



Francis Cannon

VFW Post 7589

Manassas, VA

Community Service 2015-2016

The Year in Review



Wills for Veterans

VFW Post 7589 hosted the “Wills for Vets” program put on by the Prince William County Bar Association on a Pro Bono basis. Lawyers lead workshops helping veterans and their spouses draft their own wills free of charge. At the workshops on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015 there were a total of 64 veterans present at the workshops held from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm at Post 7589. Commander Peter MacLeod was present all day as host. “Homes for Heroes” in Haymarket provided a free lunch. Post 7589 provided coffee and drinks and the projector screen for the power point presentation. The workshops were open to veterans in the Manassas area and two more workshop days will be part of this program in October with Post 7589 again acting as host. Post 7589 comrade and Building Manager Wayne Moore and Commander Peter MacLeod were present on 9/19 and were active in the planning process with the Prince William Bar Association and coordinator Barbara Diehl.

Barbara Diehl, from the Prince William Area Agency on Aging discusses the Wills for Veterans program at our August 3rd meeting. The program was offered at the Post beginning September 19.



October 3: Veterans meet with attorneys at the second session of the Wills for Veterans

Flag Retirement ceremonies with Cub Scout Pack 1355

We gave the Cub Scouts of Pack 1355 in Haymarket, a half hour of indoor flag education and then we went outside for the disposal of more than 300 American flags. 10 Cub Scouts in attendance, 5 Scout leaders, three members of the Post 7589 Auxiliary participated with Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod conducting the Flag education.



Cub Scouts from Bennett Elementary School Pack 1355 assisted with our flag retirement ceremony on September 12. Ten Scouts were present for the event which included instruction about the American flag.



Cub Scouts from Pack 1355 assist with our flag retirement ceremony on September 12. Ten Scouts were present for the event.



Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod presents instruction about the flag. Service Officer Steve Botello observes.

Home Depot grant helps Manassas veteran make his home ADA compliant

Michael Towne, a Gulf War veteran and life member of Post 7589 has become wheelchair dependent due to a service related spinal injury. His home in Manassas presents him difficulty because it was not built with consideration for persons with disabilities.

While shopping at the East Manassas Home Depot his wife Agnes mentioned to a clerk that she was having difficulty making their home ADA compliant. The clerk took her to a supervisor who took the necessary information and told Agnes she would send it to the Warrenton Store. Home Depot has a policy for assisting families and Vets. Agnes explained that the Manassas Home Depot stores and others in the area participate in these projects and that the store in Warrenton is a Regional facility and thus responsible for coordinating these projects.

The project was approved and funded with a \$10,000 Home Depot grant.



Wayne Johnson receives the grant from Ron Link.

Working with VFW Post 7589 and its Auxiliary, the funds were presented to the manager of the Warrenton Home Depot on October 8. According to manager Wayne Johnson the construction would begin on October 22 when approximately 25 to 30 Home Depot workers will be there to donate their time and skills.

Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill stated that the Auxiliary, with assistance from the Post, will provide lunches and refreshments for the workers. The Auxiliary also offered to cover any unexpected expenses while Department of Virginia Military Services Chair Ron Link explores an unmet need request with National VFW.

On the morning of October 22 a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the Towne's home. State Surgeon Rick Raskin and State Auxiliary President Georgette Dausey represented the Department of Virginia. Also attending were Auxiliary President Mary



VFW and Auxiliary members break ground with Team Home Depot.

Corkhill, Auxiliary members Yvonne Sullivan and Ann Mitchell. Comrades were represented by Post Commander Pete MacLeod and National Veterans Services team member Ron Link.

The 30 members of Team Home Depot were led by Wayne Johnson and promptly began excavating for entry ramps to the front and rear doors. Additional items included in this project are widening of interior doors to 36", accessible cabinetry and making the deck handicapped accessible.

The Auxiliary provided snacks and lunch for the workers with financial assistance from the comrades.

Home Depot also is doing a project for another Manassas veteran who suffers from Traumatic Brain Injury. For that project Team Home Depot is installing tiles so that the floors are easier for him to navigate.

It is important to note that all of the Team Home Depot volunteers donate their skills and their time for such worthy projects. As one of the volunteers working on the Townes' project said "We're a team and it feels good to help".

Veterans needing assistance with similar needs are encouraged to contact a Home Depot manager to see if they qualify and to initiate a request.



Construction of the entry ramp begins with some serious shovel work.



The concrete rear access ramp under construction.

Veterans Day Ceremonies and Flag Placements

Post 7589 Comrades Pete MacLeod, Ed Fishpaw, Ron Knowles, Rod Gillette, Terry Bursey, Warren Ewell, Brad Bradshaw, conducted the Veterans Day service for the city of Manassas at the Manassas Veterans Memorial. They then went to the Manassas Cemetery and worked with Cub Scouts of Pack 1355 from the Bennett School in placing flags at the graves of over 100 veterans in the cemetery.



Commander Pete MacLeod conducts the ceremony at the Manassas Veterans Memorial with Cub Scouts from Pack 1355 in attendance.



Warren Ewell and Manassas Mayor Hal Parrish at the flag placement ceremony on Veterans Day. Post 7589 is named after Mayor Parrish's uncle Francis Cannon who was killed on Saipan in WWII.

Post Anniversary & Vietnam 50 Commemoration



We had a band volunteer to play at our June Post Anniversary & Vietnam 50th Commemoration BBQ.

National Auxiliary President Francisca Guilford joined us for dinner



VFW Auxiliary members with National President Francisca Guilford join Manassas Mayor Hal Parrish at the Post Home for the reading of a proclamation on February 23, 2016.



Manassas Mayor Hal Parrish presents a proclamation to (L-R) Auxiliary 7589 President Mary Corkhill, National Auxiliary President Francisca Guilford and Department of Virginia President Georgette Dausey.

