



VFW VA COMMANDER
MIKE BOEHME

Another addition of the *Virginia Veteran* and more remarkable stories about our Posts and all the magnificent work they have accomplished. Please take your time reading each article - you may find some activities you can replicate at your Posts.

This VFW year is almost over. Our Posts and Districts have completed most of their tasks with only meeting membership goals remaining.

About half of the Posts have already reached 100% or better and a majority of those remaining only need a few more renewals, recruits or reinstatements to make 100%. Our Department has a recent history of reaching 100% so I encourage each of you to ask your neighbors and friends if they are combat veterans and, if so, get them to become members of our great organization.

In just a couple of weeks we'll be having our convention in Portsmouth. If you've never attended I hope you'll consider spending the weekend with us. You'll learn more about the VFW and have an exciting time meeting new comrades. Make it a long weekend and enjoy the local sights and restaurants.

I encourage all our Posts and Districts to forward articles about their events and success stories for inclusion in the *Virginia Veteran*. There's a lot of great activities and events occurring in our Department that need to be shared. Send your articles and pictures to: news@vfwva.org.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your hard work this year supporting our Veterans, their families and our communities. I'm very proud of all your accomplishments and honored to have served as your State Commander. Keep up your splendid work and remember, *No One Does More for Veterans!*

Spreading the VFW Message Across Southside Virginia

Greg Eanes, VFW Post 7819

Veterans of Foreign Wars Gold Star Memorial Post 7819 and WSVS in Crewe conducted a Veterans Day program with approximately three hours of radio air time promoting the Veterans of Foreign Wars, area VFW Buddy and



Crewe's WSVS Radio host Steve Winn (sitting) invited VFW Post 7819 Commander Burnett (Mac) McMillian, Jr (center), Crewe Mayor and 7819 member Greg Eanes (left, standing) and Crewe World War II veteran and current Farmville resident and Post 7059 member Cecil Yeatts (right, standing) to host a three-hour Veterans Day edition of station's Coffee Chat program on November 10, the Federal Veterans Day holiday. The VFW members promoted VFW recruiting, retention, youth, veteran and memorial programs during the course of the visit. (Contributed Photo)

VFW support for veterans, youth and memorial programs.

WSVS Radio announcer Steve Winn reached out to Post 7819 Commander Burnett (Mac) McMillian, Jr., Crewe Mayor and retired Air Force Colonel Greg Eanes (a member of VFW Post 7819) and Crewe World War II veteran Cecil Yeatts, now of Farmville and a member of Farmville VFW Post 7059, to support a special Veterans

Continued on Page 5...



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news@vfwva.org or by USPS to:

VFW Post 7589

Attn: Virginia Veteran

PO Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108

**Articles for the next issue must be received before
 September 29, 2018.**

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

Many thanks to all of you out there for your continued submissions to the Virginia Veteran. And, thanks for your patience awaiting publication of this installment...its been a busy winter/spring. Summer is almost upon us.

If you've sent in articles, keep them coming...if you have not made a submission, please consider sending in news about what you're doing in your area to serve our Veterans! Even photos with brief captions and listing of whose who, is great. And...foot stomp...those are really easy for to incorporate.

Please email your articles and photos to: news@vfwva.org
 Of course you can also mail me copies at our Post home, in Manassas.

Also, we are working to publish three times a year.

I hope you enjoy reading through this edition and seeing the great work our comrades are doing across the state and even the Capital. Good luck in all of your Memorial Day endeavors this year...I look forward to receiving highlights of those and generating the next installment of the Virginia Veteran!

Yours in Comradeship,

Curt Vaughn

Editor

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...support a special Veterans Day edition of the historic radio station's 'Coffee Chat' program which airs between 9 a.m. and noon daily. Also featured were radio interviews conducted earlier in the year with Past Department of Virginia Commander Tom Gimble and current State Commander Mike Boehme which complemented local recruiting and retention objectives.

Commander McMillian stressed local VFW community support activities highlighting the VFW's 'Voice of Democracy' and 'Patriot Pen' programs and noted the various 'Buddy Poppy' locations throughout the town of Crewe on Veterans Day. Colonel Eanes, also a regional military historian, spoke of the remembrance and memorial mission of the VFW stressing the importance of protecting all American war memorials while highlighting many of the local veterans and Gold Star families in the Southside Virginia Region from World War I to present day. Yeatts recalled his own service and that of his family that included five brothers all with Navy service from World War II through Vietnam. He also recalled several of the local World War II veterans who were killed in action. Listeners were able to call into the radio station to ask questions and remember their veteran family members.

WSVS AM-800 has a country music format and reaches audiences between Durham, NC and just north of Richmond and between Norfolk and Lynchburg. It is also broadcast on internet and has dedicated listeners in the United Kingdom, the latter information leading Colonel Eanes to also ask listeners to also remember American allies in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Poland and other allied nations for what for them is 'Remembrance Day'.

Before leaving, the VFW presented Winn with a Certificate of Remembrance for his late uncle Private Charlie Lee Winn, Co. E, 61st Infantry Regiment, 5th Division, killed in action on October 15, 1918 during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and now buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Romagne, France.

Voice of Democracy Judging in Warrenton

Jeff Dombroff, District 8 Adjutant, VFW Post 9835

December 23, just before Christmas and as the Department's VOD judging was wrapping up in Warrenton Virginia, Committee Chairman Geoff Lyster (shown below at the computer) was joined by Department SVC Ken Wiseman, Post 1811 Cdr Monti Zimmerman, Post 9835 QM Gary Robison, District 8 Adjutant Jeff Dombroff (not pictured) and Past District 8 Cdr Stan Hunter (not pictured) in reviewing entries from 10 of the Department's Districts. The winners will be announced at the Winter Conference in January.



...and the Patriot's Pen...

Post 9835 also recognized students for their entries in the Patriot's Pen competition. Jeff Dombroff presented certificates and pins to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at W. C. Taylor Middle School in Warrenton for submitting the top entries from their grades in the 2017-2018 competition.



L-R: Ethan Homenik (8th grade); Thanuwat Kraiwan (7th grade); SVC Dombroff; Bonnie Quansah (6th grade); Celli McMorrow (6th grade - best entry from the school)



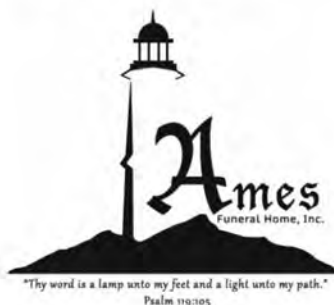
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Home Depot Leads Leesburg VFW Post Overhaul

By Patrick Szabo, LoudonNow(<http://loudounnow.com/2017/11/16/leesburgs-vfw-post-overhauled/>)

Leesburg's 67-year-old VFW Post 1177 got a much-needed facelift today.

