

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
April 2018



Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589 in Manassas and its Auxiliary hosted a reception for VFW Junior Vice Commander in Chief William (Doc) Schmitz on March 22, 2018. Mission BBQ catered the dinner to rave reviews from the attendees. THANK YOU Mission BBQ.

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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

What a refreshing experience on March 22 to meet the National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief William "Doc" Schmitz! Instead of talking about his accomplishments and what's expected of us as a Post, this guy was genuinely interested in what we

had done and what we are doing.

State Commander Mike Boehme told me to give "Doc" a tour of the Post. Of course we are not that big and I was thinking this will be over pretty quickly. But "Doc" asked questions about everything he saw on the walls and later said it was the best Post interior he had seen on his tour of Virginia.

What he was most interested in was our record concerning "Patriot's Pen," "Voice of Democracy" and "Teacher of the Year." He couldn't believe we had received 179 PP and VOD entries this past year! When I told him we have averaged close to 200 entries each year for the past 15 years he wanted to know our secret. I said there is no secret. You just try and get teachers, then you have an automatic 30 entries for each teacher you get on board. Sometimes, when they have multiple classes working on it, one teacher can bring in 60 to 70 entries. He said he was going to spread the word. We spent most of the mealtime talking about that. Then I thought, there is a method to this guy's madness. If he received one idea like this from each Post he visited in Virginia, he is going back to National VFW Headquarters with a boatload of new ideas. In other words, this is one National Officer who listens! It is a good thing to know he will be our National Commander in a couple of years.

Let's give kudos to our own Quartermaster Rick Raskin, who will be State Commander in a little over a year, for inviting "Doc" Schmitz for a whirlwind tour of the Virginia's VFW Posts. Another round of applause for Mission BBQ from Gainesville for providing the welcoming meal free of charge. Veterans in the area have never had a better business friend than this outfit. Finally a big thank you to the Auxiliary led

by President Mary Corkhill for help with the setup that worked out perfectly.



Junior Vice Commander in Chief Doc Schmitz

Two movies, now on DVD, that I think all veterans need to see are "Darkest Hour" and "Dunkirk." Both deal with Britain and World War Two but both show raw courage when things seem the bleakest. "Dunkirk" is a film you will never forget. The scenes are riveting and heartbreaking at the same time as ships anchored off the coast are hit by German submarine-launched torpedoes. You see the panic as Red Cross workers and soldiers are swept away. Then you see the courage of civilians who volunteered their own boats to literally rescue the entire British Army which was trapped between the Nazis and the sea.

"Darkest Hour" is different as it focuses on one man, Winston Churchill, brilliantly portrayed by Gary Oldman. Churchill is the new Prime Minister, who faces not only Hitler but his own fellow politicians who want to make peace with the Nazi war machine. Again, in this movie, you see fascinating scenes of the British underground headquarters and how Churchill had to look hard to find friends during Britain's lowest point in the War.

The things you take away from both these movies is how important it is to have strong leadership and a basic love for your country. You will see that Churchill does some important "listening" too.

Thanks to the comrades of our Americanism Committee for getting us back into the Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade. We had some hiccups trying to navigate all the

"paperwork," and requirements to get into the parade, but we made it and even got Lou Filippone's Camaro into the line of march. The main thing was we all had fun, many laughs and maybe brought a little attention to the Post! All of us at committee meetings felt that the more community events we are involved in the better for the Post. I want to salute the marchers Rod Burr, Rod Gillette, Roger Nicol, and the man with the car, Lou Filippone, for taking part. Cadence caller Warren Ewell has been a strong member of the committee but had work commitments the day of the parade and that gave me a chance to march with the Post Color Guard.

We need more members for this committee. If you like parades and marching in them we encourage you to attend the next committee meeting. It is on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Post.



Lou Filippone drove his Camaro with the Post Color Guard in the 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 10. Color Guard members Rod Burr, Roger Nicol and Rod Gillette. Not pictured Color Guard member Pete MacLeod.

Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill

I would like to thank the members of Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589 and Auxiliary for assisting in setting up the Post home for our special guest, National Jr. Vice Commander in Chief William (Doc) Schmitz from New York, on March 22nd. A special thanks to Mission BBQ for providing the food. It was excellent as always.



Department Commander Mike Boehme and

President Linda Bond had their homecoming at Battlefield Post 9808 in Mechanicsville on March 10th. Department President Linda Bond honored POW/MIAs during the opening ceremony. Fun was had by all.

