

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
August 2014



July 7: Manassas Mayor Hal Parrish congratulates veteran Henry Rivera at his 102 birthday celebration. Post 7589 Commander Ron Link and Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill observe. Additional pictures on [page 8](#).

In This Issue:

- New Post 7589 Life Members
- Tab Collection Program Update
- Armed Forces Appreciation Day at the County Fair
- Manassas Ballet is offering free tickets on November 7
- Help Wanted for Bingo
- Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry
- Subscription Dues Renewal
- Commissary Case Lot Sales
- New Veterans Administration ID Card
- Missing in America Update (Veterans Remains)

From the Editor



On July 7 our Post and Auxiliary helped a 102 year old veteran celebrate his birthday. Both he and his wife enjoyed the ceremony held at Birmingham Green. Additional pictures from the event are on [page 8](#).

Our aluminum tab collection program has really taken off. So far we have collected in excess of 65,500 tabs toward our goal of 125,000. The Post has ordered a digital scale to assist in calculating the number of tabs we receive. See Comrade Chase's update on [page 6](#).

Our Post Bingo on Wednesday mornings continues to help fund our operations and programs but we are needing additional help. We have a core of Comrades and

Sisters who make it a point to be there each week. However during this time of vacations and the like they are having to do double duty. We need two more people to assist with calling back winning numbers and delivering winnings. See our want ad on [page 7](#).

This edition also contains several articles of interest to commissary users, VA medical participants and those who served in the Middle East.

This is your newspaper. If you have any article or announcement you'd like to see included please email it to me: qm7589@verizon.net. Please send any photos as attachments to your email.

Cheers,

Rick

From the Commander



In starting a new year, several events are in the planning stage:

—We will be continuing with the Vietnam Commendation events. The committee will meet later and decide what the next event will be.

—Along with the Ladies Auxiliary, the Post has adopted B Co, 116th located at the Manassas

Armory. We will be assisting with their Holiday Dinner in December. More details forthcoming.

Membership is important this year, not just recruiting new members, but ensuring existing members are retained. The Post Officers are going to keep track of those who do not renew and a campaign will commence to contact them and ask them to do so.

Congratulations to Mary Corkhill for receiving National recognition as the runner-up in the Department Historian contest. Mary received a certificate at the National Convention held in St. Lewis.

I was very pleased to see that the city of St. Louis held a Patriotic Parade to honor the VFW Comrades and Ladies in attendance at the National Convention. Anheuser-Busch was the main sponsor of the parade. It was also nice to see so many people along the route cheering the veterans of our nation.

Remember, report all the work you do in the community. It all counts for the Post. Just send me an email and I will report it online for you.

Thanks for all you do.

Ron

Auxiliary President's Report



It is with a heavy heart that I have to report our Auxiliary Secretary, Ann Mitchell, lost her beloved husband, Steve on July 19th. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

I wish to **Congratulate** and thank the Ladies of this Auxiliary for organizing and contributing to the success of Anthony Rivera's 102nd birthday party we held on July 8th. The guest list included Manassas Mayor Parrish who presented Mr. Rivera with a Commendation, Delegate in the Virginia General Assembly for the 50th District, Jackson Miller who said a few words, Ms. Elizabeth Lewis, a young 94 year old nurse, who serviced on an Army hospital ship during WWII, Fox 5 news crew, Commander Ron Link and members of 7589 Post, along with family and friends. Mr. Rivera was presented with a flag flown over the Capital, 102+ cards signed by Ladies from the Department of Virginia, along with 102 cupcakes. Ladies you **ROCK** and I'm very proud of our members for what you do for our Veterans.

I attended the National VFW Ladies Auxiliary Convention in St. Louis, MO where a new National President Ann Panteleakos from Connecticut, was elected for the 2014-2015 year. The most exciting news was for the Department of Virginia Chairmen, who walked away with several awards from National. Congratulations to all the winners.