More than 20 volunteers from Team Depot, Home Depot's associate-led volunteer force, worked from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the project, which was made possible through a \$20,000 grant from the Home Depot Foundation. Volunteers updated the outside drainage system, planted shrubs, and installed new ceiling fans, lighting, floors and drywall.

"It was in sad need of updating," said Stephen Hood, a seven-year member of the post and an Air Force intelligence specialist in the Vietnam War. "Just looking at the post inside, it cried out for help."

Hood said the work was expected to be done by today, but could run through the weekend. Final work on the interior will be done in two weeks.

The renovations come as the Home Depot Foundation continues its mission to donate \$250 million to veteran-related causes by 2020. It has already invested about \$213 million in similar projects and helped renovate more than 35,000 veteran homes.

While the post's building was constructed in 1950, the Leesburg post has been around since 1937. It celebrated its



Farmville Magazine Highlights VFW Post 7059

Frederick Hill, VFW Post 7059



Farmville the Magazine published an article about Post 7059 in their Nov. issue, which is available online at:

https://issuu.com/farmvilleherald/docs/farmvillenov2017_final_issuu/48

The issue is also available at many local businesses and the *Herald* office.

Post 7059 also runs the Veterans' Closet Thrift Store at and is always looking for volunteers. If you live in the area, think about signing up for a day a month. All profits go directly to vets!

Virginia District 10 recognized for Membership Performance

By Chuck Wilson

In a special ceremony, VFW Commander in Chief recognized the top Districts and Posts for their membership performance so far this year. *Virginia District 10 was recognized for being the top District in Division One, worldwide. Accepting the award for District 10 is District 10's Commander, Chuck Wilson.* With four months to go, Virginia District 10 is in front of Europe's Districts 1 and 3.

Since 1949, VFW's annual Legislative Conference has provided an opportunity for VFW leaders from each state to personally lobby their respective lawmakers and watch as VFW's current Commander-in-Chief testifies on Capitol Hill before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on behalf of veterans.

The annual conference strengthens the VFW's advocacy efforts on behalf of America's veterans, service members and their families, as VFW members meet with elected representatives in the House and Senate to discuss the VFW's stance on a number of high priority veterans' issues.

Left: Commander-in-Chief Harmen & District 10 Commander Wilson

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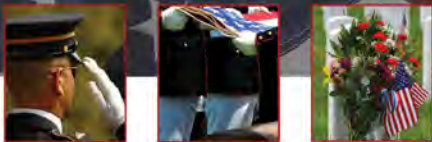
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Virginia VFW Recruiting Excels at the Nation's Gun Show

By Chuck Wilson District 10 Commander

February 9-11, 2018, Chantilly, VA. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Virginia, had a strong showing at the Nations Gun Show, held at the Dulles Expo Center, this month!

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 which are veterans.



(l-r) Steve Hood, Chuck Wilson, Dr Gorka, Rick Raskin, Tom Troy



Steven Hood Post 1177 briefs a prospective recruit

Our VFW Booth had a surprise visitor, Dr. Sebastian Gorka (above center). Dr. Gorka made a special trip over to our VFW booth to *thank all of us for our service*. Dr. Gorka was the Major General Horner Distinguished Chair of Military Theory at the [Marine Corps University](#) Foundation, at Quantico, after which he was Special Advisor to the President of the United States. He is currently the Vice President for National Security and Professor of Strategy & Irregular Warfare at the Institute of World Politics and a frequent commentator on the national news and radio.

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 (l-r) are Steven Hood, Post 1177, Chuck Wilson, District 10 Commander; Dr Gorka; Rick Raskin State Senior Vice Commander; and Tom Troy, Burke Post 5412.

As the multitudes descended upon the Expo Center, many passed by, and stopped, at the VFW Booth. By the close of the show we had 25 applicants plus two transfers! The collective recruiting that our Posts have accomplished at the Gun Shows over the past two years has neared 300!!

Participating Posts were from Leesburg-1177, Dale City-1503, Burke-5412, Occoquan-7916, and also from Manassas-7589, and Manassas Park-1811 and Warrenton-9835.



Two Navy Veterans came by to inquire about joining the VFW with Tom Troy and Steven Hood in background



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Woodbridge VFW Post Holds Charity Event for Hurricane Victims

By Chuck Wilson, District 10 Commander

Saturday February 24, 2018, Occoquan, VA. The Veterans of Foreign Wars District 10's Post 7916 held a special event for the victims still suffering from the ravages of Hurricanes Maria and Irma in Puerto Rico, a US Commonwealth.

The "Voice of Puerto Rico" informed us that their police officers are still in need of many of the basic necessities and particularly the families in Barranquitas and Naranjito.

Cynthia Hale, the CEO for the PR Outreach stated, "The combined effect of both hurricanes destroyed thousands of homes, businesses, critical infrastructure, and left many people homeless. We appreciate Post 7916 for what they are doing."

On this day, VFW Post 7916 set up a collection point for donations, and many distinguished visitors came along with the multitudes who came and brought items of men's women's, and children's clothing, shoes, bedding and bath items for the families in need. Boy Scouts from Troops 1369 and 1352 were on hand to help with the collection of items.

United States Congressman Rob Wittman spoke to the crowd and expressed his sincere appreciation for their generosity and giving to this noble cause. The Congressman also thanked the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7916 for holding this event. Congressman Wittman is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a staunch supporter of our veterans.

KUDOS to Post 7916 Commander Jeff Lett and all the scouts and volunteers who put this event together... WELL DONE!"



Other speakers included upcoming Senatorial Candidate, Dr. Minerva Dias, Occoquan Mayor Elizabeth Quist, and Post CDR Jeff Lett. Mayor Quist is a member of the Post 7916 Auxiliary and Dr. Dias, and Air Force veteran, is becoming a member of the Post 7916 Auxiliary.



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Hattingsh is well-known in the Pacific Northwest where he owned Northwest Prosthetics & Orthotics, Seattle, and was an adjunct lecturer at the University of Washington. He transitioned out of his practice in 2009 and traveled to his native South Africa, where he lectured and donated his expertise to treating children that did not have medical insurance.

