

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
August 2018

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Rick Raskin, Ron Knowles and Pete MacLeod were honored as Ambassadors for Peace. See page 5.

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**CANNON NEWS**—2015 & 2018 National VFW Publications Silver Award  
2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for  
Most Outstanding Post Publication/Newsletter, VFW Department of Virginia

### Commander's Message



Wayne Moore

**District 8 Meeting**  
On August 19, at 09:30 AM Post 7589 will host the District 8 meeting. An invitation is extended to all who desire to become familiar with the Post education processes and knowledge important to the proper

handling of veterans' affairs.

The School of Instruction (SOI) will kick off at 9:30 AM with some necessary training to those willing to participate as office holders within the Post, and possibly beyond. Following the SOI, our Auxiliary will provide lunch at noon. Stop by, grab a bite and meet some of the Comrades doing splendid work on behalf of our vets. At 13:00 the formal meeting will commence detailing where we are and the new commander's plan for the forthcoming year.

#### Post Activism

In July's newsletter, I asked for comrades' participation when and where possible. I am going to expand and expound on that request.

When I joined the VFW, my sole purpose and ambition were to help Vets in need, in any way I could. Our Post has over 400 members many of whom can no longer be active or get out as before. As Post Commander, it is my goal to provide outreach to as many of these individuals as we can. I am asking that if you are aware of any member who is homebound (especially our WWII and Korean Vets) or in need, please contact the Post so that we may extend our help. The VFW is yours, and I am open to suggestions that would improve our service to you and encourage others. Our strength lies in our numbers.

#### The Horizon

At the writing of these notes, the VFW National Convention draws to a close with the election of a new National Commander Vincent B.J. Lawrence.

Senior Vice Commander Ron Link and

Quartermaster Rick Raskin attended the Convention and will update the Post at our general assembly meeting on August 6, at 7:30 PM.

Quartermaster Raskin (Hydra Comrade) also serves as our Newsletter Editor, Network/Site Coordinator, and Department Senior Vice Commander. He ensures that all members are aware of the Post's functions and status through posting the minutes of our meeting and newsletter on the Post's website. Access to the site is available to all members at: [www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org). Give us a call if you have a problem entering the site. I would encourage you to check it out and provide feedback that we may better address your needs and concerns.

*[If you don't have a login ID send a request to [quartermaster@vfw7589.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfw7589.org).]-ED*

Please don't hesitate to call the Post for specific/additional information, telephone 703-361-5554 or email me at: [commander@vfw7589.org](mailto:commander@vfw7589.org).

The VFW National Home for Children

The VFW National Home for Children offers a once in a lifetime **opportunity** for military and veteran related families.

If you know of a family in your community that could use our help, please encourage them to call!

We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.

Most qualify to apply. Caring staff will help families to determine eligibility.

800-313-4200

A Great Place to Call Home!

## Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill

At the 105<sup>th</sup> National Auxiliary Convention in Kansas City, MO, Sandi Kriebel (Department of Maryland) was installed as the new National President on July 25, 2018. The other National Officers are: Sr. Vice President Peggy

Haake (Department of Hawaii), Jr. Vice President Sandra Onstwedder (Department of Michigan), National Secretary/Treasurer Jan Passmore (Department of Michigan), National Chaplain Jean Hamil (Department of Florida), National Conduress Jane Reape (Department of New York) and National Guard Carla Martinez (Department of Utah). The Department of Virginia and Auxiliary 7589 wishes all the National Officers a very successful 2018 – 2019 year.

**Congratulations** to Ms. Catherine Henebery from Seton School, for placing fifth at the National Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. If you wish to view winners from other Departments, please go to: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/2018-department-winners/>. Our Auxiliary 7589 Buddy Poppy entry placed third in the Artistic or Decorative Category. **Great job everyone!!!**

Since National reorganized the Division of the States from nine to five, Virginia was placed in the fourth Division according to membership. I would like to congratulate the Chairmen of the Department for receiving awards in Legislative, Membership, Veterans & Family Support and Youth Activities. Several resolutions were brought before the Convention floor and they were either adopted or defeated. The MALTA system was activated the first week in July 2017 and National wants to engage annual members to pay their dues through MALTA. The annual dues are due now for 2019 and, if needed, we will assist you with your payment through the new MALTA system. Thank you for taking the time to pay your annual dues in advance.

Next year the Big 10 Conference has the opportunity to have the 2019-2020 candidates for National Guard. They are: Laurie Dale from Minnesota, Brenda Bryant from Missouri and Sandra Uzell from Ohio.

