

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
May 2016

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Noah Egan an 8th grader at All Saints School with his mother Elizabeth interviewed VN Vet Rick Raskin on April 23 for his citizenship project.

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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



It was May of 1959, I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Bigelow Elementary School in Marlboro, Mass. It was the annual Memorial Day program where each class went up on stage to present their "piece." Usually a poem or a song, always a tribute to those who had given their lives for our country.

This was "blue collar" patriotic country as Marlboro was a small city ruled by famous shoe factories like Frye Boots. The children's parents were mostly shoe workers and assemblers, first or second generation Americans. This was a city of what later became known as "Reagan or Kennedy Conservative Democrats."

Our Principal, Miss Loftus, was known as very strict and unforgiving toward those who misbehaved. Corporal punishment was still allowed in those days and Miss Loftus was known to use it. She was no nonsense and ran a very tight ship. But I remember her most for these Memorial Day programs. She led the assemblies in singing patriotic song after patriotic song, right up there on the stage, conducting the music and you weren't alive if you didn't feel some emotion. Once in awhile she would lead the upper grades (6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>) to the Civil War monument in the center of the city and we would sing songs of the era like "Tenting Tonight" or "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" or "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Miss Loftus instilled a love of country in just about all of us.

During an assembly in 1959, there was a parade of veterans speaking to us. In those days the World War Two vets were the young guys and the Korean War vets were barely older than some of us. They gave us mostly variations of the same message: "do good" in school, keep your nose clean and always defend your country.

But this day was a little different. There were a couple of really elderly guys dressed in dark blue military jackets and wearing very different looking military caps, almost like baseball caps but bigger. Miss Loftus introduced them as veterans of the 1898 Spanish-American War. I was a history buff and was enthralled with one of the veterans who began a long rambling narration on how he enlisted, went to training in the local area and then shipped off to Cuba. I could tell Miss Loftus was getting impatient as she liked things to run like clockwork. This guy would not be denied as he had seen action himself in that short war. Miss Loftus had to back off and let him continue despite the squirming by many of the younger students in the audience.

I know in the week afterward in history class, even the kids not interested in history, had to admit it was pretty good to hear about the long ago war from someone who had been there.

And that is the advantage we have as VFW veterans. We were there! As we approach the uptick in VFW activities with Memorial Day ceremonies and the Buddy Poppy drives and the celebration of Post 7589's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we can all carry the message of what it was like and why it is so important not to turn our backs on veterans or current active duty troops serving in dangerous, far away places. We will be meeting so many fellow citizens in the coming days who did not serve. It is up to us to bring the message of support for veterans in need, veterans fighting illness and trying to get help from the VA, homeless veterans and support for the families of Armed Forces members serving overseas and those serving stateside or with the National Guard and Reserve units.

As you give out the Buddy Poppies, don't be afraid to say a word or two about where you served. Just like at a 1959 elementary school, people respect and listen to someone "who was there."

## Youth News & Notes

By Pete MacLeod

Two great themes for the 2016-17 school year as we get set to launch the new VFW essay contests:

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12):  
**"My Responsibility To America"**

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8):  
**The America I Believe In"**

We have a very important VFW Post 7589 / Auxiliary Youth Committee meeting ahead on Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 pm at the Post Home. If you would like to get involved in youth activities and outreach at Post 7589, this is the meeting to be at. Letters will be going out to the schools and school systems in the Manassas area so that we have our permissions in place for the Fall. If you have a school you would like to see get involved with Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy or Teacher of the Year this is the time of year to approach the Principal and teachers. Often, August and September are too late a time as class study plans are already in place and everyone is busy getting ready for the new school year. It is always best to get the teachers involved. That means we will likely receive 25-30 essays from each class. The Principal's approval is necessary for every activity that goes on at a school. This is the time to get both the Principals and teachers interested and involved. You can do that through one on one meetings with a teacher or principal or speaking to the classes yourself. It all starts with a phone call or email but the best way to do it is to walk into the school yourself and start talking with people. Here at Post 7589 we have averaged 100 to 200 essay entries per year the last 12 years and that is how we have done it.

It was a great day on Sunday, April 17 at the VFW / Auxiliary District 8 Convention and meeting in Culpeper. Our District 8 Voice of Democracy and State of Virginia winner George P. Tryfiates, sponsored by Post 3103, was there with his family to read his essay and receive his District award. We had all 3 Dis-

trict 8 VFW/Auxiliary Teachers of the Year on hand with their families to be recognized and receive their awards. An excellent lunch was served by Post 2524 and its Auxiliary and then the awards presentations began. The teachers who were recognized and honored were Ms. Tiffany Payne, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Haymarket Elementary School in Haymarket, Va., Ms. Alexandra Turner, a teacher at W.C. Taylor Middle School in Warrenton, Va. and Mr. Michael Hardy a Social Studies Teacher at Mountain View Alt. High School in Centreville, Va. District Youth Chair Geoff Lyster read brief descriptions of the work of these teachers and why they were chosen. Ms. Tiffany Payne and Mr. Michael Hardy were sponsored by Post 7589 and its Auxiliary.