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Wreaths Across America

By Chuck Wilson, Commander, District 10

It was a brisk 25 degrees the morning of December 16, 2017, when Quantico National Cemetery hosted "Wreaths Across America," a holiday wreath-laying ceremony to honor and remember our nation's Veterans. District 10's VFW Post 1503 and VFW Post 7916 participated. This annual event honors fallen service members buried at National Cemeteries across the United States.

We have seen and been awestruck by the somber sight of thousands of precisely aligned rows of stark headstones at our Veterans' cemeteries. But seeing the awe-inspiring images of hundreds -- thousands -- of beautiful, red-ribbon-adorned, fresh, green wreaths gracing the graves of our fallen heroes is humbling. A short ceremony, led by the Civil Air Patrol, began at 11:55 AM. The Marine Color Guard posted the Colors.



Representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines, along with friends and families came and laid wreaths to honor the fallen, as well as Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action (POW/MIA).

The Christmas Wreaths were positioned at multiple locations across Quantico National Cemetery and distributed to the thousands of good Samaritans who came to help.



District 10 Senior Vice Commander Randy Coker and many members from VFW Post 1503 picked up and laid wreaths upon the graves of the Fallen.

Retired Navy Captain Phillip Heisey, and his wife Michael, came to lay a wreath upon their son, Matthew Heisey's Grave at QNC. Navy Captain Phil Heisey stood "watch" over his son's grave while Michael gathered a wreath. District 10 Commander Chuck Wilson of Post 7916 also stood by Army Capt Matt Heisey's grave. The outpouring of great Americans was overwhelming. There were thousands who came for this event. The line of cars was backed up to and on I-95 to get in to the Quantico National Cemetery. Traffic was in gridlock for quite some time. Reportedly, over 6,000 people laid 13,000 wreaths were laid to honor our veterans at Quantico National Cemetery.



Quantico National Cemetery Director James Sanders provides welcoming remarks to the multitudes.

Virginia VFW District 10 Commander, Chuck Wilson, Col USAF Ret, and Woodbridge Post 7916 member and his wife Judy, a VFW Post 7916 Auxiliary Member participated in laying wreaths at many of the headstones at Quantico National Cemetery.



Cemetery Director James Sanders, Judy Wilson, and Chuck Wilson

"Wreaths Across America," began donating holiday wreaths in tribute to Veterans laid to rest at Veterans Administration's national cemeteries and state veterans' cemeteries in 2006.

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Junior Vice Commander in Chief visits Virginia

By Rick Raskin, State Junior Vice Commander

When I attended Junior Vice Commander training in Kansas City in the Spring of 2017, I asked Junior Vice Commander in Chief William (Doc) Schmitz if he was willing to visit Virginia for a Membership Roundup next year. His immediate response was "Why wouldn't I?"

So on Sunday March 18, State Commander Mike Boehme & I met Doc at Dale City Post 1503 to begin a 4-day Roundup throughout the Commonwealth starting on Monday. It was a convenient place to meet because Doc could leave his car there and ride with us throughout the tour. We travelled to the Richmond area where we met State Senior Vice Commander Ken Wiseman and State Adjutant/Quartermaster Kim DeShano.



On Monday morning we began with breakfast at Mechanicsville Post 9808. Several Posts in District 3 were also present, and we were honored to present awards to 3 of them for achieving 100% membership. Doc spoke about his experiences and stressed that success in the VFW comes through cooperation with our subsidiary organizations such as the Auxiliary and Riders.

William "Doc" J. Schmitz, of Corning, N.Y., was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief July 26, 2017, at the 118th VFW National Convention in New Orleans, La.



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

He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1971 at Post 524 in Corning, N.Y., where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership. He has served as Department Commander, Post Commander, Southern Tier County Council Commander and District 5 Commander. He was also editor of the New York State Overseas Veteran publication for nine years. In 2007, he was elected Department Surgeon for the Department of New York where he served for five consecutive years and served as the national Surgeon General in 2010-2011 and as the national Inspector General in 2015-2016.



Doc worked for the Department of Corrections as a Registered Nurse and Acting Nurse Administrator for 30 years before retiring. He currently is employed as the Director of Veterans Issues for Congressman Tom Reed of the 23rd Congressional District in New York.

Doc and his wife, Deborah, reside in Corning, N.Y. Continued on page 17....



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Continued from page 15...

Following breakfast, we visited Posts in Petersburg (622) and Phoebus (3219) for lunch. State Judge Advocate Eric Mallet and State Surgeon Butch Shupska joined the entourage at Oceanview (3160). Dinner was at Virginia Beach Post 392. We were able to present additional awards and spend time socializing with the membership.

On Tuesday we travelled to Franklin (4411) where State Membership Chair Tom Hines joined us and then on to South Hill (7166). We received a warm welcome at each Post. Lunch was at Clarksville (8163) following visits to their boat ramp and veterans' memorial. We travelled to Victoria (9954) for dinner and attended the joint meeting of the Post and Auxiliary.



Wednesday, with the Nor'easter hitting the east coast, we travelled to Martinsville (4637) in persistent snow showers but clear roads. On to Hillsville (1115) for lunch. Travelling Rt. 58 over Lover's Leap offered a beautifully fogged in non-view of the valley but still clear roads. At Hillsville we were pleased to see that 5 Posts in District 9 were represented, so we were able to present additional awards. Our planned stop at Roanoke was cancelled, not because the Post was snowed in, but because most of the members were. We continued to State HQ at Staunton where we presented Doc with our signature Virginia ham. Dinner was at Charlottesville (1827) and, in the opinion of the group, we had the most awesome spaghetti dinner, prepared by QM Cynthia Wyman. We also presented a membership award to the Post.

On our last day we visited Morrisville (7728) where PDC Tom Gimble met us then on to Fredericksburg (3103). Doc and Mike presented our number 1 recruiter Geoff Lyster a custom bottle of wine from Chief Keith Harman. At Occoquan (7916) we presented the Post a membership award and had lunch; awesome meatloaf. On to Dale City (1503) where we spent a couple of hours socializing with the membership. At our final stop, Manassas (7589) we had dinner catered gratis by Mission BBQ. Our number 2 recruiter Tom Troy received his bottle of wine there.

Doc was astounded at what is occurring in the Department of Virginia. Every Post we visited is active in their communities, participate in programs and carry out the mission of the VFW. He was especially impressed at the degree of cooperation evident between Posts and their Auxiliaries. Our process of taking Schools of Instruction and Recruiter Training to the Districts, our programs of providing Posts computers and our liaison with Tech-4-Troops impressed him to no end. He sees our Schools and Tech-4-Troops projects as programs that could expand to National. He insisted that if that happens Virginia will get recognition for initiating these programs.

