

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
January 2017



December 10: Scouts from Pack 910 following their participation in a flag retirement ceremony.

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

Commander's Message

Pete MacLeod



Happy New Year! What do you know? 2017 is about to begin! I can remember writing "1955" for the first time in school and thinking that was incredibly modern!

But let's grab 2016 one more time and look back at some of the highlights for VFW Post 7589.

On January 21 The Inter-Service Club Council of Greater Manassas chose and honored Jerry Martin, a former Commander of Post 7589, as "Volunteer of the Year" for his work with veteran's organizations and individual veterans. This organization has representatives from more than 50 volunteer groups in the Manassas area.

In February, Post 7589 was proud to recognize Ms. Tiffany Payne of Haymarket Elementary School, Mr. Mark Hoffman of Seton School and Mr. Michael Hardy of Mt. View Alternative High School in Centreville as our Teachers of the Year for 2015-16. Ms. Payne and Mr. Hardy went on to receive awards at District 8. Also in February, 3 of our Youth award recipients placed at the District 8 level: Sebastien Cotto of Manassas Christian School, Brendan Rogers of Seton School and Juliette Orr of Seton School.

Later in the spring, 69 students each received a VFW certificate and a pen for participating in the 2015-16 essay contests. They represented 7 schools in the Manassas area.

Comrades Joel and Paul Chase reported on their continuing drive to collect aluminum can tabs for recycling with the money go-

ing to the Shriners Hospital's Boston Burn Center. In 2015 the haul was 300,000 tabs and so far over 500,000 this year! The count continues. Watch the board inside the Post for updates. Thanks to many Manassas/Warrenton area businesses for helping.

In May, the Post was proud to award Cadet Elise Dettmann of the Osbourn Park High School Navy JROTC program with the VFW Bronze Award.

In May we also tried something new: a joint recruiting day at Tractor Supply with Manassas Park Post 1811. Post 7589 picked up 3 new members and Post 1811 got one new member and several prospects.

Memorial Day Weekend was very busy again with Buddy Poppy Drives at the Giant Food in Centreville, Tractor Supply in Manassas, Food Lion at the Woodbine Shopping Center and Shoppers Food and Pharmacy. The Buddy Poppy work raised \$1,707 for Veterans Services. I want to thank Comrades Ron Link, Rick Raskin, Troy Hedsall, Paul Chase, Robert Punihaole, Joel Chase and Eric Cruz for their work at these Buddy Poppy drives. A total of 91 man hours was put in by our Post.

Our Post conducted Memorial Day services, with help from Cub Scout Pack 1355, at the Manassas Veterans Memorial, the Manassas Cemetery and then later at Caton Merchant House. We want to thank former Post 7589 Commanders Sam Nealey and Ron Knowles for their help as well as the Auxiliary, Comrade Robert Punihaole and others. We were encouraged by a turnout of 30 residents at Caton Merchant House.

A highlight of the year was the Post's 70th Anniversary dinner at the Post Home on June 4. A tip of the hat to Lou Filippone for undertaking the massive task of planning and then pulling it off. Big help from Quartermaster Rick Raskin, former Commander Ron Link the Auxiliary, Building Manager Wayne Moore and others. The appearance of our first Post Commander John Gregory was unforgettable, but the best speech about the VFW was given by our outgoing State Commander Doug Keller. The most interesting/historical talk was given by former Commander Jerry Martin who filled us in on the life of Fran-

cis Cannon whom the Post is named after.

At the VFW Virginia Convention in Williamsburg in June, our Post was recognized as an "All State Post" for 2015-16 and received a plaque for having the largest increase in Life Members for a Post in our size category. Quartermaster Rick Raskin was elected to the position of State Judge Advocate and former Post Commander Ron Link was recognized as District 8 Commander.

A busy June continued with a large "flag retirement and education" day at the Post with Cub Scout Pack 1355 and 1 Girl Scout from Troop 662 in Bristow. We respectfully retired more than 500 used and worn American flags. A big thank you to Trustee Terry Bursey, Quartermaster Rick Raskin and Auxiliary members Janet Raskin, Mary Corkhill and Jean MacLeod for their help.

