



Virginia VETERAN

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VFW VA COMMANDER
MIKE BOEHME

I welcome our new newsletter editor Curt Vaughn from Post 7589 in Manassas. This is his first edition and carries on the rich tradition of featuring the different Posts activities throughout the department.

We have established a new email account, news@vfwva.org which makes it easier to submit articles for publication. I encourage our Posts and Districts to forward articles about their events and success stories for inclusion in this statewide newsletter. There's a lot of great activities and events occurring in our Department that need to be shared.

As I write this I am just returning from this year's Southern Conference in Biloxi, MS, where our very own Hal Roesch was elected as the nominee for Junior Vice Commander in Chief from the Southern Conference. Per tradition, this year (and every four years) the next Junior Vice Commander in Chief comes from the Southern Conference. At the National Convention in July Hal will be officially elected as Junior Vice Commander in Chief.

Hal's selection to be the next Junior Vice Commander in Chief is especially significant because in 119 years of the VFW, there has never been a line officer from Virginia. Hal will be the first. It's ironic that Virginia has produced eight American presidents but not one National VFW line officer.

This conference also marked the end of Kim DeShano's two year term as Chair of the Southern Conference. He has done an outstanding job and we are very proud of his leadership.

In closing I hope you enjoy this edition of our department's newsletter and that it inspires you to submit articles about your Post or District activities and events.

Cheers,

Cheers,

Mike

Manassas Post 7589 Member Authors Book on the American Revolution

By Paul Chase

Vietnam Veteran and 30 year Life Member, Paul Chase has authored a new book titled: The American Revolution: A Compendium of Terms and Topics. The 442 page book covers new material, such as abuse of alcohol, treatment of wounded soldiers, venereal disease, reasons and types of discipline of soldiers and much more. Paul, who serves as the Adjutant and Historian for Post 7589, retired as a USAF Lt Col Personnel Officer after 23 years of service. He served in Vietnam from 1971-1972, with duties to withdraw USAF forces from the country. Paul serves as Color Guard Commander of the award winning Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), located in Prince William County. With over 200 members the Colonel Grayson Chapter is the second largest of the 26 SAR chapters in Virginia. The SAR, like the VFW, is a community service organization that promotes patriotism, service above self, respect for law and our Constitution and support for those in need. All royalties from Paul's book are going to SAR activities. The book can be ordered online, at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or direct discount purchase, for \$17, by contacting VFW Post 7589. In addition to his SAR and VFW duties Paul serves as the Secretary of the Manassas area Inter-Service Club Council which coordinates multiple community service organizations. Paul is just one of many Veterans who continue to serve their community and country to the great credit of all the men and women who have served in America's uniforms.



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VFW DEPARTMENT of VIRGINIA
 403 LEE JACKSON HIGHWAY
 STAUNTON, VA 24401
 PHONE: 1-800-888-3521
 FAX: 1-866-416-0586

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From the Editor's desk

As I write this and wrap up my first effort on your Virginia Veteran Newsletter, I am amazed and humbled at the sheer volume of volunteerism and support to our veterans that our members and communities contribute! These efforts, of which only a fraction are depicted across the pages of this newsletter, represent great care for our veterans and a continuance of service. Many thanks to my Post 7589 Comrade and our State Junior Vice Commander, Rick Raskin, for encouraging me to take on this role. I met Rick back in 2011, a couple years before my retirement from the Army, through our mutual interest in rebuilding computer systems. He recruited me shortly after that! I feel blessed to have connected with him, my Post and my Comrades at large. I look forward to getting to know many of you through the newsletter and events in the not-so-distant future. I hope you all enjoy reading of the many accomplishments of our Comrades across the State!

Yours in Comradeship,

Curt Vaughn

Editor

Submit articles to: news@vfwva.org

Our mailing address is:

VFW Post 7589
 Attn: Virginia Veteran
 PO Box 10206
 Manassas, VA 20108

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 Attn: Virginia Veteran
 PO Box 10206
 Manassas, VA 20108

**Articles for the next issue must be received before
 March 20, 2018.**

Please address all comments to the above address.

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

Support



Hal Roesch
2018

Junior-Vice Commander in Chief

Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Of the United States



War Hero Donates Historic Propeller to VFW Post 7916

By Chuck Wilson, Commander, District 10

Post Life Member and Aviator Extraordinaire Gene Deatrick USMA '46** has presented the Post this 1919 Curtiss NC-4 Flying Boat Propeller which is on display in our Billiards Room. The NC-4 was designed by Glenn Curtiss, and manufactured by Curtiss Aero Plane & Motor Company, Buffalo, NY.

In May 1919, the NC-4 became the first aircraft to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, starting in New York State and making the crossing to Lisbon, Portugal, in 19 days. This included time for stops for numerous repairs enroute.

Post 7916's Aviator Emeritus Eugene Peyton Deatrick, Jr. (born November 17, 1924) retired from the USAF as colonel, test pilot, and combat veteran. Gene's 31 years of service include his time at West Point beginning in 1943; the last WWII 3-year class graduating in 1946. Among his many accomplishments, Gene is recognized for his role in the life saving rescue of escaping POW Navy Lt. Dieter Dengler during the Vietnam War.

Escaping after 5 months in brutal Pathet Lao captivity and after spending 22 days in the jungle, barely eluding guerrilla search parties a hungry black bear closed in on him. An emaciated Dieter heard Gene's Spad flying overhead. In a "million-to-one shot," Deatrick spotted Dieter waving and — within 24 hours of dying, according to doctors — was soon lifted from the jungle. If Gene had not persisted in badgering the Command & Control Center, who feared a VC trap, to send a Jolly Green, Dieter would have perished. The rescue was recounted in the film *Rescue Dawn* and the bestseller *Hero Found: The Greatest POW Escape of the Vietnam War*.

During his career, Gene flew more than 50 different types of aircraft with more than 12,000 hours of flying. He earned two Legion of Merits, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, 22 Air Medals and the Bronze Star for Valor.

Checkout Colonel Deatrick's Biography at this link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene_Peyton_Deatrick

Post 7916 Auxiliary Donates Food to Local Community

By Chuck Wilson, Commander, District 10

February 2017, Occoquan, VA. Led by Post 7916 Auxiliary President Mary Adams and partnering with the Good News Community Kitchen, Post 7916 Auxiliary bought and donated \$500 worth of food goods to complete 100 meals-to-go bags for Occoquan Elementary School. Each kit included oatmeal, peanut butter, cans of soup (vegetable & chicken noodle), along with several cans of ravioli. The members of the Post Auxiliary also helped to bag the groceries and to deliver them.

Additionally, the Post Auxiliary donated \$100 to help buy emergency family meal kits that included bags of rice, cans of beans, container of steel oats, juice, and peanut butter.



Our Post 7916 Auxiliary has 150 members and supports VFW Post 7916 in the conduct of part of its mission with Community Service. The Director of the Good News Community Kitchen, Mercedes Kirkland-Doyle, is also a veteran member of VFW Post 7916.



VFW Post 7916 Hosts Veterans Roundtable for Community Veterans

By Chuck Wilson, Commander, District 10

Occoquan, VA, Saturday March 4, 2017. VFW Post 7916 Commander Chuck Wilson, Colonel USAF Ret, welcomed over 50 active duty, retired, and honorably discharged veterans for a "Roundtable" discussion of issues important to the Veterans of Virginia. There are over 800,000 veterans in Virginia and 120,000 active duty in Virginia. Virginia is #4 in the United States in terms of veteran population.

Gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie, along with Prince William County VFW Life Member Virginia 31st District Delegate Scott Lingamfelter, and Prince William County VFW Life Member Virginia 51st District Delegate Rich Anderson, came and engaged with the veterans, all from Northern Virginia, on many issues they face.

There were a wide range of issues that concerned the veterans. Illegal immigration, numerous reports of thousands of illegal votes in Virginia, the Virginia taxation that causes transitioning veterans to move to a more tax friendly state, the hardships of disabled veterans in Virginia, all having a impact on Virginia's veteran population.

Gillespie informed the audience of the many benefits the Virginia veterans do have including the building of a new Veterans Care Center not far from Manassas. Both Delegates Anderson and Lingamfelter supported the dialog with many examples of legislation that they have put forth for Virginia veterans.