Recruiting & Retention



Ed Fishpaw calls unpaid members at one of our evening calling events.

Recruiting at Tractor Supply

(L-R) Rod Gillette, Ron Link, Rick Raskin, Paul Chase, Steve Meade, Terry Bursey, Pete MacLeod and Lou Filippone



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



Manassas Fall Jubilee



Lou Filippone distributes Halloween Trick-or-Treat bags; each containing a safety message. Observing is Frank Cochran. Over 1500 bags were distributed.

Post celebrates the Holiday Season with dinner at Golden Corral



December 19: Post and Auxiliary members and guests enjoyed socializing and dinner at Golden Corral.

Youth and Education Awards



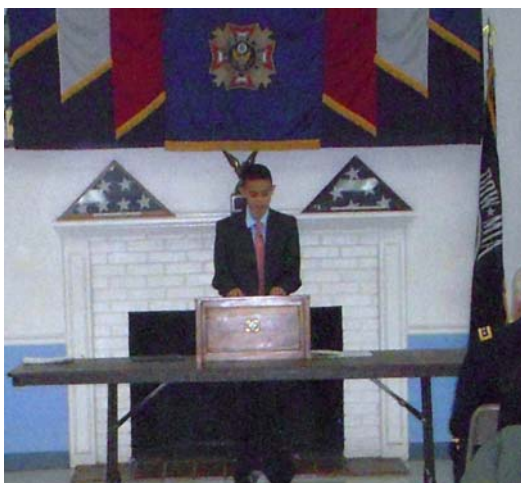
LTG (ret.) Robert G. Yerks of Haymarket mesmerized the attendees with his talk and later posed for photos with award recipients.



Patriots Pen winners at our December 6 awards ceremony.



Voice of Democracy winners at our December 6 awards ceremony.



Sebastien Cotto reads his award winning Patriot's Pen essay.



Osborn Park HS Junior Navy ROTC Color Guard at the awards ceremony on December 6.



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



Tiffany Payne—Post 7589 and District 8 Teacher of the Year (K-5) with Commander Pete MacLeod, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill and Committee Chair Lou Filippone.



Michael Hardy — Teacher of the year (9-12) for Post 7589 and District 8.



Photo by Jean MacLeod

Lou Filippone & Mary Corkhill at the March Teacher Awards ceremony



Mark Hoffman — Post 7589 Teacher of the Year (6-8) for Post 7589.

Aluminum Tab Collection

We started collecting aluminum can tabs in April 2014 and had a goal of collecting 100,000 by the end of that year. We ended up collecting 125,000. Our goal for 2015 was 200,000 and we just finished with 300,700.

We distributed over 56 collection jugs throughout the community. We sent out special letters of appreciation to the following which made exceptional donations: Giant Food Haymarket, Sister Norman's Convent, Chicago Fire Department, Rankin's Hardware Warrenton, Manassas Lion's Club, Hampton Inn Manassas, Home Depot Warrenton, Inter-Service Club Council Manassas and PWC Hospital Nurses.

All the tabs go to the Shriners which has a recycling contract the proceeds of which go to the Boston Burn Center which provides cost free medical services to those who cannot afford their medical care.

There are other tab collection efforts on-going to raise funds for school computers and dialysis machines, etc. We've institutionalized our process so for succeeding years will not have individual yearly goals. We will continue to put our best efforts into this worthy program which allows the community to contribute without digging into their pockets for their hard earned cash while at the same time gives the VFW publicity for our services to those in need.



Pete Slusher uses a magnet to check for steel tabs. Steel tabs are unusable in this project and if present can render the entire lot useless.



Pete Slusher (2nd from left) with an outstanding haul of aluminum tabs for donation to the Shriner's Boston Burn Center. Pictured L-R Warren Ewell, Joel Chase and Paul Chase.



Pete Slusher, of Post 7589, looks over some 40,000 tabs recently collected by Tractor Supply Co. of Manassas. The proceeds from the recycling tabs go to the Boston Burn Center which provides cost free medical services to needy families who have suffered burns. To date the Post has collected over 600,000 tabs.

VFW Post helps fight the last battle of WWII

We will not forget the sacrifices of those Missing in Action

Although September 2, 2015 was the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, there is a battle still being fought. Hundreds of WWII MIAs remain in yet to be discovered ground in the South Pacific. These are not POWs or Americans who chose to remain but those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

VFW Post 7589 in Manassas, Virginia is named after a 27th Infantry Division veteran, Francis Cannon, who gave his life and whose remains were returned to Virginia soil. Others, however, still lay undiscovered awaiting return to the United States. Knowing this, Post 7589 actively sought a means to repatriate these heroes.

In 2013 the Post was contacted by Kuentai-USA, a non-profit (501 (c) 3) organization whose mission for the last several years has been to identify remains discovered throughout the Pacific Theater. Originally chartered to find the remains of Japanese servicemen, they became aware that some of the remains they were discovering were those of American servicemen.

One of these MIAs was positively identified as PFC Richard N. Bean of Manassas, Virginia. He was killed in action on July 7, 1944 as a member of the 27th Infantry Division during the largest Banzai attack of WWII. 658 US servicemen died in this action.

PFC Bean's remains were returned to Virginia on October 3, 2014 (Virginia Veteran, April 2015) for burial. Following a funeral with full military honors, a color guard comprised of members of Post 7589 and other area Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) accompanied the family to burial at Quantico National Cemetery.

The story doesn't end here. Other missing servicemen still remain in the South Pacific and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), Kuentai-USA and others are continuing to actively search the area. To date Kuentai-USA has positively



identified four other sets of remains and six others are pending positive identification.

Since 2004, DPAA has identified on average 72 sets of remains per year. At this rate, due to environmental conditions that accelerate decomposition the vast majority will likely never be discovered. Ideally, a joint effort between DPAA and Kuentai-USA will be established to help alleviate this problem.

