



Virginia VETERAN

Official Publication of Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars

Official Publication of the Department of Virginia ★ Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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Department Commander



**VFW VA Commander
Douglas R. Keller**

Volunteerism

"The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a neighbor." Hubert Humphrey, who was the Vice President, said these words a half century ago but they still resonate today.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, is the spirit of volunteerism that permeates our organization. At one of our meetings it was reported that the VFW Department of Virginia did 420,326 hours of Community service

with an estimated value of about 9.7 million dollars.

Volunteerism is good for the soul. Volunteerism is one solid moral foundation on which to base your life. When we act altruistically for the benefit of our fellow man we will receive a sense of fulfillment that money cannot buy.

Volunteerism gives us as an organization the opportunity to present ourselves in a favorable light to the community in which we live. When you volunteer you advertise the compassionate and generous nature of our members.

Volunteerism allows the charities that we volunteer for to maximize the resources they can devote to their mission. Each volunteer hour that you donate directly translates into saved resources. These resources can then be used to directly benefit others.


Volunteerism provides a tangible benefit to the state of Virginia. Last year the Office of Volunteer Resources estimated that volunteers contributed 250.4 million hours and 5.6 billion dollars in services to the Commonwealth of Virginia. I wonder what part our Posts may have contributed, or our active duty or retired community may have helped? Just imagine what impact all our Posts in the Department have on helping.

In conclusion, the benefits of volunteerism begin with you and me then spread, like a pebble thrown into a pond, touching every corner of the community. Thank you for all your efforts and continue to volunteer to make a difference.

This is why it is important to report ALL our volunteer efforts to the Department.

Doug Keller Commander
Department of Virginia

Coeburn VFW Post receives VFW Community Service Award

Submitted by Post 8652— from: 

VFW Post 8652 in Coeburn, VA has been awarded one of the VFW's most prestigious awards, the National Outstanding Community Service Award for 2015. Only sixty-one Posts across the nation were selected to receive the award which was presented at the National Convention in July.

Post 8652 was the only Virginia Post to be so honored this year. Along with the award plaque each Post receives a street sign to display at their Post Home.

The honored Posts are outstanding examples of more than 8.9 million hours of VFW Community Service performed last year, according to Randi Law, Manager of VFW Communications and Public Affairs. According to Law, the criteria to receive the award is set by each VFW Department.

VFW Commander-in-Chief John W. Stroud said the award winners have "demonstrated an exceptional commitment to their community. Their exemplary service is an example to citizens across this great nation."



VFW Post 8652 Commander James Hicks with the Post's national community service award and street sign.



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Please visit our website at

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**Articles for the next issue must be received before
 March 20, 2016.**

Please address all comments to the above address.

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

Editor's Comments

Rick Raskin

We are extremely proud that Virginia Veteran was selected as the Silver Award winner in this year's VFW publication contest. It is indeed an honor to be recognized by the National staff for our outstanding paper.

That brings to mind that the Virginia Veteran is only as good as you, the Posts and Comrades in Virginia make it. It is the work that you do, and the articles that you submit, that make our paper truly stand out over the competition.

I believe that our paper stands out because, unlike many of the others that feature articles mostly from their Department officers, Virginia Veteran is about the VFW work that you, the Posts and Comrades are doing throughout the Commonwealth.

Please continue to submit your articles and we'll do our best to maintain our high standards.

Thank you, and keep up the good work.

In this issue we feature articles from Posts 637, 1115, 1503, 6364, 7589, 7916, 8163, 8652, 8947, 9835 and 10840.

Also we have photo essays from the Department and National Conventions.

Virginia Joins the VFW Action Corps



Since our founding in 1899, one of the major focus areas for

the VFW has been legislative activism. At the state's Fall Council of Administration meeting a motion was unanimously passed to add every member of the Department of Virginia with a listed email to the VFW's Action Corps.

The Action Corps is the VFW's national grassroots advocacy network comprised of more than 45,000 VFW members and patriotic supporters of veterans. Members of the VFW Action Corps stay up-to-date on the issues facing our veterans, our military and their families, standing ready to email, write, call and visit our nation's lawmakers to make their voices heard. The VFW Action Corps is free and open to all patriotic Americans who care about the military and veterans' communities. Action Corps members receive the Action Corps Weekly, an easy-to-read electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill and immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials.

However, an important part of this program are the "Action Alerts" telling members how they can get involved when our nation's veterans, service members, and their families need

(Continued on page 4)

Home Depot grant helps Manassas veteran make his home ADA compliant

by Rick Raskin

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

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



Wayne Johnson receives the grant from Ron Link.

According to manager Wayne Johnson the construction would begin on October 22 when approximately 25 to 30 Home Depot workers will be there to donate their time and skills.

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

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



VFW and Auxiliary members break ground with Team Home Depot.

The project was approved and funded with a \$10,000 Home Depot grant. Working with VFW Post 7589 and its Auxiliary, the funds were presented to the manager of the Warrenton Home Depot on October 8. According to

manager Wayne Johnson the construction would begin on October 22 when approximately 25 to 30 Home Depot workers will be there to donate their time and skills. Auxiliary President Mary Corkhill, Auxiliary members Yvonne Sullivan and Ann Mitchell. Comrades were represented by Post Commander Pete

MacLeod and National Veterans Services team member Ron Link.

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

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

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

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

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



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



The concrete rear access ramp under construction.

Louisa County Post 8947 Decorates Mineral with Flags

VFW Post 8947 installed flag holders in the ground along Mineral Avenue in Mineral. Comrade Tex Pierce was the driving force behind this effort. Mr. Pierce worked with the town manager, receiving authorization to drill into the ground between the curb and the sidewalk. With the assistance of Mike Leman from Main Street Supply, who also donated some of the materials, they installed permanent holders. Mr. Pierce then assembled the 24 American flags on wooden poles. Every patriotic holiday, Comrades place the flags around sunrise and take them down at sunset. On occasion, Boy Scout Troop 183 also assists with this activity. Seeing the flags line both sides of the avenue is an impressive sight and reminds the community that the flag is to be honored..



