

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589
Manassas, Virginia
March 2025



Staff photo

Ten VFW members attended the Military Appreciation Night at the Virginia War Memorial on February 21, including State Commander Mitch Rubenstein, State Adjutant Quartermaster Ed Mann, Legislative Committee Chair Monti Zimmerman and VFW JLC Representative Rick Raskin. Also shown from the left from Mechanicsville Post 9808: Joseph Donahue, Lola and Boyd Burnett, Joanne and Paul Smith.

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CANNON NEWS—Multiple award winner at both the State and National levels, including 2024 National Grand Award.

Commander's Message



Wayne Moore

PROPOSE REDUCTION TO VETERANS BENEFIT

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” With all the commonsense sayings, nothing is so rewarding as having oneself experience the pains of disbelief!

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has suggested several substantial reductions to veterans' benefits.

1: Reduce VA's Disability Benefits for Veterans Who Are Older Than the Full Retirement Age for Social Security: <https://www.cbo.gov/budget-options/60917>

Veterans with medical conditions or injuries that occurred or worsened during active-duty service receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). By law, VA's disability ratings (the basis for disability payments) depend, as far as practicable, on the average earnings that veterans would be expected to lose given the severity of their service-connected medical conditions or injuries. Those ratings do not depend on whether a particular veteran's conditions reduce the person's earnings. Veterans who work are eligible for benefits, and most working-age veterans who receive such compensation are employed. After veterans reach Social Security's full retirement age, VA's disability payments continue at the same level. (Social Security's full retirement age is 67 for people born after 1959.) By contrast, the income that people receive from Social Security or private pensions after they retire usually is less than their earnings from wages and salary before retirement.

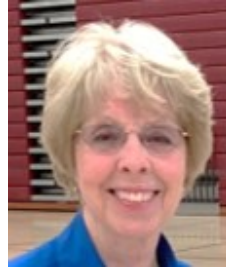
Under this option, veterans who start receiving disability compensation payments in 2026 or later would have those payments reduced by 30 percent at age 67. Social Security and pension benefits would be unaffected by this option. Veterans who are already collecting disability compensation would see no reduction in their VA disability benefits when they reach age 67.

2: End VA's Individual Unemployability Payments to Disabled Veterans at the Full Retirement Age for Social Security: <https://www.cbo.gov/budget-options/60916>

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides disability compensation to veterans with medical conditions or injuries that were incurred or worsened during active-duty service. The amount of compensation depends on the severity of their disabilities (which are rated between zero and 100 percent) and other factors. In addition, VA may increase certain veterans' disability compensation to the 100 percent level even though the department has not rated their service-connected disabilities at that level. To receive the resulting supplemental compensation, termed Individual Unemployability (IU) or (TDIU) payments, disabled veterans must apply for the benefit and meet two criteria. First, they generally must have a disability rating

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Auxiliary President



Mary Corkhill



ATTENTION PLEASE: Auxiliary 7589 is here to support our Veterans and our community. With that being said, we are requesting your assistance to provide names of Veterans who are in need. Our most rewarding project is providing dinner to those Veterans. Reaching out to you for names is one way we can continue this project. Thank you!!

Daylight Saving Time starts on March 9th. Clocks will spring forward one hour. Sorry, you will lose that extra hour of sleep.

Saint Patrick's Day is on Monday, March 17th, and is widely recognized and observed throughout the country as a celebration of Irish and Irish-American culture. Celebrations include prominent displays of the color GREEN, religious observances, numerous parades, and copious consumption of alcohol. Enjoy the day.

The VFW Legislative Conference is March 1-6 in Washington DC. A special event is when all the Department Voice of Democracy recipients will be with the National Commander-In-Chief and Auxiliary President. Within a month of this event, the new theme for both Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy will be announced for the 2025-2026 year.

There are three Auxiliary contests available for students: **Illustrating America Art** (grades K-8), the Young American Creative **Patriotic Art 2-D contest**, and the Young American Creative **Patriotic Art 3-D contest** (grades 9-12). March 31 is the deadline for all three contests. Please let us know if you need assistance with any of these.

The next District 8 meeting will be held in Fredericksburg at Post 3103 on Saturday, April 5th, starting at 10:00AM. An audit and election for District Officers is on the agenda. Also, Auxiliary 7589 will hold their elections for the 2025-2026 year at their April 14th meeting.

Please include on your schedule the next flag retirement on May 10th at 10:00AM. A pizza party will follow for all individuals working and attending the event.

