

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
July 2016

---



A young Girl Scout listens intently to flag instruction by Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod at our flag retirement ceremony on June 25. Nearly 500 flags were respectfully retired.

---

## *In This Issue:*

- VFW Department of Virginia achieves 100%+ membership
  - Memorial Day at Culpeper National Cemetery
  - Marking The Graves Of The Brave
  - Post celebrates 70 years
  - Francis Hansbrough Cannon — An Appreciation by Jerry Martin
  - Commendations on our 70th anniversary
  - Post & Auxiliary receive multiple awards at the 2016 Department convention.
  - Area Scouts help with June 25th Flag Retirement
  - VFW Action Corps
- 

**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



It was a great State Convention of the VFW Department of Virginia and the Auxiliary from June 16-19 in Williamsburg. Post 7589 and its Auxiliary were certainly center stage.

Our Post Quartermaster Rick Raskin was elevated to State Judge Advocate as he climbs the steps to State Commander. Our Senior Vice Commander Ron Link was recognized as District 8 Commander.

Our Post was recognized and received a banner as an "All State Post" for 2015-16 and we were given an award and plaque for having the largest increase in Life Members for a Post in our size category!

Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill took home a boatload of awards and honors. Of course we all know the hard work behind all of this. Most of us have been around long enough to know you are not "handed" anything in this life. You have to work for it. This Post and Auxiliary certainly did. Cold days in November giving out Buddy Poppies, late nights and weekends judging student essays, the under the radar work of our service officers who pile up miles and hours helping fellow veterans, the hours of work by our Auxiliary especially helping us put on events, the committees and the committee chairs who plan the events, the tireless efforts every Wednesday of all the Post members who work on Bingo, the people responsible for the maintenance of our building, and we could go on and on. The truth is, another year has started, more projects are ahead and we are going to have to do it all over again, and we wouldn't have it any other way.

As we look back on what was a very successful Post 7589 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on June 4, I have to mention some highlights. You could hear a pin drop on that night as Comrade and former Post Commander Jerry Martin told us all what we didn't know about Francis Cannon and also told us in beautiful terms why the Post is named after this hero. Talk about capturing a crowd!

What about VFW State Commander Doug Keller's talk?

*The Manassas Observer* was impressed as they gave it a huge piece of their coverage. Commander Keller went right to the heart of why Post 7589 was established in the first place back in 1946: "to remember the sacrifices of those who put their lives on the line and to remember and to celebrate those lives." He went on to say, "The VFW Post is a very important part of every returning G.I.'s life." Commander Keller also said, "This milestone should not stand for just the 70 years behind it; it should stand for the next 70 years as well." When I arrived at the Post at 3:00 pm on the day of the celebration, Doug Keller was sitting in a corner of our Post Hall putting the finishing touches on his message. He handed it to me and asked me what I thought. I'm glad I didn't have him change a thing!

Perhaps the biggest highlight of the evening was having the first Post 7589 Commander on hand, John Gregory. Another long time Post 7589 member was also there: former POW, Purple Heart and Silver Star recipient Merle Hancock, a veteran of the World War II air war against Germany. It was a grand evening and thanks to all of you who worked to make it happen. Special thanks to Trustee Lou Filippone, a relatively new member of the Post, who took on the gargantuan task of chairing the planning committee for this event. Lou, you did good!

I have to bring to your attention the annual VFW State of Virginia School of Instruction the weekend of August 5-7 at the Fort Magruder Hotel in Williamsburg. The vast majority of the "meat" of this event will take place on Saturday, August 6. But there will be hospitality suites on Friday night, August 5.

The State VFW is trying to re-capture some of the comradery of the old Schools of Instruction in Lynchburg and elsewhere. In those days it was a very real opportunity for new VFW members to learn about what the VFW is all about and to make contacts and network with other comrades from other Posts around the state.

If you are a Post Officer or just want information on the programs and goals of the Virginia VFW, this is a "not to be missed" event.

We will be carpooling on the morning of August 6 and some members will be traveling to Williamsburg on Friday. If you want to attend, sign up sheets will be available at the July 11 General Membership meeting, or you can call me at 703 220-4545.

Pete MacLeod

## VFW Department of Virginia achieves 100%+ membership

It came down to the wire but on the last day of the current membership year the VFW Department of Virginia achieved 100% membership. As of the morning of June 30 we were 7 short but by mid-day enough memberships had been processed to cross the finish line with our Post contributing 2 renewals. We had pledged to deliver 3 at the State convention but actually produced

seven. Thanks to all those who helped recruit, especially Commander MacLeod who made attempts to contact all of our unpaid members.

