



VFW VA COMMANDER
KEN WISEMAN

Greetings from Staunton! We have gone through nearly the first half of the year, the weather was interesting, and the amazing work of our VFW continues. Looking back, I see much was accomplished and I know we will continue that going forward.

We are excited to welcome our newest Post on December 8th, 2018. VFW Post 12179 in Lynchburg will be named

after Desmond Doss who earned the Medal of Honor during WWII as an Army Medic. Doss is from Lynchburg. The addition of this Post is part of a larger goal by the VFW to add some 40 new Posts this year. We are proud to see Post 12197 be part of that!

Going forward, we have the second half of the year and a lot of work in front of us. We finished the first half with all Posts reported in the five categories of community activities and I know we can do it again for the second half. We will see Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year awards presented. We will look to services on Memorial Day. Virginia also has both a Winter Council of Administration meeting and a State Convention ahead of us. In short, don't let time fly or deadlines will be missed. I hope you use your Post meetings to plan for them and then act so that we continue to accomplish the great work we are known for doing. I also hope you will submit articles to local newspapers and to our own *Virginia Veteran* because we need to brag about what we do in order for the world to see how awesome our great organization is!

In all that we do, let us strive to be an organization others want to belong to and to do so as a Life Member. While I write this we are slightly ahead of where we were this time last year in membership and we have seen ZERO Post officers expire so far. That is an amazing thing and I give you all of the praise for making that happen. Your State HQs is here for anything we can help you with. I hope you will reach out if needed.

Take care and have a happy Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year!

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Camp Valor Results

By Colonel Denise Loring, USA, (Ret)

Chief Operating Officer (NCR), Camp Valor Outdoors

Camp Valor Outdoors connects wounded, injured, and ill veterans in the outdoors. This is through guided hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and competitive shooting.

The camp is located in Kingsville, MO, where the guided hunting, fishing, and archery are primary events. The competitive shooting program is centered in Northern Virginia with Quantico and the Fairfax Rod & Gun Club being a central base for local shooting. Out of the local program veterans can decide if they would like to participate in regional matches, from this participation they can compete among the group for a position on the 12-man National Team. The team of 12 are funded with lodging, equipment, ammunition covered for the matches. Additional veterans wanting to experience the National Matches would need to self-fund the trip, but would be lodged with the CVO team and would shoot with the team on the firing line.

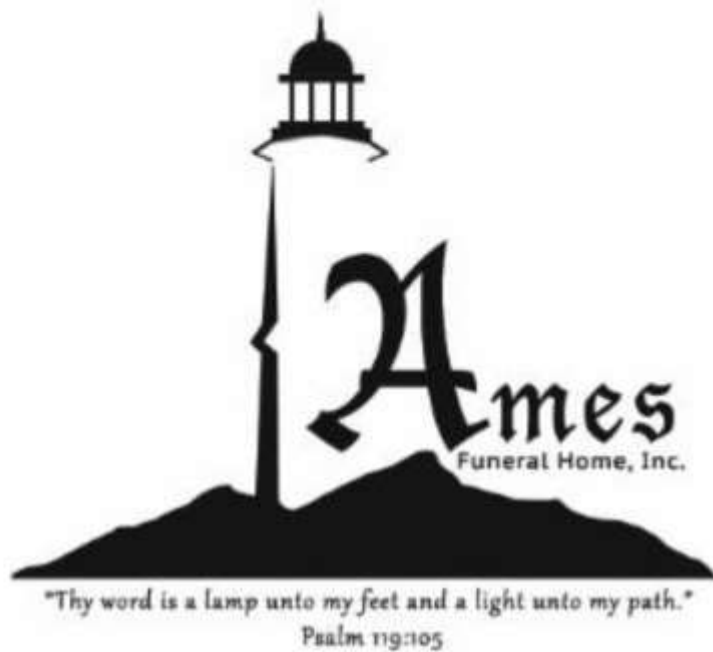


Dan Duitsman - Match Winner for the M1 Garand - Camp Perry 2018



Clifton Standing for Presidents Hundred Match

...continued on Page 23



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VFW Post 7589

Attn: Virginia Veteran

PO Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108

**Articles for the next issue must be received before
 March 30, 2019**

Please address all comments to the above address.

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

From the Editor's desk

I am very pleased to write that article submissions continued to come in steadily from all over the state this summer and fall, leading right up to the publication of this edition of *The Virginia Veteran*

I was fortunate to travel to Germany this summer and experience an excellent ride "over the pond" on a C-17 from the great state of NY. Our trip started with some wonderful patriots at Dover AFB, which by the way has a most excellent USO facility and staff! The crew of the "Sad Panda" C-17 was good enough to let my son ride up front for a bit, an experience he's sure to never forget. Many thanks to all our service members and those supporting them!

I hope all of your Veterans Day activities were fantastic; I look forward to reading about and publishing them in the next edition!

Yours in Comradeship,

Curt Vaughn


Editor



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VFW Donates Flag to Area Society

Submitted by Gus Villalobos, District 4 Commander

Reprinted from the Farmville Herald, Staff Report

Members of Post 7059 donated a flag to the Pamplin Area Legacy Society (PALS) is a small but active group of volunteers in the Pamplin area who advocate for the Pamplin Depot, the Pamplin Pipe Factory, and other historic buildings that may serve as educational or cultural sites or otherwise benet the community. PALS acquires funding and volunteer resources in support of the needs of the community and promotes, plans and supports educational and social activities for Pamplin area residents



VFW Post 7059 presents the Stars and Stripes to members of the Pamplin Area Legacy Supporters (PALS) for their newly installed a flagpole at the Pamplin Train Depot. Pictured are, from left, F. Hill, PALS President Betsy Lookofsky, M. Perutelli, Robert G. Mitchell, Tom Jolly, Al Lookofsky, Connie Seburn and Carolyn Jolly.



VFW Post 7059 members Hill and Perutelli assist Betsy Lookofsky in hoisting the flag

Warrenton, VA First Fridays

By Jeff Dombroff, Senior Vice Commander, VFW Post 9835

On 7-6-18, the State Commander along with the Junior and Senior Vice Commanders visited Warrenton VA to observe and participate in the Town's monthly First Friday activities. Post 9835 set up two areas - one to promote the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War celebration and a second from which the Post sold hot dogs, sausages, chips and beverages. The event was very well attended and Commander Wiseman had an opportunity to meet Post members (as well as members from neighboring Post 7728 in Morrisville) and was interviewed by the local newspaper (Fauquier Times).



Post Adjutant Tom Bilger; Post Member Jonathan Stewart; Post Sr VC Jennifer Bowman



Photo: State Commander Ken Wiseman, State Jr Vice Cdr Eric Mallett; State Sr Vice Commander Rick Raskin.

Below: Vietnam Veterans at work.





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Memorial Day 2018

By Chuck Wilson, Past Commander, District 10

Major General Niel Nelson, the Deputy Commanding General Quantico, was the keynote speaker of Memorial Day observance at Quantico, VA, this year. "We must remember our Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, and Marines, *who sacrificed and gave their lives* for us to be free," said Maj Gen Nelson. In his remarks, MajGen Nelson described the history of this special day going back to General Logan's General Order #11 of May 5, 1868.