Also, Ann Panteleakas from Connecticut is running for Treasurer. If there are any other candidates running for another position, I will inform you.

The main focus for the Post and Auxiliary is veterans and their families. We have several programs that we will be working on this year. They are: Americanism, Buddy Poppies/National Homes, Historian, Hospital, Legislative, Membership, Scholarship, Veterans & Family Support and Youth Activities. If you have participated in any of the above programs, please let us know. If there is anything we can do to assist you in your needs, just call on us.

The scholarship themes for the Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12) is "Why My Vote Matters" and the middle school Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8) is "Why I Honor the American Flag". Deadline for both essay contests is October 31, 2018 along with the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. The Teacher of the Year program is for the teachers from grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. The award date will be at the Post on December 2, 2018 at 4:00pm. Refreshments will be provided by the Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary Continuing Education Award (for Auxiliary immediate family members) deadline is February 15, 2019. The Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest, expressing patriotism through art, deadline is March 31, 2019. At the Convention, during the Chairman fair the upcoming changes to this program were stated. I will provide more information when it becomes available. The monetary award has been increased to \$15,000 First Place, \$7,500 Second Place, \$3,500 Third Place, \$1,500 Fourth Place and \$500 for Fifth to Eighth Place.

The 8th District meeting will be held on August 19, 2018 at Post 7589 with lunch to be served at 12:00 (noon). The joint session will start at 1:00pm and after that the Posts and Auxiliaries will meet in different areas of the Post. If you have any questions, please let me know. The Department's School of Instruction will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup> at the John C. Culin Auxiliary 1827, Charlottesville, VA. Coffee and Danish will be served from 8:15am -9:00am, COA meeting will be from 9:00am-10:45am and the School of Instruction will be from 11:00am to 4:00pm. There will be a break for lunch. There are a lot of changes for the coming year and new programs will be introduced.

We are requesting your participation in our annual fundraiser with the assistance from the not-for-profit Wreaths Across America (WAA) organization. This fundraiser provides us the opportunity to raise funds for our organization's needs and we assist WAA in gathering sponsorships for the wreaths. For several years, we have worked to place wreaths on veterans' graves at Quantico National Cemetery. This year's event will be on **Saturday, December 15, 2018**. Sponsorships are \$15 per wreath and forms are attached to this newsletter or can be printed from our website at [www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org). You can also contact Ginger Harvey at 571-641-5350 or [gchl130@aol.com](mailto:gchl130@aol.com). To learn more about WAA or to pay for your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/> and remember to include our Sponsoring **Group ID No. VA0040P** and **Cemetery ID No. VAQNCT**. **DEADLINE is November 30, 2018**. Thank you in advance for your support.

The National Home for Children is located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan on 472 acres of land known as Grand River Stock Farm. The National Home's community is open to families of active-duty military personnel and veterans. The National Home recognizes the effects of war can last for generations with emotional wounds, financial stress, fractured family relationships, hopelessness and more can often be the outcome for families with a parent serving our country. The family can be one or both parents with one or more children. The Life Membership is \$35.00 but will increase January 1, 2019 to \$50.00. If you wish to become a Life Member, please forward your application and funds to the National Home for Children.

Thank you so much for your assistance and support in our project to collect coupons for the Veterans overseas. The donated coupons are good for six months after the expiration date.

Please keep Elanor Doczi, Ann Mitchell, Cindy McIntyre, Patsy Gough, Yvonne Sullivan and any individuals or family members, who are ill or hospitalized, in your prayers. We want to see you on the road to recovery very soon.

Respectfully,

Mary Corkhill  
Auxiliary President

## Youth News & Notes



**Lou Filippone**

A big hello to everyone from the Youth Committee. I hope you are all having a great summer and are in good health. August is generally a slow month for the Youth Committee as we interface closely with the area schools and they are on summer break right now. Additionally, the Post is also preoccupied with the National Convention. Many of us are either on vacation or attending the Convention.

Let me just give you an update on this month's activities. We held our last Youth Committee meeting on 19 July at 7:00 pm at the Post. Those in attendance were prior Commander Peter MacLeod, Comrade Roger Nicol, Comrade Kelly Williams and, myself, Lou Filippone. We are currently planning activities for our signature contests: Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year. Schools to be contacted were discussed and our strategy was planned. Brochures for the essay contests are currently being ordered. We are also ordering medals for the winners of the essay contests in addition to the certificates and checks usually awarded. Once the brochures come in I will make them available to members of

the Post and the Auxiliary so we can begin recruiting applicants. Please let us know if you have any contacts with teachers or principals in the area schools who may participate with us. Specifically, we are looking for History or English teachers for middle and high schools and are also looking for military science instructors at the high school level. As a reminder, our three contests are: Patriots Pen, for grades 6 -8, Voice of Democracy, for grades 9 - 12, and lastly the Teacher of the Year contest for elementary, middle, and high school levels. The deadline for these contests is coming up quickly in October of this year. The Patriotic Art contest, conducted by the Auxiliary, is held later in March of 2019.