The election for 2018-19 officers will be held on Monday, April 2nd during the monthly meeting. Installation of the new Officers will be May 7th at 7:30pm before the monthly meeting. The newly elected officers will take their positions after the Department Convention in June. Please consider holding an office for your Auxiliary. We have some interesting projects planned for the coming year. Please come and join in the fun.

I am sorry to inform you of the **cancellation** of our annual spring Yard Sale. Due to several workers having family obligation and medical conditions, the membership decided to cancel. Our fall Yard Sale will be sometime in October. We will let you know when it is scheduled. We are still taking donations for our next yard sale. If you plan on doing a little spring cleaning and want to donate your items, we will be glad to take them off of your hands and will also provide a tax receipt if requested. Thanks in advance for your donations.

The National VFW has released the themes for both the **Voice of Democracy** and **Patriot's Pen** for the 2018-19 year. The contest for high school students from grades 9-12 is an audio-essay program which provides high school students with

the unique opportunity to express themselves with a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. The VOD 2018-19 theme is: **Why My Vote Matters**. Each year, the **Patriot's Pen** has more than 132,000 students from grades 6-8 enter in this youth essay contest. The national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. The Patriot's Pen 2018-19 theme is: **Why I Honor the American Flag**.

Just a friendly reminder that you have until June 30th to pay your 2018 annual dues. If your 2018 dues are not paid by that date, you will **NOT** be a member in good standing. You will have to reapply for a new membership and your time as a member will start over. As I have stated in the past; if you let your membership lapse, and are subsequently diagnosed with cancer, you will not be eligible for the Cancer Grant during and after the one year waiting period. Please pay your dues of \$20 for 2018 to the Auxiliary Treasurer Elanor Doczi, 7415 Roxbury Dr., Manassas, VA 20109. As always, thank you in advance.

I want to thank all of the schools that participated in our National VFW Auxiliary American Creative Art Contest Patriotic Arts program. I also want to thank the Comrades and Auxiliary members for their assistance in promoting this program. We were very fortunate to have our first place winner from this Auxiliary come in second place at the Department last year. The Auxiliary's first place winner's art work will be forwarded to the Department for judging. The Department's first place will be forwarded to National VFW Auxiliary Headquarters in Kansas City, MO for judging. The winner at the National level will receive a \$10,000 scholarship.

The 8th District Convention will be April 22nd at Post 2524 in Culpeper, VA. Lunch will be served at 12:00 (noon) with the joint meeting starting at 1:00pm. This is the election meeting for the new 2018-19 Officers. The 8th District has a raffle for the Department Veterans & Family Support fund, so please bring a gift to donate. Please let me know if you will be able to attend. Just a reminder of the audit before the meeting.

We are starting our campaign for Wreaths Across America for 2018. I know we are several months early but I wanted you to know that the deployment date the WAA organization has set is Saturday, December 15, 2018. With this event growing every year, we want to be able to put a wreath on every Veteran's grave at Quantico National Cemetery for the holiday season. This is one of our fundraisers and we are requesting a wreath sponsorship from you. In the coming months, we will have the sponsorship form available on-line so you can print it out. Thank you for your support.

The Auxiliary will hold the annual Buddy Poppy drive on the Memorial weekend, Saturday, May 26th and Sunday, May 27th at the Giant in Centreville, VA. The time will be from 9 AM until 2 PM on both days. It's that time of the year that we are starting to work on our Buddy Poppy display for the Department Convention. When we get a location, I will let you know.

Since July 2017, we have collected \$73,027.90 worth of coupons for veterans overseas. I would like to thank all the individuals who collect and bring coupons to the Post for us. Since the National Home for Children is no longer having the Campbell Soup campaign, they still need your assistance in the projects for the children. I would also remind you that the Life Membership for the National Home is increasing January 1, 2019 from \$35.00 to \$50.00.

Please keep in your prayers members and/or their family who are ill or hospitalized.

Happy Holiday.....