Winding up the "Veterans Roundtable," Post Commander Wilson presented Gubernatorial candidate Gillespie with a hard copy of the Post 7916 yearbook that shows, pictorially, the many accomplishments of the Occoquan VFW Post.



Delegate Scott Lingamfelter, Candidate Ed Gillespie, Col Chuck Wilson, Delegate Rich Anderson



VFW Post 7916 Honors Vietnam Veterans from Woodbridge-Occoquan Community

By Chuck Wilson, Commander, District 10

April 4, 2017, Occoquan, VA. Veterans of Foreign War Post 7916 hosted the Vietnam Veteran Recognition Ceremony that honored veterans who fought in the Vietnam War from the Woodbridge & Occoquan Community. The honorees are: (*Back Row*) L to R: Major Gordon Tassi, U.S. Army Military Police; LTC Mark H. Magnussen U.S. Army; Harold Boiler Technician Second Class U.S. Navy, "Ralph" Holecek; Master Chief Boiler Technician U.S. Navy, Wayne Dearie; Major David G. Cotts, U.S. Army; Marvin Coon, U.S. Army Aviator. (*Front Row*) L to R: Captain Walter Schatz, U.S. Army; Ronald Janicki U.S. Army; PFC John C. Prosch, Jr., U.S. Army; Captain Howard Steers, U.S. Army; LtCol Ken Strafer U.S. Army, and Colonel Eugene Deatruck, Commander 1st Air Commando Squadron, USAF. Standing along side is Post 7916 Commander Chuck Wilson.

Veterans of Foreign War Post 7916 is a Partner with the U.S. National Vietnam War Commemoration. In Accordance With Public Law 110-181 SEC.598; the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and recognize our Veterans who served in Vietnam.

We did celebrate these humble, patriotic and selfless men, and remembered our over 58,000 brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation in Vietnam, changing our country for the better...all Vietnam veterans, and families.

The U.S. Commemorative Partners, such as VFW Post 7916, have inspired multitudes of Americans in towns and cities across the country to thank and honor 1.4 million Vietnam veterans and 1.7 million of their families!

Posts 6364 and 637 and the VA War Memorial 5K Run/Walk to Remember

Phil Arendsen, Department Inspector

On April 22nd, VFW Posts 6364 and 637 were Gold Sponsors of the 5K and the title sponsor of the Kids Fun Run.



Every child who completed the event was awarded a medal as they crossed the finish line.



Post 7589 100% + Membership!

The Post crossed the 100% membership line on April 23. The Nations Gun Show recruiting effort yielded the bulk of new members while our other events also contributed significantly.

Thanks to all that participated and to Geoff Lyster from Post 9835 for his assistance. Achieving 100% put the Post in line to achieve All State status at the Department. District 8 was also noteworthy because 5 of the 6 Posts has already made 100%+ and the District itself is over 100% total. District 8 Commander Ron Link became an All American District Commander.

We'd also like to thank Lou Filippone and Jerry Martin for staffing the Gun Show booth on April 23 and the other members of our Membership Committee: Joel Chase, Paul Chase, Warren Ewell, Rod Gillette, Robert Punihaole and Pete MacLeod for recruiting at J. E. Rice and following up on expired members. The Gun Show yielded 6 new members and 1 transfer for our Post, while overall recruiting 32 new and transfer members. Our recruiting event at J. E. Rice yielded 6 new members.

For the month of April we received an astounding 20 new and transfer applications!

Children Gather Around Korea War Vets and Memorial - Washington DC

by Frank M. Ware, Commander, VFW Post 5895 & VA District 6

Comrades of VFW Post 5895 and American Legion Post 93 visited the DC War Memorials and Arlington National Cemetery 26 April 2017. Pictured in the Washington Monument group pic in front row from left is Herm Prilipp and Ken Proffitt. In the back row from left is Charles Montgomery, Homer Warden, Bill Hayslett, Glen Dudley, Sarah Ware, Don Jones, Frank Ware, and Bill "Bartman" Bartholomew.

Below: Korean War Era Veterans (from left) Charles



Montgomery, Herm Prilipp, and Ken Proffitt at the Korean War Memorial.



VFW Post 7916 Auxiliary Provides Clothes to Homeless Shelters

March, 2017, Woodbridge, VA. The VFW Post 7916 Auxiliary is a champion of efforts for charity. Auxiliary President Mary Adams' herculean writing of the justification to acquire the VFW Community Service Grant succeeded. Upon receiving this grant, Post 7916 Auxiliary donated \$400.00 in clothing and personal care items that were given to the homeless shelters in the Occoquan/Woodbridge area.

The picture above is of (L-R) Jim Relyea from Old Bridge United Methodist Church, Auxiliary Guard Sharon Swartz, and VFW Auxiliary 7916 President Mary H Adams. Post 7916 Auxiliary has 150 members and supports VFW Post 7916 in the conduct of part of its mission with Community Service.





Mayor Liz Quist, Judy Wilson, Chuck Wilson, Occoquan Supervisor Ruth Anderson, VA Delegate Rich Anderson

VFW Post 7916 honors former U-2 “Black Cat” Commander

Saturday May 6, 2017, Occoquan VA. This was a special day for Post 7916 as the incoming Commander Jeffery Lett and other Post 7916 officers took their oaths of office. Following the ceremony, the front room of the Post 7916 facility, was dedicated as “Col Wilson’s Black Cat Lounge” to honor the outgoing VFW Post 7916 Commander, [Chuck Wilson](#), Colonel USAF Ret., who led VFW Post 7916 to many victories

the last three years. Many local dignitaries including Occoquan Mayor Elizabeth Quist, Virginia Delegate Rich Anderson, County Supervisor Ruth Anderson, and many others attended.

During his Air Force Career, Colonel Wilson was blessed with multiple commands at several levels, on both sides of the globe. In 1995 & 1996, one command was as the Commander of a well-known high flying U-2 Squadron located at Osan AB, South Korea. That squadron, is the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron, known as the ["Black Cats"](#) [control+click on link].

The Black Cat Squadron has a rich heritage going back to 1961 when the Black Cats flew the U-2 “Dragon Lady” from Taiwan, to U-Tapao, Thailand during the Vietnam conflict, through today covering tensions over East Asia, out of Osan AB, South Korea. And yes, this outstanding squadron has a “Black Cat Lounge”

This acronym, with the meaning known only to the Black Cats, “IYAABCYAS,” lets them know that there is a Black Cat present.

Wilson is slated to go on and become the Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Virginia District 10, which represents almost 6,000 veterans, 1,500 Auxiliary members, from Fairfax, Loudoun, Arlington, and Prince William Counties.



Local Funeral Home Helps Maintain Historic Naval Cemetery

By Ronnie "Farva" Steele
Portsmouth VA



The Ted Conaway Memorial Cemetery located aboard Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads Portsmouth, the home of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, is steeped in history and is the final resting place for military members from eight countries, among the 800+ in their final resting place. This total includes several “Unknowns” and some children. The base Grounds Crew keeps the area well maintained and the act of decorating the graves throughout the year is accomplished with the help of volunteers. Our main volunteer partner is Navy Wives Club of America #221, which has eagerly and professionally worked for the last 3 years to honor those laid to rest. They have been recently joined by NNSY Veterans ERG and Virginia’s Second District of the VFW. These groups not only provide flags and wreaths to place on each grave throughout the year, they also spend time placing and removing them. Through the years, some flags become tattered or weathered and require a proper retirement. Sturtevant Funeral Home and Crematory volunteers to receive any size American Flag for a proper disposal. The collected flags are placed on caskets of veterans during the cremation process. This dignified flag disposal honors the veteran and provides a fitting tribute to fallen veterans.

Above: Ms. Cindy Primm of Sturtevant Funeral Home and Crematory receives American Flags from Mr. Kenneth Pugh, Site Director of Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads Portsmouth Annex. The flags will be cremated along with veterans.

Marion Virginia goes all out for Memorial Day *Post 4667 sponsors weekend events*

By Rick Raskin

My wife Janet & I were privileged to be invited to attend the Memorial Day Weekend celebrations in Marion, Virginia as representatives of the Department of Virginia. Post Commander Sam Rosenbaum and many others from the Post and Auxiliary made us feel very welcome. In fact, we were treated like we were long standing members of the community.