In this Order , "The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land... It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to lend its friendly aid in bringing to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith." This day was then named "Decoration Day," and, in later times, it became known as "Memorial Day" and celebrated the last Monday in May.

Pictures taken by VFW Post 1503, VFW Post 7916, Nelson Betancourt, and QNC



May 28, 2018, Quantico National Cemetery (QNC), Virginia. Braving the cool, rainy morning, an estimated 1,200 Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, and Marines, along with many families and distinguished guests who came to remember those who have fallen, fighting for our nation,... the ones who gave all, and those who are still unaccounted for. Colonel Frank Harris, USMC (Ret) provided "A Toast to the Flag." The "21-Gun Salute" was provided by the Marine Corps Rifle Team.



US Marine Corps Band played The National Anthem, the Medley of Service Hymns, and patriotic music throughout the ceremony.

US Marine Corps Band played The National Anthem, the Medley of Service Hymns, and patriotic music throughout the ceremony.



The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, organizations chartered by VFW Post 7916, assisted in setting up over 1,200 chairs for this Memorial Day ceremony.





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Who is PVT William Price?

By Fred Hill, Commander, VFW Post 7059

The VFW Post 7059 places flags on the graves of all veterans in the local cemeteries each Memorial and Veterans Day. In the Westview Cemetery a marble memorial bench with the simple inscription, William L Price, Killed in Normandy, July 11, 1944, Buried at the St. Laurent Cemetery (now known as the Normandy American Cemetery), France. Fred and Chere Hill, members of Post and Auxiliary 7059, had the good fortune to tour all the Normandy D-Day assault beaches, museums and monuments the week of June 4-11th of June. A particularly special member of the tour group was a 94 year old veteran who landed at Utah Beach, June 4th, 1944. His presence added a deeper meaning to the tour for all in the group.

The most memorable and touching moment of the entire trip was during our visit to the Normandy American Cemetery. On behalf of VFW Post 7059, the community and any surviving relatives we were able to place a flag at the grave of Pvt. Price (photo below) on June 6th, 2018. I would be glad to talk to any relatives of Pvt. Price and share more pictures of the solemn event and other memorials in the cemetery.



2018 POW / MIA Fact-Finding Trip

BJ Lawrence, Commander-in-Chief

April 12, 2018

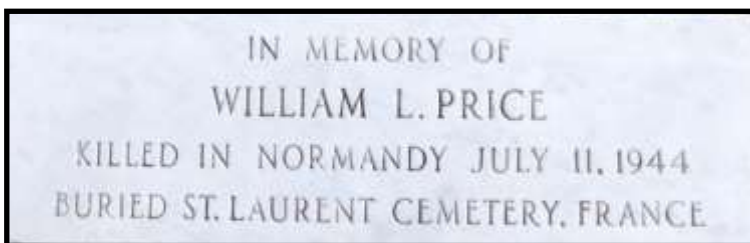
On March 10, 2018, I departed on a fact-finding trip to Hawaii, Thailand, Vietnam and China with Bob Wallace, Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office. The purpose of the trip was to observe and obtain firsthand knowledge of POW/MIA search and recovery operations to help determine the fate of missing and unaccounted-for American servicemembers and civilians from the Vietnam War. We returned to CONUS on March 25, 2018.

Hawaii - We started our trip by visiting the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's West Headquarters at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. This is the operational part of DPAA, and we were hosted by the DPAA Deputy Director, Navy Rear Adm. Jon Kreitz, and his staff, who provided us a detailed briefing and tour of their facility. I was most impressed by the size and capabilities of the forensic lab that identifies the remains of our missing.

America has 83,000 missing and unaccounted-for service members and civilians going back to World War II. Only 35,000 may be recoverable due to overwater losses, catastrophic explosions and aircraft simply disappearing off the radar scope. U.S. Pacific Command's area of operations accounts for 75 percent of the total missing.

The uncertain budget situation our military and the nation has faced has limited the operations of DPAA. This, coupled with the challenges of changing terrain, aging witnesses and circumstances of loss impacts their operations significantly.

DPAA is using more advanced technology and is expanding its public-private partnerships to increase operations, while always maintaining strict scientific standards. These partnerships are proving cost effective, productive and reliable.



Continued on page 11

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...continued from page 9

Prior to departing DPAA, we arranged for VFW Programs to work with a local VFW Post to distribute \$75 gift cards to select recovery team members when they redeploy back to Hawaii. DPAA will set up a program to reward outstanding performers. We will begin with \$1,500 in gift cards and see how the program progresses. For more information on DPAA, go to <http://www.dpaa.mil/>.

The following day we visited with the commander of U. S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, Lt. Gen. David H. Berger, along with his senior leaders at Camp H.M. Smith. The command is always preparing Marines for the next fight, yet unpredictable funding is always a great concern because of its impact on combat readiness and training, and the civilian workforce, who are a vital part of the total team. We also discussed the impact of North Korea and China on MARFORPAC's mission, as well as relocating Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

We were given a command briefing on quality of life programs and once again the need for predictable funding was stressed, as were the challenges families face when their loved ones deploy, as well as mental health. We then had lunch with base leadership and had the opportunity to hear firsthand their concerns and challenges.

Our last visit of the day was to Kansas Tower, which allowed us to learn more about the installation from an elevated view. All the leaders we met were combat veterans, and they know firsthand the value of training and readiness, which is why predictable funding is key to their mission.

At all the briefings and meetings, we emphasized the many VFW Programs we have for servicemembers and their families and urged them to contact us with questions and where we can assist. For more information about U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, please logon to <http://www.marforpac.marines.mil/Unit-Home/About/>.

Thailand

In Bangkok we met with U.S. Ambassador Glyn Davies. We had a very interesting and engaging conversation about the U.S./Thai relationship, about the many American companies operating in Thailand, and the fact that the Thai economy is so healthy that it is one of the richest countries in Asia. We also discussed North Korea and China.

The Ambassador emphasized his strong support—and that of the entire embassy—for DPAA and its mission. He also mentioned how the embassy reaches out to Americans living in Thailand to offer assistance, many of whom are veterans.

We next met with Air Force Lt. Col. Kyle Cone, commander of DPAA Detachment 1, which has operational responsibility for search and recovery operations in Cambodia, Burma and India, as well as provides logistical support to operations being conducted by Detachment 2 in Vietnam and Detachment 3 in Laos.

Challenges faced when operating in Burma and India are often extremely remote sites, terrain and aging witnesses, along with border issues that require approvals from different government agencies before any operations can start. Cambodia challenges include the above but add the lack of official records, which were destroyed during the brutal four-year reign of the Khmer Rouge. DPAA operations are currently suspended in Cambodia due to political issues. There are currently 420 Americans missing in India, 740 in Burma, and 48 in Cambodia. The losses in India and Burma are all related to World War II “Hump” missions. American losses in Cambodia are all Vietnam War related. We were joined at lunch by Detachment staff, where we were able to discuss their operations as well as our many VFW programs. Unpredictable budgets impact their operations, too.