Recently VFW Post 7589 has taken on the mission of enlisting other VSOs in support of Kuentai-USA and their efforts. At a recent presentation in Manassas, Virginia, Kuentai-USA detailed their progress and plans for upcoming field expeditions. At present, it is estimated that about 40,000 service members remain missing in the South Pacific.

Therefore, the "Last Battle" is a two phased struggle. Phase one is national veteran awareness so that the priority of returning MIAs is more than lip service. How many times have we heard "We won't rest until we bring them all home"? We need to get the word out to other VSOs and their families.

The second phase is funding. Kuentai-USA estimates that a two week sanctioned archeological and forensic recovery effort on Saipan will cost upwards of \$150,000; funds that are currently unavailable.

Kuentai-USA, as a non-profit organization, depends on the private contributions of Veteran's organizations like Post 7589. Post 7589 has brought other Northern Virginia VSOs on board, but more are needed. It is hoped that others will also join in this fight.

For information on supporting Kuentai-USA visit their website at www.kuentai-usa.com or email them at akatsuka@kuentai-usa.com



Post 7589 participates in the legislative process at both State and National levels



Visiting Delegate Scott W. Taylor of the 85th District



March 1: Congressman Randy Forbes (R-4VA) meets with (L to R): Pete MacLeod, Cdr. VFW-7589 Manassas; Tom Gimble, Dept. SVC; and Dan Boyer, National Legislative Committee.



Visiting Delegate Paul E. Krizek of the 44th District



Delegate Scott W. Taylor, a former Navy Seal and Iraq War Veteran speaks about his battlefield experiences.



(Left) Attendees at the Joint Leadership Council meeting following Day on the Hill in DC.



Governor Terry McAuliffe addresses the Joint Leadership Council meeting in Richmond following our meetings with legislators.

Memorial Day & Veterans Day



Distribution Buddy Poppies at one of our three locations netted over \$2000 in donations to our Relief Fund.

L-R: Robert Punihaole, Pete MacLeod, Paul Chase, Ron Link, Lou Filippone, Joel Chase and Terry Bursey



Veterans Day was observed at Mayfield Intermediate School with visits from veterans of several wars speaking to students on their personal war experiences. From the left are Merle Hancock, 91, a veteran of WWII and a POW in Germany, Jack Lilley, 86, a veteran of Korea and Vietnam, Kara Mills, principal at the school who welcomed the guests, Brian Moore, assistant principal, and Jerry Martin, 70, Vietnam. All three were wounded veterans.

Bennie Scarton Jr. / Manassas Observer

Awards & Citations



Jerry Martin of VFW Post 7589 was chosen as "Volunteer of the Year" by the Inter-Service Club Council of Greater Manassas. Pictured are Jerry and wife Sandy after the ceremony.



Jerry Martin address the Manassas City Council after receiving the Volunteer of the Year citation.



Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill (Center) receives an award from Linda Bond at the Department Convention.



Rick Raskin (editor) receives an award from AQ Kim DeShano for **CANNON NEWS** at the Department Convention.



Past National Commander-in-Chief Glenn Gardner (L) and Dept. Commander Buddy Weekley (R) present Post Commander Ron Link (2014-15) the All State Award.

Weekly Bingo continues to help us fund our charitable efforts



Warren Ewell calls the second half of our weekly sessions.



Phil Smith, our first half caller.

Chronology of Events

By Peter MacLeod

Commander—Post 7589

7/2/15: Post 7589 Commander Pete MacLeod wrote official letters to the Prince William County School System and the city of Manassas school system asking for permission to conduct the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests and Teacher of the Year Competition for the school year of 2015-16. Letters were followed up with phone calls on 8/14/15. A total of 2 hours of community service.

7/9/15: Post 7589 Commander Peter MacLeod and Post 7589 members Jerry Martin and Ed Fishpaw met with members of the Prince William County Bar Association to plan a "Wills for Vets" workshop on September 19, 2015 at Post 7589 Headquarters at 9304 Centreville Road in Manassas. Attornies from the Bar Association will volunteer their time to help veterans and their spouses plan and put together Wills with two followup workshops scheduled at Post 7589. Later a tour of the physical layout of Post 7589 was conducted. 6 hours of community service, a total of 20 miles of driving for a total of \$4.00.

8/1/15: 6 members of Post 7589 attended and held a prayer service for departed comrade Ken Lion at the Pierce Funeral Home of Manassas. Prayer service was led by Post 7589 Chaplain Joel Chase. Post 7589 members Joel Chase, Paul Chase, Peter Macleod, Brad Bradshaw, Jerry Martin and Pete Slusher attended. A total of 6 Hours of community service. 60 miles of driving at a cost of \$8.40.

8/8/15: A total of 5 members of Post 7589 attended the Virginia VFW School of Instruction in Mechanicsville, Va. Commander Peter MacLeod, Quartermaster and State Surgeon Rick Raskin, SVC Ron Link, Trustee Lou Fillipone, member Jerry Martin.

Submitted by Commander Peter MacLeod at the District 8 meeting of August 15, 2015.

Reports after August 15, 2015:

7/1/15 – 7/31/15: Community Service, help to others - Service Officer Steve Botello's July Activity Report. He was in contact with 20 veterans in the Manassas area and spent 48 hours with them. He drove 225 miles and spent \$43.00 of his own money. Submitted by Peter MacLeod, 8/30/215.

8/29/15: Americanism, patriotic assembly – VFW Post 7589 members Peter Macleod and Jerry Martin participated in Congress Rob Wittman's Recognition Day for Vietnam Veterans held at the Little Hall at the Quantico U.S. Marine Base in Virginia. 2 veterans took part, 5 hours, 60 miles driven, \$8.40 spent on gas.