Our Post was proud to take part in the American Legion Post #10 POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony on Sept. 16. QM Rick Raskin was a member of the A.L. Color Guard, Senior Vice Commander Ron Link and Commander Pete MacLeod read a list of former MIA's whose bodies or remains had recently been recovered. Comrade Robert Punihaole and Auxiliary member Janet Raskin were also in attendance along with Rebecca Christovich who is Commander of A.L. Legion Post 10 and a member of the Auxiliary at Post 7589.

Post members passed out more than 1,000 trick or treat bags with a safety message at the Manassas Fall Jubilee in October. We had a good turnout of members at our booth including Commander Pete MacLeod, Quartermaster Rick Raskin, Building Manager Wayne Moore, Comrade Ed Fishpaw, Historian Paul Chase, Trustee Terry Bursey, Comrade Robert Punihaole, Comrade Kurt Vaughn, Comrade Rod Burr, and former Commander Ron Knowles.

Something new in October: Our Post hosted a meeting of the City Manager's Committee which included most of the Dept. heads in the city of Manassas. Building Manager Wayne Moore and Commander Pete MacLeod welcomed the city leaders for the two hour meeting. QM Rick Raskin had set up a Power Point presenta-

tion about the Post.

Our Post had a full schedule of activities on Veteran's Week in November. They included marching in the Manassas Veterans Parade, speaking to more than 1200 students at Mayfield Intermediate School and to another 500 at Manassas Christian School, services at Manassas Veterans Memorial and flag placements at the Manassas Cemetery with Cub Scout Pack 1355. There were also Buddy Poppy Drives at the Centreville Giant which raised more than \$1,100.00 for veterans services.

Commander Pete MacLeod, Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod and Trustee Lou Filippone spent more than 30 hours judging 128 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy entries from 11 Manassas area schools and home schooled students. This included a record 71 VOD entries from Seton School students. The names of the local and district award recipients have been

posted at the Post and can be found in the Youth News and Notes column in this Newsletter. They can also be found in the Dec. 23-29 edition of *Inside Nova – Prince William* on Page 11. The award winners were honored at a Youth Awards Celebration on December 4 at the Post. Thanks to the Post's Auxiliary and President Mary Corkhill, Post Trustee Lou Filippone and Post QM Rick Raskin for help with that event. Former Post Commander Ron Link designed and published the program and the award recipient's certificates. Thanks also to Robert Punihale and Roger Nicol for their help.

We had a large turnout by Cub Scout Pack 910 on Saturday, Dec. 10 for a Flag Education and Retirement program. More than 50 Cub Scouts, leaders and parents came to the Post and got a full flag education class from Auxiliary Member Jean MacLeod and then QM Rick Raskin, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and Trustee Terry Bursley supervised the Flag Retirement

process. The Post received two beautiful plaques as thanks for carrying out the program. This event and our Christmas Party planned by Lou Filippone closed out an extremely successful year!

Do not forget that Comrade Phil Smith, a regular Bingo Caller at the Post, was nominated for Manassas Volunteer of the Year for his continuing hospital work and visits. A big salute to him for that valuable work! Paul and Joel Chase also do much visitation work that is also so important. Another person at this Post who puts in hours of work helping fellow veterans is our Service Officer Steve Meade.

I want to thank the Post Commanders I have served under: Ron Knowles, Sam Nealey, Steve Meade and Ron Link for setting the tone and level of activity that has made VFW Post 7589 one of the leaders in the Virginia VFW.



For questions or additional information email:

quartermaster@vfw7589.org



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Hours: Wednesdays 8 AM—12:15 PM

Just show up and work with our crew.

Free coffee, donuts and snacks!

Auxiliary President



I trust everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. The 2017 year looks like a very busy one for our Veterans and their families.