Thursday, May 12 is going to be a good day too! Post 7589 will be presenting Navy JROTC Cadet Elise Dettmann with the VFW Bronze JROTC medal for 2016 during a Change of Command and Awards Ceremony at Osbourn Park High School. Each year Post 7589 recognizes a cadet in the Navy JROTC program at Osbourn Park who has a positive attitude toward the program and displays officer potential along with getting good grades. The program begins at 6:00 pm in the Osbourn Park HS auditorium.

Talk about outreach to youth! In February, Post 7589 Adjutant Paul Chase made a presentation to students at St. Anthony's

School in Chantilly. He spoke about the aluminum can tab collection program which involves recycling and sending the money earned to the Boston Burn Center which treats badly injured children for free. He then passed out 15 collection jugs and teacher Ms. Nora Fernandez spearheaded the effort to have competition between classes. The result: Paul picked up about 15,000 tabs on April 19! To me, that is real VFW Community Service!

A big THANKS to my wife, Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod for working hard, writing in names and addresses and helping us distribute 69 VFW certificates of participation and Post 7589 pens to every Manassas area student who entered the 2015-16 essay contests. I think it is extremely important to recognize everyone who tried whether they won an award or not. A lot of our first place award recipients did not win on their first attempts but kept trying and getting better. We delivered the individual certificates to Seton School, Metz Middle School, Manassas Christian School, Parkside Middle School, Benton Middle School and L.L. Coates Elementary School in Herndon. We used the U.S. Postal Service to get the certificate and pen to our home-schooled Voice of Democracy Honorable Mention recipient. Additional thanks to Quartermaster Rick Raskin for getting us those good Post 7589 pens.

# 70<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration



4 June 2016  
Post Home  
9304 Centreville Road  
Manassas, VA

1730—1830 Celebration Program  
1830—? Dinner\* followed by Social Time

*\*Dinner will be provided for Member and one guest.*

**Invitations will be mailed. Please RSVP promptly.**

## Auxiliary President

Mary Corkhill



We would like to welcome our newest member, Nathiner Lily Zimmerman, to our VFW Auxiliary family. She is the wife of Commander Zimmerman of Manassas Park VFW Post 1811. If you know of any individual who would like to be part of our organization, please let us know.

The members of VFW Auxiliary 7589 would like to thank the Comrades for their participation in the judging of the VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. We were honored to have Osbourn Park High School, Seton School and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology participate in this year's contest. The awarded recipients were: First: Ms. Catherine Henebery, 16, from Seton School, Second: MinJoo Kang, 18, from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology, Third: Felix Seoh, 16, from Seton School and Honorable Mention: Patrick Hasson, 18, from Seaton School. **CONGRATULATIONS** to everyone who participated. The first place recipient's art piece (see page 12) was forwarded to compete at the Department level. We wish her luck.

Elections for 2016-2017 Officers were held during the April 4<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting. During the May 2<sup>nd</sup> monthly meeting, the 8<sup>th</sup> District President, Sheila Hunter, will install the VFW Auxiliary 7589 Officers. After the June Convention the new Officers will take their new positions. Your new Officers are: President - Mary Corkhill, Sr. Vice President - Janet Raskin, Jr. Vice President - Cindy McIntyre, Secretary - Ann Mitchell, Treasurer Elanor Doczi, Chaplain - Carol Cullen, Conductress - Ginger Harvey, Guard - Patsy Gough, Trustee 1 - Yvonne Sullivan, Trustee 2 - Janet Raskin, Trustee 3 - Ginger Harvey, Patriotic Instructor - Diane Zalenski, Historian - Ginger Harvey (Pictures), Patsy Gough and Dana Zank (Book).

Congratulations also go out to the new 8<sup>th</sup> District Officers for the 2016-2017 VFW Auxiliary year. President Sheila Hunter has been re-elected for another term. We wish her success in the new Auxiliary year.

Please come and join us for our annual Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 7am-2pm. We are taking donations now until Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm. If you would like a receipt for your donations, we will provide that for you. If you would like for someone to pick up your donation, please call me at 703/361-8950. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Our Memorial Day weekend Buddy Poppy drive will be on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am-3pm at Shoppers on 9540 Liberia Ave. in Manassas, VA. Just a reminder that the funds raised go towards assisting our Veterans and/or their families. Contact me at mcorkhill@comcast.net or 703-361-8950 if you would like to

assist us with this drive.

The Department Convention will be at a new location this year due to Fort Magruder's major renovation. Please join us at the Ramada Inn East, in Williamsburg from June 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>. Make reservations directly with the hotel at (757) 585-7100. Room Rate (Single/Double) is \$87.00 + tax. Deadline for reservations is June 13, 2016. CHECK-IN TIME is 3:00 pm. This Department annual year-end event is held to celebrate the achievements of Posts & Auxiliaries by accepting awards for the 2015-2016 year. In lieu of a banquet, we will have a reception/dance with music provided by a DJ. Free admission to all members attending the Convention. Note: Cheri Sizemore is a candidate running for Department Guard. She needs your support.

The Veteran & Family Support Department Chairman provided information about the National Home for Children. She stated: "The VFW National Home for Children will continue to collect the last of the Campbell's Labels for Education UPC's needed to earn their seventh minivan. In order to receive a minivan, they will need to collect 1.6 million UPC points by July 31, 2016. If you have collected labels, or have members who collect labels, please send them in by the July 31 deadline. **On August 1, 2016, this program will end.** Since 2004, the National Home has collected nearly 8,000,000 UPC points and earned six minivans through this program! Please mail your coupons to: VFW National Home for Children, 3573 S. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827". As President of VFW Auxiliary 7589, I personally want to thank all the individuals who participated in the program. Without your assistance, the National Home for Children wouldn't have been able to purchase these minivans. Thank you so much for the support.