The Civil Air Patrol Cadet award was presented by prior Commander Peter MacLeod, and myself, at the Manassas Armory at 10628 Dumfries Road on 17 July at 7 PM. The recipient was Civil Air Patrol NCO Cadet Jacob Downey. He was accompanied by his family and they were greatly honored by the VFW award. A second Civil Air Patrol Cadet award, for Commissioned Officer Isaac Peugh, will be presented sometime in August. The date will be announced once it becomes available.

Don't forget we are planning a flag retirement ceremony this fall and spring with the local area Scouts. We will pick our dates soon and let you know. Another event coming up quickly is the Manassas

Fall Jubilee. We would love to have help handing out Halloween bags to the local area children during the festival. It is also just a great festival in Old Town Manassas and one of my favorite activities with our Post.

Our next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 16 August at 7 PM at the Post. We would certainly welcome any help you could give us. There is a lot to be done, but it is very rewarding, and gratifying, and there is something about children and our future that makes it even more worthwhile. If you would like to help out please contact me or any of the other members of the Committee and we will welcome you with open arms. Better yet, please attend the next meeting and you can enter in the discussion and help us plan our activities. Just as July was a slow month for us August, September and October take off exponentially as we enter into the contest period and begin recruiting schools and applicants. Any assistance you can give us with the Youth Committee will be greatly appreciated and the reward for such a noble service will be returned to you many times over. Please have a great month and I will see you at the next meeting.

Best regards,  
Lou Filippone  
Youth Committee Chair

## VFW Foundation Receives Top Charity Navigator Rating

*Four stars means VFW Foundation demonstrates public trustworthiness*

**WASHINGTON (July 19, 2018)** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is proud to announce that the VFW Foundation has been given a four-star rating by Charity Navigator, the site's highest rating.

Founded in 2001, Charity Navigator examines thousands of charities based on financial health and accountability and transparency. Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive a coveted four-star rating.

"It's truly an honor for the VFW Foundation to be recognized with the highest rating by Charity Navigator, a highly respected charity watchdog," said VFW National Commander Keith Har-

man. "We have always prided ourselves on our transparency in our service to veterans, military and their families, and on our high standards of excellence in terms of fiscal and managerial accountability."

VFW Foundation is the official 501(c)(3) charity of the VFW. As a nonprofit organization, the foundation receives no government funding and relies solely on individual donations and corporation sponsorships. The VFW Foundation exists to support the programs of the VFW, including grants to VFW Posts, Auxiliaries and Departments, scholarships for student veterans, and financial assistance for housing, medical and basic life needs.

"This is our highest possible rating and indicates that your organization adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way," said Michael Thatcher, President and CEO of Charity Navigator. "Attaining a four-star rating verifies that Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness."

## Three comrades honored as Ambassadors for Peace



On July 14 three Post comrades: Pere MacLeod, Rick Raskin and Ron Knowles were honored at the 25th annual celebration of Parents' Day. The event sponsored by the Virginia Parents Day Alliance was held at the Post. The alliance is formed by Pure Style, Inc., Ambassadors for Peace (USA), The Universal Peace Federation, American Clergy Leadership Conference (VA) and the NOVA Family Church.

This year was the second time the Virginia Parents' Day Alliance held their annual celebration in Manassas and the Post was pleased to provide our facility at no charge.

According to the founder Ms. B. Mosely-Marks, "Tomorrow's leader is today's child. A healthy and loving family allows the child to develop feelings of security, confidence, self esteem, appreciation and other habits of excellence which leads, not only to self-respect but, equally important, respect for others."

After accepting his award Rick Raskin, State Senior Vice Commander explained how the VFW has youth programs that augment the above by providing in classroom visits from veterans, scholarship programs, Scouting support and community safety awareness. He added that he travel all over the state and sees the patriotism exhibited by large segments of the youth, and that in his opinion "everything is going to be okay".

Pete MacLeod commented on our youth programs at the Post level and Ron Knowles explained our support of Scouting.

The program was introduced by Commander Wayne Moore who stated it was a pleasure for us to be able to accommodate the group's event.