Every December we start with the Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy awards ceremony. This year we were honored to have as our guest Speaker Tyler Malejko. His speech about turning challenges into opportunities also had the children involved. We would like to thank Mr. Malejko and congratulate the recipients of this year's awards:

Patriot's Pen (grades 6-8) "The America I Believe In": First Place: Riley A. Kotlus, 7th Grade, Home Schooled, Manassas, Second Place: Olesya Stavrova, 6th Grade, Mayfield Intermediate, Third Place: Vincent Verrocchio II, 8th Grade, Seton School, Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Horichi, 8th Grade, Seton School, Honorable Mention: Tess Welsby, 6th Grade, Manassas Christian, **Voice of Democracy (grades 9-12) "My Responsibility to America"**: First Place: Ashley K. Cackett, 11th Grade, Seton School, Second Place: Caitlin M. Orr, 11th Grade, Seton School, Third Place: Maria Luetkemeyer, 11th Grade, Seton School, Honorable Mention: Brianna L. Stumpf, 12th Grade, Osbourn HS, Honorable Mention: Joseph F McGraw, 11th Grade, Seton School. I would also like to thank everyone at the Post and Auxiliary for a job well done in this event. At the Winter Conference in January, the winner of both awards will be announced during the reception/buffet.

I represented our Auxiliary by attending the Snowball Express at Reagan National Airport on December 10, 2016. As I stated last year, this organization brings together



Auxiliary members at the Snowball Express on December 10. (L-R) District 10 President Joyce Gibbs, Department President Shema Peppers, Auxiliary 7589 President Mary Corkhill, Betty Gimble and Kathy Graham.

children of our fallen military heroes across the country for 5 days of making new memories and honoring their parent's sacrifice. They went to Six Flags in Texas. The other event scheduled on December 17th was Wreaths Across America at Quantico National Cemetery but due to icy roads, the members of the Auxiliary were not able to attend. Maybe the weather will work in our favor next year. We sure hope so.

Again this year, Ms. Yvonne Sullivan set up the appointment at Birmingham Green and attended with Cookie Cullen, Patsy Gough, Dana Zank and myself where we were able to distribute 20 gifts to the veterans. Thank you ladies. Without you, we wouldn't have completed our projects. You are the best.

The next event will be the Winter Conference at Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center in Williamsburg, VA from January 13-15, 2017. If you plan to attend, please stop by the different tables that will be set up for fundraisers. There will be Ways & Means, President's Special Project and National President's (Dee's) "Celebration America's Freedom Event" for October 2017. The weekend starts off Friday night with the Council of Administration. Saturday is the Auxiliary meeting and Saturday night will be the reception where they will honor the first place winners of the Patriots Pen & Voice of Democracy for the Department. The Virginia Legislative "Day on the Hill" has

been moved to Thursday, January 19th in Richmond.

We have some deadline dates that you need to be aware of: the Teacher of The Year and The Continuing Education Scholarship are due by **February 15th** and the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Award Contest is due by **March 31st**. Please ask any Auxiliary member about these contests and we will provide you with more information. I would also like to remind you of the 8th District meeting on Saturday, February 11th at Post 7728. Lunch will be served at noon and the meeting will start at 1:00 pm. If you need a ride, **please** let me know at 703/361-8950.

I would like to thank the annual members who have paid their dues before December 31, 2015. As you know, if your 2016 dues are not paid by that date, you are not an Auxiliary member in good standing. For those individuals who have not paid, please forward your payment of \$20.00 to the Auxiliary Treasurer, Ms. Elanor Doczi, 7415 Roxbury Ave., Manassas, VA 20109. We are very proud you have chosen VFW Auxiliary 7589 as your home. The National Auxiliary has provided benefits for all of us. Please check the National Auxiliary website under benefits for more information. <http://www.vfwauxiliary.org>.

Since National Home for Children is no longer collecting Campbell soup labels, we have started collecting coupons for our military overseas. Please bring them to the Post so we can send them overseas. Thank you in advance.

For individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized, please let us know. And as always, you are always in our prayers.