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
VFW Auxiliary President



Youth News & Notes



Lou Filippone
Youth Committee
Chair

A big hello to everyone from the Youth Committee. March was a fairly quiet period for us. Let me highlight this month's activities. On Sunday, 4 March judging for the Scout of the Year award was conducted. Two prizes were awarded this year for Post 7589. Our

first place winner was Eagle Scout Marcel Kaid from Bristow, Virginia. He is an 18 year old from Troop 671. Marcel is both a scholar and an athlete. Marcel maintains an impressive GPA and is also on the track team. His Eagle Scout project consisted of building four horseshoe pits and benches for veterans at the Wounded Warrior Retreat in Haymarket, Virginia. Marcel also took third place at the District 8 Scout of the Year judging. It was held at Post 7728 in Bealeton, Virginia on 11 March 2018.

Post 7589 2nd place winner for Scout of the Year went to Eagle Scout Howard Malc. He is from Oakton, Virginia and attends Thomas Jefferson High School. He is active in theater and has many other interests and talents. His Eagle Scout project consisted of renovating and reorganizing a brochure stand in a regional park in Fairfax County. He has obtained almost every single Merit Badge and made Eagle Scout at age 15. He is a member of Troop 1865. The awards ceremony for our winners will be held right before the General Membership Meeting on Monday, 2 April 2018 at 7:30 PM.

Unfortunately, due to several conflicts with our Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts the 24 March flag retirement ceremony had to be postponed. The new date is Saturday, 14 April 2018 at 9 AM. Scout Marshal Williams, the son of Comrade Kelly Williams, will be conducting the flag education portion of our program. We are expecting a large turnout because we will be inviting Scouts from several area troops. Those interested in participating in the ceremony, please contact myself or any other member of the Committee.

The deadline for the Patriotic Art contest was 31 March 2018. Judging will take place again at the beginning of the April General Membership Meeting on 2 April 2018. All members attending this meeting are encouraged to participate in the judging. Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill is in charge of this event and, along with the Auxiliary, has worked very hard on this project. I am sure Mary will be thrilled to see one of our Post 7589 winners advance to the department level and possibly win there as well.

The World War I Centennial Education Program with area school children is gradually taking shape. I would like to launch this program during the month of November and coordinate it with the regular speakers program during Veterans Day week. During this time comrades from our Post normally visit area schools and discuss their military experiences with the children. This would be a perfect opportunity to also celebrate the World War I armistice centennial. If any of you are interested in helping with this project please contact the Youth Committee.

If you can believe this, we already have the themes for the 2018 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests. Patriot's Pen theme will be "Why I honor the American flag" and for Voice of Democracy the theme will be "Why my vote matters". These are two outstanding themes and unlike last year's themes will not confuse the applicants because they are both very straightforward. This year we will try and contact the schools, principals, and teachers before summer vacation so the schools have more time to integrate these programs into their regular curriculum.

We could always use help with our committee because there is so much to be done with the area school children. If you have any interest in working with area youth as a committee member please contact me anytime. Our next scheduled Youth Committee meeting will be Thursday, 19 April 2018 at 7 PM at the Post. Please stay well and we will see you at the next meeting.

Membership Committee Report

Membership Statistics

(3-29-18)

Last Year	Current	%
409	387	94.62
Needed for 100%		
24		

I would just like to give you a quick update on the membership committee's activities for the month of March. Due to the winter weather we were forced to cancel our membership meeting on 21 March 2018. It was rescheduled to the following Wednesday, 28 March 2018 at 7 PM. More call lists were distributed and phone calls were made in an attempt to reach 100% and make all-American by the June Department Convention. We are getting closer each month to our goal, but would certainly welcome any help you could give us recruiting and renewing members.

We have scheduled a recruitment drive at JE Rice Hardware on Mathis Avenue in Manassas. It will be held on Saturday, 7 April 2018 beginning at 9 AM and ending at 1 PM. This is another opportunity to help recruit members who would otherwise probably never join the VFW and help attain all-American status for our Post.

Lastly, another opportunity for recruitment will be the Chantilly Gun Show at the Dulles Area Expo Center on Friday, 27 April 2018 through Sunday, 29 April 2018. These gun shows have become a tremendous opportunity for recruitment and we encourage all members to volunteer and help out. If you volunteer for the VFW, an added benefit is there is no charge for admission to the gun show. I have worked several of these and really enjoy them. It's the best of both worlds, you get to serve the VFW and then can enjoy the show and do some shopping when on break. We hope to see you there and also hope to see you at our next membership meeting. It is scheduled for Wednesday, 18 April 2018 at 7 PM at the Post.