The VFW National Home life membership is only \$50. There are other ways you can assist them and that is by purchasing a personalized brick or donating funds. If you know of anyone that needs assistance, their web address is: <https://vfwnationalhome.org/you-can-help/membership/>.

We have several members facing medical issues. So please, say a special prayer for them and others who are ill, hospitalized or have gone to their heavenly home. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
VFW Auxiliary President



Youth Committee



Lou Filippone

Youth Committee Newsletter – March 2025

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

We hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and spirits! As we dive into the month of March, we want to share some exciting updates and upcoming events related to our youth programs.

Your continued support is so valuable in helping us nurture the next generation of proud, patriotic citizens.

1. February 2025 Youth Committee Meeting Recap

Our last Youth Committee meeting was held on Thursday, 20 February 2025, at the Post. In attendance were Comrades Alex and Tina Bliem, Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, and myself. We had a great conversation, sharing ideas and updates for the future of our youth programs!

2. Scouting Report – Troop and Pack 1372

Our Scouts are gearing up for an exciting adventure! On Saturday, 1 March, they will embark on a camping trip to the NORVA Rod and Gun Club in Star Tannery, Virginia. The Scouts will have the chance to learn and practice with rifles and shotguns while earning merit badges. In return, they will be providing maintenance services for the club as part of a service project. We wish them an enriching and safe trip!

3. The Paul Chase Youth Fund

We are pleased to announce that the Paul Chase Youth Fund has received requests for donations. These funds will go towards supporting our local Scouts and young citizens in need:

- **Cub Scout Pack 1355** in Manassas has requested help for the **L.A. Area Scout Family Fire Victims**. This donation will assist in covering uniforms, supplies, and fees for Scouts in the Los Angeles area affected by recent fires.
- We also received a request for support for **Ms. Elizabeth Nahser**, a special needs teacher at **Manassas Park Middle School**. Her National Junior Honor Society students create cards and gift bags for Veterans on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and other holidays.

Lastly, we may have a donation request from the **Manassas 8U Softball Team**. One of the player's grandmothers is active in the Springfield, Virginia VFW Auxiliary, and they are seeking support for their team.

These donations help make a difference in the lives of young people in our community. If you'd like to contribute, please don't hesitate to reach out!

4. Important Program Deadlines

A reminder that **1 March** is the deadline for the **Scout of the Year** and **Cadet of the Year** Program applications. If you have any outstanding entries, please get them in as soon as possible. Additionally, the **Auxiliary's Illustrating Art Across America** and **Patriotic Art Contests** are accepting entries until **31 March 2025**. We encourage all interested youth to submit their work! You can get all applications to any member of the Post Youth Committee to ensure they are entered on time.

5. Spring Flag Retirement Ceremony – 10 May

We're excited to announce that our **Spring Flag Retirement**

ceremony will take place on **Saturday, 10 May** at the Post. Setup will begin at **9:30 AM**, followed by the Flag Retirement Ceremony at **10:00 AM**. The event will conclude with a **Pizza Party Luncheon**, generously sponsored by the Auxiliary. It's a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community to honor our flags. If you're interested in volunteering, please let us know—we'd love to have your help!

6. Flag Retirement Receptacle Replacement

We are working to make a final decision on replacing the current **flag retirement receptacle**, which has unfortunately broken and begun leaking. After a final discussion at the next general meeting, we will vote on this matter to ensure that our Post continues to honor our flags properly and respectfully.

7. Upcoming Youth Committee Meeting – 20 March

Our next **Youth Committee Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, 20 March 2025**, at **7:00 PM** at the Post. This is a great opportunity to get involved in mentoring our young citizens and teaching them about the importance of patriotism and Americanism. Your input and participation are vital as we continue to shape the future of our youth programs. We hope to see you there!

We look forward to seeing all of you at these events and continuing to work together to support our youth. As always, thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm in mentoring the future of our nation.

Warm regards,
Lou Filippone
Youth Committee Chair, VFW Post 7589

Scouting Report



Alex & Tina Bliem
Post 7589 Scouting
Representatives

January and February have been interesting months for our scouts. Some meetings were canceled because of the snow and other weekends they took advantage of the snow and went on multiple troop level ski trips.

Our Cub Scout pack had their annual Blue and Gold celebration. During this event multiple scouts were at the end of their Cub Scout journey and crossed over and began their new journey in Scouting America. Our troop also assisted during another Pack's crossing over ceremony where we welcomed even more scouts into our troop.