Have a very safe and enjoyable New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill
Auxiliary President



Youth News and Notes, Jan. 2017

Happy New Year! Here is a final listing of our local and district Educational Award recipients for 2016-17:

Manassas Area Awards:



Patriot's Pen, Grades 6-8, writing on the theme: "The America I Believe In"
First Place: Riley A. Kotus, Home Schooled, Manassas, 7th Grade.

Second Place: Olesya Stavrova, Mayfield Intermediate School, 6th Grade.

Third Place: Vincent Verrocchio II, Seton School, 8th Grade.

Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Horiuchi, Seton School, 8th Grade.

Honorable Mention: Tess Welsby, Manassas Christian School, 6th Grade



Voice of Democracy, Grades 9-12, writing and speaking on the theme "My Responsibility To America"

First Place: Ashley K. Cackett, Seton School, 11th Grade

Second Place: Caitlin M. Orr, Seton School, 11th Grade

Third Place: Maria Luetkemeyer, Seton School, 11th Grade

Honorable Mention: Brianna L. Stumpf, Osbourn High School, 12th Grade

Honorable Mention: Joseph F. McGraw, Seton School, 11th Grade

VA VFW District 8 Awards:

Patriot's Pen

First Place: Riley A. Kotus, Home Schooled, Post 7589, Manassas

Second Place: Samuel L. Rodman, Post 9835, Warrenton

Third Place: Vincent Verrocchio II, Seton School, Post 7589, Manassas

Voice of Democracy

First Place; Maria Luetkemeyer, Seton School, Post 7589, Manassas

Second Place (Tie): Isabelle G. Me-

hochko, Post 1811, Manassas Park
Second Place (Tie): Caitlin M. Orr, Seton School, Post 7589, Manassas

What a great presentation at the Youth Awards Ceremony on Dec. 4 by our guest speaker, businessman and inventor Tyler Malejko. His message about accepting failure and, "moving on" and not giving up, resonated with the young people who he invited up to the front as he spoke. Superbly prepared, you could hear a pin drop among the students as Mr. Malejko told of his own career that included several hits and misses and transitions from a military officer to a civilian career. Thanks again to Trustee and Youth Committee member Lou Filippone for finding this guy!

As you have probably heard, the Virginia VFW is doing something different with the State Awards this year. Instead of announcing the award recipients before Christmas they are saving the announcement for the Williamsburg Mid Winter Meetings (Jan. 13-15). So on Saturday night, 1/14, it will be like the Academic Awards. Some drama and excitement! It could be a big night for Manassas as we have two contenders, Maria Luetkemeyer and Riley Kotus. They will also announce the state second and third place recipients on that weekend. Hopefully all of the potential winners will be there which should make for quite a crowd.

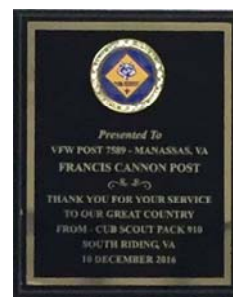
The deadline for Teacher of the Year nominations is February 15. Post 7589 has always done well in this category, producing the state winner, Anne Carroll of Seton School in 2011, and last year we took two of the three district spots with Ms. Tiffany Payne of Haymarket and Mr. Mark Hoffman of Centreville. Nomination applications are available at the Post near the snack counter and you can also print them from the VFW national website or ask a member of the Youth Committee. All you have to do is write a short essay on why your nominee should win and encourage your nominee to get documentation of their accomplishments. I will give you a hint based on past teacher judging: the judges tend to favor projects and awards that have to do with helping the students and the school, not just reflecting the expertise of the teacher. In other words a teacher that has helped raise money for the school or guided a student or group of students in a

specific project is looked on more favorably by the judges than a teacher who simply leads an after school "club" or team sport. That is a judging tendency I have noticed from discussions particularly at the district level.

Don't forget the March 1 deadline for nominations for Post "Scout of the Year." Another area we have always done well in is the Auxiliary "Patriotic Art Contest." The deadline for that is March 31. You can get information and applications from Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill.