We then visited the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group-Thailand, where we met with Army Col. Rocky Carter, who wears three hats as the Senior Defense Official, Defense Attaché, and as Chief, U.S. Military Advisory Group-Thailand. The purpose of JUSMAGTHAI is to enhance security cooperation, oversee the export of U.S. military hardware through the Foreign Military Sales program, and coordinate joint military exercises.



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Thailand allows the U.S. military to access its training sites as well as its airports for refueling. The VFW and military retirees have office space at JUSMAGTHAI for assisting veterans and dependents. We discussed our many programs for service members, especially our Service Officers, and how they can assist transitioning service members with their VA claims.

Our last visit of the day was with Marine Corps Lt. Col. Scott Vasquez, Commanding Officer of U.S. Marine Security Guard Region 3, which protects every American Embassy and Consulate in East Asia and the Pacific. We discussed the challenges Marine Security Guards face in the duty locations they are charged with safe guarding.

The following day we had lunch with VFW Department of the Pacific District 5 Commander Ken Stein and a number of his members. We had a very interesting conversation about the challenges and opportunities for VFW members residing in Thailand. Learn more about the U.S. Embassy to Thailand at <https://th.usembassy.gov/>.

Vietnam

In Hanoi we received a detailed briefing on the work of DPAA Detachment 2 by its commander, Army Lt. Col. Romel Pajimula and his staff, along with Mr. Kelly McKeague, Director of DPAA, who was in Vietnam on an official visit. Detachment 2 is responsible for search and recovery operations in Vietnam, where 1,598 Americans are still listed as missing and unaccounted-for.

The Vietnam mission faces many challenges, to include time, weather, terrain, aging witnesses, and economic development. The soil is also a challenge because of its acidity, which over time destroys bones, etc. We discussed underwater recoveries, and they suggested we may want to visit one of those missions on our next visit, as well as a Vietnamese-led recovery operation. A self-inflicted challenge is again the unpredictable funding and budgets coming from

Congress, which do have significant impacts on mission accomplishment.

We next met at the U.S. Embassy for a country team briefing with Deputy Chief of Mission Caryn McClelland and a number of her staff, to include Army Col. Tuan Ton, Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché. We discussed the Vietnamese military, China and its relationship with Vietnam, the positive economic news in Vietnam, U.S. companies doing business in Vietnam, and human rights. Vietnam has a good workforce, but they are undertrained and underpaid. Over half the population is under 30 and they want more education. Colonel Ton also discussed Vietnamese veterans association, who we said we have not been able to develop a working relationship with. He said he would set up a meeting with them on our next visit.

Our final meeting at the U.S. Embassy was with Ambassador Daniel Kritenbrink, who emphasized his personal as well as the embassy's full support of the DPAA mission, calling it a very positive factor with the U.S./ Vietnam relationship. The big topic of conversation was the recent visit of the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier to DaNang, along with the ship's 5,500 sailors. Some Vietnamese officials had the opportunity to spend a night aboard ship, and the sailors had the opportunity to visit DaNang. The visit was very positive for the relationship.

The Ambassador urged us to solicit information from our members concerning missing and unaccounted-for Vietnamese soldiers. We told the Ambassador we have done so many times dating back to the 1990s and will do so again. Vietnam has in excess of 300,000 missing soldiers.

We invited the Ambassador to visit the VFW Washington Office the next time he was in D.C. We could host an event with other VSO/MSOs so he could tell us about the continuing progress being made in Vietnam. He said he would work something out.

Next, we visited the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and met with Tran Thanh Tam, Deputy Director-General Americas Department, to discuss the MIA issue. We thanked him for the cooperation the Vietnamese Government provides DPAA and discussed operations and the challenges we each face.

The Deputy Director noted that President Trump has already visited Vietnam, as had Defense Secretary Mattis. He stressed that the VFW visits to Vietnam were very positive, and he encouraged us to continue them, so we can witness firsthand his country's cooperation on the MIA issue, and to see the challenges that go with the work.

We discussed the importance of the MIA mission and he asked for our assistance in locating missing Vietnamese service members and civilian personnel. He noted the political sensitivity in Vietnam for their own missing. We informed the Deputy Director that the VFW will continue to ask our members for any information or artifacts that might help Vietnam recover their missing.

Our last meeting of the day was with Ambassador Nguyen Tam Chien, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Vietnamese Ambassador to the U.S., and President of the Vietnamese-U.S. Organization. The Ambassador is well known to VFW from his time in Washington. We discussed the MIA issue as well as American businesses in Vietnam. Learn more about the U.S. Embassy to Vietnam at <https://vn.usembassy.gov/>.

The next day we flew to DaNang for a visit to an excavation site with Lt. Col. Pajimula. The site we visited was near Kham Duc in Quang Nam Province, a couple of hours drive from DaNang. The site was a helicopter crash that occurred in April 1968 with no survivors. Of the remains recovered afterwards, one was Vietnamese and three were American, who were identified by dental records. One American, however, was not recovered. DPAA has worked this site a couple of times already. In fact, it was the same site Commander-in-Chief Harman visited last year.

Words cannot describe the dedication of Army Capt. David Macaspac and his entire DPAA Team. I was so impressed by their commitment to the MIA issue, as none of them had served in Vietnam, much less were even born. Most were assigned to DPAA, but others volunteered to augment the recovery team. Mindy Simonson, the anthropologist in charge of the site, was a true professional. She explained how they determined where to excavate and what they were finding.

The recovery site was on a very steep hill. Accessing it was through a cut trail with very muddy sand bags used as steps. A light mist didn't make the hike any easier. At the top we met with the entire team, who explained their work. We had lunch hosted by their Vietnamese counterparts onsite. The opportunity to thank our troops in the field, was a very memorable experience.

China - The following day we flew to Beijing, where we had meetings with U.S. Embassy officials and with representatives of the Office of International Military Cooperation from the People's Liberation Army. Upon arrival at the U.S. Embassy we were met by Navy Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Tam, who was our escort. We started the day with the news that the U.S. was going to impose higher tariffs on Chinese products entering the U.S. That news was the beginning of our conversation with Jonathon Fritz, Deputy Chief of Mission. The trade issue is one that China has been getting away with for years, and the trade imbalance is unfair to the United States. China has been helpful with the North Korean issue, however. We discussed the relationship as a whole, along with U.S. companies doing business in China.

We next met with the Navy Capt. Thomas Henderschedt, Acting Defense Attaché, and that was followed by a meeting with a number of the U.S. Marine Security Guards. We discussed with the Captain the Chinese military capabilities as well as North Korea's. At the MSG detachment, we discussed the VFW Programs that exist to assist service members and their families. A couple of the Marines were within a year of transitioning to civilian life, and we urged them to file a VA claim.

Our last meeting of the day was with representatives of the Office of Military Cooperation from the People's Liberation Army. Captain Henderschedt accompanied us to this meeting. The Chinese thanked us for our work on the MIA issue and offered their full support. We noted that more archival research was necessary, and they pledged to cooperate with DPAA.