Doswell "Tex" Pierce, Senior Vice Commander of Post 8947

Louisa County Post 8947 Brings in a VA Ringer

VFW Post 8947 and American Legion 116 hosted a spaghetti dinner for all Louisa County Veterans. The guest speaker was Mr. Charles Haddock, a Louisa County resident.

Mr. Haddock recently retired after 37 years with the Veterans Administration, specializing in Compensation and Pension. He gave an overview of where the VA stands today and the efforts currently underway to improve services. Mr. Haddock answered questions from the audience and there was a lively dis-

cussion. Then, to finish up, he offered his services free to any Veteran needing assistance with VA paperwork.

Since that evening, he has visited Veterans in their homes as well as at the Post. The Commander, Beth Rowley, has offered him the use of the office and a computer and printer that will assist with online work as well as printing out forms that must be mailed to the VA. Mr. Haddock, a disabled Veteran himself, feels very strongly about continuing his work ensuring that all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned after serving their nation.



Beth Rowley, Commander Post 8947, Chuck Haddock, and Charles Alvarez, Commander, American Legion Post 116.

(Action Corps Continued from page 2)

their voices heard on Capitol Hill. State Judge Advocate Ken Wiseman, who also serves as the Action Corps Manager as a member of our National Legislative Service staff in Washington, D.C. highlighted the importance of these alerts. "Action Corps members are the lions roar for the VFW. More than 30,000 emails were sent which pressured Congress to repeal COLA penalties for military retirees and more than 15,000 emails helped protect the Purple Heart's dignity and stature when the Pentagon tried to establish a new medal." Ken further cited the importance of the Action Corps with the unanimous vote of the House of Representatives to protect tuition assistance for those still in the military. "VFW members made that happen by bombarding Congressional offices with emails. No other advocacy organization of any type can say that".

The VFW Action Corps is what gives the VFW its strength in advocating for our nation's heroes. Working hand-in-hand with the VFW's National Legislative Service -- whose office is in eye-shot of the Capitol dome in Washington -- members of the VFW Action Corps are armed with all of the tools and information they need to help the VFW in its mission to support our nation's veterans. State Judge Advocate Ken Wiseman summed it up best: "Virginia now has more Action Corps members than any other state. Virginia's veterans vote and an email from the Action Corps today is a reminder that Congress will be held accountable on Election Day."

To sign up new veterans' advocates, visit:
<http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>

Young Guns honor fallen N.C. solider

by Allen Worrell aworrell@civitasmedia.com

May 19, 2015

It's often been said war knows no boundaries. Recently, the Young Guns Committee of the Grover King VFW Post 1115 proved that neither do they.

The Young Guns, a newly formed group of post-Vietnam era veterans, recently traveled across state lines to honor a fallen soldier from Elkin, N.C. On April 28, four members of the Young Guns Committee and VFW Post Commander Howard Minton met with members of Mark Garner VFW Post 7794 in Elkin to induct the post's namesake posthumously as an honorary member of the Young Guns.

A Captain in the Army Rangers, Garner was killed at the age of 30 on July 6, 2009 in Afghanistan. Garner was traveling as a passenger in an M-1151 Humvee with a convoy of U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialists when the vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

"We read about Mark in the VFW magazine, and as a committee we decided we needed to go down and tell them we thought it was an awesome idea they changed the Post's name in his honor," said Mike Lara, President of the Young Guns Committee. "We also wanted to honor his mother."

Lara and fellow Young Guns Marty Rivera, Doug Barnes and Gary Adams joined Minton in meeting members of the Elkin VFW Post at the Fairfield Inn. There, the Young Guns gave a presentation about the group and what they were about. At the end, the Young Guns presented Garner's mother, Beth Garner, with a Young Guns hoodie and hat, and made the late Army Captain an honorary Young Guns member.

"That meant a lot to us that we were able to do that because we were honoring a fallen soldier. He would have been eligible to be a Young Guns member," Lara said. "It meant a lot to us because it is not every day you hear about a story that is so close to home. We are trying to show that we not only take care of the veterans at home, but veterans all over the place."

Lara said the Young Guns conducted the ceremony in the same manner as a military funeral, presenting Garner's mother with the hoodie and hat the same way as a folded flag would be presented. They concluded with the "military funeral salute."

"We told her in honor of Grover King Post 1115, we honor you with the official uniform of the VFW Young Guns in honor of

your son," Lara said. "It was very ceremonial and emotional. His mom gave us all hugs and thanked us so much for honoring her son. We made some great contacts there and we are going to try to go back to Elkin and start a Young Guns committee. When that committee is formed, Mark Garner will be the founder of that committee."

Joseph Hicks, Post commander of the Mark Garner VFW Post 7794 in Elkin, said the Post changed the name to honor the recently fallen soldier. But it's also a way to bring attention to younger veterans, he said, which ties in to what the Young Guns are all about - trying to encourage new people to join the VFW. Hicks said the Hillsville Young Guns is planning to talk to all of North Carolina's District 11 in the near future.

When the name of the Elkin Post was changed to honor Mark Garner, Hicks said all the original charter members names were left on the plaque. Those founders were all World War II veterans who established the post on June 6, 1946, exactly one year after the D-Day landings in Normandy, France. Hicks believes the Young Guns hold many of the same ideals of those founders.

"These guys came home and sort of like the Young Guns, they come back and now have all these memories. I think it was the president of the group talking about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder being a big thing. It was then, too, but they had no help for those guys," Hicks said. "They were wanting some place to be together, a lot of them never wanted to talk about any of this, but they probably would share with each other in a brotherhood. This is what the Young Guns do now. They have all been there and so they are our brothers."

Beth Garner said serving the United States was something her son was extremely proud to do. He also would have been proud to be a part of the Young Guns, she said.