With best regards,
Louis Filippone
Membership Chair

Colonial Williamsburg’s Liberty Lounge entertains its 100,000th guest

Trend & Tradition

The Magazine of Colonial Williamsburg, Spring 2018

Colonial Williamsburg's Liberty Lounge, a complimentary space for ticketed military guests to relax and recharge in the Historic Area, welcomed its 100,000th visitor Feb. 3. The lounge first opened its doors May 26, 2016.

Part of a broad military outreach initiative led by Elisabeth Reiss, wife of Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO Mitchell Reiss, the Liberty Lounge is staffed full-time by 63 Foundation volunteers with more than 435 years of collective service in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

"It was a dream of mine to create a special space for our military guests and their families to recharge while visiting Colonial Williamsburg," Elisabeth Reiss said. "We could never have anticipated the overwhelming support the Lounge has received from guests and the community, and we are grateful to our volunteers, donors and corporate sponsors for making it all possible."

The outreach effort includes communicating the year-round military offerings available to Colonial Williamsburg guests, such as complimentary and discount admission through the Honoring Service to America program, sponsored by the Home Depot Foundation, and other Colonial Williamsburg discounts.

Post 7589 is a Liberty Lounge sponsor — Ed



Cathy Graham from Arlington Post 3150 at the Liberty Lounge

District 8 Scout of the Year



Devon A. DiSanza is the District 8 Scout of the Year. He was sponsored by Southern Fauquier Post 7728. For his Eagle project Devon remodeled the Post’s Kitchen. He will be recognized and receive his award at the District Convention in Culpeper on April 22.

Free Home Buyer Seminar

Matthew Durbin from SWBC Mortgage and Jan Germaine from Coppermine Realty will conduct a free **First Time Home Buyer Seminar for Veterans.**

Post 7589
9304 Centreville Rd.
Manassas, VA

April 21 9:00 AM to Noon

Colin: Son, Marine, Hero

7:30 PM: May 18 & 19
3:00 PM: May 20

Free tickets for active duty military and veterans. 25% discount for all accompanying friends and family.

INSIDENOVA & Micron present
MANASSAS BALLET THEATRE
with the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra in
COLIN: SON, MARINE, HERO
May 18 & 19, 7:30 p.m.
May 20, 3:00 p.m.

HYLTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas, Virginia
Tickets starting at \$25
Info on ticket discounts, MBT & affiliated Academy: 703-257-1811 • manassasballet.org

Manassas Ballet Theatre closes their 2017-18 season with an original and very personal ballet, **COLIN: SON, MARINE, HERO**, in honor of Memorial Day.

MBT is proud to once again present the story of Artistic Director Amy Grant Wolfe's son Colin, who lost his life in Iraq to a road-side bomb in 2006.

COLIN debuted in November 2014 at the Hylton Performing Arts Center after Wolfe expanded her original one act ballet, gathering inspiration by interviewing Colin's commander and fellow Marines during the summer of 2014 and adding new layers to the original heart of the story. The ballet **COLIN** continues to evolve for this season's presentation as Wolfe incorporates new ideas she has worked on over the last three years to further enhance her story. An expanded Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra will showcase the original score by Mark Menza.

VETERANS VIP CLUB

GET FREE CHOW

You served Our Country with honor. Defended our freedoms that make this nation great. You're an American Hero, and we are truly grateful.

As a gesture of our appreciation for all Veterans and Active Duty Military, we extend this invitation to join our Veterans VIP Club.

Please enjoy FREE Chow, invitations to exclusive events and more as Our Thanks for Your Service.

Enlist Here:
mission-bbq.com/vets

MISSION BBQ
The American Way.

Medicare Scam Alert

This is pretty important to get to people with Medicare, their families and friends or adult kids who help parents with Medicare. Here's what you need to know to protect yourself, family and friends throughout the US.

Starting 4/1/18 Medicare will start a year long project to replace all current Medicare cards for beneficiaries to convert to alpha-numeric ID numbers. Currently the ID number is your social security number. This is starting to hit the media.

Scammers are opportunistic - First of all the new Medicare card will come to you in the mail. You don't need to request it or do anything. It will show up.

WHAT'S THE SCAM?

Somebody from "MEDICARE " will call to tell you that you are getting a new Medicare card. But until it comes you will need a temporary card. Fee for the card is between \$5-50 dollars. They want personal information, bank account or credit card so they can process your temporary card.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Medicare will never call you unless you ask them to. Medicare does all communications by mail unless you ask them to call. Ditto for anybody saying they "work with Medicare to make sure you get everything you are entitled to" .