Post Commander Wayne Moore



Ron Knowles a recipient of "Virginia Parents Day Alliance" "Ambassador of Peace Award" on July 14, 2018.

## Catherine Henebery wins 5th place in VFW Patriotic Art contest



**Fifth Place: \$500 Scholarship:  
Department of Virginia**

**Catherine Henebery | 12th Grade  
"Brothers in Arms"**

**Medium: Graphite and Colored Pencil**

**Sponsored by VFW Auxiliary 7589 | Manassas, Virginia**

### 2019 Youth Essay Themes

Voice of Democracy:  
**"Why My Vote Matters"**

Patriot's Pen:  
**"Why I Honor the American Flag."**

## VFW Urges MIA Families to Provide DNA Samples

*Return of American MIAs from North Korea begins*

**WASHINGTON (July 27, 2018) —**

Now that North Korea has unilaterally turned over 55 boxes of remains believed to contain missing American servicemen from the Korean War, the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is urging the families of Korean and Cold War missing to ensure the Defense Department has a DNA reference sample on file to help speed the identification process.

"Some 5,300 of 7,699 American unaccounted-for war dead are believed to be in North Korea, and 111 of our 126 Cold War missing are in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula, yet family reference samples on file only account for 91 percent of Korean War missing and 85 percent of Cold War losses," said new VFW National Commander Vincent "B.J." Lawrence.

"We have to do better than that, and that's why I'm calling on more than 1.6 million VFW and VFW Auxiliary members to canvas their neighborhoods and urge every MIA family — even distant relatives — to provide a family reference sample in the hope that the next identification announcement is their long-lost soldier, sailor, airman, Marine or contract civilian."

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, all immediate family members, as well as maternal and paternal relatives, are eligible to donate a family reference sample, which is essentially a cotton cheek swab. Relatives should contact a military service casualty officer for information on how to provide a DNA sample. Those numbers are:

- United States Army: (800) 892-2490
- United States Marine Corps: (800) 847-1597
- United States Navy: (800) 443-9298
- United States Air Force: (800) 531-5501
- Department of State: (202) 485-6106

"Today marks 65 years since the signing of the armistice, or cease-fire agreement," said Lawrence, of Alamogordo, N.M. "The potential for peace on the peninsula in the macro sense has to be on denuclearizing North Korea, but to the families of the missing, their macro view of the world begins at home, where for more than six decades they have been asking questions that have mostly gone unanswered. This is why ensuring a family reference sample is on file is so important. Identifications can be made through strong circumstantial evidence, but nothing says proof-positive better than an actual DNA match."

—VFW—

## VFW Elects Vincent ‘B.J.’ Lawrence as New National Commander

*‘There’s an energy in this organization that’s just chomping at the bit to be released’*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (July 25, 2018)** — Vincent “B.J.” Lawrence, of Alamogordo, N.M., was elected today as the new national commander of the 1.2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a congressionally-chartered veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from all five branches of the armed forces.

VFW membership eligibility requires honorable service in a war or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. Lawrence served in the U.S. Army from 1983 to 1986 and earned his eligibility by serving in South Korea, where an armistice, or cease-fire agreement, has existed since July 27, 1953, and where war could erupt at a moment’s notice. He joined VFW Post 7686 in Alamogordo, N.M., in 2000, and immediately began moving the organization forward into the new millennium. He has proven to be a highly effective and dynamic leader, serving in a myriad of critical leadership positions, to include being elected commander at every level of the organization. His theme for the year and challenge to the \$102 million non-profit organization is to “Make It Happen.”

He said “everything the VFW wants costs money, but everything the VFW wants is for someone else.” Through donations and corporate partnerships, the organization has provided more than \$10 million in financial grants to help almost 9,000 veteran and military families through tough times since 2004. It has awarded almost \$5 million in educational grants since 2014 to help more than 1,100 veterans and military service members to complete their degrees, and its youth patriotic scholarship competition, which drew some 133,000 middle and high school entries this year, awarded \$3 million to local, state and national winners. The VFW national organization also testified before Congress more than three dozen times this year to improve quality of life programs and healthcare for veterans, service members and their families, and VFW’s nationwide cadre of trained and

accredited service officers helped more than 500,000 veterans to recoup \$7.7 billion in disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2017.

Aiding VFW’s corporate relationships is its VFW Foundation, an IRS 501(c)(3) charity that earlier this month was awarded a coveted four-star rating by Charity Navigator, which sets the Foundation apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness.