Our Crew went camping this month and invited the troop along for a weekend shooting trip. At the Rod and Gun Club they received instruction on shooting as well as cleaning and maintenance. Over the weekend they shot .22s and those that needed to

(Scouting Continued on page 4)

Legislative Update

Claim Shark Bill Dies in the House

SB 1222 (Reeves-R) heard in committee on February 11 was referred from the Labor and Commerce Committee to the Rules Committee by voice vote, effectively killing the bill for this legislative session. The Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) were successful in stopping legislation that would have permitted their predatory practices to continue.

After passing the Senate (36-3) the bill crossed over to the House, and due to the efforts of the VFW and other VSOs failed to gain support. This leaves the Claim Shark issue unresolved for this legislative session. Many thanks to everyone who contacted their delegates. It made a difference.

In the 2026 legislative session the issue of banning claim sharks in Virginia will be revisited. We will be working to build a coalition for next year and will be updating the position paper for the Joint Leadership Council of VSOs. We will be working to educate Virginia legislators on the harmful effects to veterans if Claim Sharks are not banned in Virginia.

We are also working with the VFW National Legislative Office to work on amending Title 38 of the US Code, which if enacted could negate the myriad variations of individual state laws.

Rick Raskin & Monti Zimmerman

(Scouting Continued from page 3)

qualify for the rifle merit badge worked on their targets and groupings. The scouts also had the opportunity to work on the shotgun merit badge. Here they had to shoot a certain amount of clays over different sessions. They also had to cook and clean over the weekend. The club allows the scouts to camp for free in return for a service project which they gladly did. Pictures next month.

During the camping trip one of our scouts went through her Eagle Scout board of review. She did outstanding and I am proud to announce that we now have a new Eagle scout in our troop. I wrote about her project in a previous newsletter. With the help of her fellow scouts and adults we followed her leadership and rebuilt the fencing on a horse paddock at a rescue outside of Fredericksburg.

Be safe,

Alex & Tina Bliem
VFW Post 7589
Pack, Troop, Crew 1372

DD-214 Available online


The National Personal Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to request access to their DD-214 online

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

Additional records

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans>





Manassas Ballet Theatre would like to invite all VFW members and their families to our upcoming production of LOVE. We have three shows to choose from, Friday, March 7 @ 7:30pm, Saturday, March 8 @ 7:30 & Sunday, March 9 @ 3:00pm. Everyone will receive 20% off the ticket price. Just use the code **LOVE20**. Attached is a link with all the information:

<https://manassasballet.org/love/>

VFW Reminds Members to Stay Focused Amid Confusion in the Capital

WASHINGTON (Feb. 14, 2025) — Over the past few weeks, I, like many of you, have been inundated daily with news from our nation’s capital about the current administration’s new way of doing business. Between the reports of mass employee lay-offs, funding freezes, program cuts, and agency restructures across the entire government, it is hard to know exactly what to sound the alarm about. Upfront, I want to tell you the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) know our members and other veterans are concerned. We’ve received a multitude of calls and emails from veterans worried about what’s happening with federal benefit programs and the federal workforce, to include 1,000 VA probationary employees who were let go yesterday. They’ve asked if their VA benefits will be cut, or healthcare and services be diminished because of the confusion in Washington D.C.

Make no mistake, the staff at the VFW Washington Office is working hard behind the scenes to protect you and ensure you receive the care and benefits you have earned. When the hiring freeze was announced earlier this month, the VFW intervened to make sure that critical VA positions were left alone. When the funding freeze was announced, VFW worked around the clock to ensure the Office of Management and Budget maintained all 44 critical VA programs. When the federal buyout and reductions in force were announced, we insisted that VA communicate which critical positions would be exempt. Each step of the way, we have received the answers we’ve needed. VA payments for disability and education went out on time. Hiring for critical positions resumed, and more than 43,000 VA employees were exempted and retained in critical care and benefit delivery positions.

In December, we put our stake in the ground, insisting that leaders “[Honor the Contract](#)” for veterans’ benefits. In his confirmation hearing, Secretary Collins refuted the notion that veterans would be means tested to receive their earned disability. He reiterated this point in a public statement earlier this week. VFW is going to hold him to this. We will make sure that Secretary Collins “Honors the Contract.”

We know there is a lot of uncertainty for veterans today. For those of us that have seen combat, we know not to be concerned with every explosion that happens on the battlefield. Not every round flying overhead is aimed at us. That is why we must not get distracted and stay focused on the mission, push towards the objective and when necessary, be ready to react to contact.