The Calendar of Events for the next 3 months is list below:

- Aug 4 Post/Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30 pm
- Aug 14 Youth Committee Mtg. - 7 pm - Post
- Aug 17 District meeting/9835, Warrenton Post 1:00 pm

- Sept 8 Post/Auxiliary Monthly Meeting 7:30pm (Inspection)
- Sept 11 public
- Sept 12 9/11 Memorial Buddy Poppy - Distribution to
- Sept 13 Set-up for Yard Sale for Youth Committee 4-7
- Sept 18 Youth Committee - Yard Sale - 7-2
- Sept 19 Youth Committee - 7 pm - Post
- Sept 20 POW/MIA Ceremony - 5 pm - Manassas Veterans Memorial
- Oct 4 Auxiliary Department Council of Administration (Charlottesville) 9am
- Oct 6 Annual Fall Jubilee - 10am - 5pm (Post & Auxiliary will attend)
- Oct 6 Post/Auxiliary Monthly Meeting 7:30pm
- Oct 17 Youth Committee Meeting - 7pm
- Oct 17 Auxiliary Yard Sale Setup - 4 pm to 7 pm
- Oct 18 Auxiliary Yard Sale - 7 am to 2 pm
- Oct 25 Celebrating America's Freedom/Ft McHenry, Baltimore, MD
- Oct 28-30 National President Visit (Northern Virginia Area)

The 8th District meeting will be August 17th at the Warrenton Post (9835) at 1:00pm. President Sheila Hunter will be holding a School of Instruction. This will assist you in your reporting and know what is expected for the Department this year. I would like to see a good showing from Manassas Auxiliary. If you need transportation, please let me know.

At the National Convention, the Representatives from the National Home for Children showed pictures of the vans which were purchased with your Campbell Soup labels. So **please**, keep collecting the labels and bring them to the Post. Thank you in advance.

As always, for individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
Ladies Auxiliary President



Service Officer's Report



Our work continues with the service to our Veterans here in the Prince William County region. Through our networking with other veteran service organization we hope to be able to announce with 60 days a general service transportation van to the local VA medical service locations such as Fort Belvoir and

the Washington DC Medical Center. As this information develops it will be posted out to each service organization.

We have also been able to help both veterans young and old. Just a few days ago a young Army soldier who we have been assisting with both his medical board and appropriate discharge was just honorably discharged with full medical benefits (100%) on July 14th. This was a long difficult success for all concerned but in the end the veteran received his benefits.

Our Veterans Service Officer Team works hard for you to bring all resources that we can to assist our Post and all veterans we can. We would like to add to our team if you would like to join us. Please feel free to reach out and let us know if you would like to become a Service Officer. We will provide free training and you get to meet lots of interesting people.

It is a great job where you get to work with and help veterans from the Prince William County region with their VA claims, housing, vocational rehab, benefits and provide much needed help to those in need. Please think about it!

Please feel free to contact our Service Officer Team at any time for questions, suggestions or other needs you may or just pull one of us aside and tell us a suggestion of service that we can provide.

Our number one goal is providing the best service to our veterans and their families.

Steven Botello 1-703-659-0849

Email: SO7589@verizon.net

Stephen Meade 1-703-408-0875

Email: SO2-7589@hotmail.com

Our goal is simple here. We want to take care of all our veterans with the greatest level of service that our resources will allow. Thank you for your service!

We would like to add to our team if you would like to join us. Please feel free to reach out and let us know if you would like to become a Service Officer. We will provide free training and you get to meet lots of interesting people.

Need help with filing VA claims?