The Chinese have just formed a Ministry of Veterans Affairs because China's military veterans protested and feel neglected. It was not clear what the Ministry's mission is just yet, but we offered to meet with their veterans on our next visit to discuss what the VFW does daily for veterans, service members and their families.

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Their concern for a predictable budget just highlights why Commander-in-Chief Harman has made ending sequestration his top legislative priority. The recently-passed budget agreement gives DOD a two-year break from sequestration, but without further Congressional action, our military and other critical national security programs will once again be facing draconian budget cuts.

A special thank you to Ken Stein, District 5 Commander, VFW Pacific Areas, and to his members for meeting us for lunch and discussing their concerns.

And a sincere thank you to Commander-in-Chief Harman for the opportunity to represent our VFW on this very educational trip.

Closing Comments

A special thank you to the dedicated men and women of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency for fulfilling a soldier's promise to never leave a fallen comrade on the battlefield. They are dedicated to the mission to resolve the fate of missing American service members in order to help bring closure to the families. We also thank the staffs at the Departments of Defense and State, who contributed immensely to the success of this trip.

The service members we had the opportunity to visit with are, without a doubt, America's finest. They are mission focused and always preparing for the next fight, should it become necessary.

At every meeting with military personnel we explained the importance of the VFW in preserving and expanding their benefits, and how the VFW can better assist them, from our Sports Clip/VFW Scholarship and Military Service Programs to our National Veterans Service Program.

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Virginia District 10 Presents Awards to Outstanding AFJROTC Cadets

By Chuck Wilson, Past Commander, District 10

May 11, 2016, Dale City, VA, this joyful Friday evening, the Air Force Junior ROTC at Hylton High School held their annual Dining Out at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503. Almost 300 Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, Marines, Cadets, School Administrators, teachers, moms, dads, brothers, sisters and distinguished guests came to celebrate and recognize achievement. The 2017-18 Virginia District 10 Commander Chuck Wilson, and Post 7916 Junior Vice Commander Bob Fenlason were part of this memorable event.



Sponsored by VFW Post 7916 located in Occoquan, VA, The Veterans of Foreign Wars Award of Excellence was presented to JROTC Cadet Nicholas Lorenzo. Cadet Lorenzo was recognized for his outstanding leadership and Americanism as an AFJROTC Cadet. Past District 10 Commander Chuck Wilson, Col USAF Ret, presented the award. Cadet Lorenzo also received a \$200.00 scholarship award from VFW Post 7916.



The Order of Daedalians Achievement Award was presented to the JROTC Cadet TyVelt Singleton. Cadet Singleton received this award for superior academic achievement, and leadership, in his Hylton High School Class, along with intent to pursue a military career. Colonel Chuck Wilson presented this Order of Daedalians

Achievement Award. The Order of Daedalians is the National Order of Military Pilots, of which Wilson is a USAF Command Pilot and 35-year Daedalian member, dates to World War I.

Happy Homecoming

By James W. Adams

Past Post Quartermaster, VFW Post 7916

All American VFW Post 7916 Quartermaster and Life Member James Adams and Post 7916 Auxiliary Life Member Mary Adams from Woodbridge, VA are seen here welcoming their daughter, 1LT Kacey Adams, upon her return to Fort Polk, LA on June 1, 2018 after a nine month tour in Mosul, Iraq.

1LT Adams, also a Life Member of VFW Post 7916, deployed in August 2017 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. She is the Battalion Chemical Officer assigned to 2nd Battalion 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division.

During her deployment, 3/10 Mtn Div partnered with Iraqi Security Forces to liberate the Hawijah district and the Euphrates River Valley from the clutches of the Islamic State. On December 9, 2017, they witnessed Iraqi Prime Minister Abadi announce the defeat of ISIS in Iraq, a significant victory for both Iraq and the world. Since December, the Soldiers of 3/10 Mtn Div have assisted their Iraqi partners in maintaining relentless pressure on the remnants of ISIS to extinguish their will to fight. They also enabled the most secure national elections in the history of a free and democratic Iraq. 3/10 Mtn Div transferred authority to the Army's 3rd Cavalry Regiment on May 30, 2018.





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Post Celebrates 80th Birthday

By Tracy Agnew, Submitted by Michael Chism, VFW Post 2582
Published 10:46 pm Tuesday, July 3, 2018

The Joe Bagley Post 2582 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars celebrated its 80th anniversary June 23 with special speakers, a picnic and more. Members of other VFW posts, city officials, state VFW officials and others joined Post 2582 members for the time of fellowship at the post at 308 Williams Road. "This post is an exemplary post," State Commander Ken Wiseman said. "They show the little post can be the big player. They show every day can be Veterans Day in Suffolk. We're here to be an organization that is of, by and for the community. That makes us the catalyst for positive effect." Wiseman knows firsthand just how great Post 2582 is — he's a former member, but he has since moved and is a member of Post 1503 in Dale City. Post 2582 is one of the oldest posts in the area, Wiseman said, and it holds the second-oldest banner in the state for membership, given when membership stays steady or grows throughout the course of the year.

Post Commander Frank McKiddie said the post has 94 members, a substantial growth from years past. There was a time after World War II when there were only about 15 men meeting in each other's homes once a month, he said. "This post has really come a long way when you consider that," he said. McKiddie said the VFW is important because it represents and assists veterans, serves the community and conducts lobbying efforts on behalf of legislation that affects veterans.

"A veteran is not represented on Capitol Hill unless they belong to one of the service organizations," McKiddie said. "Their strength is in numbers."

Wiseman agreed. "Veterans taking care of veterans makes sense," he said. "Even after they hang up their uniform, they still serve." Two World War II veterans, both from the Navy, were in attendance at the anniversary celebration. George E. Martin joined the post somewhere around 2005 and said his service during World War II was important. "If I had to, I'd do it all over again," he said.

Rex Bailor said the VFW is an important organization. "It's a tradition that we need to carry forward," he said. The Joe Bagley Post is named after the first casualty from Suffolk in World War II.

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VFW Riders Lay Wreath at Arlington

By Kelly Basham. VFW Riders of Virginia

Submitted by William "Shep" Shepherd, Chairman, VFW Riders



Four members of the VFW Riders of Virginia presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, July 7, 2018. 30 VFW Rider Members made the three-and-a-half-hour drive from Yorktown, VA to the cemetery on their motorcycles for this once in a lifetime event.

Clint Hartman, Beth Ford, Wil-

liam Shepherd and Dean Lyons, VFW Riders of Virginia who laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery



VFW Riders of Virginia Treasurer Beth Ford, Clint Hartman, Dean Lyons and VFW Riders National Advisory Council Member and VFW Riders of Virginia Chairman William Shepherd had the honor of being escorted by members the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment "Old Guard" to lay the wreath. "A true honor and privilege to show our respect and dedication to those that have served and continue to serve. The experience was heart moving, to say the least," Beth Ford said after the ceremony.