There are two Department Officers that really need your prayers. Department Conductress Marcia Semones lost her husband and 8<sup>th</sup> District President Sheila Hunter had a heart attack. Also for any individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized please keep them in your prayers as well. If you know of anyone who needs some assistance, please let us know. We truly care.

Respectfully,  
Mary Corkhill  
VFW Auxiliary President



May 7 — 7:00 am to 1:00 pm  
VFW Post 7589  
9304 Centreville Rd.  
Manassas, VA

# From the Trenches

By Paul Chase



## Fraud, Waste and Incompetence

Maybe it is the time of year (tax time) or the pending National Election but it is hard for me these days not to go around without my teeth on edge, an angry face and an attitude.

A March 31, 2016 Washington Post article about a joint DOD/DEA fiasco does not help my disposition. For those of you who missed it, the article

was about a drug surveillance plane being modified jointly by DOD and DEA. Seven years have gone by and the airplane has not and cannot be flown. To date \$86 million has been blown to no positive effect. DOD and DEA are pointing fingers at each other.

I live in the Haymarket/Gainesville area and get to see the \$64 million Rt. 66 widening project on a daily basis. So, DOD / DEA wastes more than that and no one is held accountable?

I'd vote for any Presidential candidate who would promise to turn his VP on to such cases and savage the guilty ones; but that is never going to happen. Big contractors give too much money to be held accountable.

Maybe it is the fact that I know from the inside what is going on that makes me so mad.

When I retired from the Air Force in 1989 I worked for three of the nation's biggest government contractors for 23 years. What I saw sickened me. I was naive to think they were honest or ethical. If there is any way they can cheat, chisel and get the government to overpay, they find it and do it. They love government incompetence. It means more money and longer contract time.

I reported unethical conduct internally within the company like I was required to and was threatened, retaliated against and marginalized to the point where I resigned.

I took the whole package to my US Senator who said how my company treated me was a "personal matter".

The "Fourth Estate" (The Press) can be of great service to the American public if it has the guts to do it. Why didn't the Washington Post mention the names of the criminal contractors or government project managers?

GRRRRR!

## Have we Lost Our Moral Compass?

Some time ago I said I would try to balance my pieces with good and not so good stuff. Bad stuff is winning! Just last week or so 60 Minutes ran an exposé on the life insurance industry failing to pay death benefits for deceased policy holders. As a result of an

industry wide investigation by the Florida State Insurance Commissioner it was found that there was a nation-wide practice by Insurance Companies of willfully disregarding their obligation to pay death benefits for deceased policy holders that the insurance companies knew had died. The companies knew from their own records that the individuals had passed from their searches of the Social Security Death Master File. They knew who were the surviving beneficiaries of the policies and under State Law were required to contact them but willfully failed to do so.

Industry lobbyists claim it is the fault of the survivors not the insurance companies that the benefits were not paid. Twenty five insurance companies have agreed to pay \$7 1/2 billion in past due settlements to survivors of deceased policy holders. In some cases the deceased individuals had both monthly annuities and life insurance. Because they knew the individual had passed the insurance companies ceased paying the annuities to the deceased individual but knowingly failed to pay the life insurance to the survivors! Thirty five insurance companies are holding out against paying the money of these policies because their losses would be so ruinous! Too Big to Pay Up for What They Owe! That's a new one! The majority of these claims are for \$25,000 or less, the kinds of amounts that would be especially beneficial to the survivors of older veterans!

Are any of the current Presidential Candidates talking about this issue? **NO**. Probably because of the behind the scenes donations from the insurance companies to their campaigns.

On the positive side maybe this is an area where the VFW can be of service to its members. Maybe we of the VFW should make it a concerted policy to help survivors get the insurance they may be due by asking the right questions and being an advocate for the survivors with the insurance industry! The Life Insurance industry has long ago lost its Moral Compass!

### Significant Tab Donations

Manassas Host Lions Club	Rankins Hardware, Warrenton
Tractor Supply, Manassas	Giant Food Haymarket
Chicago, IL Fire Department	Warrenton Walmart
Hampton Inn, Manassas	Linton Hall School Bristow
Home Depot, Warrenton	Shoprite Foods, Manassas
Grace United Methodist Day School, Manassas	Country Chevrolet, Warrenton
Benedictine Sisters Convent, Bristow	St. Anthony's School Chantilly

## Sobering Statistics About The Vietnam War\*

In case you haven't been paying attention these past few decades after you returned from Vietnam, the clock has been ticking. The following are some statistics that are at once depressing yet in a larger sense should give you a HUGE SENSE OF PRIDE.

**"Of the 2,709,918 Americans who served in Vietnam, Less than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today, with the youngest American Vietnam veteran's age approximated to be 60 years old."**

So, if you're alive and reading this, how does it feel to be among the last 1/3rd of all the U.S. Vets who served in Vietnam? I don't know about you guys, but it kinda gives me the chills, considering this is the kind of information I'm used to reading about WWII and Korean War vets...