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THIS ONE?

First of all spread the word. Feel free to share these notes. Use your answering machine to screen calls or just don't even answer a number you don't recognize. If it has happened to you or your friends or loved ones and personal info had been given out (happens considerably more often than you think so don't feel bad or stupid) immediately take action to protect yourself against identity theft.

VFW Statement on VA Secretary Change

WASHINGTON (March 29, 2018) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is saluting former Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. David Shulkin for his faithful and dedicated service to veterans of all generations. He came aboard in 2015 as Undersecretary for Health as the VA was still reeling from a nationwide crisis in care and access that had rocked veterans' confidence a year before. He was retained by President Trump and confirmed as VA Secretary by the Senate 100-0. Under his tenure, the VA has achieved a host of successes ranging from increased accountability and transparency to a beefed-up education package and increases in overall funding and patient satisfaction. "The VFW wishes him and his family all the best in their futures," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman.

In my opinion:

Gun Control

Most veterans respect the right of individuals to own guns - legally. They also understand the lethality of high-powered weapons because they were trained to use them during their term of service in times of war. Some rifles were designed with a singular purpose of killing people. One such weapon is the AR 15 with bump-stock which enables it to fire like an automatic rifle with massive fire-power. It is easy to load, reliable, accurate and compact. Unfortunately, in the hands of the wrong person, it becomes a killing machine as we have seen in the wake of mass shootings.

In my opinion, the United States needs to outlaw ownership and sales of assault rifles NOW.

Waiting simply invites another tragedy. Our government needs to muster the courage to tell the NRA and gun manufacturers that we are not going to allow civilians to own or purchase all types of assault weapons. Our legislature needs to enact laws with stiff penalties for possession or sale of the AR 15 and others like it. They should also consider increasing the age limit of purchasing all weapons, increase waiting periods for gun purchases and tighten background checks of buyers.

Arming teachers is a total copout (sorry) and will not stop another mass shooting because the teacher would likely be the first one shot. Also, who gets the blame if the armed teacher shoots a student?

We can see from the guard at the school in FL that not everyone has the courage to charge head on into gunfire because our instinct tells us to freeze or run away from it.

I hope the VFW and American Legion will take a stand on this matter nationally against all assault weapons.

Joel Chase
Chaplain, Post 7589

The nominee to become the next VA Secretary, Navy Rear Adm. (Dr.) Ronny Jackson, served in Iraq as an emergency physician in charge of resuscitative medicine for a forward deployed surgical shock trauma platoon, and since 2006, has been the White House physician for three presidents. [Dr. Jackson's bio](#) does not reflect any experience working with the VA or with veterans, or managing any organization of size, much less one as multifaceted as the Department of Veterans Affairs, so the VFW will be closely monitoring his Senate confirmation process.

"The VFW does, however, recognize his years of faithful service to nation in uniform, and salutes his willingness to continue serving," said Harman. "We look forward to working with him and his staff to continue building upon the progress created by his predecessors, progress that properly takes care of America's wounded, ill and injured veterans first."

From the



Congress Passes Full-Year Appropriations

This week (3/23) Congress passed a bill to fund the federal government until the end of fiscal year 2018. The agreement, which provides relief from sequestration budget caps for service members, veterans, and their families, funds the 2.4 percent pay raise for service members and fully funds America's sacred mission to bring home missing Americans from long-ago battlefields. The omnibus also would provide a 9.5 percent increase for VA and fully fund VA's new electronic health care record, authorize VA to provide mental health care for veterans with other than honorable discharges, require VA to improve claims processing for veterans exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, fund improvements to VA's burn pits registry and other important improvements for veterans. At time of publication, President Trump had issued a veto threat, but it was unclear whether he would sign the bill to avoid a shutdown or veto the bill, which would send it back to Congress which has already left town for a two-week recess.

Omnibus Bill Omits Three VA Program Improvements:

Congress reached a deal this week (3/23) to fund the federal government through Sept. 30, the end of fiscal year 2018, but the VFW isn't happy that the \$1.3 trillion omnibus omits consolidating and reforming VA's community care programs, expanding family caregiver support to pre-9/11 veterans, and better aligning VA's infrastructure to its main mission of delivering quality care to veterans. The improvements are what the VFW has advocated for in the past, to include just this week a joint letter to the majority and minority leadership of the House and Senate. "The VFW is very disappointed, but we will continue to work with House and Senate VA Committee leadership to bring these important issues to fruition," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman, "because the needs are not going away."