Have you ever been in charge of an event and been caught totally off guard? At previous flag retirements and education with Scouts we usually get 10 to 15 Scouts and several parents and leaders. On December 10, they just kept coming and coming until our Post hall was literally bursting at the seams with more than 50 Scouts and at least 20 leaders and parents. Standing Room only for sure! Luckily we had help from QM Rick Raskin, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, Aux. Senior Vice President Janet Raskin, Aux. member Jean MacLeod, Post Trustee Terry Bursey and former Post Commander Ron Link. We survived and things actually went very well. Pack 910 is a very impressive Cub Scout Pack. Not only did they turn out in large numbers but they "policed" the area, picking up trash and presented the Post with 2 beautiful plaques that are now on the wall!

Pete MacLeod, Youth Chair



Cub Scouts receive flag education and help retire unserviceable flags

More than 50 Cub Scouts from Pack 910 and their leaders were at the Post on December 10 for a flag retirement ceremony and education on the American flag. Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod conducted the educational portion where she discussed flag protocol and the history of the American flag.

Following the class the Scouts participated in a retirement ceremony where approximately 100 unserviceable flags were respectfully destroyed.

The Post maintains a flag collection point adjacent to our driveway where citizens can turn in old worn out flags. About two or three times a year we conduct a retirement ceremony and have retired literally thousands over the years.

Local Scouts have shown a great interest in participating and are welcome to participate.

Post and Auxiliary members who helped with this event were: Pete & Jean MacLeod, Rick & Janet Raskin, Mary Corkhill, Ron Link and Terry Bursey.



VVMF needs photos of those who died in Vietnam

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is the organization raising funds for construction of a museum on the Mall in Washington DC. Since there is no room for additional memorials above ground, the VVMF will be built underground. It will feature an interactive visual display of the faces of those listed on the Wall. It will also display many of the items left at the Wall by visitors which are presently stored at the Smithsonian and are unseen by the public. The intent of the VVMF is to collect photographs of all those listed on the Wall, and display their faces on their birthdays.

Obviously, gathering over 58,000 photos dating back nearly fifty years is an arduous task, and there are only a few individuals working on the project in their spare time.

Perhaps you can help.

Many of us know of someone killed in Vietnam and could obtain a photo of that person. Prior to submitting a photo please visit www.vvmf.org/thewall and search for the person you knew. If a picture exists then no further action is needed. If however there is no picture please send me a copy of what you have. Please also include the home of record along with the full name of the individual.

We are only about 8,000 photos short of achieving our 100% goal. Thus far our Post has contributed 6 new photos to the gallery. The last ones are going to be the most difficult to identify. While the Wall is a fitting memorial to those who gave their all during the Vietnam War, the Wall of Faces will be a much more personal connection with those whose names are on the granite wall.

Submit photos to Joel Chase, 6925 Mill Valley Dr, Warrenton, VA 20187-9212 or by email joelchase07@comcast.net.

Submitted photos will be forwarded to the project coordinator for inclusion in the Wall of Faces exhibit

Sorry, photos cannot be returned.

Joel Chase
Chaplain, VFW Post 7589 - Manassas



Would You Like To Ask a Real U-2 Pilot What It's Like?

The Cold War Museum, in cooperation with the Vint Hill Craft Winery, invites you to attend a presentation by noted U-2 pilot and U-2 Squadron Commander Chuck Wilson on flying the U-2

Chuck will do a presentation using the briefing slides he used many times with top Air Force officials on the U-2 and its capabilities. Then he'll take questions from the audience. The U-2 is one of the most difficult aircraft in the world to fly, and Chuck will explain why this is so. Built for the CIA, the U-2 is still used for surveillance, such as of the islands in the South China Sea that the Chinese are fortifying despite disputed ownership of those islands. This is the second in a series of presentations sponsored by the Museum and Winery featuring expert eyewitnesses to significant Cold War events and activities. Presentations occur at the Winery, followed by special access to the Museum (next door) with a tour for event participants. NOTE: The Museum has recently purchased a portable PA system to enhance the audience experience; it includes wireless mikes to facilitate questions to the speaker.