"I told them that Mark would have been very pleased. It is a very worthwhile project. It was just such an honor," she said. "They were talking about how they wanted to help other young men and women who had been in the military. I thought it was so good they were talking about those that had PTSD, that it would be so good to have members of the military that had done the same thing and talk to them. Those who haven't been there just can't understand fully what it must be like to be in battle."

For more information about the Young Guns, e-mail Lara at michale.lara@yahoo.com or youngguns1115@yahoo.com, on Twitter @vfwyoungguns, on Facebook at [vfw youngguns hills-ville](https://www.facebook.com/vfw.youngguns.hillsville) or call the Hillsville VFW Post at (276) 728-2911.

Allen Worrell can be reached at (276) 779-4062 or on Twitter @AWorrellTCN



The Young Guns present Mark Garner's mother with a hoodie and hat the same way as a folded flag would be presented.

4th Annual Run-Walk to Remember

by Mike Dunham, Commander of Post 6364

On Saturday morning, April 18, over 1,000 men, women and children, including 600 active duty soldiers from Fort Lee and other service personnel, gathered at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond for the 4th Annual Run-Walk to Remember sponsored by VFW Posts 637 of Hopewell and 6364 in Richmond.

The Virginia War Memorial is the state's official tribute to the over 12,000 Virginians who died in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and the Global War on Terrorism. The Memorial is located on over four acres in downtown Richmond near the James River.

The basic mission of the Virginia War Memorial and the 5K Run-Walk is to honor and remember the service and sacrifice of all veterans and today's active military. The 5K also helps raise funds for the Memorial's Educational Foundation which finances the over 50 educational and patriotic events and programs held there each year.



"The Virginia War Memorial is dedicated to the same principles as the VFW," said Mike Dunham, Commander of Post 6364. "When the Memorial asked us if we could help provide volunteers for the 5K, we immediately said yes. Then, we realized that they relied on sponsors to pay for the costs in putting on the race. We decided that this was the perfect event to also give our financial support."

Commander Dunham approached Commander Phil Arundsen at Post 637 with the idea and they presented the proposal to their members who wholeheartedly gave their support. Other 5K sponsors included major corporations, car dealerships, a bank, a college and retail stores. Posts 637 and 6364 decided to sign on as the Platinum Sponsors – which meant the VFW earned naming rights and top billing in all advertising and promotion.

Members of both Posts joined to help coordinate the 5K on race day, set up a tent to promote recognition for VFW and encouraged membership on the Memorial grounds.

"This event is really special," said Commander Arundsen. "It is only the 5K around here where civilians have the opportunity to

run alongside soldiers on the course" adding "the mission of the Virginia War Memorial fits in right beside that of the VFW:

"Honoring our Veterans, Preserving our History, Educating our Youth, and Inspiring Patriotism in All".

"The purpose of this corporation (VFW) shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational"

Six different battalion groups from Fort Lee ran the course in formation carrying their colors and led by their commanders. Post 637 is the nearest VFW to the base. The military unit with the most "spirit" was presented a trophy. One of the judges for the award was WWII Navy veteran Herndon Smith, a member of Post 637.

"Teaming with the Virginia War Memorial in this event was also a great way to promote the VFW and the ways we contribute to our community," noted Commander Dunham, who, along with Commander Arundsen, was interviewed by local TV and newspaper reporters.

"Thanks to the VFW, this year's 5K was our best run and most successful ever," said the Virginia War Memorial's Suzanne Feigley who coordinated the event. "We couldn't have done it without the support of Mike, Phil and all the members of both VFW Posts."

Commanders Arundsen and Dunham said that their members are already signed on to repeat as Platinum Sponsors for the Memorial's 2016 5K and they are hoping to interest other VFW Posts in their district to join them.



(L-R) LTC Manion—Commander, 116th OB, Jon Hatfield – Executive Director, Virginia War Memorial, Jaime Areizaga-Sota - Commonwealth of Virginia Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, John Hekman – Executive Director, Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation, Post 637 - Commander Philip Arendsen, Post 6364 - Commander Mike Dunham

The Department Convention—Williamsburg

Photos by Doc Crouch & Rick Raskin



The 2015-2016 Council of Administration



All State award presented to Fairfax Post 8489



Doug Keller and Georgette Dausey



Past CNC Glenn Gardner



Jill Lynch presents a committee report.



Department Commander Doug Keller



Glenn Gardner, Buddy Weekley and Ellen Carleton



Connie Agresti comments on a resolution.



PDC Paul T. Moore presents the credentials report.



Buddy Weekley receives a Young Guns cap from Mike Lara (Post 1115).



Glenn Gardner presents Doug Keller his certificate of election as Dept. Cdr.



The Young Guns of Post 1115 with Post Commander Jack Easter, Past Commander Howard Minton and the staff of the Virginia Veteran receive an award for the most newsworthy article of 2014-15.



Stan Hunter and Monte Zimmerman



A pair of skis: Venor and Robin Milewski



All's well at the District 10 Hospitality Suite



HQ staff member Angie Lipscomb



June Tucker and Becky Mason



Gary Kelch in a major discussion



Dorothy Wilkinson (seated) and Brenda Latham



Laine Beckwith works a table.