So the last 14 years we are dying too fast, only the few will survive by 2025...if any.. If true, 390 VN vets die a day. So in 2190 days...from today, lucky to be a Vietnam veteran alive... in only 6-10 years..

These statistics were taken from a variety of sources to include: The VFW Magazine, the Public Information Office, and the HQ CP Forward Observer - 1st Recon April 12, 1997.

\*STATISTICS FOR INDIVIDUALS IN UNIFORM AND IN COUNTRY VIETNAM VETERANS:

9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975).

8,744,000 GIs were on active duty during the war (Aug 5, 1964-March 28, 1973).

2,709,918 Americans served in Vietnam, this number represents 9.7% of their generation.

3,403,100 (Including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the broader Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters).

2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (Jan. 1, 1965 - March 28, 1973). Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964.

Of the 2.6 million, between 1-1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.

7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.

Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1968).

Agent Orange is taking a huge toll on Vietnam Veterans with most deaths somehow related to Agent Orange exposure. No

one officially dies of Agent Orange, they die from the exposure which causes ischemic Heart Disease and failure, Lung Cancer, Kidney failure or COPD related disorders.

### CASUALTIES:

The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1958. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.

Hostile deaths: 47,378  
Non-hostile deaths: 10,800  
Total: 58,202 (Includes men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties). Men who have subsequently died of wounds account for the changing total.

8 nurses died -- 1 was KIA.

61% of the men killed were 21 or younger.

11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old.

Of those killed, 17,539 were married.

Average age of men killed: 23.1 years  
Total Deaths: 23.11 years  
Enlisted: 50,274; 22.37 years  
Officers: 6,598; 28.43 years  
Warrants: 1,276; 24.73 years  
E1: 525; 20.34 years  
Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.  
The oldest man killed was 62 years old.

Highest state death rate: West Virginia - 84.1%  
(national average 58.9% for every 100,000 males in 1970).

Wounded: 303,704 -- 153,329 hospitalized + 150,375 injured requiring no hospital care.

Severely disabled: 75,000, -- 23,214: 100% disabled; 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.

Amputation or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than Korea.

Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII.

Missing in Action: 2,338

POWs: 766 (114 died in captivity)

As of January 15, 2014, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for, from the Vietnam War.

### DRAFTEES VS. VOLUNTEERS:

25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees. (66% of U.S. armed forces members were drafted during WWII).

Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam.

Reservists killed: 5,977

National Guard: 6,140 served: 101 died.

Total draftees (1965 - 73): 1,728,344.

Actually served in Vietnam: 38% Marine Corps Draft: 42,633.

Last man drafted: June 30, 1973.

#### RACE AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND:

88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian; 10.6% (275,000) were Black; 1% belonged to other races.

86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics);

12.5% (7,241) were Black;

1.2% belonged to other races.

170,000 Hispanics served in Vietnam; 3,070 (5.2% of total) died there.

70% of enlisted men killed were of North-west European descent.

86.8% of the men who were killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1% (5,711) were Black; 1.1% belonged to other races.

14.6% (1,530) of non-combat deaths were among Blacks.

34% of Blacks who enlisted volunteered for combat.

Overall, Blacks suffered 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam at a time when the percentage of Blacks of military age was 13.5% of the total population.

Religion of Dead: Protestant -- 64.4%; Catholic -- 28.9%; other/none -- 6.7%

#### SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS:

Vietnam veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups.

Vietnam veterans' personal income exceeds that of our non-veteran age group by more than 18 percent.

76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower middle/working class backgrounds.

Three-fourths had family incomes above the poverty level; 50% were from middle income backgrounds.

Some 23% of Vietnam vets had fathers with professional, managerial or technical occupations.

79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school education or better when they entered the military service.

63% of Korean War vets and only 45% of WWII vets had completed high school upon separation.

Deaths by region per 100,000 of population: South -- 31%, West --29.9%; Midwest -- 28.4%; Northeast -- 23.5%.

#### DRUG USAGE & CRIME

There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group. (Source: Veterans Administration Study)

Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison - only one-half of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes.

85% of Vietnam Veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

#### WINNING & LOSING:

82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will.

Nearly 75% of the public agrees it was a failure of political will, not of arms.

#### HONORABLE SERVICE:

97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged.

91% of actual Vietnam War veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat are proud to have served their country.

74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome.

87% of the public now holds Vietnam veterans in high esteem.





# TICKETS ON SALE AT THE POST



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS BASS PRO RAFFLE

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia and Bass Pro Shops of Hampton Roads proudly announce a 50 prize raffle with the winners being determined at the VFW State Convention in Williamsburg on June 18, 2016. The fifty prizes are listed on the back of each ticket. The value of the 50 prizes is approximately \$20,000. As a winning ticket is drawn it will be placed back in the drum to have a chance at the remaining prizes. Tickets are \$5.00 each and we are asking each VFW member to purchase at least one ticket and sell as many as you can. Tickets are available from your Post Commander or State Headquarters. All proceeds will be used to support Veterans Programs and Activities.