Date: Sunday, January 22

Time: 1:00 PM (Arrival: 12:30-12:50 PM)

Cost: \$25, including the presentation, a glass of wine, a \$10 contribution to the Cold War Museum, and special access to the Museum (next door) for event participants following the presentation. Location: The Vint Hill Craft Winery, 7150 Lineweaver Road, Vint Hill, VA 20187, <http://www.vinthillcraftwinery.com/>, and the Cold War Museum, 7142 Lineweaver Road, Vint Hill, VA 20187, www.coldwar.org

Agenda:

- 12:30-12:50. Participants arrive; they may get their glass of wine at this time.
- 12:50-1:00 Jason Hall, Executive Director of the Cold War Museum, introduces the Museum and Chuck Wilson.
- 1:00-2:00. Chuck discusses flying the U-2.
- 2:00-2:30. Q&A opportunity for the audience.
- 2:30-3:00 Audience members may claim their glass of wine at this time or buy additional wine.
- 3:00-4:00 The Museum (next door) will be open for event participants, with staff providing a tour for those interested.

Event seating at the Winery is limited, so we suggest that you secure your tickets promptly. Questions? Call or email Jason Hall, 703-283-4124 (cell), jason@coldwar.org

Patton's Christmas Card

Submitted by Chuck Wilson
Commander VFW Post 7916, Occoquan
Chairman Potomac Region Veterans Council

During the holiday season of 1944, the Battle of the Bulge was in rage.

On Dec. 16, 1944, three Nazi armies were amassed, consisting of 13 Panzer and Infantry divisions made up of an estimated 300,000 men. They executed an enormous surprise attack against the Allies in the Ardennes Forest area of Belgium, France, and Luxembourg. Being caught off-guard, the Allies were hard-pressed to keep their lines from breaking under the intense assault.

Bastogne was a town in Southern Belgium of immense strategic importance as eight roads crossed there. Six Nazi Panzer divisions were on a mad rush to occupy it, but the night before, in sub-zero temperature, American troops of the 101st Airborne were trucked in to hold it.

The German commander Heinrich Freiherr von Luttwitz demanded surrender:

To the U.S.A. Commander of the encircled town of Bastogne: The fortune of war is changing. This time the U.S.A. forces in and near Bastogne have been encircled by strong German armored units there is only one possibility to save the encircled U.S.A. troops from total annihilation: that is the honorable surrender of the encircled town. In order to think it over a term of two hours will be granted beginning with the presentation of this note. If this proposal should be rejected one German Artillery Corps and six heavy A.A. Battalions are ready to annihilate the U.S.A. troops in and near Bastogne. The order for firing will be given immediately after this two hours term. All the serious civilian losses caused by this artillery fire would not correspond with the well-known American humanity.