For all the organization already does for others every day, Lawrence now wants the 1.2 million-member VFW to “Make It Happen” even more in every community across the nation and world. “There’s an energy in this organization that’s just chomping at the bit to be released,” he said in his acceptance speech today at the Kansas City Convention Center. “It comes from a younger generation who wants to get their hands dirty out in their communities, and it comes from an older generation who knows that the way we did things in the past no longer works, but whose experience and knowledge remains valuable.”

The new VFW national commander is also putting a new focus on supporting the 6,400 existing VFW Posts, on creating new Posts, and on recruiting and retention of new members, as well as remaining focused nationally on ending sequestration, fixing the VA, and recovering missing and unaccounted-for service members from all wars.





## Commissioner's Corner



Summer vacation season is here! We hope you are taking this "slower" period to enjoy all Virginia has to offer: from the mountains to the beach, to the wineries and amusement parks, to the Crooked Road and the Virginia Capital Trail. You deserve it!

Here at DVS, however, the summer months are just as fast-paced as ever as we continue our mission to serve Virginia veterans and their families. We continue to assist hundreds of veterans daily apply for the federal benefits they earned through their service. Our Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) program are on the front lines helping veterans and their families with housing, medical and behavioral health needs. Our Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program, Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP) and Military Medics and Corpsemen (MMAC) program are expanding partnerships with employers to help transitioning service members and veterans obtain Virginia jobs.

Our Richmond and Roanoke nursing homes continue to provide superior 24/7, 365 medical and rehabilitative care to their residents and patients. Hundreds of visitors and educators weekly come to the Virginia War Memorial each week, even as construction on our new wing continues. And, as you can read in this issue of DVS eNews, Cemeteries Director Dan Kemano and the teams at our three veterans cemeteries in Amelia, Dublin and Suffolk never let summer heat slow them down in providing veterans and their families with the dignified and respectful services and final resting places they deserve.

If you haven't visited one of our cemeteries, I hope you will do so this summer, or during one of the upcoming national holidays. While final arrangements are not something anyone likes to think about, pre-planning for memorialization in one of Virginia's veterans cemeteries is something every veteran and his or her family should consider.

Whatever the season, all of us at DVS are continually seeking new and better ways to better serve our veterans and their families across the Commonwealth. Our goal is to always make sure Virginia is the most military and veteran-friendly state in America. If you have comments, suggestions and ideas about DVS and our programs and services, please call us. We want to hear from you – this summer and all year long.

John L. Newby II, Commissioner  
Virginia Department of Veterans Services

## Post presents Civil Air Patrol award Ceremony held at the Manassas Armory on July 17



VFW Civil Air Patrol Cadet NCO Award to Cadet Master Sergeant Jacob Downey presented by Lou Filippone and Pete MacLeod.

## Post receives \$700 MAP grant for the National Guard

By Ron Link

On July 28, one of our adopted units, the 229<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company (VAARNG), held their annual Family Day at the Soldier Statesman Park at Fort Belvoir. Kathie Warren, 229<sup>th</sup> Family Readiness Group leader contacted the Post to ascertain if we could help in providing any assistance. What was needed were provisions for the dependents attending.

Wayne Moore, Rick Raskin, and Ron Link drafted a fund request to the Military Assistance Program section of Veteran & Military Support Program (VMS) at the National Headquarters. A grant of \$700.00 was approved for the Post to provide food and supplies.

The members of the Post participated in the preparation for the event and attended. Ron Link met with First Sergeant Warren. FRG leader Kathie Warren coordinated exactly what was needed.

During the event, Ron Link spoke on how VFW programs can help the units and the individual needs of the soldier. He also spoke on how the MAP program works, our UnMet Needs program, the Disaster Relief Program and ***Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship***. He emphasized how **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**.

How did the VFW service our Military last year nationally?

(See MAP on page 12)



VFW 119th Convention—Kansas City, MO—July 21-25



State SVC Rick Raskin speaks against a resolution which was ultimately defeated.



VFW Teacher of the Year (Grades 6-8) Sara Gibson Coan—Caroline Middle School, Milford VA



The 2018 Buddy Poppy Child accepts a donation to the VFW National Home



Outgoing National Auxiliary President Dee Guillory with outgoing Commander in Chief Keith Harman.



LTC Oliver North



Virginia State Commander Ken Wiseman all decked out for the installation parade. His fellow state commanders all wore similar ties.



Tim Brown (Dale City Post 1503) with his helper at he patriotic rally.



President Donald Trump



Hal & Beth Roesch escorted by the VFW Sergeants take the ceremonial march following Hal's election as JCVIC.



(L-R) SVCIC Doc Schmitz, JVCIC Hal Roesch and CDRIC B. J. Lawrence take the oath of office.