Mary Smart, Debbie Weekley and Theresa Russell

VFW National Convention—Pittsburgh, PA

Photos by Doc Crouch & Rick Raskin



In the lobby of the William Penn Hotel



Chris Birch & Hal Roesch in the lobby



Laura Absher & Linda Bond



Sterling Moninghoff & Ken Wiseman



Kathy Birch



Doug Keller caught socializing



Earl & Patti Baskett—Post 1115



Ken Wiseman & Ray Kelley from the VFW DC Office



Ron Link—Post 7589



Randy Coker Post 1503 with a donation to the National Home



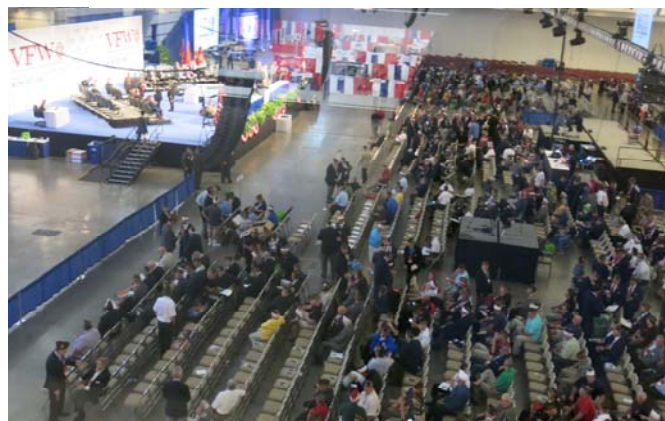
Paul Robinson—Post 1811



PDC Margo Sheridan



The Exhibit Hall



The Convention Floor during a break



Doug Keller with Post 8652's
Community Service Post Award



Janet & Rick Raskin at the Joint Opening Session



Virginia's Craig Blackman 9-12 Teacher of the Year



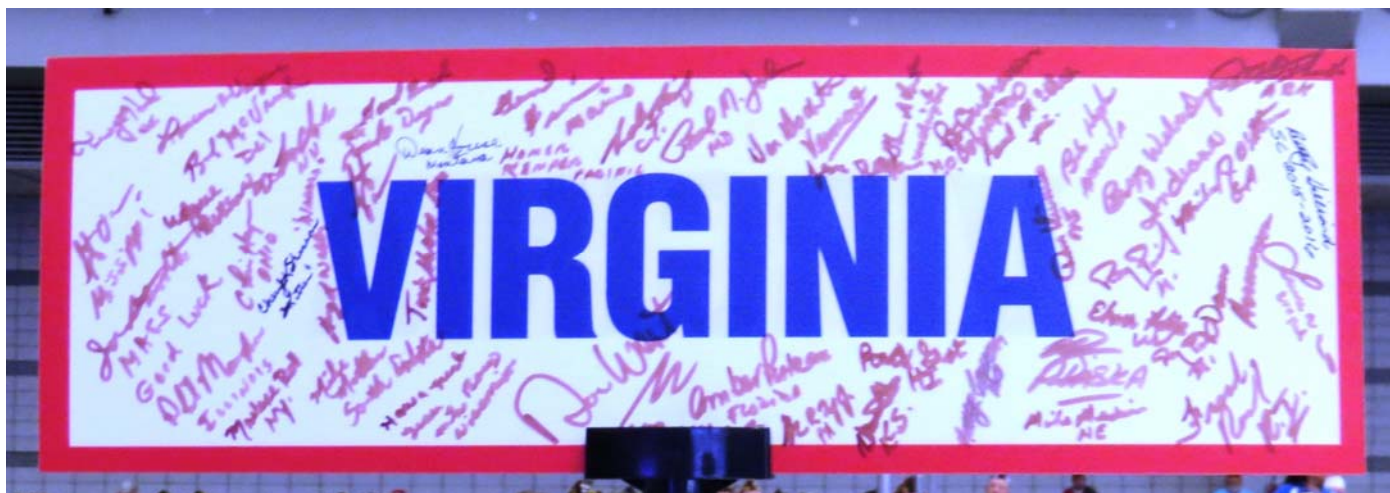
Virginia's Ann Parker Komara — K-5 Teacher of the Year



Struttin' our stuff during the Officer's Installation Parade



Past CNC John Stroud



Past CNC John Smart speaks to a resolution.



Past Aux. Pres. Ann Panteleakos and Past CNC John Stroud



Phil Arendsen and Geoff Lyster—All American Commanders



President Obama addresses the convention.



Debbie & Buddy Weekley



2015-16 CNC John A. Biedrzycki Jr

Warrenton Post 9835 participates in Vietnam commemoration

by Geoff Lyster, Post 9835

July 8 — Warrenton Post 9835 SVC Jeff Dombroff participated in the Congressional ceremonies commemorating the beginning of the Vietnam War. The event was attended by the top Congressional leadership, the present and prior Secretaries of Defense and top military leaders from the armed services and Coast Guard. Comrade Dombroff also met with VFW National Commander-in-Chief John W. Stroud who was in attendance.



Adopt-a-Unit ceremonies with Post 9835

by Geoff Lyster, Post 9835

July 11 — Post 9835 and its Ladies Auxiliary recently adopted Company D (Weapons), 3rd Bn, 116th Infantry. Warrenton Post 9835 Commander Tim Nosal, SVC Jeff Dombroff and Auxiliary President Sheila Hunter presented the Company with the certificate of adoption signed by the National Commander-in-Chief and the National Ladies Auxiliary President.



L-R: Post 9835 Commander Tim Nosal, CPT Miguel Zavala, Auxiliary President Sheila Hunter, SFC Robert Sokol and Post 9835 SVC Jeff Dombroff

Combat vets cruise into Shenandoah

Contributed by Post 8613

PAGE NEWS and COURIER July 30, 2015

SHENANDOAH, July 25 — More than 200 motorcycles rode into the town of Shenandoah on Saturday to VFW Post 8613 on its annual fundraising ride for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Project. The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 27-2 Bull Run III [was] escorted into town by the Shenandoah Police Department and the Shenandoah Volunteer Fire Company. The motorcycles began the 85-mile ride in Manassas before passing under Old Glory hoisted by Tower 1 from Luray and Truck 80 from McGaheysville. The Association raised more than \$30,000 from past events to help veterans and their families suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other debilitating injuries.

Tommy Jenkins, Post 8613 Commander commented: "This is our fourth year hosting this event. It has grown immensely and we are so proud to just be a part of it."



Photos by Frank McMillan

Post 7916—Occoquan

Memorial Day Ceremonies at Quantico National Cemetery

A Memorial Day Ceremony is held each year at Quantico National Cemetery. Over 500 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, along with many families and distinguished guests came to commemorate Memorial Day Ceremonies at Quantico National Cemetery this year. Memorial Day Ceremonies are conducted to honor our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who have fallen fighting for our nation. This ceremony also commemorates the Vietnam War's 50th Anniversary; to thank and honor the veterans who served, the ones who gave all, and those



who are still unaccounted for.

