

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
December 2017



WWII veteran Merle Hancock speaks to students at Mayfield Intermediate School on 11/8/17

Photo by Pete MacLeod

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NOTICE

Due to New Years, the January Membership meetings will be held on January 8.

CANNON NEWS—2015 National VFW Publications Silver Award
2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for
Most Outstanding Post Publication/Newsletter, VFW Department of Virginia

Commander's Message



Peter MacLeod

At this holiday time of year I always think of my Army years when I was away from home. Thank goodness for the USO and the countless shows and reminders of home that organization has been responsible for over the years.

I remember Thanksgiving 1969. I was at Army Basic Radio School at Fort Dix, NJ. I was sick. Very sick. So sick that I actually walked to the Base hospital on the day after Thanksgiving. The doctor there said I had congestion in my lungs and it could lead to pneumonia so he wrote orders to admit me to the hospital. Being young and stupid I ignored the doctor's orders because I was afraid I would miss my flight the next day to Advanced Radio Teletype School at Fort Gordon, Georgia. I walked back to the barracks and packed my bags. The hospitalization order never caught up with me. I made the flight, got to Ft. Gordon and got really, really sick. But being young and lucky I survived.

The next year, 1970, I was in Qui Nhon, Vietnam, on the coast of the South China Sea, with the 525th Military Intelligence Unit, for Christmas. I remember being sad, lonely and generally feeling sorry for myself. The famous comedian Bob Hope was touring Vietnam at the time. He didn't make it to Qui Nhon but he was nearby, so we got his show over American Forces Radio. At the time he was embroiled in the debate over the war and had lost some of his luster. All I remember was he spoke directly to the troops and brought a little bit of home to us. He may have been from the generation of World War II, but to me he was not out of date. He was still funny and seemed to know what we were all going through.

Bob Hope had a remarkable career entertaining U.S. troops all over the world. He began in the early 1940's with World War II and actually made some appearances during the Desert Storm era of 1990 and 1991. That is 50 years of entertainment for the troops! He would usually bring along pretty women, famous athletes and con-

temporary singers with his shows. A great book about Bob Hope, that flew a little under the radar in 2014 was simply titled "Hope" by Richard Zoglin. It earned praise from an author in *The New York Times* and received kudos from former NBC newsman Tom Brokaw, talk show host Dick Cavett and comedian, movie director and star, Woody Allen. I have a copy of this book if anyone would like to borrow it. You may not be able to put it down once you start. It is very, very good.

I want to thank Trustee Lou Filippone for chairing the Youth Committee this Fall and running the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year competition sponsored by VFW Post 7589 and the Auxiliary in the Manassas area. We received 50 VOD entries and 129 PP entries. The local judging is over but we have District 8 judging coming up at 1:00 PM on Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Post. If you would like to take part judging you are more than welcome; any member of the Post or Auxiliary can be a judge. It is important work as we want to send our best to the state judging later in December. This year the District Teacher judging will take place along with the essays. Our Post judging is of course over and the award recipients will be honored at the Post at 4:00 PM on Sunday, Dec. 3. We hope to have a good turnout from the Post and Auxiliary to show appreciation for the work of these young people and teachers. In addition to Chair Lou Filippone, I want to thank Youth Committee member Roger Nicol and my wife Jean, a member of the Auxiliary, for their extra work and hours judging the youth entries. It was fun, but we were all a little bleary eyed after a few hours.

I want to give Season's Greetings to all members of our Post and its Auxiliary and thank you all for your work and effort in the past year. Let's be determined to keep that work and effort going in 2018!

Please attend the December 4th General Membership Meeting and register to attend the Post/Auxiliary Holiday party at 3:00 PM on Sunday, December 17. It will be at the Stonewall Golf Club at Lake Manassas.

VFW Post 7589 /Auxiliary Education Award Winners 2017-18

Patriot's Pen, Grades 6-8 "America's Gift to My Generation"

- 1st Place: Clare E. Wilson, 8th Grade, Reagan Middle School, Haymarket
- 2nd Place: Nina Jean F. Buckley, 8th Grade, Reagan Middle School, Haymarket.
- 3rd Place: Wesley J. Hale, 7th Grade, Homeschooled, Virginia
- Honorable Mention: Chelsea Marie Perez, 6th Grade, Pennington School, Manassas.
- Honorable Mention: Fionette King, 8th Grade, Metz Middle School, Manassas.