Past District 8 Commander Ron Link—All American District Commander 2018.

## VFW's 2018-2019 National Officers

*Hal Roesch is Virginia's fist*



**Vincent "B.J." Lawrence**  
Commander-in-Chief

B.J. served with the United States Army from 1983 to 1986, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in Korea, where he earned the Korean Defense Service Medal.

B.J. maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership at Post 7686 in Alamogordo, N.M.



**William J. "Doc" Schmitz**  
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Doc served in the United States Navy from 1966 to 1970. He served in Vietnam as a corpsman attached to United States Marine Corps infantry and artillery. In recognition of his service, he received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Doc maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership at Post 524 in Corning, N.Y.



**Hal J. Roesch II**  
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Hal served in the United States Air Force from 1982 to 2002. He is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield/Storm and Southern Watch, and the recipient of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars, the Humanitarian Service Medal (for Hurricane Hugo relief in South Carolina), and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Hal maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership at Post 3219 in Phoebus, Virginia.

# From the



**GI Bill Changes Are Coming:** Last year, the Forever GI Bill was signed into law, revamping veteran education benefits. Some of the changes that will take place this upcoming semester affect the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, some Purple Heart recipients, students attending classes and internships that are in different zip codes, among other provisions. Please reach out to your individual schools to find out if any changes will impact your enrollment status. Early action could help mitigate effects on tuition or BAH payments. Read more at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/FGIBSummaries.asp>.

**Tax Glitch Affects Veterans:** A recent Pentagon audit revealed that more than 130,000 veterans who were medically separated as a result of injuries sustained in combat, and received a disability severance, may be entitled to a [significant tax refund](#). Under federal law, disability severance paid as a result of combat injuries is intended to be tax-free. However, from 1991 to 2016, the automated payment system maintained by DOD failed to properly identify those payments as being tax exempt and withheld between 20-25 percent of the payment, resulting in an overpayment of federal income tax. If you feel that you may be entitled to a refund, you can find more information including how to file an amended income tax return through the Internal Revenue Service at: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/military/combat-injured-veterans-tax-fairness-act-claim-information-available>

**Physical Disability Board of Review:** If you are a veteran who was medically separated from service between Sept. 11, 2001, and Dec. 31, 2009, with a rating of 30 percent or less and feel the rating is inaccurate, you now have the ability to file an appeal through the Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR). The result of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008, the PDBR provides veterans a way to appeal their initial Department of Defense disability ratings, and often results in a medical discharge being upgraded to a medical retirement. Learn more about the application process at <https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Conditions-and-Treatments/Physical-Disability/Disability-Evaluation/Physical-Disability-Board-of-Review/PDBR-Application-Process>.

**North Korea Begins Returning MIA Remains:** “The VFW is incredibly encouraged by news that North Korea returned 55 boxes of remains believed to be U.S. service members who have

been missing in action since the Korean War,” said VFW National Commander Vincent “B.J.” Lawrence. “This is a huge step in the right direction that we hope will finally bring peace to the peninsula and closure to American families who have been waiting more than six decades for their loved ones to return home.” The [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency](#) lists 7,699 missing Americans from the Korean War, with some 5,300 believed to be in North Korea. DPAA also lists 111 Cold War losses in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula. “The return of our missing is a humanitarian mission that transcends politics,” said Lawrence. The United States government, specifically DPAA search and recovery teams, has not operated in North Korea since 2005 due to team safety and security concerns. The VFW sent a [letter to President Trump](#) in advance of the June 12 Singapore summit to urge him to include the return of American remains as a discussion point with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. “The VFW is grateful to the president for acting on our recommendation and to the North Korean leader for following through on his part of the summit agreement. This is a top priority to the VFW and we thank President Trump for making this issue his priority, too.”

**More Korean and Cold War Family DNA Sought:** Now that North Korea is returning remains, VFW National Commander Vincent “B.J.” Lawrence is urging the families of Korean and Cold War missing to ensure the Defense Department has a DNA reference sample on file to help speed the identification process. Family reference samples currently on file only account for 91 percent of Korean War missing and 85 percent of Cold War losses. “We have to do better than that,” he said, and is now calling on more than 1.6 million VFW and VFW Auxiliary members to canvas their neighborhoods and urge every MIA family — even distant relatives — to provide a family reference sample in the hope that the next identification announcement is their long-lost loved one. All immediate family members, as well as maternal and paternal relatives, are eligible to donate a family reference sample, which is essentially a cotton cheek swab. “Identifications can be made through strong circumstantial evidence, but nothing says proof-positive better than an actual DNA match,” he said.