**VA DVS AGENT SERVICE
2nd & 4th THURSDAYS
0900 - 1500**

**Post 7589
9304 Centreville Rd.
Manassas, Virginia**

**APPOINTMENTS PLEASE
Walk-ins Accepted**

Youth News and Notes

By Pete MacLeod—Youth Committee Chair



We are getting ready for the 2014 editions of the VFW Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy school essay contests. The big question always is: "What are the judges looking for?" And the answer always is: "No one has a clue!" If you don't believe me, go to the national website, www.vfw.org and look at the work that has won nationally the last several years and besides good grammar, and strong but plain and to the point writing, there is very little that is similar in any of the essays. Well that's nationally! What about locally, here at Post 7589 and in our VFW District 8? There are some threads that seem to run through most of the winners in recent years: Using examples from one's own family or life experience in making a point, no flowery language or big words for the sake of using big words, and the biggest similarity in most all the winners: hard work.

How can you tell the student has put in the work? One way is through independent research. No matter the theme, the student can do some independent research and that always gains attention. I remember several years back a first place Patriot's Pen essay here in Manassas contained research into the student's own family and the facts were then applied to the theme of the essay and used to answer questions and strengthen conclusions.

And I have seen this kind of research impress the District 8 judges too.

But I think an even bigger quality of winning essays, one that encompasses impressive research, is simply thinking about the theme, understanding it, and figuring out what you, as an individual, have to say about it. One thing I have heard year after year from Manassas and

district judges is: Did the student stick to the theme and answer the question asked in the theme?

Take the second place winning Patriot's Pen essay from last school year by Conner Mackert of Parkside Middle School. The theme question was: "What Patriotism Means to Me." Here is how Conner handled it: "About two years ago, I went to visit my grandfather, who is a veteran of the Vietnam War. About three days into the visit, I asked him what it was like to fight for our country." No flowery language here. Simple, to the point and above all, answer the theme question! And this is research using the Primary Source!

Good Luck to all our Manassas area students this year!

Important Upcoming Youth Dates:

Saturday, Sept. 13, 7 am to 2 pm Youth Yard Sale at Post 7589

Saturday, Nov 1
Youth Essay Contest deadline

Sunday, Dec. 7, 4:00 pm
Youth Awards Ceremony at Post 7589

2014 Voice of Democracy Theme

"Why Veterans Are Important To Our Nation's History And Future."

2014 Patriot's Pen theme

"Why I Appreciate America's Veterans."

Seven Comrades upgrade to Life Membership

Congratulations are in order to the following seven Comrades who upgraded their membership from annual to life member or completed their installment life plan since the beginning of 2014:

- Jason Bedesky
- William Carruthers
- Warren Ewell
- George Hall
- Jacob Lott
- Timothy Thomas
- Clyde Verner

By becoming a life member you are entitled to receive a Post provided VFW cover with life member patch. All

you need do is come to a Post meeting and let us know your hat size. Then when your cover arrives, come to another meeting to receive it.

Your dedication to the VFW is evident by your decision to become a life member. Additionally, your life membership helps your Post achieve its membership goal each year. Thank you for supporting your Post and the VFW.

All annual members, those who are on the life installment plan and those who join as life members are entitled to receive the complementary VFW cover. Please contact QM Raskin if you have any questions.

Aluminum Tab Collection Program Update

By Paul Chase

With the help of Joel Chase, Pete Slusher, Warren Ewell and others publicity for the program is proceeding well. Steve Botello arranged for Paul Chase to make a stand up presentation on the program to the Veterans Committee of the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce. Flyers were distributed along with the picture of the VFW Project Team with a massive collection of tabs. At the 102 year birthday celebration of a veteran at the Birmingham Green Rest Home, Paul was able

to present the program to Manassas Mayor Hal Parrish and our local State representative Jackson Miller. Everyone can help by talking about the program to employers, relatives, businesses and churches.

The current count exceeds **65,500**.

Every tab helps!

Armed Forces Appreciation Day

At the 65th Annual Prince William County Fair
Sunday, August 10, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

An Outstanding Event Celebrating and Honoring our Veterans and Wounded Warriors

- Military Exhibits
- Color Guard
- Veterans admitted free of charge
- After the Event enjoy all the Fair has to offer
- **100% of all donations benefit Fisher House**

Manassas Ballet is offering free tickets to "all military and veterans" for the November 7 performance of "Colin"

The Manassas Ballet is offering free tickets to "all military and veterans" for the opening performance of "Colin" on Friday, Nov 7.