Congratulations also to Past Department Commander Doug Keller who has earned the honor of being named an All American Department Commander.

As a TEAM, we finished this membership year in grand fashion by once again making the Department of Virginia All American.

## Auxiliary President



I would like to **Congratulate** the members of VFW Auxiliary 7589 for all

your hard work throughout the 2015-2016 year. At the Department Convention, we were honored to bring home several monetary awards along with certificates of appreciation. Our Patriotic Art entry by Catherine Henebery from Seton School placed second in the Department. She was given a monetary award along with a certificate.

Our Buddy Poppy Display placed 1<sup>st</sup> and we will be taking it to compete at the National level. We also received our banner for completing the requirement for the 2015-2016 VFW Auxiliary year. The Auxiliary also received two National awards. Again, thank you for all you do for **YOUR** Auxiliary and for our Veterans.

There is a change in the July membership meeting. Due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday falling on the first Monday this year, we will be meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Please make plans to attend this important meeting so we can close out the 2015-16 Auxiliary year and make plans for the 2016-17 year. Your input is very important.

The VFW 7589 Post and Auxiliary will be hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> District meeting on September 18, 2016. Lunch will be served at noon and the joint meeting will start at 1:00pm. The VFW Auxiliary will meet in the conference room.

I would like to remind you that your 2017 dues are now due. If your 2017 dues are not paid by December 20, 2016, you will not be a member in good standing and you will have to re-apply for new membership. Also, the time you spent as a member before you re-apply will start over. If you re-apply for a new membership, there is a year waiting period before you are eligible for a Cancer Grant. So please, forward your dues of \$20 to the Auxiliary Treasurer, Elanor Doczi, 7415 Roxbury Ave., Manassas, VA 20109. Thank you in advance.

The schedule for the next three months is listed below:

- July 7 Executive Meeting – 7pm
- July 11 Auxiliary Monthly Meeting
- July 22-27 National Convention in Charlotte, NC
- July 28 Executive Meeting – 7pm
- Aug 1 Post/Auxiliary Meeting – 7:30 pm (Inspection)
- Aug 5-6 School of Instruction – Ft Magruder, Williamsburg VA
- Aug 16 Youth Committee meeting – 7pm
- Sept 8 Executive Meeting – 7pm
- Sept 9 Yard Sale Set up
- Sept 10 Yard Sale (Auxiliary Event)
- Sept 11 9/11 Memorial Buddy Poppy - Distribution to public
- Sept 12 Post/Auxiliary Monthly Meeting - 7:30pm
- Sept 15-20 Celebrating America's Freedom/Mt. Rushmore, Rapid City, SD
- Sept 16 POW/MIA

- Sept 18 District meeting/7589, Manassas Post - 1:00 pm (Lunch at Noon)
- Sept 29 Executive Meeting – 7pm

The VFW National Home for Children, located in Eaton Rapids, MI, is a community open to families of active-duty military personnel, veterans and descendants members of the [VFW](#) and it's [Auxiliary](#). The family can be one or both parents with one or more children. The National Home provides stability and security during a deployment, recover from a crisis, deals with life's challenges, keep the family whole during vocational rehabilitation and find happiness that was taken away. For several years, the VFW Auxiliary has been collecting labels for Education (Campbell Soup labels). This program will be coming to an end on **July 11, 2016**. The National Home needs **27,385 labels** to purchase their final van before the completion of this campaign. Please assist us in achieving this goal. Thank you.

Please keep any individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers. We want to see you on the road to recovery.

Respectfully,  
*Mary Conkhill*  
Auxiliary President



Auxiliary 7589 Buddy Poppy Display, June 2016



## Youth News and Notes, July, 2016

No heavy rain this time! Our second, or was it third, attempt at Flag Retirement went off without a hitch under cloudy but rain free conditions on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> behind the Post Hall. First, Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod, conducted a class on flag history and respect to Cub Scouts from Pack 1355 in Manassas and a Girl Scout from Troop 662 in Bristow. Then Scout Leaders showed how to properly fold a large American flag after which we went outside for the retirement itself starting off with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag! Quartermaster Rick Raskin, Trustee Terry Bursey, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, Auxiliary Senior Vice President Janet Raskin and Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod were all on hand along with two City of Manassas police officers and Scout leaders. The flames cooperated and hundreds of worn out flags were retired with the Scouts doing most of the work.