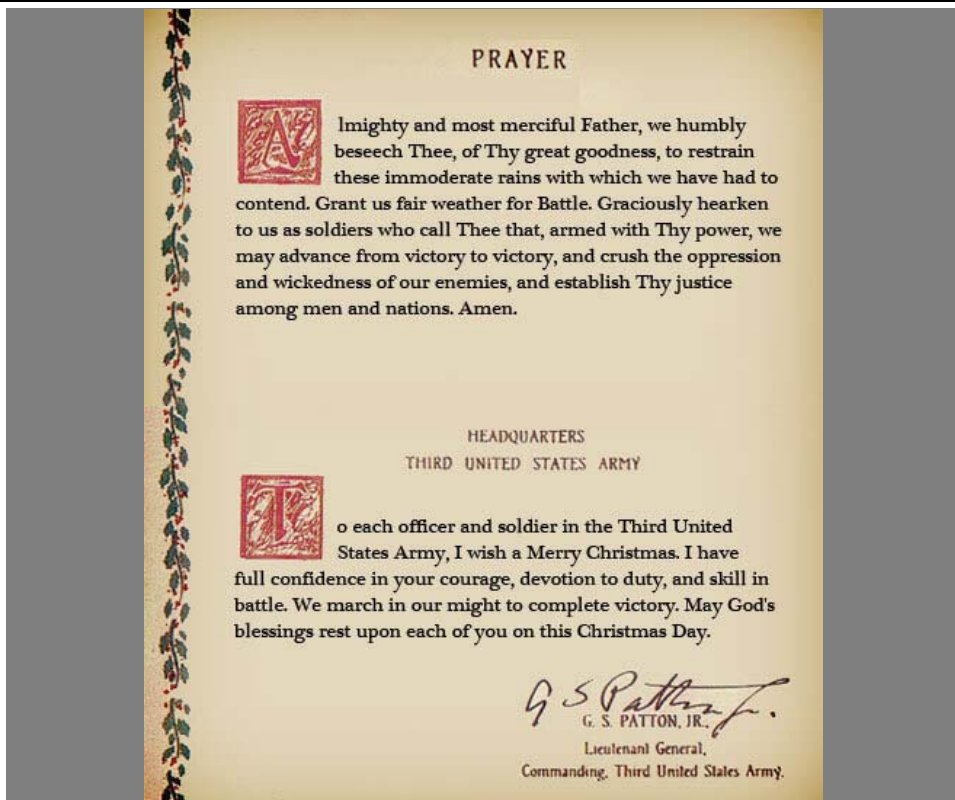
– The German Commander.

On Dec. 22, 1944, U.S. Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe answered:

To the German Commander.
NUTS!

– The American Commander.

This unusual response caused the Nazi



commander to hesitate. Then the Nazis attacked – over 50,000 Nazis assaulted the 15,000 Americans.

After eight days, the Americans were nearly out of ammunition. Marching to their rescue was General George Patton who pulled Third Army out of battle and redirected a hundred mile march to Bastogne, in the winter storm. But Third Army needed Air cover and the weather was too atrocious.

Patton had Chaplain, Father James O'Neill compose a prayer. A prayer that was given to each soldier of Third Army. All of the men prayed this simple prayer:

“Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend,” it read. “Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen.”

On the reverse side, Patton wrote, “To each officer and soldier in the Third United States Army, I wish a Merry Christmas.

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We march in our might to complete victory. May God's blessings rest upon each of you on this Christmas Day. – G.S. Patton, Jr., Lt. Gen. Commanding, Third United States Army.”

Miraculously, the next day the weather cleared and the planes gave air support. General Patton's troops punched through the Nazi lines to rescue the exhausted 101st Airborne and thwart the Nazi advance. The Battle of the Bulge continued through much of January 1945, and less than four months later Hitler committed suicide and the National Socialist Workers Party surrendered.

The Battle of the Bulge was the largest and bloodiest battle fought by the U.S. during World War II. It involved 610,000 Americans, 55,000 British, 72,000 Free French along Europe's Western Front for nearly 40 days. There were 89,000 American casualties and over 100,000 German casualties.

This [Holiday Season] we must remember that we still have Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines in harms way, and must pray for them

Education Awards Ceremony—December 4, 2016

Article and Photos by Rick Raskin

The Post and Auxiliary held our annual education awards ceremony on December 4. Awards were presented to the five finalists in the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy competitions. Awards were presented to the first thru third place winners and the two honorable mentions in each contest. Following the awards each of the first place winners read their win-

ning essay to the audience of over 50 guests.

Former military officer and owner of Contour Closures Inc. Tyler Malejko, gave a rousing presentation on overcoming adversity and turning challenges into opportunities.

Trustee Lou Filippone acted as master of ceremonies with accompanying greetings from Commander Pete MacLeod, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and 8th District Commander Ron Link. House Delegate Rich Anderson (R-51) a life member of Dale City VFW Post 1503 also attended.



Master of Ceremonies Lou Filippone



Its funny how people initially avoid the front row.