**Senate Confirms Wilkie as Secretary of Veterans Affairs:** On Monday, the Senate confirmed Robert Wilkie to be become the secretary of veterans affairs with a vote of 86-9. Wilkie will now be responsible for directing the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is charged with providing veterans and their families the care and benefits they have earned. The VFW looks forward to

## Eligible Veterans Can Seek Refund for Taxes on Disability Severance Payment

*By Lisa Ferdinando, DoD News, Defense Media Activity*

The Defense Department has identified more than 130,000 veterans who may be eligible for a refund for taxes paid on their disability severance payment, a DoD tax expert said.

Army Lt. Col. David Dulaney, the executive director for the Armed Forces Tax Council, said the department began mailing notices to veterans July 9.

The deadline to file for the refund is one year from the date of the Defense Department notice, or three years after the due date for filing the original return for the year the disability severance payment was made, or two years after the tax was paid for the year the disability severance payment was made, according to the IRS.

Affected veterans can submit a claim based on their actual disability severance payment by submitting to the IRS a completed Form 1040X, the Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Dulaney said.

The IRS also has approved a simplified method for obtaining the refund, in which veterans can claim the standard refund amount on Form 1040X based on when they received the disability severance payment. Those standard refund amounts are \$1,750 for tax years 1991 to 2005, \$2,400 for tax years 2006 to 2010, and

*(MAP Continued from page 8)*

### UnMet Needs:

**4,135** service members and their families were assisted with over **\$2.3 million** in grants. The UnMet Needs program is to assist Military and Veteran families who are facing unexpected financial difficulties as a result of deployment or other military-related activity or injury. The program provides financial aid grants of up to \$1,500 to assist with basic life needs in the form of a grant - not a loan - so no repayment is required.

### Military Assistance Program (MAP)

MAP provided funds to sponsor 205 events for a total of \$196,547. MAP fosters a relationship between the local VFW and military community by offering grants to the Post in support of events such as Family Days, Troop Deployments and Holidays. Our Post has sponsored several. A large part of MAP is the **Adopt-a-Unit** program. Adopt-a-Unit's goal is to develop supportive relationships with units before, during and after deployments to help deliver the vast network of resources the VFW has available to the military. The 229<sup>th</sup> MP Company is one of our adopted units.

### VPins:

The Virtual Pin program provided 13,141 pins to service

\$3,200 for tax years 2011 to 2016.

Dulaney pointed out the disability severance payment is not taxable or subject to federal income tax withholding for a veteran meeting either of these criteria:

-- The veteran has a combat-related injury or illness as determined by his or her military service at separation that resulted directly from armed conflict; took place while the member was engaged in extra-hazardous service; took place under conditions simulating war, including training exercises such as maneuvers; or was caused by an instrumentality of war.

-- The veteran is receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs or has received notification from VA approving such compensation.

### Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016

However, many of the veterans had taxes withheld, Dulaney said. The Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016 remedies that, he said. The act directed the secretary of defense to identify disability severance payments paid after Jan. 17, 1991, that were included as taxable income.

Even if a veteran did not receive a letter from the Defense Department, the individual may still be eligible for a refund. Dulaney recommends visiting the IRS website: <https://www.irs.gov/> and searching "combat injured veterans" for further information.

Estates or surviving spouses can file a claim on behalf of a veteran who is now deceased, the IRS explains on its website.

members and veterans in VA Hospitals. The value of these pins was approximately \$31,427.

### Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship:

Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship provided 270 student scholarships totaling \$1.2 million. Since 2013, Sport Clips has been the primary supporter of the Help A Hero Scholarship program which provides scholarships for service members and veterans to use at post-secondary and trade schools. To date, over 950 scholarships totaling \$4.1 million have been awarded.

New this coming year is a program sponsored by United Parcel Service and Snap-on Tools, the VFW **Veteran Employment Tools (VET)** pilot program.

VET will provide transitioning veterans the necessary tools to help start careers in the automotive maintenance industry, which often requires its employees to provide their own tools. Many of the veterans already have the skill-set for these trades but lack the tools which can cost thousands of dollars.

Thanks to our many sponsors, the VFW can assist our service members and veterans in our community. Our Department Chair for VMS is Ron Link. He can be reached at [vms@vfwva.org](mailto:vms@vfwva.org).