Bill Price Memorial Walks Admirable

Reprinted from the Suffolk News Herald, Staff Report

Published 8:52 pm Monday, July 30, 2018

Submitted By Michael Chism, VA VFW District 2

Bill Price has become something of a social media legend in Suffolk, and it's all for a good cause.

Price, a captain in the fire department at Naval Station Norfolk with more than three decades of firefighting experience, has been photographed walking up and down various roads in Suffolk lately. Those who don't know him post the photo on social media with inquiries for their friends and followers. Does anybody know this guy? And does anybody know what he's up to?

Price surely is an odd sight on his walks. He dons a firefighter's helmet and a black-and-white American flag with one strip of red and one strip of blue, a tribute to the firefighters and law enforcement officers, respectively, who lost their lives responding to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. He also carries with him hydration equipment and wears one red glove and one blue glove.

It's all to honor the 412 firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians and paramedics who died on Sept. 11, 2001, as well as about 180 more who have died since from illnesses caused by chemical exposure at Ground Zero. The most recent of those just passed away about two weeks ago.

Price also can be found often on a StairMaster at Planet Fitness, usually dressed in full turnout gear.

What is the reason for all this? Price is dedicated to memorializing the first responders who died on and since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Continued on page 21



Price...continued from page 20

And his ways of memorializing them require lots of training.

He plans to participate in a memorial climb in Roanoke on Sept. 8, where firefighters will finish the climb that the deceased firefighters didn't get to finish.

He also plans his own memorial walk on the morning of Sept. 11 at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. He'll walk for more than six minutes, each minute representing one of the late firefighters.

He's also preparing for a memorial 343K walk in August 2020, where he'll team up with others to walk from the Pentagon to New York City beginning on Aug. 23 and finishing on Sept. 11.

Nearly 17 years after that horrible day, most of us go through most of our days without even thinking of that day. In fact, an entire generation born after the attacks is about to reach adulthood having learned about that day only from history books and from those who were alive at the time.

Price's goal of honoring and remembering the emergency responders who paid the ultimate price in an effort to save lives under the most horrific of circumstances is an admirable one. We appreciate his tenacity and urge all who encounter him to give a word of encouragement.

VFW Donates to Law Enforcement Explorer Program

By Jeff Dombroff, Commander, VFW Post 9835

On July 13th, at the Fauquier County Fair, the Post (through me) presented a \$500 check to Fauquier County Sheriff Robert Mosier as part of our annual donation to the Department's Law Enforcement Explorer Program. Post 9835 has supported this initiative since Sheriff Mosier re-established the Explorer Post several years ago and asked if we would help the Department out.



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Summer Flag Retirement Ceremony

Submitted By Fredrick Hill, VFW Post 7059

Members of VFW Post 7059 and Auxiliary presented a flag retirement ceremony at the 4-H Learning Center near Appomattox. Over 200 campers and counselors participated in the patriotic ceremony which retires a no longer serviceable flag by disassembly of the flag and respectfully burning the components.



Front Row (L to R): VFW 7059 Auxiliary members Pat Baldwin, Shelly Wray, Chere Hill and Sharon Perutelli and VFW members, Back Row(L to R) Judith Chantelois, Mike Perutelli, Fred Hill, Stephen Wray, Jay Fort and Greg Winston participated in the program with the enthusiastic assistance of the 4-H campers.



(L to R) Counselor "Queso", Auxiliary member Pat Balwin, Post Commander Fred Hill(R) and Linda Eanes Cumberland County 4-H coordinator organized the event.



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Camp Valor continued from Page 1...

Congratulations to Post 1503 member, Dan Duitsman (USMC veteran), Shooting Sports Program Director and Head Shooting Coach for Camp Valor Outdoors (CVO), for winning the High Military Veteran trophy at the 2018 NRA National High Power Rifle Championships. Camp Valor Outdoors sent 12 veterans to the Championships at Camp Atterbury, IN, 6-11 July. Dan went on to shoot in the NRA Long Range Rifle National Championships and NRA Mid-Range National Championships, 12-22 July. Dan seeks out wounded, injured, and ill veterans who have an interest in competitive shooting. CVO begins at the local level with the basic fundamentals and firearms safety, holding clinics in service rifle, service pistol, and vintage rifle (M1, M1A, 1903) for any veteran, any Service, any generation. This competitive season sees an expansion to the 3-gun events with six warriors scheduled to compete in the NRA World Championships at the Peacemaker range in West Virginia.

Congratulations to Post 1503 member, Denise Loring (Ret USAR), Chief Operating Officer and coach/competitor for Camp Valor Outdoors, for being selected to the US National Shooting Team for 300M rifle. Denise will compete for the United States in Changwon, South Korea, this September in the Women's Prone event and Women's 3-position event for 300M Rifle at the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Shooting Championships. She attended the National 300M Championships in St. Francis, MN, hosted by the Minneapolis Rifle Club, in May, and won the Women's 3-position event.

CVO has a volunteer staff of five who work to grow the program and ensure wounded, injured, and ill veterans are matches with the programs of interest. Any veteran in CVO can attend hunting and fishing events and will often have full costs covered to include transportation to/from the camp and all meals and lodging.



Dan Duitsman at the 1000 yard line - NRA National Long Range Championships 2018



Dan Duitsman 2018 High Military Veteran Trophy at NRA National High Power Rifle Championships



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Occoquan Banners Honor Military Vets

By Chuck Wilson, Past Commander, District 10

July 18, 2018, Occoquan, VA. Visit the historic town of Occoquan and you will see Military Veterans are being honored throughout the town. Over thirty military banners are hung many of the poles throughout the town.

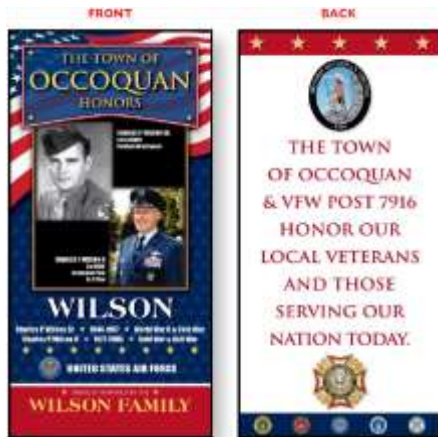


The custom-designed banners contain a photo, name, military branch, and important decorations of a service member. They are displayed for the annual Military Tribute Banner Program, which is managed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7916.

The Military Tribute Banner Program is designed to help our communities never forget the brave men and women who have served and those serving our nation today. "These banners honor those serving, and those who have served and sacrificed in defense of our nation," said Post Commander Commander Jeff Lett.

The custom-designed banners contain a photo, name, military branch, and important decorations of a service member. A sponsorship program helps fund the Military Tribute Banner Program.

Families, community members, and businesses can sponsor signs and choose a veteran or active service member they would like to honor. To learn more information about the Military Tribute Banner Program or to sponsor a banner next year, visit vfwpost7916.org



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VFW Post 2894 Receives Multiple Awards for Community Service

Chris Mulholland, Commander, VFW Post 2894

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (July 24, 2018) Chris Mulholland has achieved All-American status as a Post commander and his Post was recognized as a National Outstanding Community Post for 2018 and received an Award for Excellence.