The Youth Committee met in June and tentatively chose Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm for our Essay Awards Ceremony honoring the best essay writers for Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8) and Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12). The committee also examined sample contest applications printed from the VFW national website, [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). We targeted high schools in Centreville

and Chantilly along with Osbourn and Stonewall High Schools in Manassas for participation in VOD. Liberty and Stonewall Middle Schools are on our list for PP. Summer is a good time to stop and see Principals and Administrators and line up classes that can take part in the essay contests. The deadline for entries is November, 1, 2016. Themes this coming school year are "The America I Believe In" for Patriot's Pen and "My Responsibility to America" for Voice of Democracy. Our next Youth Meeting will be Tuesday, August 16 at 7:00 pm at the Post Hall and we invite any Post or Auxiliary member, interested in working with young people, to attend. There is no Youth Meeting in July.

Speaking of schools, the new Colgan High School, named for former longtime State Senator Chuck Colgan, is set to open this September. It is located on Route 234 just south of the intersection with Hoadly Road and the Woodbine Shopping Center. This is quite a school! It will house an indoor double swimming pool facility and will be the location of the Prince William Fine and Performing Arts specialty program. Huge athletic fields are just about ready and the school's teams will be known as the "Sharks" according to *Inside Nova*.

Pete MacLeod

## Memorial Day at Culpeper National Cemetery

By Paul Chase

Six members of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Color Guard participated in the annual Memorial Day Service at Culpeper National Cemetery. The Culpeper National Cemetery was founded in 1867 and today is the resting place of over 11,000 veterans. Each Memorial Day a service is held to provide military honors to those interred over the past twelve months without the benefit of those honors. Participants this year included the SAR, VFW, American Legion, and the Culpeper County High School Band. A crowd of over 150 gathered to pay tribute to the veterans resting here.



Virginia SAR participants, all from the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, except where noted, left to right: Ben Works, wreath presenter; Bill Schwetke, Paul Chase, Col William Grayson Chapter; Don Jennings; Lon Lacey, Color Guard Commander; Lance Lyngar; Larry Alexander.



Paul Chase leads the Color Guard in the Memorial Day Service, followed by Don Jennings, Lon Lacey, Lance Lyngar, Larry Alexander, and Bill Schwetke.

# Marking The Graves Of The Brave

© Prince William Times / Jun. 2, 2016

Article by The Fauquier Times — Photos by Doug Stroud.  
Reprinted with permission

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7589 in Manassas and its Auxiliary had a full schedule of Memorial Day activities planned. The members held their annual Memorial Day Buddy Poppies sales last week and concluded Memorial Day activities with a service at the Manassas Veteran's Monument and the presentation of wreaths at the Manassas Ceremony in Manassas on Monday [May 30]. Scouts from across the area participated in the decorating of the veterans' graves.



Pete MacLeod, Commander VFW Post 7589, leads the members of the Boy and Girl Scouts at the Manassas Veterans Memorial.



Lily Blanchard of Troop 919 and her dad, Rob Blanchard of Pack 1355, place a flag at the grave site of a veteran during the Memorial Day Service at the Manassas Cemetery.



Seven-year-old Lily Blanchard of Troop 919 and six-year-old Seth Armstrong of Pack 1355 present the wreath at the Manassas Veterans Memorial.



Zachary Pleet, 11, and Zach Sedmak, 10, salute after presenting the wreath at the grave site of Francis Cannon during the Memorial Day service.



Koa Mintz, 7, watches his brother Tonchi, 8, of Centreville place a flag at the grave site of a World War II veteran in the Manassas Cemetery.

# Post celebrates 70 years



Charter Commander John Gregory speaks on the origin of the Post



Auxiliary members Cindy Macintyre and Dana Zank prepare to serve.



Members of the Post Auxiliary assisted with logistics — not a small task!



State Commander Doug Keller provided inspiring words about the VFW



Department Commander Doug Keller and Ron Link

## Francis Hansbrough Cannon

by Jerry Martin



As you walk into our Post one of the first things that catches your eye is the photo of a young man with bright eyes, neatly combed hair, and a broad smile. It is a picture of our Post's namesake, Francis Cannon. He is but one of over 400,000 veterans whose face will never grow old because of their death in WWII.

