legacy do? Well, as the name implies, a legacy is something you leave behind. Once you pass away, you can have your legacy membership continue to pay the annual amount or a lump sum payout of the principle you invested will go to support our mission. While you are an active member you will also receive benefits like a plated engraved membership card, distinctive lapel and hat pins, recognition at VFW conventions, a discount to the VFW store, increased amounts of no-cost accidental death and disability insurance and other items. Each level has its own set of

benefits and your contribution to the legacy endowment is tax deductible.

While this is something you would need to pay for, you have levels to choose from and a payment plan that could help you manage this as you continue your commitment to our nations premier veterans group. The Bronze level is \$400, the Silver level is \$800 and the Gold level is \$1200. Our payment plan allows you to become a legacy member in 4 quarterly payments or with a lump sum payment. Additionally, you could work your way through the levels as a promotion from one to the next would be \$400 and is also something you could do on the payment plan.

Your organization values all that you and your membership does for us. This is another chance to highlight that commitment to all that the VFW stands for. I would not ask you to do this if it is not something I am willing to do myself and I have been a Gold Legacy Life Member for nearly all of my time in the VFW. Should you have any questions, please feel free to either reply to this email or to contact our state headquarters at [\(540\)886-8112](tel:5408868112). If you are interested in making this next step just reply to this email with your mailing address and I will send you the brochure with the application. Again, I thank you for your membership and for your service to this great country!

Ken Wiseman
Chair, Legacy Membership, Virginia

Congress Approves 1.5% COLA

VFW Washington Weekly, Nov. 15

Congress passed a 1.5-percent cost-of-living adjustment ... that is expected to be signed by the president. The increase would first appear in January checks and apply to about 3.7 million recipients of veterans' disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors, and pen-

sions for low-income combat veterans.

The COLA increase is automatic for Social Security and military and federal civilian retired pay recipients. New this year is the omission of a requirement that previously forced VA to round down COLA increases to the next lowest dollar, which at most would increase paychecks by 99 cents a month, or \$11.88 a year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| December 1 | District 8 Meeting - Post 7589 - Manassas - 1300 |
| January 9 | VFW Day on the Hill—Richmond |
| January 10 - 12 | 2014 Winter Council of Administration meeting - Williamsburg |
| February 23 | District 8 Meeting - Post 3103 - Fredericksburg - 1300 |
| March 15 | St. Patrick's Day Parade |
| April 19 | Department Commander's Homecoming— Post 9808, Mechanicsville |
| April 27 | District 8 Convention - Post 2524 - Culpeper - 1300 |
| May 23 - 26 | Memorial Day Activities |
| June 5-8 | Department Convention—Williamsburg |
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Francis Cannon Post 7589

P.O. Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108

Welcome to our new Comrades

We welcome Comrades who have become members of or transferred into our Post since July 1, 2013:

Russ Keating, Joshua Lynn, Matt Markos, Edward Matheny, Jamie Murphy, Pedro Perez, Joe Phoenix, Bryant Poole and August Pryzbilla, Daniel Rivard, Dan Sitar, Michael Sukeena and Larry Vance.
Michael Chambers, Robert Corkhill, Russell Dakin, Paul Holbert, Wayne Hulit, Demetric Jenkins, Jason Jones,

VA Fraud Alert

The Department of Veterans Affairs has issued a fraud alert about a marketing scam that is targeting veterans who misdial the VA National Call Center (800-827-1000) or the GI Bill Call Center (888-442-4551) phone numbers. A marketing company created two phone numbers that differ from the real VA numbers by one digit. If a veteran misdials and calls the bogus number, the answering party will offer a gift card and try to obtain sensitive personal data, to include credit card information. Please note that the VA will “never” ask for credit card or banking information over the phone.

1000 and 888-442-4511. Please forward this information to all your members, Posts and friends, and share it on your websites. The bottom line is make sure you know who you are talking to before providing personal information over the phone. The VA has notified law enforcement authorities.

The VA will “never” ask for credit card or banking information over the phone.

For a list of toll-free VA phone numbers, go to the VA’s Inquiry Routing & Information System webpage at https://iris.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1703

The two bogus numbers are 800-872-

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