A heartfelt thanks to all the Posts that showed us warm welcomes with their Southern Hospitality, friendship and great food. This was the second Roundup where we have invited a National Line Officer to attend (we hosted Keith Harman last year) and we plan to continue the same in the coming years. It was a resounding success and the camaraderie was awesome.





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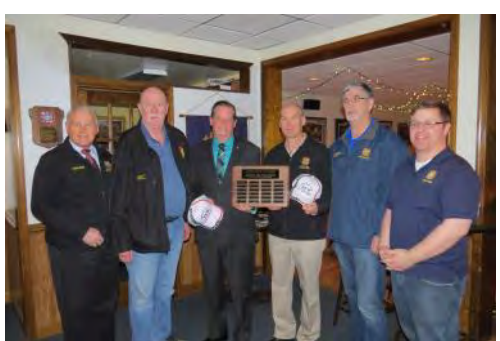
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Snapshots

Junior Vice commander in Chief Visits Virginia



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Snapshots

Junior Vice commander in Chief Visits Virginia



Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589 in Manassas and its Auxiliary hosted a reception for VFW Junior Vice Commander in Chief William (Doc) Schmitz on March 22, 2018.

Mission BBQ catered the dinner to rave reviews from the attendees.

THANK YOU Mission BBQ!

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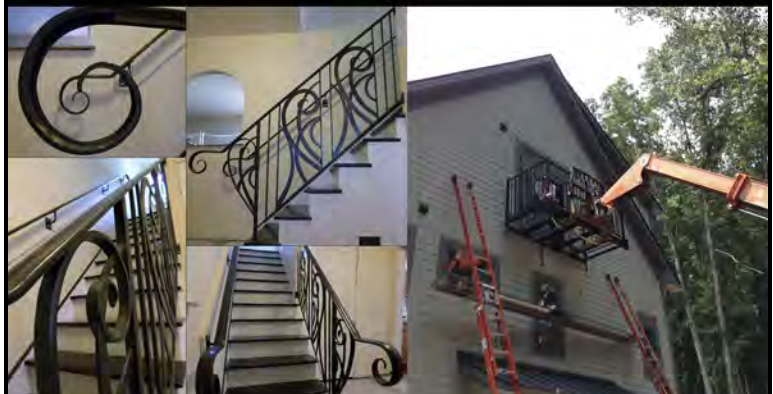
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VFW District 10's Post 1503 Hosts Congressman Wittman Veterans' Forum

By Chuck Wilson, District 10 Commander

February 17, 2018 Dale City Virginia. VFW Post 1503 hosted a Veterans Forum with Congressman Rob Wittman, Mike Carr, Deputy Director, VA Benefits Assistance Service; and Lawrence B. Connell, Acting VA Medical Center Director, Washington D.C

The purpose of this forum was to offer veterans of Virginia's 1st Congressional District an opportunity to speak with representatives from the Veterans Administration and Congressman Wittman about VA benefits and services.

Also participating were James Sanders, Director of Quantico and Alexandria National Cemeteries as well as representatives from the Virginia Department of Veterans Affairs. Every one of these individuals spoke candidly with considerable knowledge of their respective areas.



The National Cemetery Administration also had its mobile outreach vehicle at the Post.



Armed Forces Veterans for all over Northern Virginia including: Fauquier, Fairfax, Arlington, Stafford, Spotsylvania, and Prince William Counties, came and participated.



Some of the issues voiced were:

"My case has been under review for 29 months, why... My service medical record says I have hearing loss, but the VA disagrees, why... My husband cannot prove his service incurred health problem while he was attached to NATO, how to fix... Why does the VA clinic in the Fort Belvoir Hospital send me to the VA hospital in DC for an x-ray... Why are VA forms so hard to fill out... My doctor has not been paid by the VA since mid-November, why..."



All of issues were addressed by Congressman Wittman and the panel of VA experts with those that need resolution taken back to the Congressman's office and the VA for action. Overall, the veterans present appreciate the efforts of the tough work of our Veterans Administration, but all agree that more work needs to be done.

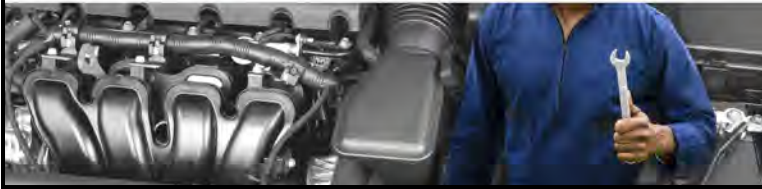
VFW District 10 Commander Chuck Wilson has said, "I have known Congressman Wittman for a number of years and can say that he is a staunch supporter of veterans' issues and welfare. And District 10 is pleased that VFW Post 1503 was able to provide the venue." Additionally, "District 10 particularly thanks Post 1503 Commander Tim Brown for his outstanding personal effort to make this event so valuable to the hundreds of veterans that participated."





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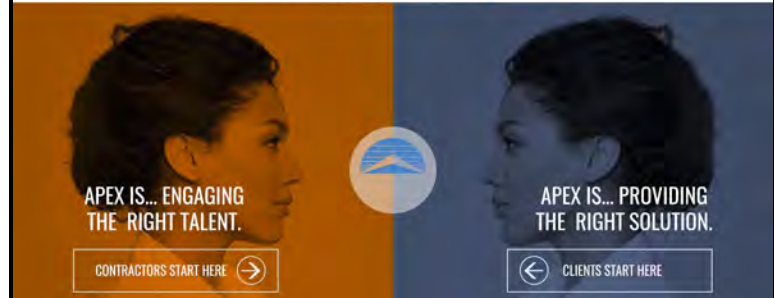
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US Air Force Chief of Staff Speaks at Veterans Day Ceremony, Quantico

By Chuck Wilson, District 10 Commander

Nov. 11, 2017, Quantico, VA. General David Goldfein, US Air Force Chief of Staff, honored our veterans with his keynote speech at the National Veterans Day Ceremony held here each year since 1983. An estimated 1,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, along with many families and distinguished guests came to commemorate National Veterans Day, at the Ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery this year. The Parade of Colors featured the US Marine Corps Color Guard, and Color Guards from 20 Veterans Service Organizations such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.



The reviewing party, led by the General David Goldfein, salute the Colors as they parade by the reviewing stand.