8/30/15: 5 members of Post 7589 attended a meeting of "Kuentai USA" a Japanese-American organization which searches for the remains of military veterans of both Japan and the United States in the Pacific islands where so many battles were fought during World War Two. The meeting was held from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm at the Freedom Museum at Manassas Airport in Manassas, Va. The Post 7589 members attending were Ron Link, Rick Raskin, Jerry Martin, Steve Botello and Peter MacLeod. Post 7589 financially supports the efforts of "Kuentai USA" and Comrade Jerry Martin

8/31/15: Community Service, help to others. This is the August, 2015 Activity Report from Post 7589 Service Officer Steve Botello who gave help and advice to 23 Manassas area veterans during the month of August. He was in contact with 23 veterans and spent a total of 125 hours helping them. He drove 1,155 miles and spent \$200.00

9/18/15: Flag Retirement Ceremony conducted on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015.

Filed under Americanism activity with the state VFW. 2 VFW Post 7589 members, Peter MacLeod and Steve Botello. 6 hours, 40 miles, \$16.00 cost. We gave the Cub Scouts of Pack 1355 in Haymarket, a half hour of indoor flag education and then we went outside for the disposal of more than 300 American flags. 10 Cub Scouts in attendance, 5 Scout leaders, three members of the Post 7589 Auxiliary participated with Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod conducting the Flag education.

9/19/15: POW/MIA program put on by American Legion Post 10 in Manassas. VFW Post 7589 participated. Post 7589 member Merle Hancock, a World War Two veteran was the keynote speaker telling of his two years in a German POW camp in Poland after his plane was shot down over Germany. Post 7589 Commander Peter MacLeod participated in the American Legion color guard. Post 7589 members Ron Knowles and Jerry Martin also were present and participated in the ceremony. 4 Post 7589 members, 40 miles, Cost was \$16.00, 4 Hours of service at the ceremony.

9/14/15: Commander Peter MacLeod gave a safety message during the Post 7589 General Membership Meeting warning of the increasing danger that the earlier darkness times bring this time of year. And also how the Comrades should be aware of school buses on the road in new places this time of year. Please avoid a tragedy and slow down near school buses and school bus stops and watch for children who do not look where they are going. 25 Comrades heard the message. 1 hour, 1 comrade, cost: \$2.00. Reported on Oct. 17, 2015.

9/20/15: VFW Post 7589 hosted the "Wills for Vets" program put on by the Prince William County Bar Association on a Pro Bono basis. Lawyers lead workshops helping veterans and their spouses draft their own wills free of charge. At the workshops on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015 there were a total of 64 veterans present at the workshops held from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm at Post 7589. Commander Peter MacLeod was present all day as host. "Homes for Heroes" in Haymarket provided a free lunch. Post 7589 provided coffee and drinks and the projector screen for the power point presentation. The workshops were open to veterans in

the Manassas area and two more workshop days will be part of this program in October with Post 7589 again acting as host. Post 7589 comrade and Building Manager Wayne Moore and Commander Peter MacLeod were present on 9/19 and were active in the planning process with the Prince William Bar Association and coordinator Barbara Diehl. 2 VFW members put in a total of 20 hours of service, 10 miles of travel for a cost of \$4.00.

9/20/15: Comrades of Post 7589 Peter MacLeod and Jack Lilly, visited Comrade Ron Link at Prince William Memorial Hospital for one hour after Comrade Link had knee surgery. We brought small gifts and conversation.

Two total hours, 20 total miles of travel at a cost of \$2.80. Reported on Oct. 17, 2015.

9/21/15: Delivered 60 Patriot's Pen Brochures/applications to Tom Alexander's Social Studies classes at Metz School in Manassas. 1 comrade, 10 miles, \$4.00, 2 hours. Wrote explanation letter.

9/22/15: Delivered 40 Patriots Pen brochures/applications to Ms. Lisa Zilka at Parkside Middle School in Manassas and 50 Patriot's Pen brochures/applications to Ms. Cyndy Mattia at Parkside, both English teachers. 2 hours, 1 comrade, 10 miles, \$4.00. Wrote explanation letter.

9/23/15: Delivered 50 Patriot's Pen applications to Ms. Linda Bare, Principal of Manassas Christian School in Manassas Park, Va. 2 hours, 1 comrade, 15 miles, \$6.00. Wrote explanation letter

9/23/15: Post 7589 Commander Peter MacLeod took part in the VFW Fall Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. visiting the office of Va. Congressman Rob Wittman for one hour talking about local issues of interest to veterans in Va. and the country. Mileage was 90, Cost was \$12.60. Reported on Oct. 17, 2015.

9/25/15: Delivered 50 Voice of Democracy, 10 Patriot's Pen and 2 Teacher of the Year application/brochures to Ms. Anne Carroll, Principal of Seton School in Manassas. 1 comrade, 2 hours, 10 miles, \$4.00. Wrote 3 Explanation letters and gave the students 50 business cards with my phone and email for questions.

9/30/15: Service Officer Steve Botello's report for September, 2015: Veterans in contact with: 17. Hours spent helping veterans: 144. Miles Driven: 223. Cost: \$750.00 This includes work done by the two other service officers of VFW Post 7589: Steve Meade and Wayne Moore. Veterans helped live or are visiting in the Manassas area. Date submitted is 10/22/15.

10/3/15: Session two of the "Wills for Vets" program put on by the Prince William County Bar Association in conjunction with VFW Post 7589 to help veterans and their spouses make out Wills at no expense to them, all pro bono service by participating lawyers. Session two held at the VFW Post 7589 Hall at 9304

Centreville Road in Manassas, Va. from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on October 3, 2015. 2 VFW 7589 members present to help organize, Commander Peter MacLeod and Building Manager Wayne Moore. Barbara Diehl, program coordinator, who works for the Area Agency of Aging in Manassas was present and is the contact person. 2 comrades, 16 total hours, 48 veterans were served by lawyers that day in individual conferences. A total of 20 miles travel, at a cost of \$8.80. Reported on Oct. 17, 2015.