Voice of Democracy, Grades 9-12 "American History: Our Hope for the Future"

- 1st Place: Brian K. McWilliam, 12th Grade, Seton School, Manassas
- 2nd Place: Mary K. Heim, 11th Grade, Seton School, Manassas
- 3rd Place: John P. Tessier, 11th Grade Kettle Run HS, Nokesville
- Hon. Mention: Ana T. Reyes, 11th Grade, Seton School, Manassas
- Hon. Mention: Howard L. Malc, 10th Grade, Thomas Jefferson HS, Alexandria.

VFW Citizenship Teachers of the Year

- Grades K-5: Mrs. Jennifer Young, 1st Grade Teacher, T. Clay Wood Elementary School, Nokesville
- Grades 6-8: Mr. Paul Malc, 6th Grade Teacher, Mantua Elementary School, Fairfax.
- Grades 9-12: Robert P. McKinney, Air Force Junior ROTC Teacher, Stonewall Jackson High School, Manassas

Auxiliary President



There were several events that started off November in recognizing the Veteran. This year, the Manassas Veterans' Day

Parade was held on November 4th and 7589 Post & Auxiliary had the honor of participating. The wreath laying ceremony on Novem-

ber 11th was hosted by Commander Pete MacLeod and members of the Post and Auxiliary at the Manassas Veterans Memorial. Our ceremony continued at the Manassas Cemetery where a wreath was placed at Francis Cannon's grave. We were assisted by Cub Scout Pack 1355 in replacing the old flags with new flags. Each flag had a Buddy Poppy placed at the top. We hope to see the Scouts again for our Memorial Day Ceremony in May 2018.

I was able to attend a ceremony at Birmingham Green with Debbie Baxter, Jan Germaine, Yvonne Sullivan, Pat Sutton and Comrades from Manassas Park Post 1811 to honor the resident veterans. The Veterans of the Birmingham Green staff were also recognized for their military service. The 7589 Auxiliary members distributed "Thank You" coins to the veterans.

The members of the Auxiliary wish to congratulate the recipients of Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teachers of the Year awards. The Post will host the awards ceremony on December 3rd at 4pm with refreshments provided by the Auxiliary served after the ceremony. Starting with **Voice of Democracy** the recipients are: First Place: Brian K. McWilliam, Seton School of Manassas, Second Place: Mary K. Heim, Seton School of Manassas, Third Place: John P. Tessier, Kettle Run High School of Nokesville, Honorable Mention: Ana T. Reyes, Seton School of Manassas, Honorable Mention: Howard L.

Malc, Thomas Jefferson High School of Alexandria.

The **Patriot's Pen** recipients are: First Place: Clare E. Wilson, Reagan Middle School of Haymarket, and Second Place: Nina Jean F. Buckley, Reagan Middle School of Haymarket, and Third Place: Wesley J. Hale, Home Schooled in Virginia, Honorable Mention: Chelsea Marie Perez, Pennington School of Manassas, and Honorable Mention: Fionette King, Metz Middle School of Manassas.

The **Teachers of the Year** recipients are: K-5: Mrs. Jennifer Young, T. Clay, and Wood Elementary School of Nokesville, 6-8: Mr. Paul Malc, Mantua Elementary School of Fairfax, and 9-12: Mr. Robert McKinney, Stonewall Jackson High School of Manassas. Just a reminder, the final contest for the high school student is the Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest. That deadline is **March 31, 2018**.

The fifth annual Auxiliary December meeting will be held at City Tavern, 9550 Center St., on Monday, December 4th at 6:00 PM. There will be a gift exchange so please bring a gift not to exceed \$10. A very short meeting will follow the dinner. Please come and enjoy some holiday fun with your Auxiliary members.

The Auxiliary annual Christmas visit to Birmingham Green will be December 12th at 10:30am. To get the gift ready for the Veterans, we will meet December 9th at Ms. Elanor's house at 12:00 (noon). Another event is the Post annual Holiday Party on December 17, 2017 from 3:00 – 6:00pm at Stonewall Golf Club at Lake Manassas. Tickets entitling members and one guest each will be distributed at the December 4th meetings of the Post and Auxiliary. In order to attend the holiday party, you have to be at the December meeting to receive a ticket. Please contact Commander MacLeod or me if you cannot attend your meeting.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our fundraiser for Wreaths Across America. I'd like to remind everyone that the ceremony for Wreaths Across America will be held at Quantico National Cemetery on December 16th at 12:00 PM (Noon). The biggest joy is seeing the cemetery after all the wreaths have been placed. I also would like to remind everyone to arrive early since the parking is very

limited. This event gets larger every year.