VFW Testifies in Support of Automatic COLA Increases

On Tuesday (3/20), VFW National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs in support of legislation to increase programs for veterans and survivors to keep pace with the rate of inflation. The VFW-supported *Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018* would automatically increase VA benefits to match cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increases for social security beneficiaries. Other VFW-supported bills that were considered by the subcommittee would expand burial benefits to family members who precede their service members in death, expedite the adjudication of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation claims, and require the U.S. Department of the Interior to provide grave liners

for veterans interred at cemeteries operated by the National Park Service.

VFW Participates in Secretary of Defense Roundtable

On Tuesday (3/20), VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director John Towles attended a roundtable hosted by the secretary of defense which focused on the status of our military readiness and what the Department of Defense (DOD) is doing to address shortfalls concerning quality of life programs for military families, recruiting and retention, and the military transition process. Discussion participants included Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Dana White, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy David Trachtenberg, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Defense James Mattis and others. The four-hour meeting allowed for in-depth conversation with senior DOD leaders concerning the recently released National Defense Strategy and Nuclear Posture Review; military readiness and personnel program improvements; and future plans for community engagement from DOD. DOD provided an update on its new community engagement initiative called "Know Your Military," which is an effort to better educate the civilian population about who serves in the all-volunteer force.

Secretary Shulkin Testifies on VA's Budget Request

On Wednesday (3/21), the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing to discuss VA's budget request for fiscal year 2019. Secretary Shulkin advocated for increased funding for VA health care, outstanding infrastructure needs and information technology projects. The VFW and its Independent Budget (IB) partners — Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans of America — submitted testimony supporting several VA legislative proposals which would improve benefits and services for veterans, such as paying for veterans to live at medical foster homes and providing legal service for homeless veterans. The IB coauthors also made clear our objections to proposals which would take away certain benefits to pay for the expansion of others.

Hearing on Transition Assistance Bills

On Tuesday (3/20), the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on proposed legislation. The bills seek to improve opportunities for veterans and qualified family members with regard to education, home loans, and transition opportunities. Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty introduced the VFW-sponsored *Job TOOLS for Veterans Act* which would reintroduce transition training in the local communities similar to the TAP classes offered before leaving active duty. The highlight of this bill is that transition training could be attended by any veteran regardless of age or when they left military service.

State Commander's & President's Homecoming—March 10, 2018



Ken Wiseman

When the State Commander is an Air Force pilot you give him a putter to cut his cake! Auxiliary President Linda Bond and State Commander Mike Boehme at their homecoming at Mechanicsville Post 9808.



Photos by Doc Crouch



Junior Vice Commander in Chief visits Virginia

By Rick Raskin, State Junior Vice Commander

When I attended Junior Vice Commander training in Kansas City in the Spring of 2017, I asked Junior Vice Commander in Chief William (Doc) Schmitz if he was willing to visit Virginia for a Membership Roundup next year. His immediate response was "Why wouldn't I?"

So on Sunday March 18, State Commander Mike Boehme & I met Doc at Dale City Post 1503 to begin a 4-day Roundup throughout the Commonwealth starting on Monday. It was a convenient place to meet because Doc could leave his car there and ride with us throughout the tour. We travelled to the Richmond area where we met State Senior Vice Commander Ken Wiseman and State Adjutant/Quartermaster Kim DeShano. On Monday morning we began with breakfast at Mechanicsville Post 9808. Several Posts in District 3 were also present, and we were honored to present awards to 3 of them for achieving 100% membership. Doc spoke about his experiences and stressed that success in the VFW comes through cooperation with our subsidiary organizations such as the Auxiliary and Riders.

William "Doc" J. Schmitz, of Corning, N.Y., was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief July 26, 2017, at the 118th VFW National Convention in New Orleans, La.

Doc joined the United States Navy in 1966. He served in Vietnam as a corpsman attached to USMC infantry and artillery. In recognition of his service, he received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1971 at Post 524 in Corning, N.Y., where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership. He has served as Department Commander, Post Commander, Southern Tier County Council Commander and District 5 Commander. He was also editor of the New York State Overseas Veteran publication for nine years. In 2007, he was elected Department Surgeon for the Department of New York where he served for five consecutive years and served as the national Surgeon General in 2010-2011 and as the national Inspector General in 2015-2016.