10/5/15: Commander Peter MacLeod gave a safety message during the Post 7589 General Membership Meeting of Oct. 5, 2015 reminding the Comrades to be extra careful at Halloween because of the large number of children in costume on the streets who are excited and not watching where they are running and walking. Early darkness also a factor. 24 Comrades at the meeting heard the message. 1 hour, 1 comrade, 5 miles, cost: \$2.00 Reported on Oct. 17, 2015.

10/20/15: Commander and acting youth chair Peter MacLeod delivered 30 Patriot's Pen brochures/applications to teacher Erin Karicher at Mayfield Intermediate School in Manassas on 10/19 and then delivered 20 Voice of Democracy brochures/Applications to Librarian Teresa L. Dedominicis at Brentsville High School in Nokesville on 10/20. This came after emails and phone conversations and both teachers say they will try and get some entries in before the November 1 deadline. Total Hours: 2, Total members involved: 1, Miles: 20, cost: \$8.00 Dates: 10/19/15, 10/20/15. Date submitted: 10/22/15.

10/23/15: Ron Link, Rick Raskin and Pete MacLeod spent a total of 3 hours at the Townes residence in Manassas Park where Ron Link and the Auxiliary had helped coordinate renovations for a disabled veteran and his family using the Home Depot program. The post donated \$150.00 in food to feed the volunteer workers who spent a total of 3 days working on the Townes residence. On this day 3 comrades spent a total of 3 hours and traveled a total of 60 miles for this project at .40 a mile that is a cost of \$24.00.

10/24/15: Manassas Fall Jubilee – The Post had a booth in downtown Manassas where we gave out 1,000 Trick or Treat bags with a safety message on it to young people walking the streets. We also recruited 5 new members for Post 7589. A total of 10 comrades took part putting in a total of 4 hours each and driving a total of 200 miles at .40 a mile for a spending total of \$80.00. A total of 40 hours contributed by the following comrades: Peter MacLeod, Terry Bursey, Ron Link, Rick Raskin, Kelly Williams, Frank Cochran, Steve Meade, Sam Nealey, Robert Punihole, Nicole Johnson. The work involved giving out the trick or treat bags, setting up the tent for the Post and the Auxiliary and taking everything down and transporting it back to the Post.

10/24/15: The last day of the Wills for Vets program with the Post Headquarters building at 9304 Centreville Road in Manassas hosting the lawyers and veterans. A total of 28 Veterans and their spouses completed the task of writing out a will with Notary Public and witnesses present for five hours, 1 – 6 pm 3 comrades: Robert Punihole, Peter MacLeod and Sam Nealey spent a total of 15 hours working there to greet the veterans and

provide coffee and donuts and help with clerical work and act as witnesses. Sam Nealey acted as a Notary Public. 28 veterans and their spouses received wills courtesy of pro bono work by the Prince William County Bar Association and members of VFW Post 7589 which hosted the pilot program for all 3 sessions. 3 comrades, 5 hours each, 30 miles for a cost of \$12.00.

10/30/15: Commander and Acting Youth Chair, Peter MacLeod picked up the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy essays from public schools in the Manassas area as the deadline for the contest approached. 28 essays from Manassas Christian School, 15 essays from Parkside Middle School, 12 essays from Metz Middle School, 10 PP essays and 3 VOD essays from Seton School. 1 comrade, Pete MacLeod, 20 miles for a cost of \$8.00.

Time spent was 2 hours. A total of 68 essays were picked up.

11/2/15: Commander Peter MacLeod gave a safety message on winter driving to 22 Comrades at the General Membership Meeting on this date. He warned of the first hours of a winter storm being the most dangerous as determined by AAA. Chaplain Joel Chase gave a warning about a phone scam that targets the elderly. 2 Comrades, a total of 2 hours, a total of 20 miles for a cost of \$8.00

11/5/15: The Commanders of VFW Post 7589, American Legion Post 10, DAV Chapter In Manassas and the commander of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Prince William Chapter, all met at Post 7589 brought together by Post Service Officer Steve Botello. The purpose of the meeting was to come up with a coordinated response to veterans in trouble, in need and homeless. Can we spread the cost and time to help these veterans? This was an hour long meeting and there will be another next month as we fashion a Standard Operating Procedure for dealing with these times of need. Post 7589 Comrades Pete MacLeod and Steve Botello spent a total of two hours and a total of 20 miles at a cost of \$8.00

11/6/15: Comrades Pete Macleod and Steve Botello of Post 7589 spent a total of two hours at the Manassas Christian School salute to veterans from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Both veterans spoke to the approximately 110 students and answered questions from the students and accepted "Happy Veterans Day" cards. Both spoke about their war experiences as Steve served in the Navy in Desert Storm and Pete served in the Army in Vietnam from Sept. 1970 to August of 1971. They drove a total of 20 miles at a cost of \$8.00.

11/6/15: Buddy Poppy Drive at the Giant Grocery Store in Centreville, raising \$948.61. Three comrades, Pete MacLeod, Paul Chase and Lou Fillipone spent four hours raising the money for Veterans Relief and drove a total of 45 miles at a total cost of \$18.00.

11/7/15: A total of 7 Comrades spent one hour each marching in the Manassas Veterans Parade which payed tribute to female veterans this year. The Comrades were; Pete Macleod, Terry Bursey, Pete Slusher, Merle Hancock, Ron Link, Jerry Martin Rod Gillette and Paul Chase. A total of 150 miles for a cost of \$60.00. All 8 put in a total of three hours for a grand total of 24 hours as Post 7589 was a host facility for the older participants in

the parade and served them coffee and donuts, a total of 35 older veterans were hosted by Post 7589.