I would like to inform the Auxiliary members that the January 2018 meeting will be held on Monday, January 8th at 7:30 PM. The first Monday, January 1st (New Year Day) is a Federal Holiday and our standing rules state: "When the Auxiliary meeting night falls on a Federal Holiday, the Auxiliary will meet on the 2nd Monday". See you then.

The District 8 meeting was held at the **Southern Fauquier Post 7728 on November 18th**. I would like to thank **Janet Raskin** for representing **7589 Auxiliary**. Also, since Janet is District Chaplain, please inform her of any illness or death so she can send out cards to individuals as needed.

I would like to thank all of you who are participating in our coupon campaign. Our total so far this year is \$36,328.35. The expiration date is good up to 6 months after the coupon has expired here in the US. The National Home for Children is having their life membership drive. Please consider purchasing a onetime \$35.00 life membership.

Please remember the family of Ms. Mary Summers who went to her heavenly home on November 7th. For individuals and their family members who are ill or hospitalized, **PLEASE** remember to keep them in your prayers.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill

VFW Auxiliary President



Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair

The Youth Committee is please to announce the winners in the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year contests for Post 7589.

[See Page 2]

The competition was tough as there was a large talent base among the contestants from our 27 area schools. We received 129 Patriots Pen and 50 Voice of Democracy entries. This will enable us to send 8 Patriot's Pen and 3 Voice of Democracy contestants to the District level of competition. We will also be sending out three Teacher of the Year winners to the District as well.

District judging is scheduled for Saturday 2 December 2017 at the Post at 1:00 PM.

Our Awards ceremony is scheduled for Sunday 3 December 2017 at 4 PM at the Post. Awards will be presented to all of

the winners. The prizes range from \$50 to \$500, all donated by the Post. In addition, certificates are presented to all the winners and honorable mentions. The Auxiliary will also be presenting the winners cash prizes and certificates. In January all contestants will receive a certificate and Post pen.

Our guest speaker this year will be Gary B. James a retired Naval Flight Officer and Lay minister with the Lutheran church. He has held various challenging jobs throughout his career and possesses multiple degrees. He will be an interesting and inspirational speaker and is sure to motivate and excite all our young attendees. A color guard from Stonewall Jackson High School will open the ceremony. Parking for this event will be available in the Post parking lot and at Dr. Charles Nelson's lot next door. Refreshments following the ceremony will be provided by the Auxiliary.

We are planning to have another flag retirement ceremony with local Scouts on Saturday 9 December starting at 9:00 AM at the Post.

The ceremony should conclude around 10:30—11:00 AM.

If anyone would like to volunteer for either the District judging, the awards ceremony or the flag retirement please contact me or Commander MacLeod as soon as possible.

Don't forget we will be having our Scout of the Year and Patriotic Arts Competitions in March 2018.

Due to the lull in youth activities, the next youth committee meeting will be 19 January. We welcome all who support youth and would like to join us.



Blery eyed essay judges Lou Filippone, Jean MacLeod and Roger Nichol at MacLeod Home on 11/3/17.

Post/Auxiliary Holiday Party

The Post and Auxiliary will hold our annual Holiday Party on December 17, 2017 from 3:00 – 6:00 PM at the Stonewall Golf Club at Lake Manassas.

Tickets entitling members and one guest each will be distributed at the December 4th meetings of the Post and Auxiliary.

You must attend your appropriate meeting to get a ticket.

Please contact Commander MacLeod or President Corkhill by December 4 if you cannot attend your meeting. Exceptions will be on a case by case basis.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact either Commander MacLeod or President Corkhill.

VFW Holiday Party

25-50 Guests in the Magnolia Room

Date: Sunday, December 17th, 2017

Time: 3:00-6:00 PM

Display Appetizers

Choice of 2

International & Domestic Cheese Display, Hot Spinach & Artichoke Dip, Hummus & Pita, Pepper Jelly Meatballs

Salad

Choice of 1

*Harvest Salad with Bibb Lettuce, Pecans, Dried Cranberries and Tomatoes
Mixed Green Salad*

Carving Station

Choice of 1

Dijon Encrusted Pork, Beef Top Round, Roast Turkey

Entree

Choice of 1

Sliced Dijon Pork Loin, Roasted Chicken, Bistro Filet

Included Sides: Mashed Potato, Rice Pilaf & Vegetable Medley

Dessert

Choice of 1

New York Cheesecake or Chocolate Layer Cake

*Coffee (Regular & Decaf), Hot Tea, Iced Tea
Cash Bar Available via Cocktail Servers*

Post Chaplain Speaks at JMU

By Joel Chase



Joel Chase

Telling the Vietnam Story

James Madison University in Harrisonburg offers an elective class to students (about twenty in all) who are interested in learning from veterans firsthand from all eras about their experiences in the military.