Colonel David Maxwell, Commander Marine Corps base Quantico, provided the opening remarks. The keynote speaker was Dr. Donnie Sisk who is an Air Force Veteran, and the new Director of Quantico National Cemetery. The music was played by the Quantico Marine Corps Band.



Quantico National Cemetery has hosted this event since 1983. Post 7916 Life Member Cobby McDonald has carried the colors every year since then. The event is sponsored by the Potomac Region Veterans Council with Post 7916 being a Charter Member. Past Post Commander member Wayne Dearie is the Vice

Wounded Warrior Derby Fest and BBQ

On May 2, 2015, VFW Post 7916, located in Ocoquan, Virginia, hosted the first Derby Fest and BBQ for our Wounded Warriors. Wounded Warriors came from Bethesda and Fort Belvoir, along with some from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the Woodbridge and Ocoquan areas. Our Wounded Warriors 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 Ocoquan, and Major Eric Quist USMC, Mrs. Michelle McQuigg, Prince William Clerk of the Court, and Mr. Clancy McQuigg, VFW Life Member and Trustee.

The four-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 desserts. The band, "Kitty and the FAT CATS" performed "Rockabilly, Blues, and Jazz standards from one of the greatest eras of all time!" In those four hours, it's estimated that over 100 people visited VFW Post 7916 and really enjoyed themselves.

Special thanks goes to all of the volunteers who helped put this event together along with Project Enduring Pride and the Post 7916 Ladies Auxiliary!!



(L-R) Post Commander Chuck Wilson, Sergeant Major, Paul Westmore, USA, Major Eric Quist USMC, Mayor Elizabeth Quist

Chairman of PRVC.

VFW Post 7916 provided one of the "Color Guards" for this special event. Participants included: Chuck Wilson, Post Commander, Joel Martinez Post Adjutant, Cobby McDonald, Post Life Member, and Rafael Landrau, Post Life Member and Wayne Dearie, Past Post Commander (2008).



(L-R) Cobby McDonald, Life member; Chuck Wilson, Commander and Rafael Landrau, Chaplain

(Continued on Page 15)

(Post 7916—Continued from Page 14)

Awards at Hylton HS AF JROTC Dining Out

Friday evening May 22, the Air Force Junior ROTC at Hylton High School held their annual Dining Out at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503. Over 250 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Cadets, school administrators, teachers, moms, dads, brothers, sisters and distinguished guests came to celebrate and recognize achievement.



Post Commander Chuck Wilson and Cadet Anthony M. Lewis.

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

Post Supports Occoquan Craft Fair

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7916 opened its doors to the many visitors who came to the Occoquan Craft Fair June 6-7.

VFW Member volunteers, along with volunteers from the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Boy Scout Troop 1352, and Sea Scout Ship 7916, extended a warm welcome to the town's many visitors. The Occoquan Arts and Crafts show is one of the finest shows on the East Coast and a must for anyone who loves the craft show experience. The show has been an annual event for over 25 years and is hosted by the town of Occoquan.



Chuck Wilson, Post Commander; Charlyze Wilson-Dubay, Commander Wilson's Granddaughter. Behind them: are Eric Hill, Post Senior Vice Commander, and a Boy Scout from Troop 1352.

Vietnam Veterans Recognition Ceremony

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. A Vietnam Veterans recognition ceremony was held August 29, 2015, at Little Hall Theater on Marine Corps Base Quantico. VFW Post 7916 supported this event.

Hosted by US Congressman Rob Wittman, the event personally recognized each Vietnam Veteran who came. LtGen George R Christmas, USMC Ret and SgtMaj Jimmie Spencer, USA Ret, both veterans of Vietnam were the keynote speakers.

A solemn prayer echoed throughout the Little Hall Theater at Marine Corps Base Quantico where more than 100 Vietnam War veterans came. "We have forgotten them at times, but they never forgot us." War photos appeared on a movie screen—images and memories. Old photos showed the veterans, some standing tall in uniform in front of clouds of smoke, some reclining on beaches with their dog tags around their neck. Others hoisted their guns with camouflaged faces.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmie Spencer, USA retired, recited a quote, saying the nation's reception of Vietnam veterans following the war was a time in our history that shouldn't have happened. "It was a time when we blamed the Vietnam veterans for a war they didn't cause," Spencer said.

VFW Life Member Lou Piantadosi, Col USMC Ret, a Vietnam Veteran, and from Post 7916 was recognized. "This is a very special ceremony that means so much for those who gave their all."

The ceremony was part of a national commemoration to honor the 7.2 million living Vietnam veterans, plus the families of the 9 million who served in the conflict that lasted from November 1955 until May 1975. The commemoration will continue through Veterans Day 2025.



L-R: Eric Hill Post 7916 SVC; Congressman Rob Wittman; Chuck Wilson Post 7916 Commander; Lou Piantadosi Post 7916 Life Member

Fort Lee Noncommissioned Officers help clean up VFW Post 637 property

On August 22, a class of Noncommissioned Officers from the U.S. Army Logistics NCO Academy completed a community service cleanup project for Hopewell VFW Post 637 at their local recreation area in Prince George County.

The NCO's spent the day trimming trees, spreading gravel and cleaning areas around the fishing pond as well as the two campsites in the area to allow VFW members and their families to fish and camp safely.

Staff Sergeant Scott Mitcheltree, Small Group Leader, and James Cooper, NCO Academy Civilian Instructor, noted that several students throughout the day said it was an honor to give back to our veterans and their families. Mr. Cooper went on to say "as a member of VFW Post 637 I can say it was an honor working with this fine group of Noncommissioned Officers and their service is greatly appreciated by all of the members of the Post".