11/7/15: A Buddy Poppy Drive was put on by Post 7589 from 2 to 5 pm at the Ace Hardware Store in the Woodbine Shopping Center in Manassas. A total of \$210.30 was raised for Veterans Relief by Pete MacLeod and Terry Bursey who put in 3 hours each for a total of 6 hours. They drove a total of 20 miles for a cost of \$8.00.

11/8/15: A Buddy Poppy Drive was held at Shoppers Food and Pharmacy on Liberia Ave. in Manassas. A total of 4 Post 7589 comrades, Pete MacLeod, Paul Chase, Joel Chase and Rod Gillette spent 4 hours each at the site for a total of 16 hours and raised \$499.04 for Veterans Relief. They drove a total of 40 miles for a cost of \$16.00.

Note: An adjusted total of \$1,665.30 was raised at the 3 Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Drives by VFW Post 7589, all for the Veterans Relief Fund.

11/10/15: Comrades Pete MacLeod, Jerry Martin, Merle Hancock and Jack Lilly, all combat veterans spoke to more than 200 students at 3 sessions at Mayfield Intermediate School in Manassas. The 4 comrades spent 3 hours at the school for a grand total of 12 hours of educational service telling the students in grades 5 and 6 what the Vietnam War, Korea and World War two was like. Merle Hancock had been a POW of the Germans in Poland. Merle, Jerry Martin and Jack Lilly, all comrades of Post 7589 were all awarded the Purple Heart. The 4 veterans drove a total of 40 miles for a cost of \$16.00

11/10/15: Comrade Paul Chase attended the Round Elementary School in Manassas salute to veterans. He spent one hour there talking to students. He drove 20 miles for a cost of \$8.00

11/11/15: Post 7589 Comrades Pete MacLeod, Ed Fishpaw, Ron Knowles, Rod Gillette, Terry Bursey, Warren Ewell, Brad Bradshaw, conducted the Veterans Day service for the city of Manassas at the Manassas Veterans Memorial. They then went to the Manassas Cemetery and worked with Cub Scouts of Pack 1355 from the Bennett School in placing flags at the graves of over 100 veterans in the cemetery. A total of 2 hours each for a grand total of 14 hours of service to education and to the city of Manassas. A total of 70 miles for a cost of \$28.00.

11/11/15: Post 7589 Comrades Pete MacLeod, Sam Nealey and Ed Fishpaw spoke for an hour to residents at Caton Merchants House Senior Assisted Living Center in Manassas. 20 elderly residents attended the talk and give and take with the veterans. A total of 4 hours and a total of 30 miles for a cost of \$12.00. The comrades distributed pens and 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War buttons.

11/12/15: Post 7589 Comrades Pete MacLeod and Rick Raskin visited the Haydon Elementary School in Manassas and spent an hour showing 90 fourth grade students a film on Vietnam and then answering questions about that war from the students. Both

Raskin and MacLeod are Vietnam veterans. A total of two hours of education and 20 miles for a cost of \$8.00.

11/21/15: VFW Post 7589 Service Officer Steve Botello's report for October, 2015:

In contact with 16 veterans in the Manassas area for a total of 118 Hours. He drove 140 miles at a cost of \$68.00

11/13/15: VFW Post 7589 Youth Committee members Pete MacLeod, Ron Link and Lou Phillipone spent 30 hours and drove a total of 150 miles for total expenses of \$60.00 in judging the 69 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy entries in the Manassas area. Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod also spent 10 hours in the judging. The Post awarded a total of \$2300.00 in prizes and expenses. Report submitted on Nov. 21, 2015.

11/14/15: VFW Post 7589 comrades Pete MacLeod and Ron Link traveled (separately due to future plans) 50 miles each one way to the Fredericksburg VFW post on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015 to take part in the judging of the District 8 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy entries. Mileage was 200 at a cost of \$80.00 and a total of 8 hours in travel and judging.

11/27/15: VFW Post 7589 sent out 30 invitation letters to the student winners and families of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests for 2015. Commander Peter MacLeod wrote the letters and mailed them.

Hours: 4 Cost of postage: \$12.00 Commander MacLeod also followed up with phone calls to each family of the award recipients. Submitted on 12/12/15.

12/6/15: The VFW Post 7589 Youth Awards Ceremony. Arriving at the post at 2:00 pm for 4 hours work were Commander Peter MacLeod, Trustee Lou Phillipone, Comrade Rod Gillette, Senior Vice Commander Ron Link, Quartermaster Ron Raskin, Surgeon Warren Ewell, Building Manager Wayne Moore, Officer of the Day Robert Punihaole. 8 Comrades put in 4 hours of work for a total of 32 hours. Each Comrade put in a total of 10 miles for a total of 80 miles at a cost of \$32.00. SVC Link designed and made the programs and certificates for 4 hours additional work and a cost of \$50.00. The Guest Speaker was Lt. General Robert G. Yerks (USA-ret.) a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. In Patriot's Pen, Post 7589 had 65 students from 5 schools participating and for Voice of Democracy we had 3 students from one school and a homeschooled student participating. Total cost of prizes for VOD was \$1,050 and total cost of prizes for PP was \$850.00. In addition another \$150.00 was spent by the Post for each contest.

In total: 36 hours of work by 8 comrades at a total cost of \$875.00 for Patriot's Pen and a total cost of \$1225.00 for Voice of Democracy plus the cost of \$32.00 for gas. 4 Patriot's Pen students were advanced to the District 8 competition and 1 Voice of Democracy student was advanced to the District. Submitted on 12/12/15.

12/7/15: Commander's Safety Message at the VFW Post 7589 General Membership meeting for December. We again talked about the need for slower speeds and the fact that many automa-

tic transmissions don't allow the drive to slow down fast enough on ice conditions. A lower gear of a standard transmission is much safer than jamming on the brakes. At the end Quartermaster Rick Raskin distributed 18 well made ice scrappers to the membership. Cost was \$72.00 in gasoline, \$90.00 cost for the ice scrappers, and 18 hours being present for the presentation. 18 comrades took part. Submitted on 12/12/15.