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. HENRY GOLDEN BOY .22 CAL     | 26. LANDMAN FIRE PIT             |
| 2. YETI ROADIE                  | 27. BASS PRO RAIN JACKET         |
| 3. SAVAGE 16 .243 CAL           | 28. \$ 500.00 BPS GIFT CARD      |
| 4. QUANTUM BAITCASTER OUTFIT    | 29. BASS PRO CAMP KITCHEN        |
| 5. THUNDER HAWK CROSSBOW        | 30. \$ 500.00 BPS GIFT CARD      |
| 6. OA OCEANMASTER REEL W/B      | 31. ORVIS FLY OUTFIT             |
| 7. RUGER 10/22 .22 CAL          | 32. YETI TRUNDRA 45              |
| 8. FRONTIER REVOLVER .45 CAL LC | 33. MASTERBUILT ELECT. SMOKER    |
| 9. COSTA 580P SUNGLASSES        | 34. REDHEAD 10 GUN SAFE          |
| 10. \$ 500.00 BPS GIFT CARD     | 35. BROWNING BPS 12GA            |
| 11. MINN KOTA TROLLING MOTOR    | 36. TRAEGER PELLET GRILL         |
| 12. CHAR-BROIL PROPANE GRILL    | 37. PENN BATTLE II & OA BAG      |
| 13. TEKNETICS METAL DETECTOR    | 38. BROWNING ROD STORAGE         |
| 14. BUSHNELL BINOCULARS         | 39. YETI 125                     |
| 15. \$ 500.00 BPS GIFT CARD     | 40. \$500.00 BPS GIFT CARD       |
| 16. REMINGTON 870               | 41. BASS PRO BAITCAST            |
| 17. RUGER MK111                 | 42. BUSHMASTER .223MSR           |
| 18. ASCEND C156 CANOE           | 43. WINCHESTER SX3 13GA          |
| 19. PARKER ENFORCER C'BOW       | 44. BROWNING SPINNING CB         |
| 20. \$ 500.00 BPS GIFT CARD     | 45. YETI 65                      |
| 21. BROWNING TWO BURNER         | 46. \$ 250.00 BPS GIFT CARD      |
| 22. YETI HOPPER 20              | 47. UBIRITE .45CAL PISTOL        |
| 23. TIKKA T-3 .308 CAL          | 48. PENN SENATOR R&T             |
| 24. HENRY BIG BOY .44 MAG       | 49. BROWNING MAXUS 12GA 1,349.99 |
| 25. BASS PRO 4 P'SN TENT        | 50. \$ 250.00 BPS GIFT CARD      |



## Dysfunctional Rifle Sights

By Joel Chase

L-3 Communications, the maker of many rifle sights purchased by the military, FBI, police departments and other agencies in the U.S. has been sued by the government for fraud and agreed to a \$25.6 million settlement the same day the suit was filed.

L-3 says they have “fixed” the problems with the sights except one that could be the most serious based on government allegations. The problem, known as “Thermal Drift” because it is weather related, can cause the holographic sight to drift 6 to 12 inches from a target at a range of 100 yards. How much thermal drift might be experienced at distances such as 200 yards? The problem occurs under hot and cold temperatures, and poses a risk to the user by enabling an enemy to return fire.

Complaints about the sights date back to the mid-2000s when the Norwegian military withdrew a contract to purchase the sights based on thermal drift in temperatures of 20°F. According to court documents, L-3’s EOTech, which is responsible for the sights, never told the Pentagon about the problem and continued selling them to all the branches of our military. In response to the government complaint, EOTech said they had “Never received a single report from the field regarding thermal drift or other optical problems”. WRONG-O!!! In wet weather,



L-3 Communications Holdings, the parent company of optics-manufacturer EOTech, has agreed to settle a lawsuit that accused the defense firm of knowingly selling the U.S. military optics that failed in cold and humid weather conditions. EOTech image


faulty seals can cause the glass around the cross-hairs to fog or dim according to the lawsuit.

When the government filed their complaint with the company last November, EOTech’s president resigned from the company. Anthony Tai, who was an


EOTech co-founder and Chief of Technology until 2011, said the sights should have been recalled by the company. Mr. Tai has also left the company but continued to do consulting work for them afterward.

EOTech and their employees are not the only ones to blame for the purchase of faulty sights. Obviously, our military failed to perform sufficient testing of the sights or they would have discovered the problems before they were purchased. It appears that the individuals at EOTech and our military responsible for the oversights simply move on and are not held accountable.

This is yet another example of lacking corporate, government and individual conscience and accountability. The unfortunate reality is that the end user is the one put at risk by the cavalier attitudes of decision makers supplying substandard equipment.



### Volunteers Needed



- Veterans at least 18 years of age who deployed during **Gulf War I (1990-1991)**

**Eligible:** Veteran with at least 2 of 3 symptoms of fatigue, pain, or trouble concentrating

**What is Required:**

- 8 weeks of participation in classes at the VA
- Homework on electronic tablets and meeting with study team throughout 12 months
- Compensation: Veterans will get \$ for participating in classes and completing the 12 month study, as well as get travel expenses paid!

*Please contact the Study Team at 202-745-8000 ext. 55768 to inquire about this opportunity*

Greetings from the Washington DC VAMC:

We are writing to inform you and your organization (since you have contact with Gulf War Vets who might benefit from this) about a new non-medication VA-sponsored research study related to Gulf War I Veterans. The study is called **"Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) for Sleep, Health Functioning, and Quality of Life in Veterans with Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses,"** and its goal is to improve symptoms such as *pain, fatigue, and concentration*. By using Gulf War Health Education, or iRest Yoga/Auricular Acupuncture our study team will promote wellness and prevention by utilizing a proactive patient care model. We are only inviting Veterans who deployed during the Gulf War, 1990-1991.