The town goes all out for Memorial Day where over 1000 flags grace the courthouse lawn in commemoration of the fallen. Festivities began with a patriotic concert on Saturday night by the "Governor's Own", the Virginia National Guard band, at the historic Lincoln Theater. The concert opened with a presentation of the colors by the Post color guard and introductions by Mayor David Helms and Herbert (Turk) Johnson, the Post's event coordinator. Following a rousing presentation by the band we were treated to an intermission concert by the band's rock unit. A finale of patriotic music culminated with "The Stars and Stripes Forever" in which the piccolo player nailed the solo.

The following day was an afternoon concert by "Letters From Home" [<http://lettersfromhomesingers.com>] which began with some fantastic Bluegrass from two local teachers. Their students joined them onstage to present some Bluegrass classics.

"Letters From Home" a song and dance ensemble featuring Erinn Diaz and the accompanying group "Finale" performed a production of 1940s period music and patriotic songs. The performance ended with "I'm Proud to be an American" which brought the audience to their feet.

Monday was the big parade. We were invited to ride on the Grand Marshall's float from which we greeted the crowds lining the street and also had an excellent view.

The parade route was several miles long and the streets were crowded with enthusiastic viewers. Mayor Helms walked the route shaking hands with many of them. A program at Post 4667 followed with a presentation of memorial wreaths, a welcome by Mayor Helms, an inspirational speech by Army SFC Kenneth Bradford and a performance by Erinn Diaz of "Letters From Home".

Reverend Emily Edmonston provided the opening and closing prayers. Taps and a 21-gun salute culminated the event after which lunch was provided by the Post. Mayor Helms' says his goal is to make Marion the most patriotic town in the US. We think he is well on the way to achieving that goal, and may have already succeeded.



Over 1000 flags were displayed at the Smyth County courthouse; each one signifying a veteran who passed on.



Above: Erinn Diaz of "Letters From Home" performed at the Lincoln Theater on Sunday afternoon. Below: SFC Kenneth Bradford addressed the gathering at Post 4667 on Monday afternoon.





Mayor David Helms and MC Herbert "Turk" Johnson



Posting the Colors at the Lincoln Theater



Letters From Home in performance



Student Bluegrass players joined their teachers onstage



The Virginia Guard's Rock Band during intermission



Mayor David Helms greets the public at the parade



Aux. 7589 SVP Janet Raskin on the Grand Marshall float



Erinn Diaz of Letters From Home at the Post 4667 ceremony

Fauquier's Veterans Still Serve - VFW Promotes Patriotism Through Students Essay Contest

By Jeff Dombroff, VFW Post 9835

The men and women of the Robert E. Laing Memorial Post 9835 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States have three things in common: military service in a combat zone, a strong desire to help other veterans, and a willingness to continue serving their community. Veterans all, they represent all five service branches in conflicts from World War II up to the most recent conflicts in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Led by Post Commander Tim Nosal, a retired Naval officer who served in Iraq, they meet monthly to shape their Post's impact on the community. Money from their relief fund (known as the "Poppy Fund" after the famous symbolism in Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Field") has helped to develop the Sheriff's Department's Law Enforcement Scout program, to assist veterans at the homeless shelter and free clinic, and gone to repair veterans' headstones after an act of cemetery vandalism.

This fall, the VFW's relief funds will be supporting another worthy cause—patriotism among students. The organization's two annual student essay contests are currently accepting submissions through October 31, 2017. Both contests seek to instill values of freedom and appreciation in younger generations.

Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are eligible to enter the Patriot's Pen youth essay competition. The nationwide contest requires a 300 to 400 word written essay on a topic selected by VFW Headquarters, for a grand prize award of \$5,000 at the national level. This year's topic is "America's Gift to My Generation."

High school students may enter the Voice of Democracy audio essay competition. With a \$30,000 grand prize award at the national level, students must record a three to five minute essay on the theme "American History: Or Hope for the Future."

In 2016, students from four Fauquier County middle schools and two high schools submitted essays to the Post. Aside from receiving medals, certificates, and cash awards, the top three entries were also evaluated at the District level. A student from Cedar Lee Middle School earned second place honors at District.

The VFW continues to encourage the contest's growth. "We're hoping to involve many more of the county's schools this coming fall," Post Quartermaster Gary Robinson says. As involvement builds, the veterans of the Post continue to serve by passing on their patriotism to even the younger members of their community.

For combat veterans who may be interested in learning more about the VFW, Post 9835 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Warrenton Visitor Center. Eventually, the Post hopes to have their own building or "Post Home." It is a goal of the Post to acquire a building that can serve as a gathering place for veterans and location for Post activities.

As appeared in Warrenton Lifestyle Magazine | September 2017 .



Above: Jeff Dombroff (left) and Sheila Hunter (far right) with Highland school 8th graders Caite Leake (left), Kessler Schumate (center), Hannah Small (right).

PATRIOT'S PEN

2017-2018 Theme: "America's Gift to My Generation"

Patriotic Essay Writing Contest Grand Prize: **\$5,000 AWARD**

Grades: 6-8

Entry Deadline: October 31, 2017

Word Count: 300-400 typewritten words

For information on entering, visit www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

2017-2018 Theme: "American History: Our Hope for the Future"

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: **\$30,000 AWARD**

Grades: 9-12

Entry Deadline: October 31, 2017

For information on entering visit their website at www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships.

NOTE: Each school will have an assigned point of contact within the school to gather the submissions, such as the Guidance Office. But if not, students should submit entries directly to the VFW Post 9835, PO Box 163, Warrenton, VA 20188. Home Schoolers are also eligible and will need to mail their entries. For more information on VFW's essay contests, go to www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships.

About the AUTHOR Jeff Dombroff, Senior Vice Commander, VFW Post 9835, served in the US Army from 1964 to 1972, leaving service as a Captain. He worked for Navy Federal Credit Union in Vienna Va and retired in 2006. He and his wife Susan have been residents of Fauquier County since 1990.

Memorial Day Ceremony Quantico National Cemetery

Virginia District 10 in Lead Role

May 29, 2017, Quantico National Cemetery (QNC), VA. A Memorial Day Ceremony was held with an estimated 1,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, 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. The wet fields, from the inclement weather of the prior five days, did not slow down this ceremony.



The US Marine Corps Honor Guard Four-Star Admiral John Harvey, USN Ret, said, "We must remember our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, *who sacrificed and gave their lives* for us to be free." John Harvey is the Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs for the Commonwealth.

In his remarks, Secretary Harvey described the history of this special day going back to General Logan's General Order #11 of May 5, 1868, which states, "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 is celebrated the last Monday in May.



The Sojourners in Colonial regalia





The Chairman of Potomac Region Veterans Council (PRVC), Chuck Wilson was the Master of Ceremonies whose opening remarks set the stage for this solemn ceremony. Wilson is a retired Air Force Colonel who is the Commander of Virginia's Veterans of Foreign Wars District 10 and past Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7916



Colonel Joseph Murray, Commander, Marine Corps Base Quantico, gave welcoming remarks



“The Avenue of Honors,” was presented by PRVC Vice Chairman Randal Coker who is also the Senior Vice Commander of District 10, and past Commander of VFW Post 1503. Vice Chairman Coker’s presentation honors veterans who have been called from our midst and donated by family members of those fallen



The “21-Gun Salute” was provided by the Marine Corps Rifle Team



Colonel Frank Harris, USMC (Ret) provided "A Toast to the Flag."