As the class was finishing up with their tasks and preparing to depart the restored trail and camp ground, the Post's Senior Vice Commander, H. Lee Dixon, shook their hands and thanked them for a job well done. The class did such an outstanding job that he informed them he might be able to advance plans of bringing in wounded veterans for entertainment and recreation.



(L—R) SSG Mitcheltree, SGT Tharp, SGT Holthus, SGT Moreno, SGT Hrochavina, SSG Montes, SGT Estabillo, SGT Chavez, SGT LaLonde, SGT Rodas Photo by: Mr. Cooper

Commanders unveil new Blue Star Memorial Highway marker



Phil Arendsen II, Commander of the Hopewell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 637, and Mabel Farris, Commander of Prince George American Legion Post 120, present a wreath to honor service members after the unveiling of the new Blue Star Memorial Highway marker during the dedication ceremony Sept. 8 on the Lee Club lawn. The Nathaniel Cawsey Garden Club was responsible for coordinating with the Virginia Department of Transportation and the local government to name Highway 36 a Blue Star Memorial Highway. The marker will be placed between the Lee Avenue Gate and Sisisky Boulevard Gate on Highway 36.

(Photo by Amy Perry, Fort Lee Public Affairs)

Island Creek Veterans Park celebrates ribbon cutting with Post 8163

Full access facility on Kerr Lake hailed as boon for area's Wounded Warriors

The Mecklenburg Sun, July 22, 2015

Submitted by Post 8163



Those who cut the ribbon included Carol Buck, wife of the late Richard Buck, past Commander of American Legion Post 45 and daughter Mona Buck, Thomas Loftus, Tom Riggan, Samuel Hargrove, John Curtin, Colonel Kevin Landers, Brigadier General David Turner, Michael Womack, Shannon Maness, Johnny Moye, John Bowman, Post 8163 Commander Rufus Parker, Bonnie Bowman, Patrick Gillen, Jerry Johnson and paralyzed veterans.

Standing before a crowd of visitors and dignitaries that gathered Wednesday for the dedication of Mecklenburg County's universal access park at Island Creek, USACE Wilmington Division Commander Col. Kevin Landers spoke of the men and women whose lives will be better because of the park.

In particular, he shared the story of Sgt. John Wright, who served under Landers in Afghanistan. Notwithstanding Wright's loss of his legs in an IED explosion, Landers said, "If he were here today, he would jump for joy."

With tears in his eye and a voice choked with emotion, Landers expressed his gratitude to the many volunteers who cared enough to build a place of respite and relaxation for Sgt. Wright and all other wounded warriors.

Because of Island Creek Park, located near Townsville, N.C., Wright and other disabled veterans will be able to enjoy Kerr Lake for themselves without feeling hindered by inaccessible facilities.

Rolling to the front of the crowd in his wheelchair, Robert Satterwhite, a disabled veteran and member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America Mid-Atlantic Region, shared his gratitude for the Island Creek project.

"Being in a wheelchair is not easy," Satterwhite told the crowd. Something as simple as the paved walkway, which zig zags through the park to a 100 percent accessible fishing pier, can make all the difference to a person in a wheelchair.



The VFW Roanoke River Post 8163 Color Guard

(Continued on page 18)

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Satterwhite, who lives close enough by to be able to make regular use of the Island Creek park, said that before now, he could not take his son fishing or enjoy a cookout there.

Gravel walkways and bumpy terrain made it nearly impossible for him to maneuver his wheelchair down to the lake and back.

Island Creek has poured concrete walkways that gently slope from a covered picnic pavilion to a fishing pier. The fence surrounding the pier is high enough to ensure the safety of those in a wheelchair, yet low enough that they can comfortably fish.

A second pathway and pad are already in place, waiting for the day when there is enough money raised to install a 4-slip handicapped-accessible boat dock.

Island Creek is the first barrier-free park built on Corps of Engineers' land. The project has been watched closely by the Corps and members of the military who view it as a prototype for similar facilities around the country. The significance of Island Creek Veterans Park brought Brig. Gen. David Turner, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division, to the Clarksville area for the dedication.

Virginia is home to nearly 800,000 veterans. Many carry with them the scars of their time in the service, noted John Newby, commissioner of Veterans Services for Virginia. He added that over the next five years, more than one million soldiers will leave the Armed Services. It is expected that the greatest percentage of them will make their home in Virginia. That is why a facility like Island Creek is so important.

Tiffany Smith, an outpatient recreation therapist with the Veterans Administration Clinic in Durham, N.C., said she looks forward to bringing the first group of disabled veterans to the park to go fishing.

The idea for the park began in 2009 with the help of Thomas Loftus, Samuel Hargrove and Tom Riggan. The park was made possible by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, American Legion Post 45 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8163 in Clarksville.

Loftus, Post Service Officer of American Legion Post 45, referred to the final result of all the work done for the park as "phenomenal." He said that this was pulled off because we live in a patriotic area of the country. Loftus mentioned that because of the park, veterans will have the opportunity to teach their kids how to fish and enjoy quality family time and do so with no barriers.



Speaking at the conclusion of the program, VFW Post 8163 Commander Rufus Parker paid tribute to the men and women who brought the dream to life; among them are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, members of VFW Post 8163 and American Legion Post 45, Kinder-ton Women's Club, Jim Moody, David Loeper, Paralyzed Veterans of American, Clarksville Ruritan Club and countless others.

Contractors for the park project include Mike Denton of Buggs Island Dock Service, who built the fishing pier; Harmon Saunders and Herbert Ramsey, who graded the property and installed concrete walkways; Terry Ligon, who assisted with clearing and grading the property; Dale and Tommy Jimmerson Construction, who built the pavilion; Lewis Metal in South Hill, which fabricated the railings; and B&B Consulting, provider of engineering services.

Also present at the dedication were Linda Green, Field Director for 5th District Congressman Robert Hurt; Julie Emmons, District Director for North Carolina Congressman Mark Walker, 6th District; Herman Cheney, representing VFW Department Commander Douglas Keller; Lunenburg Delegate Tommy Wright; State Senator Frank Ruff of Clarksville; and Gerald Rhodes, Commander of the American Legion Department of Virginia.