Mulholland is one of only 198 VFW Post commanders out of 6,400 worldwide to earn the title of All-American Commander. Remarkably, this is his third title in as many years! To achieve this honor, Post commanders must meet strict requirements in their role to include exceptional leadership, authentic accomplishment in membership growth and strong support of VFW core programs.

“The All-American Commanders have attained this coveted title through outstanding achievements in membership growth and participation in VFW programs,” said VFW National Commander Keith E. Harman. “They are a fine example of VFW leadership. Their hard work and dedication to the mission and values of our organization has rightly earned them this great honor.”

Additionally, Post 2894 was selected – for the third year in a row – as a National Outstanding Community Service Post in recognition of their dedication, service and support to the local community. Only 84 Posts worldwide are annually recognized for this singular honor.

VFW Post 2894 was specifically named for its coordination with Home Depot in providing over \$150,000 worth of services and materiel to disabled veterans or their widows during the past year; its annual recognition of outstanding local citizens, youths, and public service officers; and its continuing efforts to improve the local community through philanthropy, charity, and camaraderie.

At this year’s national convention, the Post was one of only three worldwide to receive an Award for Excellence for a community service project. The project honored by the VFW was Post 2894’s annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk which draws participants from up and down the East Coast, honors all World War II and Korean War veterans, and features at least one survivor from the 1942 atrocity.



VFW Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman (left) presents the National Outstanding Community Service Award to Chris Mulholland, Commander of Chesapeake’s VFW Post 2894

“Nobody in Kansas City could believe that we don’t have a Post home,” said Commander Mulholland. “But that actually highlights that we’re not ‘your father’s VFW’ and that we’re all about service to others. Just recently, we bought a new bicycle for the daughter of a Gold Star hero whose old bike had been stolen and we built a ramp for a veteran who hadn’t been able to get out of his home in years. We work closely with Home Depot and have helped a number of local veterans and widows with needed home repairs. Our Post members are truly dedicated to the motto of ‘honoring the fallen by helping the living.’”

“Since 1899 community service has been a tenet of the VFW, and the tireless work and dedication Post 2894 has displayed is a perfect example of the support and impact the VFW provides to communities across the globe,” said VFW National Commander Keith Harman.

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Helping Vets Frame By Frame

Submitted by Fred Hill, Commander, VFW Post 7059

Reprinted from The Farmville Herald

By Titus Mohler

A small crowd of bowlers competing at Main St. Lanes in Farmville on Sunday afternoon were playing for a special purpose that gave honor to those who have helped ensure the freedoms enjoyed in the United States of America.

The fourth annual Bowling for Vets Fundraiser was being held, hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7059. The event featured door prizes, food and fun for all ages.

"It's three games for 20 bucks a head," said VFW Post 7059 Commander Fred Hill, moments before taking his turn on a lane. Later on, he noted that it was his predecessor, former Post Commander Blake Newman, who helped establish the bowling fundraiser. Hill explained how the funds raised benefit the VFW.

"The funds that go to the VFW are always used for vets — only for vets," he said. "We have a fund for immediate cash assistance for veterans in need. We also support a scholarship fund. We have a scholarship program every year, an essay contest for grades 5-8. And then for 9-12, we have an oratory contest."

Main St. Lanes General Manager Rodney Morris was pleased to be able to aid veterans. "We try to support them in any way that we can," he said. "You can't repay a debt like that." Though he did not serve in a foreign war, Morris noted he is a veteran of the Army and holds veterans in high regard. "I just have so much respect for them," he said. "My dad was a veteran in a war overseas. I have two sons, one Navy, one Marine. They've been a part of wars overseas."

To view more photos of the event, [visit] (<https://farmvilleherald.smugmug.com/Helping-vets-frame-by-frame/>).



Gathering for a photo are members of the VFW Post 7059 Auxiliary. They are, from left, Shelley Wray, Chere Hill, Sharon Perutelli and Peggy Emert. (Photo by Titus Mohler)

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C.A.F.E. Celebration

By Cathy Graham, Auxiliary Dept. Historian

On 8 September, this year's Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ') was held at Gettysburg National Military Battlefield Park. It marked the sixth year that the event has been celebrated. Originally scheduled to be held at the Eternal Light Peace Memorial, the event was instead held at the visitor center because the rain made it difficult to be outside.

The Mistress of Ceremonies was Past National President Ann Panteleakos. A majority of Department Presidents (37) were present and seven of them were accompanied by their Department Commanders as they participated in the presentation of flags. The Department of Virginia was represented by President Patty Baskett, and flag bearers Maggie Myers and Vicki Butler. In attendance this year were several Past National Presidents and Past National Commanders in Chief. The ceremony included an address by the National President and the National Commander in Chief, B.J. Lawrence. He joined National President Sandi Kriebel in presenting a \$2000 donation to the Gettysburg Battlefield Foundation which was received by its Executive Vice President and CFO, Mr. Daniel A. Bringman. Commander in Chief Lawrence, who was the keynote speaker then delivered a from-the-heart speech that was inspiring to all those in attendance.



L-R Natl. Aux. Pres. Sandi Kriebel, Mr. Daniel A. Bringman, VFW CINC B. J. Lawrence



L-R Vicki Butler, Va. Pres. Patty Baskett, Maggie Myers

All those present enjoyed the ceremony and the educational opportunity that the park provided. A number of other battlefield park visitors from outside the organization observed the ceremony and we were able to bring more recognition to the VFW Auxiliary as a whole. All who attended received a coin which had the Auxiliary emblem on one side and on the other a representation of the monument dedicated to the 40th New York Infantry which fought at Devil's Den in front of Little Round Top.

The CAFÉ' evolved from the tradition established by the Auxiliary in the 1980s when it met to conduct a patriotic ceremony each year at the Statue of Liberty to mark the anniversary of its dedication. At each ceremony, the Auxiliary would present a donation to help with the upkeep and maintenance of that iconic symbol of freedom. Beginning in 2013, to broaden the scope of the celebration, a new site chosen by then National President Sissy Borel, was the National Battlefield Park at Vicksburg, Mississippi. It has since been held at Fort McHenry, Maryland, Fort Snelling, Minnesota, Mount Rushmore, South Dakota and Yorktown, Virginia.

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Proper Burial For Unclaimed Remains

Reprinted from The Winchester Star

By Brian Brehm

Photos by Jeff Taylor

WINCHESTER — They were soldiers once, four eager young men who stood in defense of their country.

Time passed. Their military service ended and they started careers and families. Eventually, their time came to an end. Omeps Funeral Home in Winchester cremated the remains of these veterans and waited to hand them over to next of kin. Days turned to weeks, weeks to months, months to years.

On Wednesday morning, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2123 of Winchester stepped in to give these veterans their long-overdue last respects. Post Commander Richard Petro said the ashes of Dr. Hugh Bailey Lynn, Alexander Hamilton Harris, Arley Lemuel Kerns Jr. and Richard Charles Vetland — as well as the remains of Lynn's wife, Lillian Lowe Smith Lynn — would be taken to the National Cemetery in Culpeper for interment with full military honors.