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



VFW Post 1503 along with VFW Post 7916 were part of "Color Guards" for this special event. Participants included: Cobby McDonald (center), Rafael Landrau, both VFW Post 7916 Life Members. Cobby McDonald has carried the colors for this event since 1983. Also in attendance were Past Virginia Department Commander Tom Gimble, Past District 10 Commander Bob Dugas, and Post 1503 Commander Tim Brown



Left: A USMC Bugler plays "Taps"

Boy Scout Troop 1369, one of four Scout organizations chartered by VFW Post 7916, assisted in setting up over 1,000 chairs for this Memorial Day ceremony. Quantico National Cemetery has hosted this event since 1983. The US Marine Corps Base at Quantico has supported this event since its beginning at Quantico National Cemetery in 1983. This year, the wet weather left water soaked fields and the ceremony had to be moved to a smaller, but dry, location. Both Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies are sponsored by the Potomac Region Veterans Council (PRVC) that represents 26 Veteran Service Organizations and an estimated 15,000 veterans in Northern Virginia. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7916 is a charter member. Pictures taken by Mary Ellen Radloff, VFW Post 7916 (See the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyiXmeR3tyQ&feature=youtu.be>)



VFW Post 1503 Celebrates the Air Force 70th Birthday

By



The 70th Anniversary of the United States Air Force is September 18, 2017. In order to accommodate the membership, VFW Post 1503 got a head start and celebrated the Air Force Birthday on Saturday, two days before.

Post 1503 Commander Tim Brown provided welcoming remarks with the Post's 1503 Chaplain, Ed Bennett, and also Air Force Veteran, giving introductory remarks.

The keynote speaker was the Commander of Virginia's District 10, Chuck Wilson, who is a retired Air Force Colonel and a rated AF Command Pilot.

District Commander Wilson's remarks included how the Air Force as we know it today evolved from what was the Air Service of the US Army Signal Corps. He then described in detail, Gen Billy Mitchell of WWI, who many regard as the "Father of the Air Force." It was Billy Mitchell's outspoken advocacy of airpower as the key to winning the next war, and as a separate service, costing him his career.



In all over forty members and Auxiliary, young and old, attended from District 10, Virginia's largest District. Following the brief, lunch was provided.



Below: Seen here with the District Commander is 89 year old retired Air Force MSgt Robert Goad. MSgt Goad retired from the Air Force in 1970.



The Spad XVI that he flew during WWI is on display at the National Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport near Washington DC.

VFW District 11 Sponsors Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes

By Melissa Patrick, Commander, VFW District 11

Nearly fifty bicycle riders took part in the Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars District 11 on September 9th. District 11 is comprised of 12 Posts in the central Shenandoah Valley and across the Allegheny mountains to Bath County. The ride was organized as a fundraiser to support Boulder Crest Retreat, which is a therapeutic and wellness center in Bluemont, Virginia for combat veterans and their families, dealing with physical wounds and mental trauma of their war experiences. When it was all over, District 11 was able to donate \$8500 to Boulder Crest.

Planning major events at the District level has its own set of challenges, but the District took on this project to achieve several goals. One goal for planning an event of this magnitude was to make the local VFW Posts more visible in their local communities. Another goal was to enable the Posts to engage in an activity that would appeal to younger veterans and that challenges the common image of the VFW as "old guys telling war stories in a smoky bar." Finally, it encouraged the VFW Posts to work together on a significant project where they got to know each other better and build a spirit of cooperation within the District.

The ride had two routes, a 54 and 23 mile, designed to increase the visibility of the VFW by passing by the Post homes of Mount Solon (3136), Bridgewater (8644), and Verona (10826). The routes also were laid out with 6 rest stops/aid stations on the 50 mile route, each with a theme from American military history. Each rest stop was named for a significant military battle or campaign tied to Shenandoah history and the Augusta Militia/Stonewall Brigade/116th Brigade. They gave the rider an opportunity to ride through history, coming all the way up to present day. The first rest stop, staffed by Post 3060 of Deerfield honored the American Revolution and was located at Mount Pleasant, the pre-Revolutionary home of Augusta Militia commander Col. George Moffett. Several Revolutionary War re-enactors were there representing the American loyalists who fought under Banastre Tarleton and the Augusta militia, who were commanded by Moffett at King's Mountain and Guilford Courthouse. The rest stop for Jackson's Valley Campaign, staffed by Post 632 in Harrisonburg had a display presentation by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Commission and several Confederate re-enactors from the 10th Virginia Infantry. Other rest stops were the Battle of Midway (at the midway point of the 50

mile course at Post 8644 in Bridgewater), D-Day/Omaha Beach staffed by Post 3136 of Mount Solon, the Vietnam War staffed by Post 1499 of Lexington, and the Berlin Airlift & American Air Power run by Post 10826 of Verona. Many of the riders enjoyed the military themed stops and felt that a highlight of the event was the ability to talk to and interact with the veterans at each stop.



The event started with opening ceremonies at 8 am with the presentation of colors by the color guard from Mary Baldwin's Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership and the playing of the national anthem. State VFW Commander Mike Boehme made brief remarks, followed by John Sims, Program Director from Boulder Crest Retreat. District 11 also had static displays in the parking lot of vintage military vehicles to include WWII and Korean War jeeps, games and activities for children, and special military history related display tables in the gym. There were displays from local museums to include the Stonewall Brigade Museum, Staunton Military Academy Museum, Augusta Military Academy Museum, WWII naval displays and the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library.

VFW members procured 23 corporate sponsors, who made the bicycle ride event possible and supported fundraising efforts on behalf of Boulder Crest Retreat. Top sponsors were Colonial Industrial Refrigeration, Hershey's, and ManTech, which provided a bicycle team.

Riders came from all across the state of Virginia, as well as several from Maryland and Delaware. The rider who came from the farthest was from Kingston, New York. Several members of the US Air Force Cycling Team were among the riders. Feedback from the participants was uniformly positive. One posted a 5 star review on Facebook, saying "Having completed their inaugural event today, this was one of the most organized and enjoyable rides I've ever been on. It was an honor to meet everyone at the rest stops and the layout of the route was fantastic. Congratulations to all involved on a successful day!!" Another wrote the following in an email: "The Valley Veterans Ride was a ride and experience that is second to none. As an avid cyclist that has done many events over the past 25 years this was an amazing event on many levels. The organization, themes, well stocked and supported rest stops, and overall cause are just some of the reasons I told many people about this ride over the past 24 hrs. And Marine Johnnie Barr at the last rest point was truly the high point of the ride for myself."

Snapshots from Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes

By Melissa Patrick, Commander, VFW District 11



VFW Post 8644's exhibit at their rest stop representing the Battle of Midway, half-way through the 50 mile course.



Above: 97 year old Johnnie Barr, USMC WWII, greeted riders at the Post 10826 rest stop. Below: Course Marshall Kirt Wharwood, USMC veteran of Iraq and member of Post 7814, with a member of the Valley Amateur Radio Association, which provided communications and support throughout the extended course.



After presenting a check for \$8500 to Boulder Crest Retreat, Jim Prussia, Post 8644 and Melissa Patrick, District 11 Commander, stand with John Sims, Director of Programs and Dusty Baxley, Executive Director of Boulder Crest Retreat.



Wayne Smith, member of VFW Post 9339, downloads his bicycle and prepares for the ride.



The 21st century meets the 19th century as a rider meets 10th Virginia Infantry re-enactor at the Jackson's Valley Campaign rest stop.



Snapshots from Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes

By Melissa Patrick, Commander, VFW District 11



Two riders with a Revolutionary War re-enactor at the first rest stop.



VFW District 11 Commander Melissa Patrick chats with riders on the US Air Force cycling team.



Above: Riders enjoy the beauty of the central Shenandoah Valley farmland.
Below:



VFW Post 10826 Commander Gene Chavis with Ride Director Randall Wolf, who was the only non-veteran on the organizing committee.



John Sims, Director of Programs for Boulder Crest, speaks to the assembled riders about the program and thanks them for their support.



Commander of Post 3136 Dallas Lam at the veterans monument in Mount Solon, which represented WWII.

Tribute To Fallen Soldiers Stops At John Lyon

By Doc Crouch

Past State Commander (2006-07)

VFW Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia was contacted by Ms. Nora O'Neil of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and quickly volunteered to co-host riders from Tribute To Fallen Soldiers Northwest to breakfast prior to completing the last leg of their cross-country ride to honor fallen service members and their families.

They had been assisted in their ride by VFW and American Legion Posts as they came across country. Sometimes with food and sometimes with being able to roll out their sleeping bags and remain overnight. When they arrived at the John Lyon Post on 2 August they gathered behind their long RV and around a trailer that carried their Fallen Soldier Memorial Torch to listen to "Amazing Grace", the rumble of motorcycles now silent. They were greeted by Post Commander Walter Sweeney along with other Post and Auxiliary officers and members who were joined by a number of TAPS members, including President and Founder Ms. Bonnie Carroll.