Rest assured, my staff and I will continue to be vigilant, ensure that veterans’ personal information is protected and VA provides the care and benefits veterans have earned. We are watching your six. I want to thank the VFW members and veterans who have reached out to us so far, and I want to encourage you to keep it up. This is how we work together to make sure that our nation “Honors the Contract” to care for our veterans.

-vfw-

VA-2025-XX

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL BY-LAWS MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

ARTICLE II – POSTS, Sec. 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations, (6) Adjutant, (d.)(1.) A copy of the original application of every member admitted to the Post.

Change the wording and requirement of this item to read as follows:

(d.)(1.) A copy of an original application for membership shall be kept until that record is successfully processed into the VFW National Database (e.g. OMS), at which time the original application may be kept as a historical record to the Post for Membership. The National Database will be the **record of authority on membership**.

Reasoning for Change:

Membership is not recognized unless the Application for a prospective member has been transmitted to and accepted by VFW National. While OMS is the current online system, it may not always be so and is noted as an example so this change will have longevity within the Manual of Procedure.

Many posts have membership that dates back decades and some posts are quite large requiring the maintenance of in some cases hundreds and thousands of records that have been entered electronically in the VFW National Database already creating a system of duplication.

Not all posts maintain electronic or digital copies of membership forms or have that ability. Posts also do not keep copies of member DD214 or eligibility documents past the point of verifying eligibility unless that member becomes an officer within the VFW per Sec 218 (a)(6)(d)(5). This in turn denotes a series of duplication where VFW National is already the record of authority for membership.

Posts are not notified of transfers and changes to membership. The Adjutant does not have a reasonable expectation to track these changes as that appointed officer and does not have access to reports only provided to the Quartermaster from the VFW National Database.

The VFW National Database should be kept as the record of authority for all membership once an application has been received by the Post and properly transmitted to VFW National and entered into the VFW National Database. It is not intended by this change that the VFW National Database maintains eligibility information for those members and if needed the Post will work with the member or family to provide assistance for this data. At that time the original application processed by VFW National and the member is accepted, the post may keep the application as a historical record.

Virginia District 8 reviewed and approved resolution 2/1/2025

VFW Calls on Administration, Congress to Stop Indiscriminate Firing of Veterans

Al Lipphardt Commander in Chief

WASHINGTON (Feb. 24, 2025)—Ten days ago, I shared the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ (VFW) concerns for the news of mass lay-offs coming out of our nation’s capital. Since then, it has become clearer that the veteran community has been hit hard as probationary federal jobs are being axed across the country, to include the latest announcement of 1,400 more just let go from the VA.

With veterans making up approximately 30% of the more than 2.2 million employed by the federal government, the potential of losing thousands of veterans from the government work force is troubling. A lot of these aren’t brand-new, off-the-street employees. These are employees who have been serving the American people for years, in uniform and in civil service, and at least some of whom have been or are being caught by a formality in administrative statuses. There are bigger ramifications in firing veterans than just faceless workers being let go. The American people are losing technical expertise, training and security clearances already bought and paid for by taxpayers. These veterans are now being told their skills are no longer useful to the government. We’re losing people who are genuinely committed to the mission and find a continued sense of purpose in what they do. On top of all this, studies show having gainful employment is a social determinate of health and gets ahead of arguably one of the root causes of veteran suicide. Since the federal government is the

single largest employer of veterans in the nation, it’s veterans who are being indiscriminately harmed in this bull-"DOGE"-ing of the federal work force.

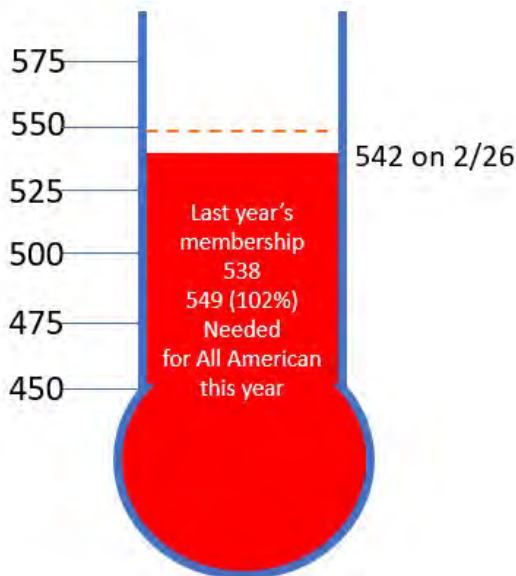
I was wounded in combat during the Vietnam War. I am thankful that the medics who treated me chose not to take my whole arm for the sake of efficiency. It took a trained eye, a skillful hand and human intuition to fix me up and get me back in the fight. In my experience, those operating with a scalpel have a better chance at saving limbs than those who operate with a chainsaw.