The instructor is a clinical psychiatrist who has created video documentaries (about one hour long) that the students are

required to watch.

For the past several years, Joel Chase has been asked to speak to the students about his combat experiences. This year he was asked to bring his war trophy SKS to the class with the permission of campus police. He said with all the shootings going on recently it was a little scary, even with a police escort carrying the weapon in a case.

Joel spoke about the SKS describing its various features and functions while the students got some hands on as the rifle was passed around the room.

The floor was then opened for about an hour and a half for Q & A. Each student is required to ask the guest veteran a question. The questions covered a wide range of topics such as morale, Agent Orange, training, enemy preparedness, decorations received, protests against the war and more.

Joel says that he enjoys sharing his Vietnam experiences with those who might not have an opportunity to hear from a combat veteran.

MISSION BBQ
The American Way

Charity Night
BENEFITS THE USO

December 8, 2017 6 – 9 pm

USO
Metropolitan
Washington-Baltimore

MISSION BBQ is committed to giving back to American Heroes that serve Our Country.

PLEASE RSVP ▶ mission20155@mission-bbq.com

13944 PROMENADE COMMONS STREET | GAINESVILLE, VA 20155 | 571 535-2503

Tax relief for elderly and disabled residents of Prince William County

Elderly Citizens and Disabled Persons who meet certain criteria may be granted relief from all or part of their real estate taxes, personal property tax on one vehicle, the vehicle registration/license fee, and the solid waste fee. Eligibility criteria may change from year to year.

To qualify, an applicant must:

- Be 65 years of age or older as of December 31, 2017. Relief will be prorated for those applicants that turn 65 during calendar year 2017.
- Have a gross household income from all sources of not more than \$81,490 - The first \$10,000 of income earned by any relative living in the household other than the owner(s) or spouse is excluded. For an applicant who qualifies as permanently and totally disabled, the first \$7,500 of any income received by the applicant as permanent disability compensation is excluded.
- Have a combined financial net worth for the applicant and spouse of not more than \$340,000, excluding the residence for which the exemption is sought and up to 25 acres of land it occupies.
- Own and occupy the home as his/her sole dwelling.

Disabled veterans who meet certain criteria may be granted relief from real estate taxes on a home and up to one acre of land it occupies and the solid waste fee. Relief will be prorated for applicants who become disabled or purchase a home after January 1, 2017.

Eligibility criteria for relief of real estate taxes and the solid waste fee:

- The applicant must provide documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) indicating the veteran is 100% (or compensated at the 100% rate), service-connected, permanently, and totally disabled. The VA documentation must include the effective date the veteran's disability was determined to be service-connected, 100% (or compensated at the 100% rate), total, and permanent.
- The applicant must own and occupy the home as his/her principal place of residence.
- There are no income or net worth requirements for real estate tax relief for qualifying disabled veterans.

The surviving spouse of a veteran eligible for the real estate exemption may qualify for the exemption if:

- The death of the veteran occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2011.
- The surviving spouse does not remarry.
- The surviving spouse continues to occupy the real property as his/her principal place of residence.

Contact the Real Estate Assessments Office at 703-792-6780 or realestate@pwcgov.org for more information about the program or to request an application.

<http://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/finance/pages/tax-relief-program-information.aspx>

From the



Latest VA Fix Isn't: The VFW is adamantly opposed to the latest congressional attempt to fix the Department of Veterans Affairs. The "fix," as introduced Tuesday by Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), "throws out the idea of acceptable patient wait times and eliminates the requirement of the veteran to ask for VA permission to use civilian medical providers," according to his [press release](#). The "fix" would also erode the VA health care system by charging veterans for care related to their service-connected wounds, illnesses or injuries. The VFW has conducted [multiple surveys](#) that reflect more than 80 percent of veterans who are eligible for VA care choose to use their earned VA care, despite the overwhelming majority having other options, such as employer-sponsored health insurance, the military's TRICARE plan, or Medicare. Veterans appreciate options, and ultimately they choose whichever health plan best fits their individual circumstances. Having unregulated choice, however, puts the onus on veterans to find their own care — and that needs to be a decision between doctors and their patients, not Washington.