Tribute To Fallen Soldiers Northwest was formed eight years ago and the organization has conducted over 500 ceremonies honoring the fallen American service members and their families.

The group left Eugene Oregon on 15 July, 2017 with almost 150 Riders. The number of riders varied on each leg of the journey depending on their ability to be away from home and job responsibilities. Some, like Pat Dorigatti of Wyoming, joined the ride while it was in progress. The trip, after all, had been over 4,000 miles through 15 states. When they arrived at the Post they had conducted 52 ceremonies; ceremonies that the riders refer to as Fallen Soldier Home Visits. Finishing this last portion of the ride were Warren Williamson (Eugene, OR), Ride Captain Roger Cox (Eugene, OR), Gloria and Wayne Abernathy (Chesterfield County, VA), Patricia Hampton (Billings, MT), Neil Wagner (SC), Bill Filley (Eugene, OR), and Pat Dorigatti.

A ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery at 1000 that day honoring SSGT Kenneth Bennett would be the 53rd and final Fallen Soldier Home Visit conducted on this ride. As in previous ceremonies the riders presented a Memorial Plaque of Distinguished Service to surviving family members of SSGT Bennett. After the ceremony they formally extinguish the flame of the Fallen Soldiers Memorial Torch and ring a bell 53 times. This was followed by the laying of a purple and gold wreath from Oregon at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Before leaving the Post the Riders presented an American flag to TAPS as a token of their appreciation and remembrance, and posed for a group photo. In turn, Commander Sweeney presented a check to President Carroll to help TAPS carry on with their mission of providing assistance to the families of fallen service members through their variety of programs and efforts.

To get a better understanding of all that these two organizations have accomplished and are working toward, more information can be found on their websites at tributetofallensoldiers.com or taps.org.



Manassas Fall Jubilee a hit for Post 7589

By Rick Raskin

On October 7 Manassas Post 7589 and its Auxiliary had displays at the Manassas Fall Jubilee. An annual event in Manassas on the first Saturday in October, this year continued the Post's participation over more than a decade. The jubilee started at 10:00 AM and ran until 5 PM. Over 25,000 people typically attend each year.

The Post actively recruits and also distributes Halloween Trick-or-Treat bags to children in the community. Each bag is imprinted with a message of how to be safe while out collecting treats. Additionally, this year we inserted a tooth brush into each bag, supplied by Lou Filippone, one of our Post Trustees.

The Auxiliary recruits new members and awards children a certificate for correctly reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance".

An additional focus this year was to promote mental



health awareness and invite the public to attend a screening of the film "Into the Light" on October 28th. We provided information on how to recognize the five signs of mental issues. The public seemed very tuned in to our campaign and was especially aware of the high suicide rate among veterans.

We recruited 2 new members, had 1 transfer and a member stopped by to renew his membership. The Auxiliary also had several new applicants.

The weather cooperated with sunny skies and temperatures in the 80s. It was a very successful event.



Above: (L-R) Mary Corkhill, Yvonne Sullivan, Janet Raskin, Fran Filippone and Patsy Gough. Below Left: (L-R) Rick Raskin, Lou Filippone, Pete MacLeod and Wayne Moore

Former 7589 Post Commander Sydney Bryant Passes Away Age 89

August 24, 2017: Former VFW Post 7589 Commander (1958-1959) Sydney Emlyn Bryant passed away at INOVA Fairfax Hospital. He was a veteran of the Korean War and he was awarded the Bronze Star for "leadership in combat" and received a U.S. Army battlefield promotion. He was a member of U.S. Army Company I, 32nd Infantry in Korea. He was a retired Construction Superintendent for Gregory Construction in Manassas. He and his family lived in Casanova, VA for forty-three years. At the time of his death, Sydney was living in Bealeton, VA with his wife and two daughters. He is survived by his wife, Joyce; two daughters, Joan and Anne Bryant all of Bealeton, VA. He was predeceased by his two sisters: Stella Kerlin of Manassas, VA and June Vernon, also of Manassas, VA.



The burial service was held at 2:00 pm, 9/2, at the Stonewall Gardens in Manassas for family members only.

VFW Post 7916 Hosts Veteran Fundraiser Derby Fest and BBQ

May 7, 2016, Occoquan, VA, VFW Post 7916, hosted its second Derby Fest and BBQ for our veterans. They came from all over Northern Virginia including Fort Belvoir along with those in the Woodbridge and Occoquan area. Our Veterans fought in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The event began with a reception for our guests, VFW members, and local dignitaries that included Mrs. Elizabeth Quist, Mayor of Occoquan, Rich Anderson Virginia Delegate, and Ruth Anderson Occoquan Supervisor.

Gene Deatrack, Colonel, USAF, Ret., is our very distinguished member who, as last year, came and partook in the festivities.

Gene, a member of West Point Class of 1946, is responsible for the rescue of US POW Navy Lt Deiter Dangler while in Vietnam. Colonel Deatrack is a graduate of West Point, Class of 1946. He flew 405 combat missions in Vietnam and was the Commander of the 1st Air Commando Squadron. He was in the first test pilot class in 1951 and Commandant of the AF Test Pilot School in 1968. Col Deatrack, a military pilot legend, is a Life member at Post 7916 .



Post Senior Vice Commander Turk Maggi and Quartermaster James Adams distribute Buddy Poppies and muster



Life Member Tom Gilbert and Vietnam War Hero Gene Deatrack share experiences



Special Thanks goes out to Project Enduring Pride for supplying much of the provisions, entertainment and making this event possible, the Canteen Manager and Staff, the Post Auxiliary, and the many Post 7916 members who volunteered their valuable time to put on this event!



The six-hour event, also supported by **Project Enduring Pride**, featured live viewing of the Kentucky Derby, BBQ Chicken, BBQ Pork, hot dogs, and a wide variety of deserts. The band, performed "Rockabilly, Blues, and Jazz standards from one of the greatest eras of all time!" In those six hours, over 100 veterans and guests visited VFW Post 7916 and really enjoyed themselves.



POW MIA Ceremony Provides Special Recognition for Vietnam Veterans

By Chuck Wilson, Commander, District 10

September 15, 2017, Occoquan VA. A special ceremony was held on National POW MIA Recognition Day where people from all over the region gathered together to sing the National Anthem, Pledge Allegiance to our flag and pray during the POW/MIA Memorial Ceremony at River Mill Park.

Post Commander Jeff Lett provided welcoming remarks and said, "This year we pay special honors to our veterans of the Vietnam war and especially honor Air Force Captain John William Kennedy, a post member and VMI graduate, lost to us on 21 August 1971, in Southeast Asia."

The ceremony took place under a slate gray sky and along the still water of the Occoquan River.



The keynote address was provided by the Commander of Virginia District 10, Colonel Chuck Wilson, USAF (Ret) who said, "Today there are 83,000 Americans listed as missing and unaccounted for from our nation's wars going back to the beginning of World War II. That's 83,000

military and civilian men and women ... mothers and fathers ... brothers and sisters ... and sons and daughters... Today, our nation reaffirms its resolve to achieve the fullest possible accounting of those who are missing."

Navy Veteran J.R. Arthur, from Fredericksburg, wearing colorful and distinctive Scottish dress and, carrying bagpipes, played Service melodies, and also played the solemn hymn, "Taps."



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7916 conducted the ceremony and was attended by US Congressional Candidate Jeffery Dove, Virginia Delegate Richard Anderson, Occoquan Mayor Elizabeth Quist, and Occoquan District Supervisor Ruth Anderson.



POW MIA Table of Honor on Display



Navy Veteran J.R. Arthur, from Fredericksburg, played Service Melodies, and also played the solemn hymn, "Taps."

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)



Post 7916's own Boy Scout Troop 1369 led by Post 7916 Life Member Steve Sabia provided flawless logistical support. As the Grand Finale, the Scouts launched red, white, blue, silver, and black star helium filled balloons in honor of our Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force & Coast Guard heroes.