Who was Francis Cannon? Besides being one of those millions of young men and women who have come to be known as the "greatest generation", he is one of 8, 777 Virginians and 54 residents of Prince William County who gave their lives for freedom in WWII. 8 other young men besides Francis died from Manassas, but he was truly a native son.

Born Francis Hansbrough Cannon in Manassas on December 13, 1913, he was 5<sup>th</sup> of 7 children born to Francis I. Cannon and Mary Hansbrough Hooe. On a more personal note he was the big brother of Maddie Cannon Parrish and the uncle of mayor Hal Parrish and his sister Judy who never knew him.

Francis's grandfathers, on both his father's and mother's side, fought in the battle of Bull Run. His paternal grandfather, Francis A. Cannon, served as a teenage courier for Generals Ewell and Stonewall Jackson. His grandfather and father had been builders in Prince William for two generations.

He is remembered by his best friend, Buck Albrite, as a fun loving guy, who loved music and enjoyed the company of friends,

and pretty girls. I think the later characteristic is what also made him popular among the guys.

Francis worked behind the soda fountain at Cocke's Pharmacy where Carmello's Restaurant is now located. Cocke's was a gathering spot for teenagers of the 30's and 40's in Manassas and a place where you could depend on seeing Francis who occasionally forgot to charge you for your soda. You have to remember in a community of a little over 1500 everyone knew everyone's family.

Francis enlisted in the Army shortly after Pearl Harbor on December 11, 1941. PFC Cannon was assigned to the 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as a rifleman. Rifleman Cannon moved to Hawaii in early 1942 and became part of the island defense forces until January 1944.

Francis and the 106<sup>th</sup> infantry departed Hawaii in June of 1944 and landed on the island of Saipan on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June the 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry was ordered to clear a wide expanse of open ground surrounded by a high ridge. The area soon gained the name "Death Valley".

By June 30<sup>th</sup> PFC Cannon found himself with other members of his battalion battling the entrenched Japanese defenders on the high ridge overlooking Death Valley. This ridge is known today in the history of the Battle of Saipan as "Purple Heart Ridge" because of the number of men who were wounded and killed taking it.

Francis Cannon was one of those brave men who would not walk off Purple Heart Ridge and was buried in a make shift cemetery on the island of Saipan.

In 1947 the war department began the reparation of remains from overseas cemeteries and the Cannon-Parish family requested that Francis be returned to his hometown of Manassas. In 1949 Francis was buried alongside his family in the Manassas cemetery. His permanent headstone was laid in 1950.

Our first Post Commander, John Gregory, led the procession of Manassas veterans at his funeral.

Buck Albrite served as one of his pallbearers. Every year since his burial our VFW Post has honored his sacrifice on both Memorial and Veterans Day by placing an American flag on his and other veterans graves to acknowledge their service.

If you ask yourself why our Post is named the "Francis Cannon Post" it is because he was, and always will be, one of our heroes. His service personifies the meaning of duty, honor, and country. He is not only a comrade in arms and a friend to many of the founding members of this Post, but also a part of our Manassas family.



## Commendation

The House of Delegates  
of the Commonwealth of Virginia

hereby offers sincerest congratulations to

VFW POST 7589

MANASSAS, VIRGINIA

in recognition of  
its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Offered by Delegate Richard L. Anderson

on June 4, 2016

*J. Paul Nardo*

Clerk of the House of Delegates





# Commendation

**WHEREAS**, on June 6, 1946, 74 men who fought in World Wars I and II, came together to form the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Francis Cannon Post 7589, named in honor of Francis Cannon, a young Manassas soldier whose life was extinguished on June 20, 1944 on the Island of Saipan by a sniper bullet; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years the Post has grown from 74 World Wars I and II members to now 371, and includes veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Worldwide War on Terror, and has an Auxiliary of 80 members, who are all dedicated to helping fellow veterans and communities throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, since its beginnings in 1946, Post 7589 has served the Prince William/Manassas area by its numerous scholastic programs, including awarding scholarships through its Voice of Democracy contest, Patriot's Pen essay contest and the Auxiliary's Patriotic Art contest; and

**WHEREAS**, most Memorial Day and Veterans Day holidays find members of the Post conducting services at the Manassas Veterans Memorial, placing flags at the graves of deceased veterans, conducting "Buddy Poppy" drives to raise money for veteran services and speaking to students in public and private schools on their experiences and on the work of the Post; and