NDAA Update: Following several weeks of negotiations with the House, the Senate unanimously approved the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2018 (FY18). In recent months, the VFW has placed significant pressure on Congress to preserve or extend the benefits granted to members of the military, retirees, veterans and their families, such as pay and allowances; TRICARE reform; the Survivor Benefits Plan; the declassification of documents related to toxic exposure; military sexual assault; and benefit parity for certain members of the National Guard and Reserve. The VFW is glad the final bill includes provisions important to VFW members. Specifically, the final bill does not impact the grandfathering of TRICARE enrollment and copayment costs for current retirees.

The final bill authorizes more than \$692 billion for ongoing and planned defense programs, including \$65.7 billion for overseas contingency operations. Despite the bill's passage, DOD is still operating on a continuing resolution which prohibits its ability to use funds authorized by the NDAA. Authorized spending levels in the NDAA are well above the \$549 billion sequestration spending cap on defense spending for FY18, which requires Congress to strike a budget deal to adjust the outdated caps that were set in 2010 and fails to account for the changing needs of America's military.

3. Recent GI Bill Changes: In recent months there have been substantial changes and additions to the GI Bill benefit. One VFW-supported change is the removal of the 15-year use it or lose it cap. The 15-year time limitation to use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits was eliminated for veterans who left active duty on or after Jan. 1, 2013. Additionally, children who became eligible for the Fry Scholarship on or after Jan. 1, 2013, and all Fry Scholarship-eligible spouses now have the 15-year cap removed as well. The VFW worked tirelessly with Congress and our VSO partners to ensure veterans who were precluded from fully utilizing this important benefit are able to accomplish their post-military educational goals.

VA Women Veterans Summit Webinars: In August, Hurricane Harvey forced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to cancel a majority of the events scheduled for their National Women Veterans Summit held in Houston. Consequently, VA has hosted webinars for discussions and panels that were cancelled. The webinars are available to watch from VA's website. Topics covered include employment, health care, military sexual trauma, local and federal resources and more.

Hal Roesch selected Southern Conference nominee for Junior vice Commander in Chief

Kim Deshano completes 2-year term as Southern Conference Chair

By Rick Raskin

At the Southern Conference in Biloxi, MS, our very own Past Department Commander Hal Roesch was officially selected as the Southern Conference's nominee for National Junior Vice Commander-in Chief. He will be officially elected at the National Convention in Kansas City, MO in July 2018.

Each year the incoming Junior vice Commander in Chief is elected from one of the four National Conferences in rotation; meaning the Southern Conference nominee is elected every four years. 2018 is the Southern Conference's year.

Virginia has never had a National Line Officer, so Hal will be the first. He has worked very hard for the VFW and will make an excellent Junior Vice Commander in Chief. He will progress through the chairs and become Commander in Chief at the National Convention in Reno, NV in July 2020.

On another note, State Adjutant/Quartermaster Kim DeShano has just finished his 2-year term as the Chair of the Southern Conference. He did an outstanding job and set a very high bar for his successors.

We are very proud of both of them.

Photos from Veterans Day week activities



World War II vets at Arbor Terrace assisted living center in Manassas listen to Post 7589 Comrades Pete MacLeod and Terry Bursley speak on 11/10/17.



Flags at Vet's graves at Manassas Cemetery 11/11/17 with Pack 1355 Cub



Flag folding at Round Elementary as part of their salute to veterans assembly.



Manassas Christian School Principal Linda Bare with veterans Rod Burr, Roger Nicol, Pete MacLeod, 11/3/17

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER	
December 3	VOD/PP/Teachers Awards — 4 PM – Auxiliary will provide the Refreshments
December 4	Post Meeting — 7:30 PM Auxiliary Meeting — 6 PM — City Tavern
December 7	Pearl Harbor Day
December 9	Flag Retirement — Post Home — 9 am
December 16	Wreaths Across America at Quantico Cemetery — 12 noon
December 17	Post's Holiday Party — 3—6 PM — Stonewall Golf Club at Lake Manassas
December 28	Executive meeting — 7:30 PM
JANUARY	
January 8	Post / Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM
January 12-14	Council of Administration Meeting — Portsmouth VA
January 19	Youth Committee Meeting — 7:00 PM
January 22	Americanism Committee — 7:00 PM



KNOW YOUR VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE

Rob Wittman	1st District	202-225-4261
Scott Taylor	2nd District	202-225-4215
Bobby Scott	3rd District	202-225-8351
Donald McEachin	4th District	202-225-6365
Tom Garrett	5th District	202-225-4711
Robert Goodlatte	6th District	202-225-5431
Dave Bratt	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Barbara Comstock	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492

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Please email articles to quartermaster@vfw7589.org

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