The U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard from Quantico Marine Base led the “Parade of Colors”



Colonel Frank Harris, USMC Ret., provides the memorable “Toast to the Flag.”



General David Goldfein, USAF Chief of Staff, was a riveting keynote speaker. Veterans Day first began as Armistice Day with the commemoration of the armistice which ended World War I, on “the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, 1918. Continued on page 27

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Continued from page 25... “Our nation is rich with heritage and tradition, and few surpass that of honoring our veterans, both alive and passed,” said Goldfein. “This is one of our greatest traditions; and, as one of many veterans in my family, I am honored to be here. We are woven by the good, the bad and the ugly times experienced together. For some it is the uncommon valor, for others it is the quiet peace,” said Goldfein. “Our Veterans have a love for this great nation and the sacred duty of protecting it. These are the most humble men and women who are just doing their job. To-day, we celebrate a single mark on the calendar—one of many—but this mark celebrates the noble acts of a noble group,” said Goldfein. “I’m reminded each day that it’s a privilege and honor to serve our country, and I am inspired by a distinguished population who so proudly came before...and those who so selflessly followed.” This ceremony is held to honor all of America’s veterans past and present.

The Chairman, Potomac Region Veterans Council (PRVC), and Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars District 10, Chuck Wilson, Colonel, USAF (Ret), was the Master of Ceremonies. Wilson said, “for generations, the men and women of america’s armed forces have demonstrated their willingness to put country before self ... patriots who serve for the greater good ... who don’t seek glory or recognition or personal gain. And today, we honor them. Today is veterans’ day.



PRVC Vice Chairman Randy Coker, led the “Avenue of Honor Recognition” which has over 500 US Flags that have been donated to honor our veterans who have passed from our midst. Coker is the past Commander of VFW Post 1503 and currently Senior Vice Commander of District 10, Virginia’s largest District covering much of Northern Virginia.

The Veterans Day Ceremonial Wreath Laying was carried out by General Goldfein, Colonel Boucher, USMC Quantico Chief of Staff, and Sergeant at Arms Hess near the reviewing stand.



As the Wreath is put in place, General Goldfein, along with Asst Cemetery Director Morris, Colonel Boucher USMC, and Sergeant-At-Arms Hess salute during the US Marine Rifle Team “21 Gun Salute,” followed by “Taps” played by a dual of buglers.



The Quantico Marine Corps Band played rounds of Service Melodies and music resounding with Americanism all through the ceremony.



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Ninety-three year old Colonel Eugene Detrick, USAF Ret., meets with the Air Force Chief of Staff General David Goldfein. General Goldfein has written, “Honored to have spoken with war hero, legendary aviator & #AirForce #veteran Col. Eugene Deatrick today at a #Veterans-Day ceremony in Virginia. I'm proud to be part of the long blue line that this hero helped shape. Honored to have spoken with war hero, legendary aviator & #AirForce #veteran Col. Eugene Deatrick today at a #VeteransDay ceremony in Virginia. I'm proud to be part of the long blue line that this hero helped shape. Honored to have spoken to legendary aviator and Air Force Veteran Colonel Gene Deatrick today at a

Veterans Day Ceremony. I am proud to be a part of a long blue line that this hero helped shape.” Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GenDaveGoldfein/status/929400369800732672> Colonel Deatrick was responsible for the rescue of American POW Navy Lieutenant Dieter Dangler during the Vietnam War. Colonel Deatrick is a Life member of VFW Post 7916.



Gen David Goldfein, himself an Eagle Scout, is seen here with Boy Scout Troop 1369, chartered through VFW Post 7916. Troop 1369 was responsible for the setting up of almost 1,000 chairs for the ceremony.



US Air Force Chief of Staff General David Goldfein and PRVC Chairman, and VFW District 10 Commander, Chuck Wilson at left.

Sponsored by the Potomac Region Veterans Council (PRVC) partnering with Marine Base Quantico and Quantico National Cemetery, A Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th. This ceremony has been held at Quantico National Cemetery since 1983. The Potomac Region Veterans Council that represents 26 Veterans Service Organizations, and 15,000 veterans across Northern Virginia.

National Junior Vice Commander Visits District 10

Chuck Wilson, District 10 Commander

March 22, 2018 Woodbridge VA. In his whirlwind trip through Virginia, The Veterans of Foreign Wars Junior Vice Commander "Doc" Schmitz came to District 10 and stopped by Occoquan Post 7916 for Lunch (above picture) and Dale City Post 1503 for light refreshments.



Chuck Wilson D10 CDR, Doc Schmitz Nat JVC, Jeff Lett Post CDR, Jim Adams Post QM, Mike Boehme State CDR, Ken Wiseman State SVC.



D10 CDR Chuck Wilson, National JVC Doc Schmitz, Post CDR Jeff Lett, Post Auxiliary President Liz Mack, D8 CDR Ron Link; Right side: State CDR Mike Boehme, Post SVC Ken Strafer, Post JVC Bob Fenlason, Post QM Jim Adams, State SVC Ken Wisemen, and past State CDR Tom Gimble).

March 22, 2018 Woodbridge VA. In his whirlwind trip through Virginia, The Veterans of Foreign Wars Junior Vice Commander "Doc" Schmitz came to District 10 and stopped by Occoquan Post 7916 for Lunch (above picture) and Dale City Post 1503 for light refreshments.

While visiting Post 7916, both National JVC Doc Schmitz and State Commander Mike Boehme presented the Honor Post Award to Post 7916. Post 1503, picture right, has also earned the Honor Post award.



Leadership: A Christmas Prayer 1944

By Chuck Wilson, Commander Virginia District 10

During the Christmas season of 1944, the **Battle of the Bulge** was in rage. The then **Lieutenant General George Patton** was maneuvering Third Army in adverse winter weather.

"At 11 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 8, Patton phoned the Head Chaplain of the Third Army, **Father James O'Neill**, a Catholic priest. "This is General Patton; do you have a good prayer for weather? We must do something about those rains if we are to win the war" **According to Father O'Neill.**



By Dec. 16, 1944, three **NAZI** armies of Germany were amassed, consisting of thirteen Panzer and Infantry divisions made up of an estimated **200,000 to 300,000** men. An enormous surprise attack ensued against the Allies in the Ardennes Forest area of Belgium, France, and Luxembourg. Being caught off-guard, the Allies were hard-pressed to keep their lines from breaking under the intense assault.