This study is supported by the Clinical Science Research and Development in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and it involves collecting information about Veterans with pain, fatigue, and concentration issues.

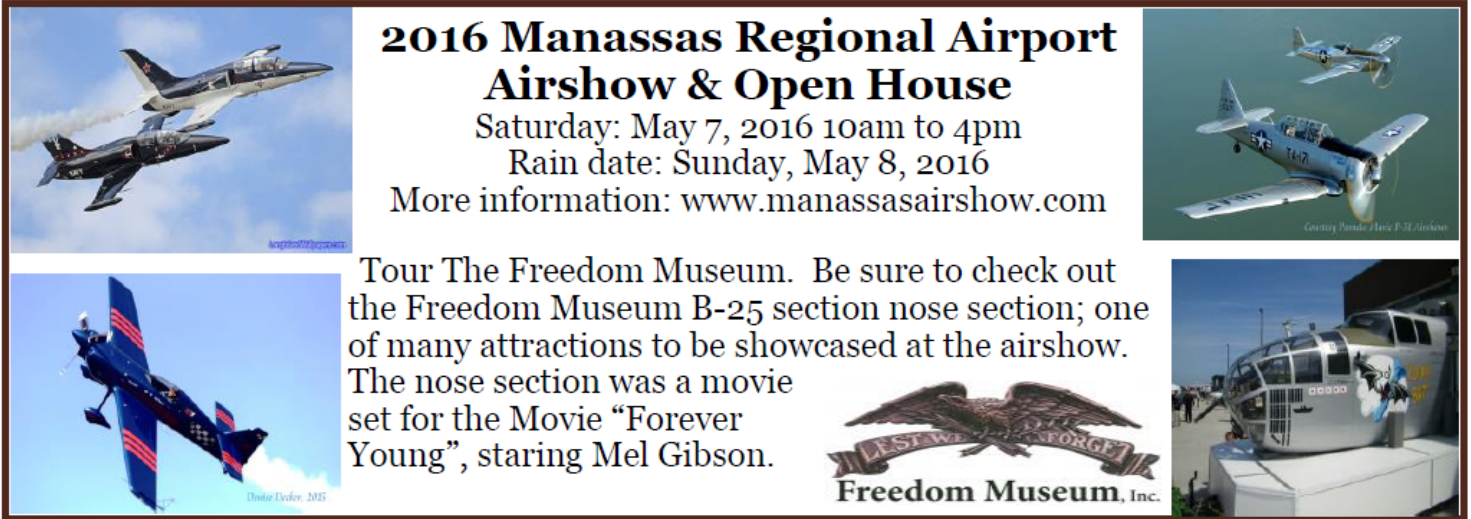
Please let us know if we can come speak with you further about the study or if we can send you resources regarding the study. We are happy to answer any questions you might have and can be reached at (202-745-8000 x. 5-5768). Veterans will be paid for being in this study (compensation for time and inconvenience).

Please understand that participation in this study is completely voluntary; Vets’ decisions regarding participation ("either way") will not affect any health care receive at the VA.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.


Sincerely,

The GW-CAM Study Team



**2016 Manassas Regional Airport  
Airshow & Open House**  
Saturday: May 7, 2016 10am to 4pm  
Rain date: Sunday, May 8, 2016  
More information: [www.manassasairshow.com](http://www.manassasairshow.com)

Tour The Freedom Museum. Be sure to check out the Freedom Museum B-25 section nose section; one of many attractions to be showcased at the airshow. The nose section was a movie set for the Movie "Forever Young", starring Mel Gibson.

  
Freedom Museum, Inc.

“Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.”— Benjamin Franklin

## Service Officer's Report

The Service Officer program exists to help and serve all veterans here in the Manassas/Prince William area. If you know of a veteran in need please contact me and let me know. My number one goal is providing the best service to veterans and their families. Please do not hesitate to speak to **your** Veteran Service Officer and find out just what I might be able to do for you!

My goal is simple. I want to take care of veterans with the greatest level of service that my resources will allow. Thank you for your service!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach me at the VSO phone line of: (Office): 1-703-743-0151 or Email: [so2@vfw7589.org](mailto:so2@vfw7589.org) Thank you.

Stephen A. Meade  
Post Service Officer  
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 7589  
(Office) 1-703-743-0151  
(Cell) 1-703-408-0875  
(Email) [SO2@vfw7589.org](mailto:SO2@vfw7589.org)

## VFW Again Voices Concern as Martland Decision Nears

A final decision is expected by May 1 regarding the military future of decorated Green Beret Sgt. 1st Class Charles Martland, who is fighting an involuntary discharge for confronting an Afghan police commander for raping a small boy and abusing his mother in 2011.

The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States John A. Biedrzycki Jr. voiced his concern last September about whether the military is punishing troops for doing the right thing instead of examining Status of Forces Agreements that has them serving and protecting others in foreign lands, yet ignoring local incidents that everyone knows in their hearts to be wrong.