Unfortunately, it appears humans have been taken out of what is a human capital issue. It has been reported to us from veterans who have lost their jobs that the emails they received letting them go were disjointed, and inconsistent across the board. This leads us to believe they were automated with little to no oversight or thought. When it comes to complex problems, we rely on humans to make the right choices at the right times. We should never leave the hard decisions that impact people’s lives and livelihoods to an algorithm or an email distribution list.

On Tuesday, March 4th, I will testify before a joint session of the congressional veterans’ affairs committees to deliver the VFW’s priorities and call on Congress and this administration to put an end to the indiscriminate firing of veterans in the government workforce. I am also calling on VFW members to **“march forth”** and join me on that day. I want to see hats in the hallways of our Capitol as our legislative committee members engage with lawmakers in demanding that they “Honor the Contract” the government made with those who have already served and sacrificed so much for America and their fellow Americans. It's time to apply pressure and stop the bleeding.

PLEASE RENEW

We only need 7 more members for the Post to make All American.



VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



*Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.

District 8 Youth Awards — February 1, 2025



Grades 6-8 Teacher Tina Frasard, sponsored by Post 12218 with D8 Auxiliary Youth Chair Mary Corkhill and District Youth Chair Ben Seal.



Grades K-5 Teacher Janet Maresh, sponsored by Post 12218



Grades 9-12 Teacher David Jones, sponsored by Post 2524 with Post Commander George Brobst



PP 1st Place Cole Nicholson, sponsored by Post 3103



PP 2nd Place Guransh Sabharwal, sponsored by Post 7589



PP 3rdPlace William Rinko, sponsored by Post 12202 with James Rinko. William's father



VOD 1st Place Grace Faulk, sponsored by Post 7728



VOD 3rd Place Autumn Maine, sponsored by Post 7728



Grace Faulk read her award winning essay

Voice of Democracy 2nd place winner Savana Nelson, sponsored by Post 12202 was unable to attend. Her award will be presented by the Post.

(Continued from page 2)

between 60 percent and 90 percent. Second, VA must determine that the veterans cannot maintain "substantial gainful employment" because of the severity of a service-connected disability. Receipt of IU is not based on age, voluntary withdrawal from work, or other factors.

This option consists of two alternatives. Under the first, VA would stop making IU payments to veterans age 67 or older (the full retirement age for Social Security benefits for those born after 1959). That restriction would apply to both current and prospective recipients. When veterans reached age 67, all VA disability payments would revert to the amount associated with the rated disability level; veterans age 67 or older who were already receiving IU payments would no longer receive them after the effective date of the option. Under the second alternative, veterans who began receiving the IU supplement after December 2025 would no longer receive those payments once they reached age 67, and no new applicants age 67 or older would be eligible for IU benefits after that date. Veterans currently receiving IU payments who would reach age 67 or older after the effective date of the option would continue to collect the IU supplement.

3: Introduce Means-Testing for Eligibility for VA's Disability Compensation: <https://www.cbo.gov/budget-options/60...>

Veterans with medical conditions or injuries that occurred or worsened during active-duty service may receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Payments are structured differently than other disability programs. VA's disability payments are intended to compensate for the average earnings that veterans would be expected to lose given the severity of their service-connected medical conditions or injuries, whether or not a particular veteran's condition reduced his or her earnings. Unlike disability programs such as Social Security Disability Insurance, payments are unaffected by a veteran's earnings or other types of income.

Under this option, VA would means-test (that is, restrict full compensation to those with income below a certain amount) all current and prospective recipients of VA's disability compensation. Beginning in January 2026, veterans with service-related disabilities and total household income below \$135,000, excluding disability income from the VA, would receive full benefits. That threshold corresponds to the 70th percentile of total household income in the United States in 2022, adjusted for inflation to reach the threshold value applicable to 2026 benefits. CBO estimates that nearly 30 percent of veterans receiving disability payments from VA will have household income above that threshold in 2026. (After 2026, that income threshold would rise with the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical work-

ers.) Above the threshold, benefits would be phased out at a constant rate: For every additional two dollars of gross household income, disability compensation would decrease by one dollar.