The boxed remains were placed atop a wheeled cart and draped in an American flag. Four members of the VFW Post 2123 Honor Guard escorted them outside the funeral home on Amherst Street to a waiting van, where six additional post members stood at attention and snapped solemn salutes. Once the remains were placed inside the van, Omeps Funeral Home President Larry Omeps and Vice President David A. Zimmerman folded the flag and presented it to a member of the Honor Guard. Behind the van, a lone bugler played taps.

"Thank you all for coming as we honor these veterans and take them to their final resting place in Culpeper," Petro said to the small gathering.



He said the National Cemetery in Winchester is full, which is why the interment will be in Culpeper.

Hugh Lynn served in the Army from 1941 to 1946 and attained the rank of major. He retired as a pediatric surgeon and was living with his wife at Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury in Winchester when he died Nov. 10, 2015, at the age of 101. Lillian Lynn passed away 11 months later at the age of 102. Information on the remaining three veterans was much more scarce.

Kerns, who lived in Frederick County, was 72 when he died Jan. 10, 2016, at the Blue Ridge Hospice Residential Center in Winchester.

Harris died July 29, 2013, at the age of 55, and Vetland was 61 when he passed away Jan. 13, 2012. No further details were available.

With the exception of Vetland, whose remains were assigned to an executor, each of the veterans had relatives who had been contacted by Omeps numerous times over the years, but their remains went unclaimed.

"Some had asked if they could wait till another time to pick them up, and we said yes and stored them here," Zimmerman said. "Then there were multiple calls [that went unanswered]." "So we took it upon ourselves as a post and benefactor of veterans to make sure they got a proper burial," Petro said. "Because they were unclaimed, the VA [Veterans Administration] and various other organizations are taking care of the cost through a program called Unaccompanied Veterans."

Petro said the four veterans will be publicly honored at 2 p.m. Sept. 14 at Culpeper National Cemetery as their names are formally added to the list of service members interred in the hallowed grounds.



5th Congressional District Luncheon

Jeff Dombroff, Commander, VFW Post 9835

On October 3, Warrenton Post 9835 hosted a luncheon briefing on veterans issues impacting the state and the nation for Democratic 5th District Congressional candidate Leslie Cockburn. The briefing, led by State Commander Ken Wiseman, provided Ms. Cockburn with an in-depth understanding of how the VFW and other VSOs are working with or thwarted by the government in handling and resolving the many issues that impact veterans. The 90-minute discussion encompassed many areas and VFW members were able to impart a great deal of information and respond to questions from the candidate. She promised to work with the VFW in these areas should her campaign be successful in November.



Post 9835 Commander Jeff Dombroff; State Commander Ken Wiseman, Candidate Leslie Cockburn; Post 9835 QM Gary Robison, 8th District Commander Geoff Lyster.

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VFW Helps Prepare for Hurricane

Ronnie Steele, Commander, Second District

As Hurricane Florence was approaching the East Coast, Virginia's First and Second Districts were put on alert for mandatory evacuations from low lying waterfront areas, as well as recommended evacuations for the Sandbridge and Back Bay areas.

With the Hurricane ramping up to a Category 4 storm Posts and their membership set about preparing for the worst. Eastern Virginia was ultimately spared from the brunt of the storm, which slowed and eventually made landfall as a Category 1 storm in North Carolina. Unfortunately this slowing brought large amounts of water to bear on the southern portion of North Carolina resulting in massive flooding.

The Department of Virginia immediately switched from a disaster preparedness mindset to one of disaster relief with a request for support from North Carolina State Commander Allen Payne to Virginia State Commander Ken Wiseman. Virginia offered support with the First, Second, and Third Districts able to send the recently bought supplies and Posts from all over the state sending money. Virginia was able to raise \$15,000 in money and supplies for the Department of North Carolina, including a truck and a load of water purchased by EMS Ice, Inc., donated in the name of Ocean View VFW Post 3160.



Post and Auxiliary members staging supplies for transport to North Carolina. Posts within Virginia's Second District donated over \$15,000 worth of money and supplies for disaster relief.

Photo courtesy of Second District Commander Ronnie Steele



Supplies loaded and heading for a second pick up location in Gloucester, VA before continuing on to North Carolina. Posts within Virginia's Second District donated over \$15,000 worth of money and supplies for disaster relief.

Photo courtesy of Department Judge Advocate "Butch" Schupksa



Posts within Virginia's Second District donated over \$15,000 worth of money and supplies for disaster relief. Pictured are Post 2894 Auxiliary President Sandy Dunbar and Secretary Barbara Mulholland dropping off supplies.

Photo courtesy of Post 2894 Auxiliary Secretary Barbara Mulholland



Supplies donated by EMS Ice, Inc. being unloaded at VFW Post 2423 in Indian Trail, NC. Posts within Virginia's Second District donated over \$15,000 worth of money and supplies for disaster relief.

Photo courtesy of Post 2423 Facebook Page

POW/MIA Honors

Fred Hill, Commander, VFW Post 7059

Area officials, members of the community and representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7059 and American Legion Post 32 gathered to honor and remember Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (MIA) through a ceremony held Friday outside the Prince Edward County Courthouse. Those in attendance included Farmville Town Manager Gerald Spates, Prince Edward County Administrator Wade Bartlett, Farmville Police Chief A.Q. "Andy" Ellington and Craig Guthrie, chief ranger with High Bridge State Park.

Approximately 83,000 American military service members are classified as missing or unaccounted since the beginning of World War II. World War II ended 70 years ago, lasting less than four years, and claimed more than 400,000

American lives.

As of last month, more than 70,000 Americans remain missing in action from WWII. The Korean War and the Vietnam War

resulted in more than 35,000 and more than 58,000 American deaths respectively. More than 7,000 were taken captive during the Korean War and more than 700 during the Vietnam War. More than 7,000 remain missing from the Korean War. In recent months it is believed 51 of those missing in action in the Korean War have been returned to the United States. There were 126 Americans missing from the Cold War, three military pilots and three defense department contractors missing from operations El Dorado Canyon over Libya in 1986 and Desert Storm in 1991. Operation Iraqi Freedom between 2003-2010 has three listed as missing according to the DoD's POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

"Today our nation reaffirms its commitment to achieve the fullest possible accounting of those who did not come home," Hill said. "We must do our part to remember their service and sacrifices. We must teach Americans about World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, places like Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the first Gulf War, Somalia, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq. Teach them stories of an America that rose to greatness on the shoulders of ordinary citizens who



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refused to shirk the responsibility of their citizenship, some of whom paid the highest price to help preserve peace and freedom for others."