TICKETS: at www.hyltoncenter.org
or 888-945-2468
\$45, \$35, \$25, \$15
(regular prices)
www.manassasballet.org
for information

This poignant ballet tells the very personal story of Colin J. Wolfe, the Marine son of Manassas Ballet Theatre's artistic director, Amy Grant Wolfe, who lost his life in Iraq.

After receiving much acclaim and national media attention with her original one act ballet, Colin debuts as an evening-length ballet accompanied by the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra.

Tickets for all military and veterans are free on opening night (Friday, Nov 7); accompanying tickets are 20% off. For the Saturday and Sunday shows, military and veterans are 20% off.

Friday, November 7 -- 7:30pm
Saturday, November 8 -- 7:30pm
Sunday, November 9 -- 3:00pm



HELP WANTED

We need two more volunteers at Bingo on Wednesday mornings.

Duties include calling back winning numbers and delivering payouts to winners.

Our staff is doing double duty and could sure use some additional help.

Just come in Wednesday morning

No resume or interview required
Training provided
Free snacks



(L-R) Mary Corkhill, Mayor Hal Parrish and Comrade Elizabeth Lewis



(L-R) Auxiliary members Yvonne Sullivan, Valerie Nealey, Cookie Cullen, Patsy Gough, Elanor Doczi, Suzy Ince, Ginger Harvey and President Mary Corkhill with Consuela and Henry Rivera.

Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

By Kenneth B. Wiseman, III, Surgeon, VFW Department of Virginia

There is a massive effort underway in the VA geared towards registering those who were exposed to burn pits and/or oil fires. If you or our Comrades served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Operation New Dawn and/or Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm and were near the burn pits or oil fires please look to register. The

main page lists all needed information and I ask that this be forwarded to your members and Service Officer's for information and action. The link is as follows: <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/#page/home>

Is this for me?

The registry is a database of information about Veterans collected through a questionnaire.

OEF/OIF/OND or 1990-1991 Gulf War Veterans and can use the registry questionnaire to report exposures to airborne hazards (such as smoke from burn pits, oil-well fires, or pollution during deployment), as well as other exposures and health concerns.

Why sign up?

- Create a snapshot from which to identify changes in your health.
- Print and use your completed questionnaire to discuss concerns with your provider.
- Learn about follow-up care and VA benefits.
- Instructions are available if you need assistance with the questionnaire.

Subscription dues renewal notices are in the mail

Annual members are encouraged to renew their membership early

The first mailed dues renewal notice for the 2014-2015 membership year, mailing to all members whom expire December 31 - January 31, was mailed on July 18th and should arrive in your members mailboxes on or before August 1st. Under subscription dues, monthly renewal notices will continue indefinitely.

Renewal Notice Received on:	5 Month Renewal Recipients	3 Month Renewal Recipients	1 Month Renewal Recipients	1 Month Lapsed Recipients	3 Month Lapsed Recipients	5 Month Lapsed Recipients
8/1/2014	*Dec. 31 - Jan. 31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
9/1/2014	Feb. 1 - Feb. 28	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
10/1/2014	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31	Dec. 31 - Jan. 31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
11/1/2014	Apr. 1 - Apr. 30	Feb. 1 - Feb. 28	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
12/1/2014	May 1 - May 31	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31	Dec. 31 - Jan. 31	n/a	n/a	n/a
1/1/2015	June 1 - June 30	Apr. 1 - Apr. 30	Feb. 1 - Feb. 28	n/a	n/a	n/a
2/1/2015	July 1 - July 31	May 1 - May 31	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31	Dec. 31 - Jan. 31	n/a	n/a
3/1/2015	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31	June 1 - June 30	Apr. 1 - Apr. 30	Feb. 1 - Feb. 28	n/a	n/a
4/1/2015	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30	July 1 - July 31	May 1 - May 31	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31	Dec. 31 - Jan. 31	n/a
5/1/2015	Oct. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31	June 1 - June 30	Apr. 1 - Apr. 30	Feb. 1 - Feb. 28	n/a
6/1/2015	Nov. 1 - Nov. 30	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30	July 1 - July 31	May 1 - May 31	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31	Dec. 31 - Jan. 31
7/1/2015	Dec. 1 - Dec. 31	Oct. 1 - Oct. 31	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31	June 1 - June 30	Apr. 1 - Apr. 30	Feb. 1 - Feb. 28
8/1/2015	Jan. 1 - Jan. 31	Nov. 1 - Nov. 30	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30	July 1 - July 31	May 1 - May 31	Mar. 1 - Mar. 31
Received Dates	Subscription End Dates					