VFW Post helps fight the last battle of WWII

We will not forget the sacrifices of those Missing in Action

Submitted by Post 7589

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

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

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

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

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

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

actively search the area. To date Kuentai-USA has positively identified four other sets of remains and six others are pending positive identification.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Contemporary photo showing how Kuentai-USA used photographic evidence from WWII to locate the site of the WWII interment.

General Lewis B “Chesty” Puller Post 1503 in review 2015-16

Post 1503 continues to focus on Veterans helping Veterans with the “Team Chesty” one team approach. Recruiting life members and making all of our new members feel at home and welcomed into the Post is one of the ways we use to reach our goals. Veterans support, hospital work and providing assistance in and around the community, continues to be the other primary focus for the “Chesty Puller” Post 1503. Our Boy Scout troop continues to keep an aggressive schedule of events with projects around the post. Our award winning Honor Guard took home the coveted trophy from the Dale City July 4th parade – “Best marching unit”. Of course we can’t forget about the Memorial Weekend events around the Post, with Flags at Quantico, Rolling Thunder, and the Memorial Day ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery.



Rolling Thunder 2015 with the Prince William County Police Escort .



Memorial Day 2015 - Quantico National Cemetery. Members of Post 1503 carry the National Colors.

The National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids Michigan is one of the top donation efforts that Post 1503 makes every year. This year was no exception. The Post donated 2,600.00 to the VFW National Home.

On “National Day of Service” day Comrades and Auxiliary members from the Post and volunteers from around the community along with Mr. Handy-Man Inc. made a difference in the lives of Col. Don Sortino and his wife Irene with a much needed renovation of several areas of their house, including a new patio and several improvements around their home.



Randy Coker, Commander Post 1503, presents a 2,600.00 check to the VFW National Home during the 2015-16 National Convention.



National Day of Service 2015, Post 1503 and Mr. HandyMan Inc. work Their magic on the residence of a life member of 1503.

The 2015-16 Voice of Democracy Scholarship golf tournament was another great event this year, with Post 1503 raising another record amount of 6,200.00. Who can forget our awesome VFW Post 1503 Auxiliary, and the hard work that they continue to do in our community. They delivered 200 backpacks to two of our local elementary schools prior to the 2015-15 school year, so that the kids could start the year off with the right equipment.



Regina Meehan, President of the VFW Auxiliary for Post 1503, with Prince William County Supervisor, John Jenkins, Post 1503 life member Celso (Speedy) Santiago and Mrs. Ernestine Jenkins were all on hand for the backpack delivery.

(Continued on page 21)

(Post 1503—Continued from page 20)

On October 17th, comrades and auxiliary members of Post 1503 and members of the local community came out in force to cheer on the arrival of HONOR FLIGHT TRIANGLE into town. 4 bus loads of WWII and Korean War Veterans came to town for their visit to the WWII Memorial.

On October 24th, the Post hosted a Fall Festival to raise money for the local homeless veterans. All proceeds from the event went towards homeless veterans in our local area.

As each of us read this Virginia Veteran newsletter we should all remember the sacrifices that our fellow Veterans who each paved the way for us to all enjoy the freedoms that we enjoy. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is just another way for us all to say "Thank You" to all of them.

Visit our Post web site at. WWW.VFWPOST1503.COM



Two of our number one recruiters pictured above - Robert Arch / Archambault / Joyce Gibbs.

Student-Veteran Seeks to Document Virginia's WWI Memorials

By Ken Wiseman, State Judge Advocate

When the guns fell silent after the end of WWI, our nation sought to memorialize those who had served in the war. However, as time marched on some of those memorials are now less remembered. A student-veteran from the University of Richmond is trying to fix that. Jeff Karow, who spent time in the Wisconsin Army National Guard and is now a college senior majoring in history, is conducting such a project as part of his undergraduate research requirements. He saw an opportunity to bring back to life a war that is fading from memory with the passing of the last American veteran of this conflict.

Jeff reached out to the Virginia VFW in hopes that our organization could help. Considering that VFW Virginia has one of the most active committees for student-veterans in the VFW, it should be no surprise that the Department would support and encourage a project like this. "Building memorials is part of our mission as an organization but there is a need to not forget those which we build" said Virginia State Commander Doug Keller. Keller added "Veterans from today's conflicts contribute to our society in many ways such as starting small businesses and entering public service but bringing the spotlight back onto an important chapter of American history is another way as this ensures a part of our nation is not forgotten."

Virginia was not a stranger to this war and according to Karow 120 statues, buildings, roadways, plaques, and historical artillery pieces are among those items already identified. However, the mission to catalog them continues and the VFW has been asked to help. Should you or your Post have knowledge of memorials of any kind from that war, contact Jeff directly at Jeffrey.Karow@richmond.edu.

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Photos by Morris Stephenson

Herman Chaney, left, commander of Penhook Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10840, conducted the Liberty Tree rededication ceremony of October 3 next to the Snow Creek VFD and Rescue Squad buildings. He is shown with Post officials and special guests.

Penhook Post rededicates Liberty Tree

By Morris Stevenson

Special to the Franklin County News-Post

Franklin County's Korean War veterans were remembered Saturday October 10th during a special rededication ceremony of the county's Liberty Tree.

Herman Chaney, commander of Post 10840 Penhook Veterans of Foreign Wars, explained that the original tree was dedicated Nov. 13, 2004. The original tree was a 180-year old oak tree located at the home of the late Will Brodie.

The original tree has been replaced by a smaller dogwood tree.

The property at the intersection of Snow Creek and Sontag Roads was sold. The new tree was placed at the Snow Creek VFD building on Route 890.

Taking part in the brief program held in a drizzling rain were Del. Charles Poindexter and his wife, Janet. She represented Virginia's Old Carolina Road DAR chapter of Franklin County.