**WHEREAS**, on average, the Post's Service Officers spend an average of 80 hours driving an average of 160 miles each month helping veterans with service-related problems as well as helping them obtain benefits, apply for various veterans' programs and with any problems the veteran may be having; and

**WHEREAS**, not only does the Post serve just veterans in our area, but also over the years the Post has undertaken numerous other projects including the collection of aluminum tabs from cans for recycling with the proceeds going to the Shriner's Hospitals and the Boston Burn Center where needy burn victims are treated free of charge; conducting a Wills-for-Vets program in conjunction with the Prince William Bar Association where free legal help is given to veterans and their spouses in the preparation of their wills; and with weekly visits to veterans at assisted living facilities in the City of Manassas and Prince William County; and

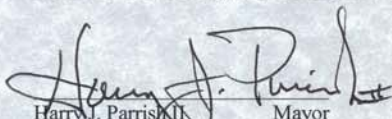
**WHEREAS**, all members of the Post have served in a combat zone during wartime and have experienced the issues of coming under enemy fire and being in harm's way and their experiences and compassion are reflected in the dedicated service they provide to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, On June 4, 2016, the Veterans of Foreign War Francis Cannon Post 7589 will celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of dedicated service to our Veterans and their families.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Harry J. Parrish II, Mayor of the City of Manassas and on behalf of the Manassas City Council, hereby publicly commend, and recognize

## ***VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR FRANCIS CANNON POST 7589***

on its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and wish it continued success in the future.

  
Harry J. Parrish II Mayor  
On behalf of the City Council  
Of Manassas, Virginia



ATTEST:  
  
Andrea P. Madden City Clerk

# Post & Auxiliary receive multiple awards at the 2016 Department convention.

Article by Rick Raskin, Photos by Doc Crouch

Thursday, June 16 the Department of Virginia recognized outstanding Posts and Auxiliaries at the annual awards ceremony held in Williamsburg. Our Post received multiple awards including banners and caps for achieving All State and a plaque for the largest increase in life membership for a Post of our size. The Auxiliary received many citations for their outstanding work in Programs and reporting. At one point I joked with Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill that she'd have to hire a livery service to transport all the certificates the Auxiliary received. It was an outstanding year for our VFW family with both the Post and Auxiliary exceeding 100% membership and receiving the recognition they so well deserved.



Past Department Commander Tommy Hines presents Quartermaster Rick Raskin All State Quartermaster awards.



Department Commander Doug Keller and Past Commander in Chief John Gwizdak present Commander Pete MacLeod an All State banner and certificate.



Department President Georgette Dausey presents Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill an award banner.



Photo by Pete MacLeod

Janet Raskin caps newly elected State Judge Advocate Rick Raskin after the conclusion of the installation ceremony at the 2016 Department convention.

## Area Scouts help with June 25th Flag Retirement

Article and photos by Rick Raskin



June 25 proved to be a fine day for our flag retirement. Originally scheduled for earlier in the month it was postponed because of relentless rain.

Cub Scouts from Pack 1355 and Girl Scout Troop 662 along with members of the Post and Auxiliary retired nearly 500 flags. The day began with a class on flag history and etiquette conducted by Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod. Following the class the group assembled at the rear of the parking lot where a special area for ceremonial burns had been created.

Two police officers from Manassas stopped by and observed as the fire was lit and the first flags retired. The group continued to retire flags for about an hour and a half. Several neighbors also stopped by to surrender worn flags.

After the ceremony the remaining ashes were buried at the rear of the property.



# From the



**1. VFW Testifies in House:** On Thursday [June 23], Raymond Kelley, director, VFW national legislative service, testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on 12 bills under consideration by the Committee. The subjects of the bills included improvements for hiring and retaining quality doctors, providing greater access to therapy dogs for veterans with PTSD and TBI, and a key piece of legislation that will reform the disability appeals process. To watch this hearing click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZ2Q3Rpdd0>. The second panel of witnesses, begins at 1:22:00, and includes the deputy secretary of VA, Sloan Gibson, followed by Kelley and several other veteran service organizations.

**2. Senate Holds Hearing on IT System:** On Wednesday [June 22], the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee held a hearing on VA's Information Technology (IT) system. VA provided an update on the current state of the system, to include VA/DOD health record interoperability, and VA's plan to meet its future needs. To read VA's testimony and to watch the hearing click here <http://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/it-hearing-06222016>.