Bastogne was a town in Southern Belgium of immense strategic importance as eight roads crossed there. Six **NAZI** Panzer divisions were swiftly maneuvering to occupy it. But the night before, in sub-zero temperature, American troops of the 101st Airborne were trucked in to hold it.

The German commander **Heinrich Freiherr von Luttwitz** demanded surrender:

"To the U.S.A. Commander of the encircled town of Bastogne: The fortune of war is changing. This time the U.S.A. forces in and near Bastogne have been encircled by strong German armored units there is only one possibility to save the encircled U.S.A. troops from total annihilation: that is the honorable surrender of the encircled town. In order to think it over a term of two hours will be granted beginning with the presentation of this note. If this proposal should be rejected one German Artillery Corps and six heavy A.A. Battalions are ready to annihilate the U.S.A. troops in and near Bastogne. The order for firing will be given immediately after this two hours term. All the serious civilian losses caused by this artillery fire would not correspond with the well-known American humanity.

– The German Commander."

On Dec. 22, 1944, U.S. Brigadier General **Anthony McAuliffe** answered:

"To the German Commander.

NUTS!

⇒ The American Commander."

This unusual response was a surprise for the **NAZI** commander. But then the Nazis attacked – over 50,000 Nazis assaulted the 15,000 Americans.

Editors' Note: This article was submitted just after the New Year, back in January. It is a wonderful historical flash back and I wanted to still include it, even as we approach the summer heat...we think of those serving in harm's way!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31... After eight days, the Americans were nearly out of ammunition. Marching to their rescue was General George Patton who pulled Third Army out of battle and redirected a hundred mile march to Bastogne, in the winter storm. But Third Army needed air cover and the weather was too atrocious. The date for the attack was but a few days away, but foul weather threatened to postpone the attack.

And getting back to the dialog between Gen Patton and Father O'Neill: The often profane and tempestuous Patton, who was known for reading the Bible almost daily, and the humble, mild-mannered priest engaged in a lengthy discussion of the importance of prayer. "Chaplain, how much praying is being done in the Third Army?" inquired the general. "Does the general mean by chaplains, or by the men?" asked O'Neill.

"By everybody," Patton replied. "[I am afraid to admit it, but I do not believe much praying is going on,](#)" responded O'Neill. "When there is fighting, everyone prays, but now with this constant rain – when things are quiet, dangerously quiet, men just sit and wait for things to happen. Prayer out here is difficult. Both chaplains and men are removed from a special building with a steeple. Prayer to most of them is a formal, ritualized affair, involving special posture and a liturgical setting. I do not believe that much praying is being done."

["Chaplain, I am a strong believer in prayer,"](#) said Patton. "There are three ways that men get what they want; by planning, by working, and by Praying. Any great military operation takes careful planning, or thinking. Then you must have well-trained troops to carry it out: that's working. But between the plan and the operation there is always an unknown. That unknown spells defeat or victory, success or failure. It is the reaction of the actors to the ordeal when it actually comes. Some people call that getting the breaks; I call it God. God has His part, or margin in everything. That's where prayer comes in."**(Father O'Neill)**

The mild mannered O'Neill told Patton that he would research the topic and report back to him within an hour. After this discussion, O'Neill looked out at the immoderate rains, which had plagued the Third Army's operations for the past three months. As he searched through his prayer books, he could find no formal prayers pertaining to weather so he composed an [original prayer](#), which he typed on a note card:"

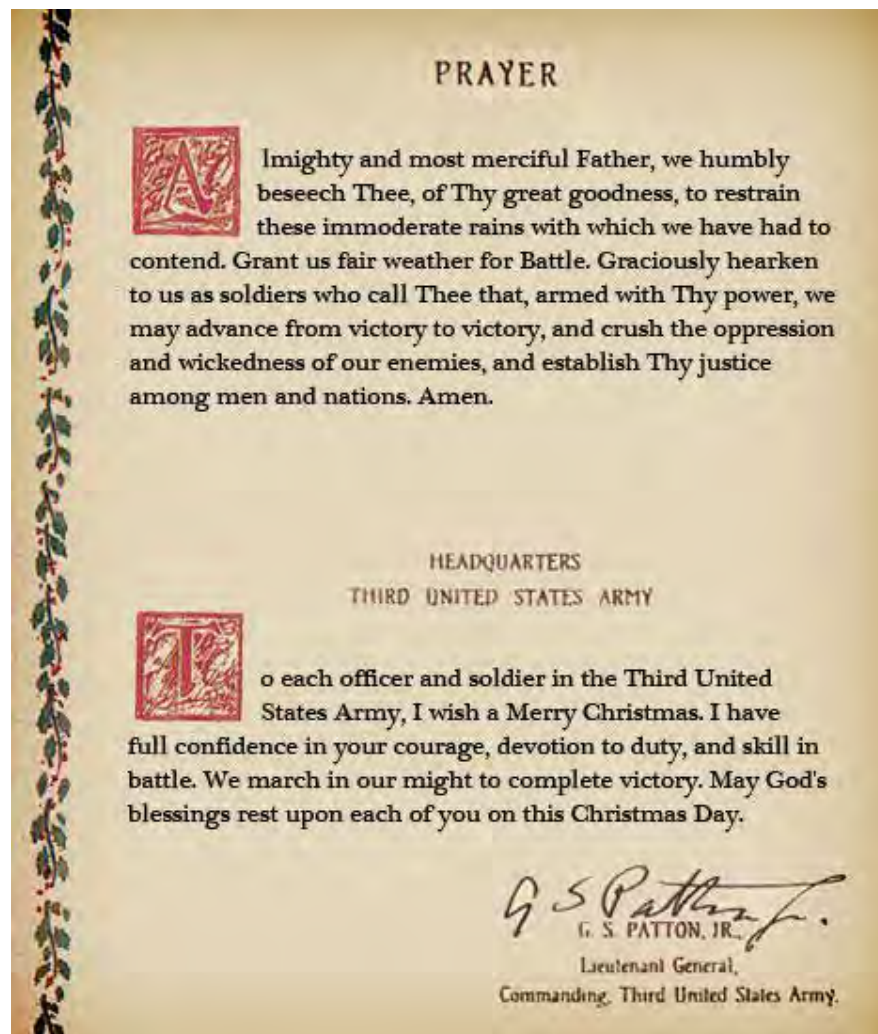
"Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend, Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen."



...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

On the reverse side, Patton wrote, "To each officer and soldier in the Third United States Army, I wish a Merry Christmas. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We march in our might to complete victory. May God's blessings rest upon each of you on this Christmas Day. – G.S. Patton, Jr., Lt. Gen. Commanding, Third United States Army." This card was sent to the soldiers of Third Army. They prayed.