Poindexter traced the history of the conflict between North and South Korea and how America got involved. He noted how North Korea's population struggled under communist control, while residents of South Korea were enjoying prosperity in democracy.

Janet Poindexter said Marine Corps General Charles Poindexter,



A small Liberty Tree plaque was relocated from its original location to the young dogwood tree.

carried a typewriter with him all the time during the Korean War. "... and he had to carry a big, heavy typewriter everywhere he went during the war," she said.

In explaining the history behind the tree, Chaney said early Colonial settlements had a Liberty Tree. It was a place where patriots gathered to talk about gaining freedom from England.

Under British rule, outdoor meetings were considered illegal and many of the trees were cut down by British troops to undermine morale of the people. The nation's last surviving Liberty Tree died in 1999 of old age.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower wanted to remember veterans of the Korean War and urged citizens to plant Liberty Trees as a lasting memory to those who served in what is now known as "the forgotten war."

Also attending the ceremony were Brondwyn Walker Sheffield, daughter of the late Landis Walker, Commander of Post 10840 in 2004; Malon Shelton, Past Commander; Ronnie Haskins, Surgeon; and Andre Perry, Service Officer. Following the ceremony, refreshments were served by members of the Snow Creek Rescue Squad Auxiliary.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TRICARE young adult premiums to increase

Press Operations

Release No: NR-411-15

October 28, 2015

The TRICARE Health Plan has announced the 2016 premiums for TRICARE Young Adult Prime and Standard options covering beneficiaries between 23 and 26 years old. These premiums are adjusted on an annual basis and go into effect Jan. 1, 2016.

For 2016, the monthly premium for TYA Prime is \$306 per month, and TYA Standard is \$228 per month. TRICARE is required to set these premiums to cover the full cost of health care received by TYA beneficiaries. For the first time since TYA was created in 2011, TRICARE has sufficient statistically valid cost data to set annual premiums.

TYA Prime or Standard are options for eligible young adult beneficiaries, who are encouraged to explore all of their health care choices and pick the plan best suited to their needs.

With premiums competitive to similar plans, TRICARE Young Adult is comparable to available platinum-level health care plans. Other health care options for young adult beneficiaries include:

- Purchasing TYA Standard - lower premiums, higher cost shares - instead of TYA Prime
- Enrolling in a parent's civilian health insurance plan, if available
- Purchasing a plan offered through the Health Insurance Marketplace at www.healthcare.gov
- Purchasing coverage through the college or university, if enrolled

Lower cost plans may be available depending on income and residence, and assistance paying premiums may be available. Beneficiaries may also qualify for Medicaid. Go to www.healthcare.gov to evaluate eligibility and options. Open enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace begins Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 31, 2016.

Visit www.tricare.mil/TYA for more information.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JANUARY 8th

WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 15 – 17, 2016

Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center ~ Williamsburg, Virginia ~ 757-220-2250 ~
\$76.00 Per night

(Group Rate Deadline is December 23rd)

PRE REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET
\$45.00 INCLUDES RECEPTION AND DINNER BANQUET

**ALL TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED. THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS
SOLD AT THE WINTER COUNCIL MEETING.**

There will be no Dance Saturday night.

Dinner Menu

Boneless Breast of Chicken with Chef's Choice of Sauce

OR

Pork Loin topped with Herbed Garlic Cream Sauce

Served with:

Chef's Choice of Starch and Vegetable
Mixed Greens Salad with Ranch and Italian Dressings Warm Rolls and Butter Dessert
Coffee/Decaffeinated Coffee/Hot Tea

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY JANUARY 8, 2016 (NO EXCEPTIONS)

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Please fill out completely for each person you are registering including Post number or Auxiliary number:

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Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____ Food Choice: (circle) Pork or Chicken

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You may also e-mail this form to: stateheadquarters@va.vfwwebmail.com or fax it to: 1-866-416-0586 if paying by Credit Card only

Pre-paid tickets will not be mailed to you; they will be available for pick up at registration.

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND
VFW AUXILIARY**

Winter Council of Administration Meeting

January 15 - January 17, 2016

Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center

Williamsburg, Virginia

757-220-2250

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016

3:00 PM	5:00 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Petersburg Hall Foyer
5:00 PM	6:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Line Officers Meeting	Dept. President's Room
6:30 PM	7:00 PM	District Presidents' Meeting w/Program Chairman	General Hill's/McClellan's
7:00 PM	9:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting	General Hill's/McClellan's
9:00 PM	1:00 AM	Military Order of the Cootie Dance	McClellan's

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016

8:00 AM	3:00 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Petersburg Hall Foyer
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Commanders Club Meeting	Petersburg Hall
8:15 AM	8:45 AM	VFW Auxiliary Floor Practice	General Hill's/McClellan's
9:00 AM	9:30 AM	National Military Services Workshop	Petersburg Hall
9:00 AM	2:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Conference Meeting	General Hill's/McClellan's
9:00 AM	4:00 PM	Service Officer Training	Jefferson Davis Amphitheater
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Open forum (VFW members questions)	Petersburg Hall
10:00 AM	NOON	MOC Council of Administration Meeting	Lees
10:30 AM	11:30 PM	Membership & Recruiting Workshop	Petersburg Hall
11:30 AM	1:00 PM	Cash Lunch furnished by Hotel	
1:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW Council of Administration Meeting	Petersburg Hall
2:30 PM	3:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Program Chairmen	Dept. President's Room
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	MOCA Council of Administration Meeting	Lees
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Reception	General Emory's
6:30 PM	9:00 PM	Banquet-Guest Speaker – John E. Hamilton	Richmond Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Joint Devotional Service	Longstreet
9:30 AM	NOON	VFW Auxiliary Conference, if needed	Richmond Hall
9:30 AM	NOON	VFW Council of Admin. Meeting, if needed	Petersburg Hall

BANQUET TICKETS: \$45.00

Includes Reception and Banquet. THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE.

FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE.

Department Hospitality Room - Kearney's

Tenth District Hospitality Room – 367

Third District Hospitality Room – 467