4: Narrow Eligibility for VA's Disability Compensation by Excluding Veterans With Low Disability Ratings: <https://www.cbo.gov/budget-options/60...>

Veterans with medical conditions or injuries that occurred or worsened during active-duty service may receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The amount of compensation depends on the severity of their disabilities (which are rated between zero and 100 percent) and other factors. By law, VA's disability ratings (the basis for disability payments) are to be based, as far as practicable, on the average earnings that veterans would be expected to lose given the severity of their service-connected medical conditions or injuries. Those ratings do not depend on whether a particular veteran's conditions reduce his or her earnings.

Under this option's first alternative, VA would narrow eligibility for disability compensation by requiring a disability rating of 30 percent or higher for all veterans; as a result, some current recipients would no longer receive benefits. The second alternative would require a 30 percent or higher disability rating only for new disability compensation applicants. (Current recipients would not be affected.) CBO estimates that in 2026, about 20 percent of veterans will have a disability rating below 30 percent.

Related Options

End VA's Individual Unemployability Payments to Disabled Veterans at the Full Retirement Age for Social Security

5: Include VA's Disability Payments in Taxable Income: <https://www.cbo.gov/budget-options/60947>

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides disability compensation to veterans with medical conditions or injuries that occurred or worsened during active-duty service. By law, VA's disability ratings (the basis for disability payments) are to be based, as far as practicable, on the average earnings that veterans would be expected to lose given the severity of their service-connected medical conditions or injuries. Those ratings do not depend on whether a particular veteran's conditions reduce that person's earnings. Disability compensation is not means-tested (that is, restricted to those with income below a certain amount), and payments are exempt from income taxes. Payments are in the form of monthly annuities and typically continue until the beneficiary's death.

This option would include VA's disability benefit payments in taxable income.

14th Annual Military Appreciation Night



February 21: The military appreciation night was sponsored by the Virginia General Assembly and the Military and Veterans Affairs Caucus. The event was held at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond.

Rick Raskin and Monti Zimmerman were among the ten VFW members who attended which presented a strong showing for the VFW.

Caucus Chair Senator Bryce Reeves was Master of Ceremonies and caucus leadership Delegate David Reid, Delegate Jackie Glass spoke.

Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears and Brigadier General Burt Thompson (president of the National Museum of the United States Army) were featured speakers.

Master of Ceremonies Senator Bryce Reeves



Delegate David Reid



Delegate Jackie Glass



Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears



Brigadier General Burt Thompson

Legislative Effort for 2026

In our effort to ban claim sharks, Rick Raskin and Monti Zimmerman attended a kick-off rally on February 23 for three State Delegates. Candy King is running for election in District 23, Luke Torian for reelection in District 24 and Brianna Sewell for reelection in District 25.

Thanks to Brianna Sewell's efforts we able to stop legislation that would have permitted claim sharks to operate in Virginia.

Fully expecting the issue to resurface in the 2026 legislative session we have begun building a network of legislators who will support our position. At this kick-off session we were able to meet with many of them and explain how claim sharks are exploiting our veterans. We are apolitical and will do what it takes to reach out across both aisles.



Rick Raskin, State Delegate Brianna Sewell and Monti Zimmerman



With Senator Mark Warner



With State Delegate Michelle Maldonado



State Senator Suhas Subramanyam



State Delegate Don Scott



Abigail Spanberger, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, candidate for governor



State Delegate Brianna Sewell (25th District)



State Delegate Luke Torian (24th District)



Candidate for State Delegate Candy King (23rd District)

“Friends of the VFW” [Not]

Commanders and Comrades,

Every couple of years we get notified of groups calling themselves ‘Friends of the VFW’ who do not have any official or legal ties as they are just a group of friends that care. Along with this we also get statements that someone from National said it was legal yet that person from National is never identified. Here is what I will put in writing when it comes to the use of the “Friends of the VFW” as a loosely formed group or other groups with similar sounding names.

The main problem with these loosely associated organizations or groups is they falsely portray themselves as being officially associated with the VFW when they’re not. The underlined portion of 803 [of the National By-laws] really hits this sentiment home and I think it’s important for these affiliated Posts to know these unsanctioned activities are in violation of the National Bylaws and as such are subject to corrective action by higher authority, namely the Department.