Miraculously, the weather cleared and the planes gave air support. General Patton's troops punched through the Nazi lines to rescue the exhausted 101st Airborne and thwart the Nazi advance. The Battle of the Bulge continued through much of January 1945, and less than four months later Hitler committed suicide and the [Nationalsozialismus](#) (*National Socialist Workers Party-NAZI*) surrendered.



The [Battle of the Bulge](#) was the largest and bloodiest battle fought by the U.S. during World War II. It involved as many as 610,000 Americans, 55,000 British, and 72,000 Free French along Europe's Western Front for nearly 40 days. There were about 89,000 American casualties and over 100,000 German casualties. My father fought in that battle, and, just prior to that battle, my maternal Grandfather, [PFC Cleatus Chapman](#), was killed there, and buried in the [American Cemetery, Epinal, France](#).

As we all remember the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines in Harm's we will keep them in our prayers.

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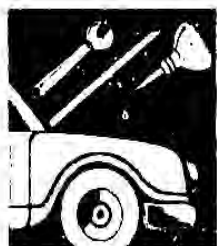


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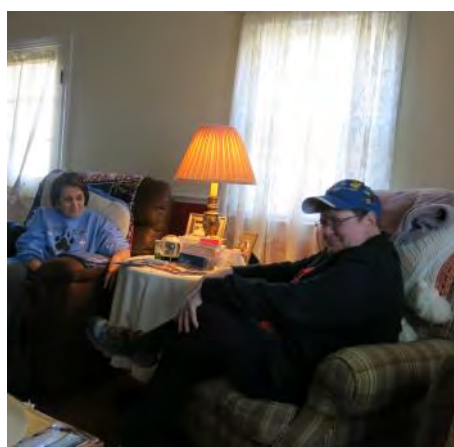
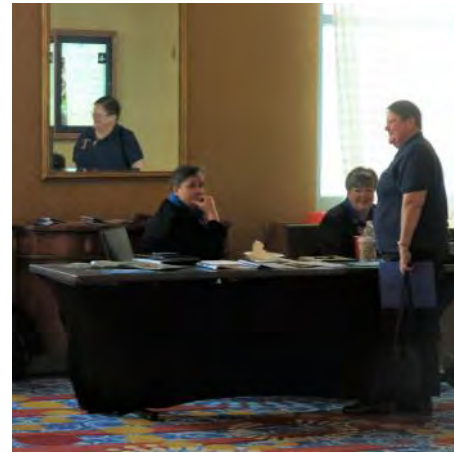
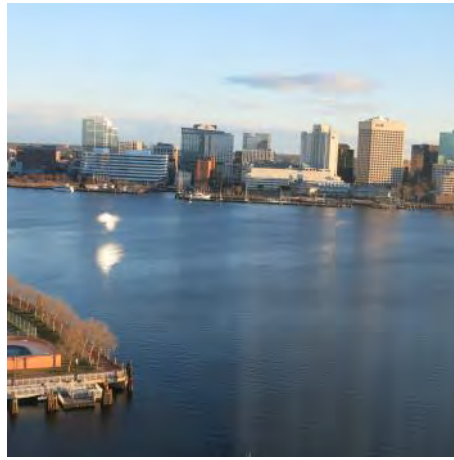
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Snapshots

Winter council (WCOA) Banquet 2018 01



Snapshots WCOA General



Snapshots

WCOA Workshops



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Snapshots Hampton VA Hospital



VA Hospital in Hampton in January, 2018. Photos taken by Dept. Sr. Vice Pres. Patty Basket

VFW National Legislative Conference.

By Doc Crouch

On 6 and 7 March, 2018 members of the VFW's National Legislative Committee visited the "Hill" in Washington, D. C. to discuss a variety of concerns with the members of the Senate and House of Representatives. The Virginia contingent, State Commander Mike Boehme, Dan Boyer (VFW-7726), District 10 Commander Chuck Wilson, Post Commander Monti Zimmerman (VFW-1811) and Doc Crouch (VFW-3150), attended meetings in the offices of ALL of our elected national legislators; generally meeting with staff members but in some cases with the representatives themselves.

Our broad legislative needs are outlined in the 2018 Priority Goals which are based on the resolutions that were 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** and their **Continuing Resolutions**. They are not only severely hampering the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) but all government agencies. Congress needs to step up and create an annual budget in a responsible manner. The unfair yoke of sequestration and the continuing resolutions must come to an end NOW.

Other immediate areas of concern were: The VA's ability to help veterans through effective **Community Care**, continuing to address the needs of veterans who have been subjected to **Toxic Exposure** of varying substances, **Veterans Health Care** especially as it relates to suicide prevention, co-pays, more adequate care for women veterans and number and professionalism of the health care personnel needed to deliver that care, and **Concurrent Receipt** as it affects not only retired veterans but their surviving spouses. Also discussed were 15 additional bills currently making their way through the U.S. Congress.

Copies of the 2018 Priority Goals and the March 2018 Legislative Priorities point papers have been provided to each Post with the request that they be shared with the members – VFW and Auxiliary. A breakdown (as 1 of April) of the 32 legislative bills cited in the point papers is being prepared and it will indicate which of our legislators have signed on as co-sponsors of those individual pieces of legislation. A copy of this breakdown will be provided to each Post in Virginia so that they can keep their members informed. It will be updated and provided to all Posts on the first of each month. Also, each Post has been provided with a listing that provides information on where each legislator is located and their contact info, not only in D.C. but also their local offices.



Doc Crouch, National Legislative Committee & Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-11VA)



Doc Crouch Natl. Legis. Cmte
Cong. Tom Garrett (R-5VA)
Monti Zimmerman VFW Post 1811 CDR



Monti Zimmerman VFW Post 1811 Commander
(Manassas Park)
Congressman Dave Brat (R-7VA)



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 (703) 319-0845.

Dan Boyer National Legislative Committee
Cong. Scott Taylor (R-2VA)
Mike Boehme State Commander
Chuck Wilson District 10 Commander

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Veterans of Foreign Wars “Storm” The Hill

By Chuck Wilson

Mar 5-8, 2018, Washington DC. This past week, more than 500 senior members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., the nation’s largest and oldest war veterans’ organization begin rallying in Washington, D.C., to voice the concerns of veterans directly with the nation’s lawmakers. This included including senior representatives from each Department including Europe and Pacific. *Leading the charge was VFW Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman.*



State CDR Mike Boehme, District 10 CDR Chuck Wilson, Past State CDR Dan Boyer



Each Department Team engaged with their Congressional and Senate representatives across Capitol Hill, to present the issues important to our veterans. These issues include:

Eliminating sequestration; Ensuring timely access to high quality care; Consolidating VA’s community care programs into an easily understood and administered program; and Consolidating funding.