**3. Senate Holds Hearing for New Assistant Secretary:** On Tuesday [June 21], the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee held a nomination hearing for Christopher O'Connor. O'Connor is a retired Marine and is currently the acting assistant secretary for VA's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. Once confirmed, O'Connor's title as assistant secretary will be made permanent. To read O'Connor's written statement and to watch the hearing, click here <http://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/pending-nomination-of-christopher-e-oconnor06212016>.

**4. Military Construction and VA Appropriations Agreement:** On Wednesday night [June 22] the House and Senate Appropriations Committees announced a conference agreement on an appropriations bill to fund military construction and VA service and programs. The agreement would appropriate \$74.4 billion for VA's discretionary programs, which is an increase from previous years, but falls short of the Administration's request and Independent Budget's recommendations. Specifically, the bill would underfund VA major construction projects and community care programs, which allow veterans to seek private sector care when VA care is not readily available. The VFW commends the conferees for expanding VA fertility treatment options for veterans who are unable to start a family due to their service-connected disabilities. The agreement would authorize VA to use assisted reproductive technologies, such as in vitro fertilization, to treat service-connected infertility and reimburse veterans for the cost of adoption. The agreement was passed by the House on Thursday morn-

ing, but faces an uncertain future in the Senate due to a disagreement on how to fund Zika research and prevention. Stay tuned to the Action Corps Weekly for updates on this important bill.

**5. House Passes Veterans Measures:** On Tuesday [June 21], the House passed two veterans bills. H.R. 4590, authorizes VA funding to carry out the construction or improvements to seven VA medical facilities. H.R. 3936 calls on VA to carry out a three-year pilot program which will allow veterans to file a disability claim with the assistance of a Veteran Engagement Team. The VFW is supportive of both of these proposals. Both bills now move to the Senate for passage, before being signed into law.

**6. VFW Opposes Veterans Preference Restriction:** The VFW is adamantly opposed to a Senate proposal that would restrict veterans preference to a one-time deal when applying for work within the federal government. The Senate proposal is buried in section 1134 of S. 2943, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. "Veterans preference was created because military veterans are at a competitive disadvantage when applying for federal jobs," said VFW National Commander John Biedrzycki. "For the Senate to intentionally erect barriers to employment and advancement makes zero sense because it harms veterans and weakens the talent pool available to the federal government." Veterans preference is a point system that human resource offices use to rack-and-stack job applicants, yet contrary to popular belief, the only preference veterans receive is the job interview, not a job offer. Veterans must still prove they are the best qualified during the job interview.

**7. VFW Life Member to Receive Medal of Honor:** The White House announced this week that the president will award the Medal of Honor next month to retired Army Lt. Col. Charles Kettles, who is credited with saving some 44 lives on May 15, 1967, while serving as a UH-1 Huey helicopter commander. Kettles, of Ypsilanti, Mich., is a Life member of the VFW Department of Michigan. Early that morning, his platoon had dropped about 80 soldiers into a river valley, but the troops were ambushed and surrounded. Kettles and his fellow pilots made several trips back and forth, bringing in reinforcements and evacuating the wounded, but by afternoon, it was clear that the situation was hopeless. Only 44 troops remained, facing what Kettles estimated was a battalion-sized force. During the emergency extraction, Kettles learned eight men had been left behind. He immediately turned around and headed back to the landing zone. "The bottom line is those soldiers went home to their families," said Kettles. "Their names aren't carved in stone on a wall in D.C. No medal can compare with that." Read more at <https://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/kettles/>.

## Upcoming Events

- July 23 - 27 VFW National Convention - Charlotte, NC
- August 5 - 7 Department School of Instruction & Fall Council Meeting -- Williamsburg
- September 10 Auxiliary Yard Sale — Setup on Friday evening
- September 11 Auxiliary 9/11 Memorial Buddy Poppy distribution
- September 16 POW/MIA Day
- September 18 District 8 Meeting at Post 7589 — Lunch at noon, meeting at 1:00 PM

**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**



**Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Auxiliary**

# VFW Hall



**Available for:**

- Baby Showers
- Birthday Parties
- Business Meetings
- Family Reunions
- Wedding Receptions

Public Rental Rates

\$200.00 for the 1st two hours  
 \$ 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

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

Please visit our website at [www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org)

Editor: Rick Raskin  
 Copy Editor: Janet Raskin

Please email articles to [quartermaster@vfw7589.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfw7589.org)  
 We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.