New functions on the VFW website

When a visitor goes to www.vfw.org in their browser, one of the first links they will see at the top of the page is "Find A Post". Clicking on this link takes the visitor to a page where they can enter a ZIP code or city and state and then search by distance for VFW Posts in the area. They will see the name of the Post, with address and phone number, as well as when meetings are held, the names of the Commander and Quartermaster, and now the dues amount for the Post.

This is obviously useful information for veterans looking to connect with a local Post, but it is also useful information for you as a recruiter looking to connect veterans with a Post in their area. If you run across a veteran who might be interested in VFW membership but isn't local to your Post, you can assist them by

looking up their local Post, letting them know who to contact and when meetings are, and how much the dues will be. Remember, we are one team and one VFW and bringing a new member on board - even if it's not to your Post - helps our mission.

In addition, when a VFW member logs into the website, on the right hand side of the MY VFW page you will see two new links under the heading "Get Your Digital Membership Card". Both Apple and Android smart phones offer the option to save

various cards and passes to a digital "wallet", so that instead of carrying around a dozen physical membership cards, discount cards, etc., they can all be kept on your phone. The VFW now offers this option for your membership card!

If you have an Apple or Android device, simply browse to this page on that device and click on either the "Add to Apple Wallet" button (iPhone or iPad) or the "Add to WalletPasses" button (Android) and it will go through the process of adding a digital version of your VFW membership card to your device.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our Annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out

INSIDENOVA

NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S LEADING NEWS SOURCE

VFW Hosts 'Voice of Democracy' Essay/Oral Presentation Contest

Veterans of Foreign Wars recently sponsored the Voice of Democracy essay and speaking competition for high school students, and a Patriots' Pen essay competition for middle school students.



(L-R) Oyinlade Aderibigbe, Trey Courtney, Samuel Barge, Post Commander Chuck Wilson and Angela Gyane.

The judges reviewed more than 50 entries from schools in the Woodbridge area.

The high school winners were:

- 1st - Samuel Barge, Home School, 12th grade
- 2nd - Angela Gyane, Potomac High School, 12th grade

The middle-school winners were:

- 1st - Allison Metcalf, Benton Middle School, 8th grade
- 2nd - Oulinlade Aderlbigbe, Lake Ridge Middle, 7th grade
- 3rd - Rebecca Courtney, Lake Ridge Middle, 6th grade

— Staff report

http://www.insidenova.com/news/vfw-hosts-voice-of-democracy-essay-oral-presentation-contest/article_e8c10096-f7a2-11e6-8e57-831096d82a19.html

VFW National Legislative Conference

By C. D. Doc Crouch

On 12 and 13 September, 2017 members of the VFW's National Legislative Committee visited the "Hill" in Washington, D. C. to discuss a variety of concerns with the members



Above: Dan Boyer and Congressman Rob Wittman (R-1VA)
Below: Doc Crouch and Congressman Don Beyer D-8VA



of the Senate and House of Representatives. The Virginia contingent, Dan Boyer (VFW-7726) and Doc Crouch (VFW-3150), attended meetings in the offices of ALL of our elected national legislators; sometimes meeting with staff members but in a number of cases with the representatives themselves.

Our broad legislative needs are outlined in the 2017 Priority Goals which are based on the resolutions which are voted on and passed by the membership at our national convention. Certain of these goals were selected for special emphasis and point papers were developed to expand on our concerns. Along with that, and true to the VFW's work ethic where there is a problem that needs to be addressed, we brought forth a proposed solution.

First and foremost is **sequestration**, which is not only severely hampering the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) but all government agencies. It must come to an end NOW. Other immediate areas of concern were:

- ⇒ DOD's attempt to put forward **TRICARE Fee Increases** in the Defense Appropriation Bill.
 - ⇒ Need for improvements in overall **Veterans Health Care**.
 - ⇒ Addressing the needs of veterans who have been subjected to **Toxic Exposure** of varying substances.
 - ⇒ Needed improvements to the **VA Caregiver Program**.
 - ⇒ DOD policies and Congress's intent on **Veterans Preference** in the government workplace.
 - ⇒ **Concurrent Receipt** as it affects not only retired veterans but their surviving spouses.
- Also discussed were 24 additional bills currently making their way through the U. S. Congress.



Above: C.D. Doc Crouch and Congresswoman Barbara Comstock (R-10VA)

If you would like a copy of any of the above documents and cannot get them at your Post, please contact Doc Crouch at DCrouch@vfwva.org or call me at (703) 319-0845.



Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-11VA), Doc Crouch and Cathy Graham (Aux PDP)



Above: Dan Boyer and Congressman Morgan Griffith (R-9VA)



Right: Congressman Scott W. Taylor (R-2VA & VFW-392 Member) and C. D. Doc Crouch

Copies of the 2017 Priority Goals and the Fall 2017 Legislative Priorities point papers have been provided to each Post with the request that it be shared with the members – VFW and Auxiliary. A breakdown (as of 22 September) of the forty legislative bills cited in the point papers has been prepared and it indicates which of our legislators have signed on as co-sponsors of those individual pieces of legislation. A copy of this breakdown has been provided to each Post in Virginia. Each Post has been provided with a listing that provides information on where each legislator is located and their contact info, for both D.C. and local offices.

Fauquier County Sixth Grade Hosts Panel of Veterans

Submitted by Jeff Dombroff, Senior Vice
Commander, VFW Post 9835

Taylor Middle School hosted a discussion panel of veterans on Wednesday, Sept. 27. Service men and women from all branches of the military except Coast Guard served on the panel, sharing historical information and personal anecdotes with sixth-grade students. Veterans also shared artifacts including medals, letters of commendation and photographs. In preparation for the panel discussion, all TMS sixth-graders prepared questions during their history classes. Having World War II Army veteran Vito Montealeone's participation on the panel was the highlight not only for the students but also for the other veterans. Following the panel discussion the veterans joined students for lunch.

Thanks to VFW Post 9835, ten veterans participated on the panel. In addition to Mr. Montealeone, others sharing their time and their stories were Stan Hunter (Navy), Jeff Dombroff (Navy), Lowell Nevill (Army), Kevin Turner (Army), Dave Torrey (Air Force), Bill Keys (Army), David Nash (Marine Corps), Jennifer Bowman (Air Force), and Laura Gallagher (Marine Corps).

- Karen Parkinson, Coordinator of Information, Fauquier County Public Schools



Veterans participating in a panel discussion at Taylor Middle School were, left to right, Kevin Turner, Vito Montealeone, Jeff Dombroff, Stan Hunter, Jennifer Bowman, Dave Torrey, Laura Gallagher, Lowell Nevill, Bill Keys and David Nash.



Virginia VFW a Big Hit at “The Nation’s Gun Show”

By Chuck Wilson, Commander, VFW Virginia District 10
Commander VFW Post 7916 (2014-2017)
Chairman, Potomac Region Veterans Council

September 29-October 1, 2017, Chantilly, VA. Situated in Chantilly, VA, Dulles Expo & Conference Center is Northern Virginia and Metropolitan Washington DC’s premier exhibition facility for consumer shows and trade events. Held at the Dulles Expo, The Nation’s Gun Show is dedicated to producing the most professional, safest, and ethical gun shows in the United States and draws thousands of people from Northern Virginia, many of whom are veterans.

Both Virginia VFW District 8, and District 10, manned the VFW booth at “The Nation’s Gun Show,” at the Dulles Expo Center. Seen above are Chuck Wilson, District 10 Commander; “Turk” Maggi, past Occoquan Post 7916 Senior Vice Commander; Tom Troy, Burke Post 5412; and Ken Strafer, Senior Vice Commander Occoquan Post 7916.

As the multitudes descended upon the Expo Center, many passed by, and stopped, at the VFW booth. By 4:00PM Sunday, we had 29 applicants including a few transfers!

Participating Posts were from Leesburg-1177, Dale City-1503, Arlington-3150, Burke-5412, Occoquan-7916, Manassas-7589, and Manassas Park-1811.