Doc worked for the Department of Corrections as a Registered Nurse and Acting Nurse Administrator for 30 years before retiring. He currently is employed as the Director of Veterans Issues for Congressman Tom Reed of the 23rd Congressional District in New York.

Doc and his wife, Deborah, reside in Corning, N.Y.*

Following breakfast, we visited Posts in Petersburg (622) and Phoebus (3219) for lunch. State Judge Advocate Eric Mallet and State Surgeon Butch Shupska joined the entourage at Oceanview (3160). Dinner was at Virginia Beach Post 392. We were able to present additional awards and spend time socializing with the

membership.

On Tuesday we travelled to Franklin (4411) where State Membership Chair Tom Hines joined us and then on to South Hill (7166). We received a warm welcome at each Post. Lunch was at Clarksville (8163) following visits to their boat ramp and veterans' memorial. We travelled to Victoria (9954) for dinner and attended the joint meeting of the Post and Auxiliary.

Wednesday, with the Nor'easter hitting the east coast, we travelled to Martinsville (4637) in persistent snow showers but clear roads. On to Hillsville (1115) for lunch. Travelling Rt. 58 over Lover's Leap offered a beautifully fogged in non-view of the valley but still clear roads. At Hillsville we were pleased to see that 5 Posts in District 9 were represented, so we were able to present additional awards. Our planned stop at Roanoke was cancelled, not because the Post was snowed in, but because most of the members were. We continued to State HQ at Staunton where we presented Doc with our signature Virginia ham. Dinner was at Charlottesville (1827) and, in the opinion of the group, we had the most awesome spaghetti dinner, prepared by QM Cynthia Wyman. We also presented a membership award to the Post.

On our last day we visited Morrisville (7728) where PDC Tom Gimble met us then on to Fredericksburg (3103). Doc and Mike presented our number 1 recruiter Geoff Lyster a custom bottle of wine from Chief Keith Harman. At Occoquan (7916) we presented the Post a membership award and had lunch; awesome meatloaf. On to Dale City (1503) where we spent a couple of hours socializing with the membership. At our final stop, Manassas (7589) we had dinner catered gratis by Mission BBQ. Our number 2 recruiter Tom Troy received his bottle of wine there.

Doc was astounded at what is occurring in the Department of Virginia. Every Post we visited is active in their communities, participate in programs and carry out the mission of the VFW. He was especially impressed at the degree of cooperation evident between Posts and their Auxiliaries. Our process of taking Schools of Instruction and Recruiter Training to the Districts, our programs of providing Posts computers and our liaison with Tech-4-Troops impressed him to no end. He sees our Schools and Tech-4-Troops projects as programs that could expand to National. He insisted that if that happens Virginia will get recognition for initiating these programs.

A heartfelt thanks to all the Posts that showed us warm welcomes with their Southern Hospitality, friendship and great food. This was the second Roundup where we have invited a National Line Officer to attend (we hosted Keith Harman last year) and we plan to continue the same in the coming years. It was a resounding success and the camaraderie was awesome.

* <https://www.vfw.org/news-and-publications/press-room/national-officers/william-j-doc-schmitz>

Junior Vice Commander in Chief's visit



JVC-in-Chief Doc Schmitz and State Commander Mike Boehme recognize Tom Troy (Burke) as a Top Virginia Recruiter.



Doc with State SVC Ken Wiseman gets his Virginia Ham at State HQ



A pair-of-Docs: State Historian Doc Crouch and Doc Schmitz



Doc with Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill

Upcoming Events

April	
April 2	Post/Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM (Elections)
April 7	Recruiting — J. E. Rice Hardware — 9:00 AM—1:00 PM
April 9	National Former POW Recognition Day
April 14	Flag education / retirement— 9:00 AM
April 19	Youth Committee — 7 PM
April 22	Dist. 8 Convention – Culpeper 2527 – 1 PM (Elections)
May	
May 7	Post/Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM (Installation of officers)
May 25—27	Memorial Day Weekend—Poppies (TBD)
May 28	Memorial Day — Ceremony 8:30 AM — Flag Placements at Manassas Cemetery 9:00 AM
June	
June 4	Post/Auxiliary Meeting — 7:30 PM
June 14 –17	State Convention—Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, Portsmouth



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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CANNON NEWS

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

Cannon News is emailed to Post and Auxiliary members with email addresses on file.

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Editor: Rick Raskin
Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

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