The Virginia Team was made up of: Mike Boehme, State Commander; Dan Boyer, National Legislative Committee & Past State Commander; Doc Crouch, National Legislative Committee & Past State Commander; Ken Wiseman, National Legislative Officer & State Senior Vice; Chuck Wilson, District 10 Commander; and Monty Zimmerman, Manassas Park Post CDR.



Virginia Team with Congressman H. Morgan Griffith who represents Virginia’s 9th District is currently serving his fourth term.

Before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans’ Affairs Committees, VFW Commander in Chief Keith Harman delivered testimony focused on ending sequestration and improving the care, services and programs provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“The VFW is pleased Congress recently passed a bipartisan budget agreement to alleviate the sequester’s impact on our military and veterans, but you only delayed its return by two years,” VFW National Commander Keith Harman told members of the committees. “Our service members, veterans and their families are counting on you to repeal sequestration once and for all!”

VFW District 10 Presents Community Awards

By Chuck Wilson, District 10 Commander

On Sunday March 18, 2018, The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Virginia District 10, recently sponsored a year long Teacher of the Year competition, and the Voice of Democracy essay and speaking competition for high school students, and a Patriots' Pen essay competition for middle school students. Over 200 Teacher and Student candidates competed from all over Northern Virginia.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) believes strongly in fostering good citizenship and patriotism in our leaders of the future. Every year, the VFW sponsors the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award recognizing exceptional teachers, the Voice of Democracy essay and speaking competition for high school students, and Patriots' Pen essay competition for middle school students.

Assembling in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8241 Community Hall, McLean, VA, District 10 Commander Chuck Wilson, and District Auxiliary President Regena Meehan, presented the awards for the Teacher of the Year, Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay and speaking competition.

The winners were:

Teacher of the Year: Elementary, Middle & High School winners:

- 1st Darin M. Ott Mountain View High School
- 1st Thomas X. Annunziata, Woodbridge Middle School
- 1st Kathleen M. Norton Waynewood Elementary School

Voice of Democracy High School winners:

- 1st Victoria Rovolla, Bishop Dennis J. O'Connell H.S., Arlington, VA
- 2nd Grace Salmons, TC Williams H.S., Alexandria, VA
- 3rd Anistasia Carvallias, Paul VI Catholic H.S., Fairfax, VA

Patriots Pen:

- 1st Anya Ambarish, Stone Hill Middle School, Ashburn, VA
- 2nd Suraya Suleman, Silverbrook Elementary, Fairfax Station, VA
- 3rd Bridget Rothwell, Saint Ann School, Arlington, VA



(r-l) District Commander Wilson, VOD Winner Victoria Rovolla, Auxiliary President Meehan



Victoria Rovolla 1st Place VOD (Bishop Dennis J. O'Connell H.S., Arlington, VA)



Anistasia Carvalhais 3rd place VOD (Paul VI Catholic H.S., Fairfax, VA)



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VFW District 10 Presents Community Awards

By Chuck Wilson, District 10 commander

The *Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award* contest recognizes exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. Each year, a classroom elementary, junior high and high school teacher whose curriculum focuses on citizenship education topics — can compete.

Since 1947, the *Voice of Democracy* has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' premiere high school essay and oral presentation, contest. The theme this year is, "American History: Our Hope for the Future," For middle schoolers the writing theme for this *Patriots' Pen* is "America's Gift to My Generation."

District 10 Commander Chuck Wilson stated, "Our judges, from our VFW Posts and District 10, reviewed over 200 entries from schools in the Northern Virginia area. This year the competition for all three categories was keen. The spirit of Americanism was prevalent in all of the essays."

Over 80 people came and the ceremony was very well received especially with all the moms, dads, brothers, sisters, teachers, principals, and members attending. Veterans of Foreign Wars Virginia District continues to receive many accolades in the conduct of this event. Presently headquartered in Occoquan, VA, District 10 is Virginia's largest district with over 8,000 veteran and auxiliary members.



Thomas Annunziata 1st Place TOY



Kathleen Norton 1st place TOY
(Wayne Wood Elementary School)



Darin Ott, TOY 1st place 9-12
(Mountain View High School)



Nicole Tarue TOY



Victoria Smith TOY

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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 & 2017-2018; 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 this coming June.

“Honor our Fallen, by Caring for our Living!”

Eddie Reasor

Candidate for VFW State Surgeon Department of Virginia



Comrades. I am Eddie Reasor. I live in Jonesville, Virginia, a small town in Lee County, deep in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. I have been a life time member of the VFW since 2008. I am currently Quartermaster for post 5715 and the District 12 Commander. Serving our country was not a job. It was with passion and honor that each of us gave our time to serve our country. If elected, my goal for the future of the VFW will be to strengthen our membership, ensuring they are well cared for and focused on the future of the VFW. My honored time in the VFW and military has given me the skills and experience needed to be the right candidate to help maintain our purpose and support our organization as we move forward. During the days ahead, we will face many struggles that we can overcome. We will continue to stand for the Veteran and fight for the rights and healthcare they deserve. As a younger veteran, I will honor and respect the road that has been paved while considering all new ideas that come my way. It takes everyone to maintain a great organization. I ask for your support and vote at the department convention. Thank you.

VFW Leadership and Experience

National Assistant Inspector General 2016-2017
National Special Aide-de-Camp 2017-2018
State Vice Chairman Youth Activities 2016-Present
State Voice of Democracy Committee 2015- Present
All State District Commander- 2018
District Commander 2015-Present
District Voice of Democracy/ Patriot's Pen Chairman 2013-Present
District Senior Vice Commander 2014-2015
District Quartermaster 2013-2014
All State Post Quartermaster 2012-Present
Post VOD/PP Chairman 2012-Present

Military and Civilian Experience

Retired Sergeant United States Army
Training NCO
Total Army Instructor
Counterdrug Taskforce, Drug Demand Reduction NCO
Methamphetamine Specialist under the Virginia Office of the Attorney General
Combat Engineer and Aircraft Refueler
Awarded Iraq Campaign Medal
Awarded Global War on Terrorism Medal