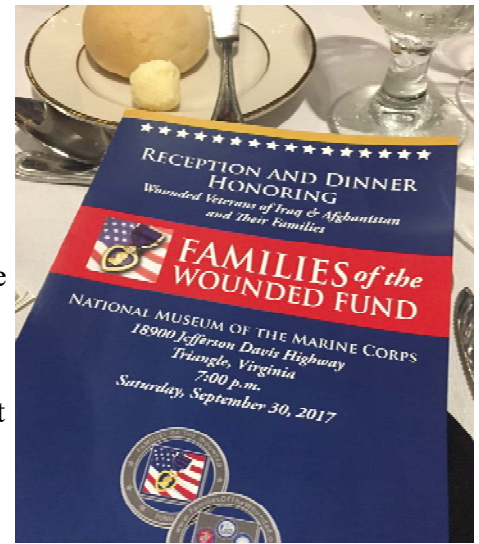


Families Of The Wounded Fund

By Tom Ferguson, Captain, Dept. Honor Guard

The Few The Proud.....

Everyone knows this is the motto of the U S Marine Corps , but it also covers what the VFW Department of Virginia Honor Guard represents. Nineteen members from 10 different Posts that band together and present the colors at events , parades and funerals. The past four years have been a challenge to rebuild after George McCracken's retirement along with some members and to continue to maintain the high standards and traditions of the Department Honor Guard. New members have reinvigorated the team and have enabled us to do many events. The one recent event was very prestigious, in that we took part in the annual Families of the Wounded Banquet at the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico . The Honor Guard presented the colors and was invited to stay for the event. The guest speaker, General Barry McCaffrey, emphasized the sacrifices that all present had made and how The Families of the Wounded Organization was able to help them overcome their hardships as a result of their service to our country. Walt Davis (Col. USMC ret.) a member of Post 1503, stated that he had searched for a VFW Honor Guard for the event. He was so impressed with the professionalism and bearing of the unit, that he invited the Department Honor Guard to return for next year's banquet. This is only one example of many events that we have been involved in. The Honor Guard stands ready to serve when called upon. Semper Fi



Lieutenant General “Sam” Vaughan Wilson (93), Special Operations Legend Passed Away June 10, 2017

Rice, Virginia: A revered and beloved figure, and known affectionately as “General Sam,” Lieutenant General Wilson served 37 years in the U.S. Army, retiring in 1977. In June 1940, at 16, he walked seven miles through the nighttime rain from his family’s tobacco farm in Rice to the Army National Guard Armory in Farmville, VA, where he lied about his age and signed up. When he graduated from OCS at the age of 18, he was the Army’s youngest second lieutenant. General Wilson became a living legend in intelligence and special operations. During his military career, he co-authored legislation establishing the U.S. Special Operations Command and helped create the Delta Force — the Army’s premier counterterrorism unit. Fluent in Russian, he was designated the first general officer to serve as defense attaché to Moscow. An expert in “counterinsurgency,” he coined the term, writing the Army’s first program of instruction on how to do it and fight it. General Sam was an early recruit to the Office of Strategic Services in 1943. Later, his commanding officer termed him the best lieutenant fighting in Burma with the renowned “Merrill’s Marauders.” During his career he saw service variously in Russia and Vietnam, ran CIA Cold War operations in Berlin, served as Assistant Division Commander for Operations of the 82nd Airborne Division, and commanded the Sixth Special Forces Group. He played a key staff role in the Cuban Missile Crisis. In addition, he served as Deputy to the Director of Central Intelligence for the Intelligence Community, and as Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Following his military career, he joined the faculty of Hampden-Sydney College as a professor of political science. He went on to become president of the college for eight years, and after founding Hampden-Sydney’s Wilson Center for Leadership was named to its first Wheat professorship.

Over the years many in the nation’s military and civilian leadership, and notably in its intelligence community, have held soaring opinions of General Sam — among them at least six Presidents as well as George Allen, Charles Robb, Paul Trible, Alexander Haig, David Petraeus, Richard Helms, John O. Marsh, Bobby Ray Inman, and Edward Lansdale. — Former CIA Director Richard Helms said General Sam “never hesitated to take on the secret jobs which entail no reward.”

Among General Sam’s various other honors, he was a member of the U.S. Army Infantry Hall of Fame, the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame, the U.S. Military Intelligence Hall of Fame, and the U.S. Attaché Hall of Fame. He was a recipient of: the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star (Gallantry) (twice), the Legion of Merit (twice), the U.S.



Army’s Distinguished Service Medal (thrice), the Office of National Intelligence’s Distinguished Service Medal (twice), the U.S. Special Operations Distinguished Service Medal, the CIA Distinguished Intelligence Medal, the William Oliver Baker Award (Intelligence), the Arthur D. “Bull” Simons Award (Special Operations), the National Defense Industrial Association’s Rylander Award for Special Operations, and the Military Intelligence Corps Association’s Knowlton Award. General Sam also held an Honorary Doctorate in Laws from Hampden-Sydney College, an Honorary Doctorate in Letters from Longwood University, and an honorary doctorate in Strategic Intelligence from the National Intelligence University. In 1992, the Virginia Cultural Laureate Foundation named him its Cultural Laureate for Public Service.

He was predeceased by his parents, Helen Vaughan and Jasper D. Wilson; his brothers John D. and William L.; his sister Virginia W. Druen; and by his wife Brenda Downing Wilson. He is survived by his brother James B. Wilson; his sons Samuel V. Wilson, Jr. (Jane Carol), Jackson B. Wilson (Jane), David. J. M. Wilson, and William W Tennis II; by his daughters Susan V. Wilson, and Frances Gwin Tennis (Jason); and by his wife Virginia H. Wilson. The family asked that donations in his memory be made to the Samuel V. Wilson Scholarship Fund or The Wilson Center for Leadership in the Public Interest at Hampden Sydney, VA, 23943.

Ground broken for Puller Veterans Care Center

At a ceremony attended by many members of the veterans community and Fauquier County officials the long struggle to build a Northern Virginia Center finally came to fruition. On October 24, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe led a group of 22 dignitaries in breaking ground for the new Puller Veterans Care Center at Vint Hill.

Chesty Puller VFW Post 1503 in Dale City opened the ceremony with a color guard and presentation of the colors. That was followed by the National Anthem sung by Ms. Carrie Ann Alford and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Martha Puller Downs. Commissioner John Newby of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services served as master of ceremonies. Speakers included Fauquier County Board of Supervisors Chairman Richard Gerhardt, Virginia House Delegates Scott Lingamfelter and Rich Anderson and Virginia Senator Bryce Reeves. The keynote address was delivered by Governor Terry McAuliffe.

Members of Warrenton VFW Post 9835 and Manassas Park Post 1811 were in attendance as were State Commander Mike Boehme, State Junior Vice Commander Rick Raskin and District 10 Commander Chuck Wilson. It was also a pleasure to see retired Virginia Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Vince Burgess attend.

Scheduled for completion in early 2020, the Puller Veterans Care Center will be built on the former Vint Hill Farms Station in Fauquier County, which previously served as a United States Army and National Security Agency facility. The site played a critical role in eavesdropping on enemy communications during World War II, when it intercepted a message that helped lead to the D-Day invasion of Normandy. The new care center will deliver top-quality care to Virginia veterans in a home-like setting. The 128-bed facility will feature all private rooms that will be organized into households and neighborhoods that surround a central community center.



Governor Terry McAuliffe delivered the keynote address.



Twenty-two dignitaries participated in the groundbreaking ceremony.



Artist's concept of the front entrance.



Governor Terry McAuliffe and Ms. Martha Puller Downs

Virginia VFW Council of Administration Meets

-by Chuck Wilson Commander District 10



Saturday October 14, 2017. The Virginia Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) held its Council of Administration at its headquarters in Staunton, VA. The Council is presided over by the Department Commander Mike Boehme, and is made up of the 13 District Commanders representing 135 Posts, Department officers, and staff.

At this Council of Administration, a wide variety of veterans' issues were reviewed and discussed, from VFW Post performance that includes their work with Americanism, Community Service, Youth Activities, Safety, to Hospital service/support. These are the mission areas that each of the Posts perform and report on. Other areas included the VFW Post inspection program, where each Post is inspected annually for compliance with the VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure; participation in Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and National Citizenship Education Teacher's Awards; and Buddy Poppy and National Military Services Programs. Membership and recruiting was also a prime topic in as VFW membership not only enables the conduct of the VFW mission, but it represents a sizeable constituency that is recognized by the US Congress. That constituency enables the VFW to push through many legislative issues that directly help our veterans! The Department, Districts, and each Post are responsible for recruiting eligible members that make up the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is the membership that enables VFW success!