## Upcoming Events

<b>AUGUST</b>	
August 6	Executive Meeting - 7:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meetings - 7:30 PM
August 11	Auxiliary School of Instruction - Post 1827, Charlottesville - 9:00 AM - 3:00
August 16	Youth Committee - 7:00 PM
August 19	District 8 School of Instruction & Meeting - SOI 9:00 AM, Lunch 12:00 PM,
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
September 6-10	National President's Celebration and CAFÉ - Gettysburg, PA
September 10	Executive Meeting - 7:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meetings - 7:30 PM
September 11	9/11 Memorial Buddy Poppy Distribution - Auxiliary Event
September 14	POW/MIA Ceremony with American Legion Post 10
September 20	Youth Committee - 7:00 PM
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
October 1	Executive Meeting - 7:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meetings - 7:30 PM
October 6	Manassas Fall Jubilee
October 18	Youth Committee - 7:00 PM
October 18-21	Southern Conference - Louisville, KY
October 31	Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year contests deadline
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
November 3	Manassas Veteran's Parade
November 5	Executive Meeting - 7:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meetings - 7:30 PM
November 10-11	Veteran's Day Weekend Activities (Buddy Poppies)
	Nov. 11 - Ceremony at Manassas Veteran's Memorial - 8:30 AM
November 15	Youth Committee - 7:00 PM
November 17	8th District Meeting - Post 3103, Fredericksburg - Lunch 12:00 Noon, Meeting
November 29	Auxiliary 7589's 20th Anniversary
November 30	Deadline for Wreaths Across America orders

**KNOW YOUR VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE**

Rob Wittman	1st District	202-225-4261
Scott Taylor	2nd District	202-225-4215
Bobby Scott	3rd District	202-225-8351
Donald McEachin	4th District	202-225-6365
Tom Garrett	5th District	202-225-4711
Robert Goodlatte	6th District	202-225-5431
Dave Bratt	7th District	202-225-2815
Don Beyer	8th District	202-225-4376
Morgan Griffith	9th District	202-225-3861
Barbara Comstock	10th District	202-225-5136
Gerry Connolly	11th District	202-225-1492

**Virginia Department of Veterans Services Manassas Office**



**9300 W. Courthouse Rd.**  
703-479-7437



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Please email articles to [quartermaster@vfw7589.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfw7589.org) no later than the 28th of the month.

We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.



**WREATHS across AMERICA**

Tax ID: 20-8362270

**Wreath Sponsorship Form**

Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, and national cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org)

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
**Wreaths Across America TM**  
 PO Box 249  
 Columbia Falls, ME 04623  
 Question? Please Call 877-385-9504  
 Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission to **Remember, Honor** and **Teach**

(To receive our FREE email newsletter)

**\*\*SORRY — WE CANNOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS\*\***  
 Please note that all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor Card" = If you wish to send a mailed honor card telling someone of your sponsorship, see "In Honor" section below. Card will not be mailed if the \$2 fee is not included.	\$2.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1500.00		
		<b>Grand Total</b>	

In Honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide email or "in Honor of" recipient mailing address so a card can be sent notifying them of your sponsorship in their honor, (if you have a specific message, please write it on the back of this sheet and we will include it.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Email or Mailing address

In Memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

This name will be listed on our online memory wall. Please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided.

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Location ID: **Quantico National Cemetery VAQNCT** Fundraising Group ID: **VA0040P**

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**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # Checks: \_\_\_\_\_ Reconciled: \_\_\_\_\_

MO \$: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

GEN:



### **SPONSOR A WREATH FOR A VETERAN'S GRAVE**

Since 2007, Wreaths Across America carries out its mission **REMEMBER** the fallen, **HONOR** those that serve and **TEACH** our children the value of **FREEDOM** in part by placing wreaths on veterans' graves during the holiday season.

The **Francis Cannon Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589** is working with Wreaths Across America to help place more wreaths than ever before on Veterans' graves at **Quantico National Cemetery**. **Deadline Date is November 30, 2018.**

On **Saturday, December 15, 2018**, Wreaths Across America ceremonies will take place at over 1200 locations in the USA and beyond.

**Sponsorships are \$15 each.** We are participating because we think it is a great program and \$5 of every sponsorship will support the Francis Cannon Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589 directly so we may continue to assist veterans and families as well as our community.

**PLEASE JOIN US** -- All wreaths will be placed by volunteers on **Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 12 Noon at Quantico National Cemetery**. This is a moving experience that you should make part of your holiday tradition. With your help our local heroes will be remembered this Holiday Season. **How many sponsorships can we count on you for?**

For more information visit [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org), or call 877-385-9504.  
You can also email [infor@wreathscrossamerica.org](mailto:infor@wreathscrossamerica.org)