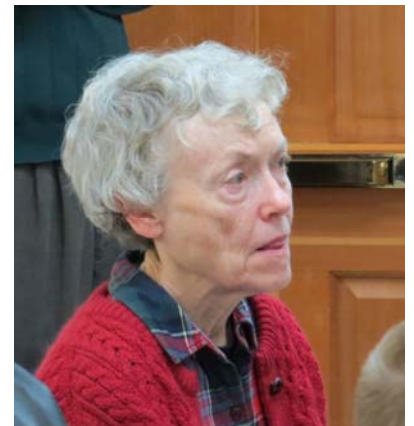
Riley Kotlus—1st Place—Patriots Pen



Guest Speaker Tyler Malejko



Ashley Cackett—1st Place—Voice of Democracy



Past VFW Teacher of the Year Anne Carol



Mary Corkhill, Pete MacLeod and Rich Anderson with the Voice of Democracy winners



Mary Corkhill, Pete MacLeod and Rich Anderson with the Patriots Pen winners

KUENTAI-USA Update

Greetings from Japan!

This is Yukari from KUENTAI-USA.

It is coming towards the end of the year, and I would like to express my appreciation to all of you who supported our mission this year to search for the American fallen servicemen in WWII in the Pacific Theater.

The highlight of this year was the memorial service organized in Saipan by the different religious leaders in July. The memorial service was for both American and Japanese soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the battle of Saipan in July 1944. Many people from the local agencies and authorities, including the lieutenant governor of Saipan, participated in the service.

You can see the YouTube clip of the memorial service from here:

[With a prayer ~Reasons to continue searching for the missing~ \(English Version.\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiRyyExR13k)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiRyyExR13k>

A month after we left Saipan, an investigation team from DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) came to Saipan to receive the probable Marine bones that KUENTAI-USA discovered last year. We were very disappointed because they did not inform us about their visit and receipt of the remains, but we can keep an eye on the progress of the DNA testing, and hope that positive results will come out very soon.

For some reason, the conditions of our existing permit to do the field work in Saipan were re-written, and now no one can be allowed to recover the remains of the missing unless you have the permit [sic] partnership with DPAA. We sent an inquiry to DPAA asking what the "partnership" exactly means, but we have not received a reply.

We came to the conclusion that the US government is not interested in finding and returning the remains of their 470 missing in Saipan, a commonwealth of the United States, so we are thinking to do something different to "fight against the bureaucracy".



A new year will come with the new President, so we are hoping to see the real changes next year, and we will appreciate your continuing support and attention to our mission next year.

Merry Christmas, have a happy holiday and wish you a happy new year!

Dec. 9: The Post's holiday gathering

Photos by Mary Corkhill



Upcoming Events

January 3	Post Meeting — 7:30 pm (Tuesday in lieu of Monday New Year Holiday)
January 9	Auxiliary Meeting— 7:30 pm
January 13-15	Department of Virginia Winter Conference, Williamsburg, VA
January 19	Day on the Hill
January 23-25	Auxiliary National Sr. Vice Conference – Kansas City, MO
February 1	Executive Meeting – 12:30 pm
February 6	Post / Auxiliary Meeting—7:30 pm
February 11	District 8 Meeting 1:00pm -- Southern Fauquier Post 7728 – (Lunch at Noon)
February 15	Teacher of the Year Contest & Continuing Education Scholarship (Deadline)
February 20—26	Auxiliary National Mid-Year Conference (Auxiliary President will be attending)

Virginia Department of Veterans Services to open Manassas office.

The office is scheduled to open on or about March 1, 2017 and will be located at 9300 W. Courthouse Rd. At that time the DVS program at Post 7589 will be discontinued.



VA DVS AGENT SERVICE AT POST 7589

**2nd & 4th Thursdays
9:00 AM — 3:00 PM**

You can also visit the Fairfax office.

**11198 Lee Hwy., Ste. D4
Fairfax, VA 22030**

703-359-1210



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



VFW Hall



- Available for:**
- Baby Showers
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