*The December 31st and January groups will be combined this year.

Commissary Case Lot Sales



Stateside commissaries will be featuring a Commissary Customer Appreciation Case Lot Sale over two or three days between Aug. 14 and Sept. 30. The case lot sale schedule for all commissaries is available at

http://www.commissaries.com/stores/html/store.cfm?dodaac=N&page=case_lot_dates. At this site you can also check the "Local Store Information" section on your commissary's store web page to details about holiday hours, sidewalk sales or other special store events.

[Source: AUSA Family Readiness Weekly Update Jul 8, 2014]

VA ID Card Update

The new Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) provides increased security for your personal information - no personally identifiable information is contained on the magnetic stripe or barcode. It is also a salute to your military service. The emblem of your latest branch of service is displayed on your card. Several special awards will also be listed. The VHIC replaces the Veteran Identification Card (VIC) and will be issued only to Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system. Its purpose is for identification and check-in at VA appointments. It cannot be used as a credit card or an insurance card, and it does not authorize or pay for care at non-VA facilities.

In February 2014, VA began issuing the VHIC to newly enrolled Veterans and enrolled Veterans who were not previously issued the old VIC but requested an identification card. Beginning in May 2014, VA started automatically mailing VHICs to enrolled Veterans who were issued the VIC. Because VA will be reissuing more than 6 million cards, they ask for your patience during this



time. Veterans who were issued a VIC do not need to return to their VA medical center to have a photo taken for the VHIC. Enrolled Veterans who do not have the VIC can contact their local VA medical center Enrollment Coordinator to arrange to have their picture taken for the new VHIC, or they may request a new VHIC at their next VA health care appointment. To ensure their identity, Veterans must provide either one form of primary identification or two forms of secondary identification.

The VHIC will be mailed to all valid mailing addresses, including P.O. boxes. Veterans who are already enrolled should ensure the address VA has on file is correct so they can receive their VHIC in a timely manner. To update or to confirm your address with VA, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387). If the post office cannot deliver your VHIC, the card will be returned to the VA.

For more information visit the following website: <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic/index.asp>

Vet Cremains Update

With the help of the **Missing in America Project**, the remains of 15 Veterans were interred at Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, North Carolina, with full military honors, June 14, 2014. The Rowan County Honor Guard and the North Carolina National Guard escorted the remains during what was the cemetery's

first Missing in America ceremony, with the theme: "Gone, but not forgotten." The 15 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines served during World War II, Vietnam and Korea—all received full military honors during the ceremony.

Upcoming Events

- Aug 4 General Membership Meeting -- 1930
- Aug 17 District 8 Meeting -- Warrenton Post 9835
(New Baltimore Firehouse on Rt. 29)
- August 21 Youth Committee Meeting -- 1900
- Sept 8 General Membership Meeting -- 1930 (In lieu of Labor Day)
- Sept 13 Youth Committee Yard Sale
- Sept 18 Youth Committee Meeting -- 1900
- Sept 19 POW/MIA Ceremony -- Manassas Veterans Memorial -- 1700



September 13: Youth Committee

October 18: Ladies Auxiliary



Francis Cannon Post 7589

P.O. Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108