“Martland did what I would hope anyone would do if confronted with the same situation,” Biedrzycki said. “We can only hope that his 11 years of service, three deployments and Bronze Star for valor are being strongly considered before a final decision is reached. The Army simply cannot afford to purposely discharge good soldiers who do the right thing.”

# From the



## New Campaign Medal Approved

Defense Secretary Ash Carter signed into creation the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal (IRCM) to American service members battling terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria. To qualify, a member must have been present in Iraq, Syria, or the contiguous waters or airspace of either country, on or after June 15, 2014, for a period of 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. Service members who were killed or were medically evacuated due to wounds or injuries immediately qualify for the award, as do members who engaged in combat. The IRCM's placement in the hierarchy of medals and ribbons will be after the Iraq Campaign Medal and before the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. Learn more at:

<http://www.defense.gov/News-Article-View/Article/708382/carter-announces-operation-inherent-resolve-campaign-medal?source=GovDelivery>.

## VFW Testifies on Veterans Preference

National Legislative Deputy Director Aleks Morosky presented the VFW's views on veterans' preference in federal hiring. Over the past several years, veterans in the federal workforce has grown to 30 percent, with 25 percent being preference eligible. While veterans are finding their way into federal employment, there are opportunities for improvement. To read Morosky's testimony and to view the hearing, click here:

<http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/a-review-of-veterans-preference-in-federal-government-hiring>.

## VFW Presents Views to Commission on Care

National Legislative Director Ray Kelley joined a VSO panel to discuss the future of VA health care with the Commission on Care. He discussed the importance of VA coordinating and guaranteeing the quality of care, regardless if that care is provided by VA or a community provider. Discussion continued around the arbitrary 30-day and 40-mile rules for accessing care in the community, and he reinforced the idea that how far veterans travel or how long veterans wait for needed care must be a clinical determination made by doctors in consultation with their patients. To see all the recommendations the VFW has for improving access to quality health care, click here:

[http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/VFW\\_in\\_DC/IB\\_AFrameworkforVeteransHealthCareReform.pdf](http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/VFW_in_DC/IB_AFrameworkforVeteransHealthCareReform.pdf).

To learn more about the commission and to provide them with your feedback on VA health care, click here:

<https://commissiononcare.sites.usa.gov/contact-us-2/>.

## House Hearing on VA Health Care Delays

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing to discuss recent VA Office of Inspector General and Government Office of Accountability (GAO) reports on weaknesses in the way VA measures and reports appointment wait times. Committee members questioned the validity of VA's wait time data following a GAO report that highlighted how VA's wait time metric only measures a fraction of the time veterans wait for their care. Under Secretary for Health Dr. Shulkin testified VA is working to eliminate manipulation of wait time data and is working on better ways to report health care outcomes and patient satisfaction. To view a webcast of the hearing, visit: <http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/a-continued-assessment-of-delays-in-veterans-access-to-health-care>.

## House Hearing on Pending Health Care Legislation

The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health held a hearing to discuss legislation to expand adult day care services, increase informed consent for potentially dangerous prescription drugs, require VA medical facilities to comply with appointment scheduling directives, and improve the Caregivers Program. VFW Senior Legislative Associate Carlos Fuentes offered the VFW's support for many of the bills being considered and offered recommendations to improve others. Fuentes urged the subcommittee to consider reviewing and reforming the VA clinical appeals process to ensure veterans who have been discontinued from the Caregivers Program are given the opportunity to have their doctor's clinical decision reviewed by other doctors who understand veterans' health care needs. To read the testimony or view the webcast, visit

<http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/legislative-hearing-6>.

## Senate Armed Services Subcommittee Hearing on PTSD, TBI

The Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel held a hearing regarding the research, diagnosis and treatment of PTSD and TBI. During the hearing concerns for MST, suicide and other comorbidities of psychological health were also discussed. Senator Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) raised gender-specific questions asking, "...I'd like to know if PTSD presents itself differently in male survivors versus female survivors and how treatment for PTSD meets the unique needs of male survivors of sexual assault." Doctors from VA agreed research is heading in the right direction for PTSD and TBI, but with nearly 25 percent of veterans transitioning from DOD to VA receiving mental health care during their last year of service, there is still much work that

*(Continued on page 12)*

(Continued from page 11)

needs to be done. In the future VA foresees research innovations for diagnosis and treatment progressing with more neuroimaging and the finding of biomarkers. To read witness testimony or view the hearing, click here: <http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/16-04-20-current-state-of-research-diagnosis-and-treatment-for-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-and-traumatic-brain-injury>. For more information on PTSD/TBI research, visit: [http://www.dcoe.mil/About\\_DCoE.aspx](http://www.dcoe.mil/About_DCoE.aspx).

## Senate Confirms VA Inspector General

The Senate confirmed President Obama's nominee, former federal and congressional investigations counsel, Michael J. Missal, to be the next VA Inspector General. The position has been vacant for more than two years, but the office has played an integral role in exposing system wide wrongdoing and data manipulation issues that have contributed to the VA health care access crisis. The VFW is hopeful that permanent leadership in this important position will lead to better accountability at VA.