12/16/15: Quartermaster Rick Raskin gave out 40 ice scrappers to 40 of the VFW Post 7589 Bingo players. Safety message was delivered to a total of 60 Bingo players. 1 veteran participating, 20 miles of driving, cost of \$8.00. Time: 4 hours.

1/1/16: Service Officer Steve Botello's report of activity helping veterans in the Manassas area in November of 2015. Submitted on Dec. 14, 2015. Service Officer Botello was in contact with 20 veterans in the Manassas area and committed 52 hours to helping them. He drove 225 miles and had out of pocket expenses of \$34.00

1/4/16: Safety Message. Commander Pete MacLeod told members at the January 4th Post 7589 General Membership Meeting to beware of "Black Ice" as the winter driving season approaches. AccuWeather.com rates it as one of the worst situations for motorists because it blends with its surroundings on the road surface and is difficult to spot especially at night. The air temperature can be above freezing but if the ground is frozen, rain or drizzle can freeze on impact creating dangerous ice that is difficult to spot. 19 members of Post 7589 listened to the discussion led by Commander Pete MacLeod. Total driving miles was 152 at a cost of \$60.80. The 19 members spent a total of 15 minutes discussing the safety issue.

1/14/16: Post 7589 Chaplain Joel Chase attended a viewing for veteran Bill Richardson of Warrenton after his passing one week before. Bill was a member of the 1st Armored Cav and the VFW chapter in Arlington is named in his honor as a founding member. Joel traveled 8 miles at a cost of \$3.20 and spent 1 hour at the viewing representing Post 7589.

1/21/16: The Inter-Service Club Council of Greater Manassas honored a member of VFW Post 7589 for his volunteer work on behalf of veterans. Comrade Jerry Martin was chosen as "Volunteer of the year" from a list of 8 nominees. Commander Pete MacLeod and Jerry attended the banquet of this organization which has representative from about 50 volunteer organizations in the Manassas area. Jerry, who works with veterans organizations and helps individual veterans, was deserving of the honor. 2 members of Post 7589 drove 16 miles and spent two hours at the dinner and ceremony. Cost was \$6.40.

1/30/16: Report of December, 2015 activity by VFW Post 7589 Service Officer Steve Botello. He was in contact with 17 veterans in the Manassas area and spent 46 hours meeting with them. He drove 126 miles and spent \$26.00.

2/1/16: Commander's Safety Message for 18 members of VFW Post 7589 at the 2/1/16 VFW Post 7589 General Membership Meeting concerning phone scams and the danger of giving secure

information such as social security numbers over the phone. Commander MacLeod told of a recent scam involving phone calls saying they are from a company that the potential victim may have a credit card with and they are asked to supply bank account numbers and social security numbers, etc. There was also a message from AAA about staying out of the way of snowplows working the roads so they can do their jobs. 18 Post 7589 members drove approx. 10 miles each spending a total of \$72.00.

2/2/16: VFW Post #7589 Service Officer Steve Botello's activity report for January, 2016: He was in contact with a total of 14 veterans spending 44 hours helping them. He drove 126 miles with out of pocket expenses totaling \$26.00.

2/18/16: Commander and Youth Chair Pete MacLeod spent 2 hours writing letters and phoning Manassas area Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy District 8 award recipients of the Feb. 21 District meeting at which time they will be presented with their awards. He spoke with the families and the school principals and teachers, double checking that they had information and directions to the Southern Fauquier VFW Post in Morrisville. The three Manassas area essay award recipients who also won at the District 8 level are: Sebastien Cotto, 8th grade, Manassas Christian School, First Place, Patriot's Pen.

Brendan Rogers, 11th grade, Seton School, Manassas, Va. Second Place, Voice of Democracy.

Juliette Orr, 8th grade, Seton School, Manassas, Va., Third Place, Patriot's Pen.

2/19/16: Commander and Youth Chair Pete MacLeod and members of the Youth Committee spent two hours putting together letters notifying the recipients of the 2015-16 VFW Citizenship Teacher awards for the Manassas area. Two hours was also spent finding the recipients and working with fellow teachers to nominate them. A total of four hours by 3 members of VFW Post 7589. They drove a total of 30 miles to meet and complete the work. A list of teacher award recipients was mailed and emailed to the recipients themselves along with a letter congratulating them.

Here are the 3 recipients of the VFW Citizenship Teacher award for VFW Post 7589:

Grades K-5: Ms. Tiffany Payne, Grade 5 teacher, Haymarket Elementary School, Haymarket, Va.

Grades 6-8: Mr. Mark Hoffman, 8th Grade Science Teacher, Seton School, Manassas, Va.

Grades 9-12: Mr. Michael Hardy, Grades 10 to 12 Social Studies, Mountain View Alternative High School, Centreville, Va.

Teachers will be honored and presented awards at the March 7 General Membership Meeting of VFW Post 7589.

3/1/16: Service Officer Steve Botello's Hours for February, 2016: In contact with 17 veterans. He spent 63 hours with the veterans in need. He drove 183 miles to complete his work. Out of pocket expenses amounted to \$71.00

3/7/16: Safety Message: Delivered to 16 members of Post 7589 on March 7, 2016 by Post 7589 Commander Pete MacLeod.

Beware of potholes this Spring. Sources were AAA and "Consumer Reports" magazine. Potholes form when moisture collects in holes and cracks in the road surface. The moisture expands and contracts when temperatures go up and down. This breaks up the pavement and combined with the weight of passing cars, eventually causes potholes to form. 16 members of VFW Post 7589 drove 10 miles each round trip to attend the meeting at a cost of \$64.00 and spent an hour at the meeting.