Hill noted the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's work to recover those who had been missing in action or prisoners of war. Senior Vice Commander with the VFW post, Stephen Wray, stood next to a table that included a red flower, and a candle that Wray lit during the ceremony. Wray said the table, set for one, was meant to represent the inability of POWs and those MIA to be with their families and friends. The red flower represented blood service members sacrificed. The candle was meant to be a symbol of hope that sustained prisoners of war during their imprisonment and eventual return to the United States. "We join together to pay our humble tribute to them," Wray said about MIA service members, "and bear witness to their continued absence." Bartlett attended the ceremony and said afterward he was glad the ceremony was located by the

other monuments near the courthouse that remember those who sacrificed their lives for their country. "(It's a) very appropriate place to hold that right there by our monuments that honor the men and women who did the ultimate sacrifice to our nation in times of war," Bartlett said. "Therefore identifying those POWs and MIAs that occurred during those same periods. It's appropriate for that space, and we're proud to host that on our lawn."

Spates said having a ceremony to remember MIAs or POWs was important for the community to have.

"I think it was good to remember those that are missing, still missing in action," Spates said of the event. "I think it was an appropriate ceremony to have."

American Legion Post 32 member Dan Pempel said a developer helping to build a monument honoring those who died in World War I came later Friday and made sure the structure would match the existing structures in front of the courthouse that include a monument honoring those in the area who died during WWII and in conflicts after WWII, including the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Continued on page 33

POW/MIA Honors Continued...

VFW Auxiliary member Pat Baldwin said the ceremony is necessary to keep prisoners of war, those missing in action and their families in the community's thoughts.

"I think it's most important that we always remember those missing in action and those POWs," Baldwin said, "and that we make every effort to find those missing and bring them back to the United States and to their families."



Auxiliary members S. Perutelli and C. Hill with Sr. Vice Commander S. Wray



The event opened with the National Anthem and short introductory remarks were made by Fred Hill. Delivery of the POW MIA table Rite was made by Sr. Vice S. Wray. More pictures may be viewed at the VFW 7059 Facebook page.



Several Farmville Police Officers and FPD Chief A. Ellington and County Clerk, VFW member, Wade Bartlett



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Home Depot Foundation & Post 7916

James Adams, Surgeon, VFW Post 7916

Thanks to a \$4092 grant provided by the Home Depot Foundation, Post 7916 was able to make critical repairs to their post home in the historic town of Occoquan. The grant allowed the post to upgrade front and rear entry doors which were in dire need of repair with new, properly installed energy efficient doors. The grant also funded all new water efficient fixtures and valves in four bathrooms throughout the Post home and canteen. Pictured below are VFW members from across the Department of Virginia standing in front of the newly installed front entry door. This grant will benefit all members and guests who visit our Post Home and we are thankful for the Home Depot Foundation's support of veteran programs.



Home Depot Foundation \$10K Help

Chris Mulholland, VFW Post 2894

CHESAPEAKE, Va. - She's a wife, a mom and a proud Army veteran who is now watching her house be transformed thanks to a grant from Home Depot. Eboni Ricks served in the Army for three years. She married her husband 11 years ago and they have six children.

Ricks has lived in her Chesapeake home for more than a decade, and now it's getting a \$10,000 facelift - everything from new carpets, doors, toilets, vanity tops and fresh paint. She and her husband were able to pick out their upgrades and colors. She told News 3 she feels blessed to have been selected for the renovation, and she thanked the 20 volunteers bustling all over her home to make it into the home of her dreams.

Eboni said she shops at her local Home Depot and signed up there to be entered for a chance to win, finding out about a year later that she had been selected. The Home Depot Foundation partnered with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #2894 to transform the home in need of various repairs.

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Remembering POWs is a Noble Mission

Greg Earnes, VFW Post 7819

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is September 21. The observance is one of six days mandated by Congress for the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag.

Nearly 70 Virginians or persons with close Virginia connections were among the 4,100-plus American Prisoners of War held by Imperial Germany in the First World War. At least 14 Virginia merchant mariners were captured at sea by the notorious German merchant raider *SMS MÓWE*. Three captured Virginians were airmen. One appears to have died of wounds shortly after capture. Most of the men were in the U.S. Army. Among them was Pittsylvania native Sergeant Palmer Boyd, a Medical Corpsman with the 38th Infantry.

Boyd wrote a brief memoir detailing his POW experience. While being processed, he and other Doughboys discovered they were being funneled through a building to be interrogated. The men conspired to tell the same story to ensure the German interrogator only obtained limited information. It was an early example of POW group resistance. As a POW barracks chief he kept fellow POWs off details aiding the German war effort. In another quick-thinking action Boyd had about 75 American POWs, newly arrived from the front, cut off the leather straps and rubber headbands from their helmets before the items could be confiscated. The Germans recycled the materials for their war effort. Though a captive, Boyd continued to fight on the POW battlefield.

Four men were in foreign uniforms when captured. Charles L. Worthington of Winchester was in the 19th Canadian Infantry at Vimy Ridge when captured. Russell A. Kelly, a 1914 graduate of Virginia Military Institute was a Color Bearer with the 2nd Regiment du March of the French Foreign Legion. In battle on June 17, 1915 Kelly was "seen to fall with a ghastly wound, and it was learned that he was a prisoner and had his leg amputated". He died in captivity. Kelly's capture occurred three months before the man often credited as the first American POW in World War I.

Ben Muse was born in North Carolina but raised in Petersburg. At 17 he enlisted in England's 11th King's Royal Rifles. It was 1914. He was captured on November 30, 1917 between Ypres and Cambrai. Post-war he served in the Virginia Senate, as a candidate for Virginia Governor, a newspaper publisher, writer and ardent opponent of Massive Resistance. He died in Reston in 1986. Also serving in British uniform, though commissioned as an American officer, was VMI graduate Dr. Robert Barnwell Rhett captured at Cambrai with the Queen's Westminster Regiment. He was later awarded the Military Cross for saving British lives.

One of the more famous POWs was Navy Lieutenant Edouard Isaacs. He helped mastermind a group escape from Villingen POW camp on October 6, 1918. Of 13 men making the escape, only three succeeded in crossing into neutral Switzerland. Isaacs was one of three. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his feat and in bringing back information of intelligence value. A native of Iowa, Isaacs served ten years in Congress as a representative of California. He eventually settled in and operated a cattle farm in Gordonsville. He died in Fairfax in 1990 at the age of 98, the last living Medal of Honor recipient from World War I.

This year's logo on the Department of Defense POW/MIA Recognition Day poster is 'Noble Mission, Global Effort. It depicts the flags of nations that have helped aid U.S. MIA recovery efforts. Many of them are also allies in the Global War on Terror. Some of them were Allies in 1918. The image is appropriate in this centenary year of the end of World War I. It was the United States' first truly 'global effort' for a 'noble mission'; that of making the world safe for democracy.

(Greg Eanes is a retired Air Force Colonel, Life member of VFW Post 7819, a Visiting Lecturer at Hampden-Sydney College and the Mayor of the Town of Crewe. His book Captured, Not Conquered: The American POW Experience in the First World War was released in April.)

Department Convention 2018 - Opening



Snapshots

Department Convention 2018 - Auxiliary



Department Convention 2018 - Awards



Department Convention 2018 - VFW MTG



Snapshots

2018 Department Convention - General



Snapshots

2018 National Convention - General



Snapshots

2018 National Convention - Rally



Snapshots

2018 National Convention - VFW MTG



Snapshots 2018 Homecoming