State Junior Vice Commanders Meet

State Junior Vice Commanders met in Kansas City, MO on September 8 and 9th.

Known as Doc's Wranglers, the group came together with a mission to Mentor, Communicate and Serve.

Virginia JVC Rick Raskin is in the front and National JVC Doc Schmitz in is the rear just to the right of center.

The jeans symbolize our willingness to get out and get to work.



Veteran's History Project Launches Last Installment of WWI Series

Library of Congress Gazette

October 6, 2017

The Veterans History Project (VHP) [has] launched "A World Overturned," The final chapter in a three-part, online website series titled "Experiencing War," dedicated to U.S. veterans of the First World War.



Hubert Joseph Wesselman Collection, Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center

'A World Overturned' highlights the digitized stories of eight veterans, exploring how World War I forever changed their lives, shared through original photographs, letters, diaries, memoirs and other materials. This series has been presented as a companion site to the Library exhibit "Echoes of the Great War."

One of several profiles featured in the series, Roland Neel survived the dangerous early days of aviation as an aerial observer, but his brother, Joseph, was killed in action at the Battle of St. Mihiel.

Before enlisting, Reese Russell was accustomed to the quiet rhythms of rural life. He was gassed during combat and was never the same. Reese's daughter, who donated his diary posthumously,

said her father slept too little and drank too much after the war. He died impoverished at the age of 61.

During his service with the 89th Division in France and Germany, Hubert Wesselman expressed concerns about the long-term impact of his wartime experiences, but professional support for service members returning from battle was largely unavailable at the time. He struggled to cope with the horrors he suffered. Tragically, after enduring war, the Great Depression and years of strenuous work as a farmer, Hubert took his own life.

Those and other veterans' collections included in 'A World Overturned' are available at loc.gov/vets/stories/wwi-part3.html.

Post 7916 presents VFW Award at Hylton High School AFJROTC Dining Out

May 12, 2017, Woodbridge, 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, airmen, marines, cadets, school administrators, teachers, moms, dads, brothers, sisters and distinguished guests came to celebrate and recognize achievement. VFW Post 7916 Commander Chuck Wilson and Post 7916 Junior Vice Commander Bob



Fenlason were part of this memorable event.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Award of Excellence was presented to Cadet Andrea Lemus. Cadet Lemus was recognized for her outstanding leadership and Americanism as an AFROTC Cadet. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7916 Commander Chuck Wilson, Col USAF Ret, presented the award. Cadet Lemus also received a \$200.00 scholarship award from VFW Post 7916.

The Order of Daedalians Achievement Award was presented to the JROTC Cadet Caroline Humphreys. Cadet Hum-



phreys received this award for superior academic achievement, leadership, and intent to pursue a military career. Dating back to World War I, the Order of Daedalians is the National Order of Military Pilots, of which Wilson is a 35 year member.

Some background on Dining-Ins and Dining -Outs:

A dining-in is a formal event for military organizations believed to have begun in 16th-century England, in monasteries and universities.

The British Army incorporated it during the 18th century, in the form of formal dining within the regimental mess. Rules of the mess were institutionalized as "the Queen's Regulations." The "mess night" or "dining in" became a tradition in all British regiments.

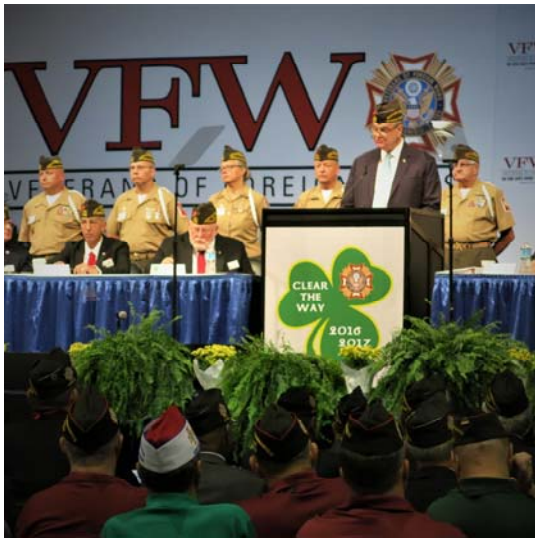
Our Army, Navy and Air Force refer to this event as a dining-in. The Marine Corps and Coast Guard call it mess night, while the Army sometimes calls it a regimental dinner. The Air Force dining-in probably began in the 1930s with General H. "Hap" Arnold's "wing dings." The close bonds enjoyed by Air Corps officers and their British colleagues of the Royal Air Force during World War II surely added to the American involvement in the dining-in custom.



A Dining-In involves only the members of the unit. At Dining-Outs guests are allowed. The dining-out follows the same basic rules of the dining-in, but is sometimes tailored for the civilian guests to encourage their involvement.



Snapshots From The National Convention



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Snapshots From The National Convention



America's Freedom Event Yorktown Auxiliary National President's Homecoming



Commander in Chief Keith Harman and National President Dee Guillory at Yorktown



Yorktown parade



Ellen Carlton, Hal Roesch, Linda Bond and Betty Gimble



Dee's Welcome banner—signed by attendees



Native American dancers



Hal Casey as DJ



Signing Dee's banner



Fife & Drum Corps led opening ceremony



The head table at Saturday's banquet



Dee Guillory receives a proclamation from Virginia Auxiliary member Irene Peters



Far Left: Mary Corkhill and Ellen Stogsdill. Left: Virginia Auxiliary President Linda Bond, Dee Guillory, Keith Harman and Virginia State Commander Mike Boehme



Charles P. "Chuck" Wilson

Candidate for Department of Virginia Surgeon

The first position in a deliberate series leading to State Commander



Greetings comrades! I am running for Department Surgeon, the first in a deliberate series of positions leading to State Commander. If elected, I pledge to work with you to "Honor our Fallen, by Caring for our Living!"

So that you know me better here are some excerpts from my biography:

"Wilson is the Commander Virginia District 10, Virginia's largest District. Past Commander of VFW Post 7916 in Occoquan, VA from 2014-2017. "All State" and "All American" Commander.

Additionally, Wilson is the Chairman of the Potomac Region Veterans Council representing 26 Veteran Service Organizations and over 15,000 veterans in Northern Virginia. In his multiple roles, he is a prime advocate for veterans and, appearing before the Virginia Senate, was instrumental in influencing Virginia legislation to ensure that all Veteran Service Organizations, like the Virginia VFW, would be recognized as non-profit charitable organizations as the Federal law provides.

Other VFW work includes: Chairman, Virginia Department Resolutions Committee, Member, Department Foundation Committee, VFW National Special Aide-de-Camp 2016-2017; District 10 Junior Vice Commander (All American), District 10 Surgeon, Post 7916 Commander (All State & All American), Post 7916 Trustee. His passion is to serve our veterans, the military, and local communities.

Wilson's 27-year military career spanned the Cold War, Gulf War, including Operations Desert Storm; Restore Hope; Northern Watch; Southern Watch; Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. Wilson, a USAF Command Pilot, has piloted a wide variety of Air Force aircraft with much of his flight time in the U-2 where he piloted the U-2 on very classified, sensitive, missions, in hostile areas around the world, served as a U-2 Instructor pilot, a U-2 Flight Commander, and was the Commander of U-2 Squadrons at Taif Air Base, Saudi Arabia, and Osan Air Base, South Korea. Wilson was also the Commander of the Air Force C2 Center of Excellence that became the 505th Command and Control Wing, at Hurlburt Field, Florida. His overseas mission/service includes: UK TTF (Baltic, Central Med) (1984), Eastern Mediterranean TTF+ U2 (Syria, Israel, Egypt) (1985, 1988, 1994) Saudi Arabia (Iraq & Somalia) (1993-94), Korea (1986, '87, '88, 1995-96). U-2 missions were in hostile/hazardous areas and many are still classified."

My vision for the VFW is to ensure that veterans are respected for their service, receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country! I look forward to your vote at the Department Convention next summer.