## Brain Trust Conference

The VA hosted a groundbreaking two-day summit in Washington, D.C., this week focused on brain health. "Brain Trust: Pathways to InnoVAtion," is a public-private partnership that brings together a number of VA brain researchers with some of the most influential voices in the field of brain health to help identify and advance solutions for mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. A number of representatives from the sports community were also present, since issues related to brain health and head trauma impact all Americans. In attendance for the VFW was Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy, who is championing mental health issues and the VFW's role to help others recognize them and seek effective treatment. Learn more at: <http://www.stripes.com/news/experts-sharing->

[information-a-key-factor-in-success-of-tbi-research-1.405623](http://www.stripes.com/news/experts-sharing-information-a-key-factor-in-success-of-tbi-research-1.405623).

## Higher Pay Raise Proposed

Draft legislation released this week by the House Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee calls for a 2.1 percent military pay raise in 2017—a half percent higher than what the Administration requested. If enacted, it would be the largest percentage increase since 2010 (which was then 3.4 percent). Military pay increases are supposed to match increases in private sector wages, as measured by the Employment Cost Index (ECI), but the Administration can request more or less than the ECI, with Congress having final approval. Congress erased a double-digit pay gap of the 1990s by directing military pay raises from 2000-2006 to be a half percent above private sector wage increases, and raises from 2007 forward to match the ECI, although more could be authorized. The 1.7 percent increase in FY2013 was the last time military pay matched the ECI. The draft legislation is just a first step in a very long process before the FY2017 National Defense Authorization Act is signed into law.

## V-E Day Commemoration

A public ceremony to commemorate the 71st anniversary of Victory in Europe Day will be held at the National World War II Memorial in Washington on Mother's Day, May 8, at 11 a.m. All WWII veterans are invited to attend and be recognized for their service and sacrifice. The WWII Memorial has very few disability parking spaces, and street parking could be limited since it's the tourist season. Taxis to the memorial are plentiful and recommended. The two closest Metro stations, Federal Triangle and Smithsonian, are both about a half-mile away. Learn more about this and other events at: <http://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org/>.



Patriotic Art Winner — Submitted by Catherine Henebery, 16, from Seaton School

Happenings:



Photo by Rick Raskin

April 17: Department SVC Tom Gimble installs District 8 officers for 2016—2017 at the District Convention at Post 2524 in Culpeper.



Photo by Nelson Betancourt

QM Rick Raskin recruits at the Nations Gun Show in Chantilly on April 22. Several members were recruited that day including an Installment Life member for Post 7589. A total of 20 new members were recruited during the 3-day the run of the show. Also present: co-recruiter Nelson Betancourt from Arlington Post 3150.



Photo by Rick Raskin

Staff Sergeant ISKY Brown U S Army Afghanistan Combat Wounded Warrior (center) here with his owners, is an Honorary Member and Mascot of VFW Post 7728 in Morrisville. ISKY saved many lives in Afghanistan on point locating IED explosive devices. ISKY received an honorary citation at the District 8 convention on April 17.

## Upcoming Events

- May 2            General Membership Meeting -- Installation of 2016 - 2017 officers
- May 7            Auxiliary Yard Sale
- May 12          70th Anniversary Committee meeting -- 7:00 pm
- May 17          Youth Committee meeting -- 7:00 pm
- May 24          Joint Recruiting with Manassas Park Post 1811 — Tractor Supply—9:00 am—1:00 pm
- May 27 - 29     Memorial Day Buddy Poppies -- TBA
- May 30          Memorial Day ceremonies and flag placements -- 8:30 am
- June 4          70th Anniversary Celebration -- 5:30 -- Post Home
- June 15 - 18    VFW Department of Virginia Convention - Ramada Inn— 500 Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg, VA (757) 585-7100
- June 22- 24    Nation's Gun Show -- Chantilly, VA -- Department of Virginia Recruiting
- July 23 - 27    VFW National Convention - Charlotte, NC

**VA DVS AGENT SERVICE  
AT POST 7589**

**2nd & 4th Thursdays  
0900– 1500**

**You may also visit the Fairfax office.**

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

**703-359-1210**



# VFW Hall



**Available for:**

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Public Rental Rates

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\$ 75.00 for each additional hour

*Friday & Saturday Nights minimum  
Rental is 4 hours for \$400.00*

**SPECIAL RATES FOR  
POST 7589 & AUXILIARY 7589 MEMBERS**

Contact: Wayne Moore 571-285-7904  
Visit our website: [www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org)

**Celebration Time**

WE NEED YOUR HELP  
To Raise Funds  
for  
Dee when  
she is our  
National President

We are in prep-mode to Host a National Event for  
Our First National President from Virginia. It will be Huge!

**Dee Guillory**

ANY MEMBER, AUXILIARY, POST OR DISTRICT THAT MAKES A \$50 OR MORE  
DONATION BY 4-30-2016, WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE AT JUNE 2016  
CONVENTION AND YOUR NAME WILL GO IN A DRAWING FOR \$25.00.

Please make your check Payable to Ladies Auxiliary VFW, VA & send your  
check to our Department Treasurer Debbie Martin  
539 Westwood Drive, Ruckersville, VA 22968-3676  
Make sure your check is earmarked "Dee's Celebration"

Any Questions or Suggestions for Fundraisers, Contact:  
Ellen Stogsdill, 757-777-6275  
Patricia Jurgensen, 703-754-1244  
Laine Beckwith, 757-722-0235  
Mary Corkhill, 703-361-8950

# CANNON NEWS

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