Pursuant to Section 709 of the National Bylaws, *“Any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or in behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department and all funds derived there from shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department.”*

709 continues, *“All money, property or assets of any kind or nature, as well as all books and records, owned, held or used by any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or in behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be the property of such Post, County Council, District or Department and must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster. Such money, property, assets, books and records shall be subject to the same rules and under the same procedure as any other Post, County Council, District or Department money, property, assets, books and records.”*

I think all of the Section 803 of the National Bylaws is important here, but specifically **“No member or other person shall use or wear any seal, emblem, badge, insignia or uniform of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States while engaged in any commercial or political activity in such a manner as likely to falsely convey that such activity is approved or endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.”**

In that same vein, Section 805 states, *“No person shall use any name mentioned and described in Section 804, or any other trade name, trademark, service mark and/or membership mark of this Organization in connection with any financial, commercial or other business activity without the express written authorization of the Quartermaster General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.”*

Please distribute to all levels and leaders in your respective Departments.

Any questions please let me know as I am just itching to know how your State Laws make it legal in your state.

Dan West

Adjutant General
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
816.968.1110



The **Gold Standard** of Service
for Veterans and their Families

Connect to
hundreds of local
services and resources.



For more information about
the Virginia Veterans Network,
visit **dvs.virginia.gov**.

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department Commander Shirt
2025-2026



Pre- order forms must be sent to **Department Headquarters**
no later than March 21, 2025 for VFW members

*Additional Shirts for the VFW members will be available
to order at the 2025 June Convention.*

Cost: Small – Extra Large: \$35.00 2XL: \$36.00 3XL: \$37.00

Name: _____ Size: ____ Number of Shirts: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Post # _____ District # _____

*If you are unable to pick up your shirt at June 2024 Department Convention and have not made pri-
or arrangements to have it picked up. Please add \$9.00 for shipping.*

Make checks Payable to: Department of Virginia VFW
For: Commander Shirt 2025-2026

Send Form to: Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Virginia
403 Lee Jackson Hwy
Staunton, VA 22401

VFW State Commander & Auxiliary President's Homecoming
Saturday, March 22nd, 2025
VFW POST 2447 100 Veterans Way, Edinburg, VA 22824



This is a FREE EVENT. We encourage everyone to join us in celebrating our year.

Hotel Information: Holiday Inn Express

11300 Motel Drive, Woodstock, VA 22664 540-459-5000

\$110.00 a night, special rate rooms blocked until February 21st, 2025, regular rates will start after the 2/21/2025 Call now to reserve a room while they last.

Arrivals: Can begin on Friday, March 21st, 2025, and Depart on Sunday, 23rd, 2025

Dress: Casual– Black & Gray Shirt, if you have one.

Cocktail Hour: 3:00-4:00 pm (hors D'oeuvres will be served)

It will be a Cash Bar - 2 free drink tickets will be issued for attendance.

Dinner: 4:00-6:00pm

**Menu: Ribs, Chicken, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Macaroni & Cheese, Rolls, Dessert.
Tea, Water, Soda, and Lemonade**

DJ: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Please contact Liz Wilson by email lizwilson3456@gmail.com by March 10, 2025, to register for this event. We appreciate your help in this enables us to have a head count for the food.



2025 Veterans Benefits Guide Now Available

Don't miss out on what you've earned—check out the "2025 VA Federal Benefits Guide for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers" handbook to learn more.

ACCESS THE FREE GUIDE

**Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net
or text to **838255**

Post 7589 Service Officer

Monti Zimmerman

703-223-2211

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.

A Great Place to Call Home!

800-313-4200

Legacy Life membership

This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

| <u>Levels</u> | <u>Posts</u> | <u>Departments</u> | <u>National</u> |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Gold- | \$1,200.00 | \$18.00 | \$18.00 |
| Silver- | \$800.00 | \$12.00 | \$12.00 |
| Bronze- | \$400.00 | \$6.00 | \$6.00 |

Don't throw away your old laptop or computer.



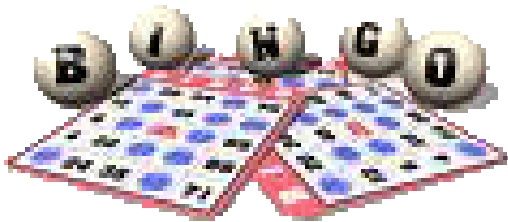
TECH FOR TROOPS
T4T Bring it to the Post and we'll take it to **TECH FOR TROOPS.**

Sorry, we cannot take CRT monitors or Printers.