3/7/16: 3 Manassas area VFW Citizenship Teachers of the Year were honored and given their awards at the VFW Post 7589 March 7 General Membership Meeting: Ms. Tiffany Payne, 5th grade teacher at Haymarket Elementary School, Haymarket, Va., Mr. Mark Hoffman, 8th Grade Science teacher at Seton School in Manassas, Va. and Mr. Michael Hardy, Social Studies Teacher at Mountain View Alt. High School in Centreville, Va were recognized. Commander Peter MacLeod and Trustee Lou Filippone conducted the ceremony traveling a total of 20 miles at a cost of \$8.00 and a time commitment of four total hours. The Post awarded each teacher a check for \$200.00 plus a \$50.00 cost for the certificates designed and made by Senior Vice Commander Ron Link for a total of \$650.00 in cost and with Ron's four hours of work a grand total of 8 hours by 3 members of Post 7589.

3/12/16: Judging for VFW District 8 Teachers of the Year in 3 categories. Post 7589 provided the site (Post 7589 Post Hall) and we provided two judges, Commander Pete MacLeod and Quartermaster Rick Raskin. The 2 Post members gave four hours total time and traveled a total of 20 miles to attend the judging at cost of \$8.00. The three teachers chosen: Ms. Tiffany Payne of Haymarket Elementary School in Haymarket, Va. from VFW Post 7589, Ms. Alexandra Turner of Taylor Middle school in Warrenton, Va. from VFW Post 9835, and Mr. Michael Hardy from Mt. View Alt. H.S. in Centreville, Va. from VFW Post 7589. They will receive their awards at the District 8 Convention in Culpeper on April 17, 2016.

4/2/16: VFW Post 7589 Commander Pete MacLeod attended the funeral of U.S. Army veteran Charles Price of Manassas who passed away on March 1, 2016. Mr. Price served in the Army for 26 years. He did not belong to any veteran's organization but the family wanted a veteran's representative at the funeral. The funeral was held at the New Mt. Zoar Baptist Church in Manassas and was two hours long and mileage cost was \$4.00.

4/4/16: Commander's Safety Message was delivered by Chaplain Joel Chase and focused on scams that are flooding the Manassas area, from phony IRS calls to malware on phones with flashlights and the advisory to not lock one's car with the key fob. Lock it as you depart the vehicle not from the remote device. The message took 15 minutes to deliver from one comrade to 20 comrades in attendance at the General Membership Meeting.

Comrades drove a grand total of 200 miles to attend the meeting. Mileage cost was \$80.00.

4/10/16: VFW Post 7589 in Manassas hosted a meeting of KUENTAI-USA which is an organization supported by the United States and Japan which seeks to retrieve the remains of battle victims of both countries in the Pacific islands. Post 7589 Senior Vice Commander Ron Link and former Commander Jerry Martin

attended the two hour meeting which updated efforts to recover remains. Mileage cost was \$8.00.

4/11/16: Delivery of certificates of participation and VFW Post 7589 pens to all 69 students in the Manassas area who took part in the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy competition last Fall. The certificates and pens were for participation in the contest. The schools participating in Patriot's Pen included Benton Middle School in Manassas, Metz Middle School in Manassas, Parkside Middle School in Manassas, Seton School in Manassas, Manassas Christian School in Manassas Park, and LL Coates Elementary School in Herndon. Students taking part in the Voice of Democracy were from Seton School and there was one home schooled student. VFW Post 7589 Commander Pete MacLeod and Post 7589 Auxiliary member Jean MacLeod spent a total of 6 hours getting signatures for the certificates and printing the student's names on the certificates and putting the certificates in envelopes along with pens and delivering them to the various schools. Cost of purchasing the master certificates from the VFW Store and then making copies came to \$60.00. Cost of gas to deliver the certificates was \$4.00. Cost of the pens was \$10.00. A Grand total cost of \$74.00.

4/12/16: VFW Post 7589 Chaplain Joel Chase went to James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va. and met with Professor Paul Brown's "The Combat" class of 33 students for 2 and a half hours. He told of his battle experiences in Vietnam in the U.S. Army which included being seriously wounded. In addition to the time spent in class, the travel time was 1 and a half hours each way for a total of 5 and a half hours spent on the project at a mileage cost of \$62.40.

4/16/16: VFW Post 7589 Chaplain Joel Chase and Adjutant Paul Chase continue to lead a Post 7589 effort to collect aluminum can tabs which can be recycled and make money for the Shriner's Hospital's Boston Burn Center where needy families

can obtain medical care for burn injuries for free. In 2014 , 125,000 tabs were collected, in 2015 the Chase's collected 300,000 tabs. And here is the count so far this year, 2016: 8,000 tabs from the Manassas Lions Club, 8,000 from Molly's Pub in Warrenton, 6,000 tabs from BB&T Bank on W. Lee Highway in Warrenton, 40,00 tabs from Tractor Supply in Manassas, 11,000 tabs from Country Chevrolet in Warrenton, about 10,000 tabs from Home Depot in Manassas. A grand total as of April, 2016 of about 72,000 aluminum tabs to be recycled so far in 2016. All proceeds go to the Boston Burn Center.

4/19/16: VFW Post 7589 Adjutant Paul Chase went to St. Anthony's School in Chantilly in Feb. and made a presentation to the faculty and students about the Post 7589 aluminum tab collection program involving recycling and giving the money earned to the Boston Burn Center which treats badly injured children for free. It is run by the Shriner's Hospitals. Paul explained the program. And then on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 he returned to the school to be presented with 15 collection jugs containing nearly 15,000 aluminum tabs which can be recycled and bring in more money for the burn center. Ms. Nora Fernandez was the St. Anthony's teacher spearheading the effort under the guidance of school Principal Joseph M. McLaughlin. One comrade, Adjutant Paul Chase spent four hours on this particular project, he drove a total of 60 miles for a cost of \$24.00. 15 classes of approximately 15 students each took part in the two month long project for a total participation by elementary school students of 325.