What T4T needs the most are laptops, desktop computers, tablets, and cell phones.

These devices go to in-need Veterans after data destruction.

T4T guarantees Data Destruction for all devices that could contain data.



SIGN UP TO JOIN VFW ACTION CORPS

RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER
AND ACTION ALERTS

Use camera mode to scan code



or

Text "VFW" to 50457

or

Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps

30 Games Including:

\$750 Jackpot
(Starts with 51 numbers)

Lucky 7 Progressive

90:10 Jackpot
(Prize = 90% of sales)

Pull Tabs & Hard Cards

\$10.00 Bingo Book
(includes Early Birds)

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DOORS OPEN 7:30 AM

GAMES START AT 9:15 AM

SPECIAL
BUY 2 BOOKS
GET A 1/2 BOOK FREE

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Manassas Office

9300 W. Courthouse Rd.
Suite 305
703-479-7437

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Appointments only 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 1 – 3 p.m.

Closed for lunch daily from 12 - 1 p.m.

CLOSED on the last business day of the month.

<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/locations/manassas-benefits-office>

| 2024-25 Post Officers | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Commander | Wayne Moore |
| Senior Vice Commander | Lou Filippone |
| Junior Vice Commander | Ron Link |
| Quartermaster | Rick Raskin |
| Chaplain | Monti Zimmerman |
| 1 Year Trustee | Chris Morgan |
| 2 Year Trustee | Lamar Baker |
| 3 Year Trustee | Tina Bliem |
| Adjutant | Ron Link |
| Service Officer | Monti Zimmerman |
| Judge Advocate | Bobby Knight |
| Surgeon | Alex Bliem |

| 2024-25 Auxiliary Officers | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Mary Corkhill |
| Senior Vice President | Ellie Smith |
| Junior Vice President | Cindy McIntyre |
| Secretary | Lorrie Allen Smith |
| Treasurer | Elanor Doczi |
| Chaplain | Cookie Cullen |
| Conductress | Janet Raskin |
| Guard | Patsy Gough |
| Trustee 1 | Yvonne Sullivan |
| Trustee 2 | Janet Raskin |
| Trustee 3 | Jan Germain |
| Historians | Jan Germain |
| | Patsy Gough |
| | Yvonne Sullivan |
| Patriotic Instructor | Lorrie Allen Smith |

Upcoming Events

| | |
|-----------|--|
| March 3 | Post Meeting - 7:30 PM |
| March 10 | Auxiliary Meeting - 2:00 PM |
| March 22 | State Commander's and President's Homecoming — Post 2447, Edinburg |
| March 31 | Patriotic Arts and Illustrating America art contest (Deadline) |
| | |
| April 5 | District 8 Convention — Post 3103, Fredericksburg — 10:00 AM |
| April 7 | Post Meeting - 7:30 PM |
| April 14 | Auxiliary Meeting - 2:00 PM Youth Committee meeting — 7:00 PM |
| | |
| May 3 | VFW National Day of Service — Habitat for Humanity — 11:00 AM |
| May 5 | Post Meeting - 7:30 PM |
| May 10 | Flag Retirement 9:30 AM |
| May 12 | Auxiliary Meeting - 2:00 PM |
| May 24—25 | Buddy Poppy Drive — TBD |
| May 25 | Veterans Day Activities — 8:30 @ Veterans Memorial, 9:00 @ Manassas Cemetery |

| VIRGINIA SENATORS | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Mark Warner | | 202-224-2023 |
| Tim Kaine | | 202-224-4024 |
| VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVES | | |
| Rob Wittman | 1st District | 202-225-4261 |
| Jennifer Kagans | 2nd District | 202-225-4215 |
| Bobby Scott | 3rd District | 202-225-8351 |
| Jennifer McClellan | 4th District | 202-225-6365 |
| Bob Good | 5th District | 202-225-4711 |
| Ben Cline | 6th District | 202-225-5431 |
| Abigail Spanberger | 7th District | 202-225-2815 |
| Don Beyer | 8th District | 202-225-4376 |
| Morgan Griffith | 9th District | 202-225-3861 |
| Jennifer Wexton | 10th District | 202-225-5136 |
| Gerry Connolly | 11th District | 202-225-1492 |



CANNON NEWS

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Please email articles to quartermaster@vfw7589.org no later than the 28th of the month.
 We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity and syntax.