



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the

The Camaraderie

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, and the COMMUNITY



April 2017

Volume 16-4

Taking Care of Veterans for Seventy Years 1946~2016

THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

By Post Commander Joseph Byrnes "Hoss"



Hello from my office at work. It has been a strange few days here in sunny Virginia. A few days ago, it felt like summer as it hit 80 degrees. The next day it was in the forties and today the 27th it is sunny and 70. All I can say is that it is going to be a real interesting spring. I hope that spring has finally arrived and there won't be a freak snow

storm!

We are in the busy part of the year, dealing with the upcoming Post elections and finishing out this year's membership drive. On the topic of membership, it's funny how the military mindset continues even now. Each year the National Commander and Chief tells the Senior Vice Commander to push the Department Commanders who then start asking the District Commanders to get their Post Commanders in line and encourage them to get their members in for renewal and to go out and find new members to join. So, for all the infantry members, enjoy that little flashback. For me this happened during my time with the Marine Corps and the Division General sending out a request and it flows downhill from there. Funny how it turned into an emergency or a crisis by the time it hit us at the platoon level! So, in keeping with our military past, let me tell you how where we stand and what we need from you our members.



First, I would like to welcome a few new members to Post 7327: **Adam Byrnes** of Grand Island NY, **Terry Gigure** from Alexandria, VA and **Christopher B Stoops** of Springfield, VA 22153. I would also like to welcome

a few Comrades who transferred from other posts just to join ours. Welcome **Michael R Middleton** of Alexandria, **Rudolph (Rudy) A Gartner** of Alexandria, **Paul B Cole** of Springfield, **Donna Burks** of Woodbridge, **Collin Waterton** of Lorton, **Ronald B Thomas** of Springfield, **Kenneth Jones Sr.** of Lorton

(Continued on page 2)

Is Your Membership Current?

Top Reasons Why VFW Membership Is the Best Move a Veteran Can Make:

- Membership brings you into the strong fold of the VFW family where camaraderie, service and support helps veterans of all ages
- Your small yearly membership investment supports the VFW's ability to keep a strong presence in the legislative process when veterans legislation is debated
- You have access to the VFW's excellent veterans service officer network that every year connects veterans with more than \$45 million in benefits
- Membership benefits can save you thousands of dollars in each year
- Your membership supports other veterans who need a helping hand including homeless veterans, those battling the impact of post-traumatic stress disorder and all veterans as they return to civilian and professional life
- Post and Auxiliary members provide an outstanding support system for veterans and their families during and after military deployments



Commander's Commentary—continued from page 1

and **Anthony F. Diferdinando** of Alexandria. Each of these Comrades chose to join us, and/or reinstate their membership within the VFW, and for that I commend you. Finally, I would like to welcome back **Comrade Fredrick D Winfield** of Alexandria for renewing and reinstating his membership. Thank you Fredrick and nice to see you back with us.

As this writing, March 27, 2017, we are currently 551 members strong. Last year were where 586 members strong which makes us 94.02% or 35 members short to our goal of 100% membership. Not counted in this list of 586 are over 39 members who have let their membership lapse for 1 to 2 years who still might be getting this newsletter not knowing their membership has expired. I ask all of you who are not Life Members to at least renew your annual membership or convert to Life status. Converting to Life status was a godsend for me since it was one less thing I had to remember to pay each year. **We are only short 35 members to reach 100%!** If you know of a veteran who is eligible, please encourage him or her to join or renew their membership. Stand strong with the nearly 1.7 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary as together, we continue to fight for all that's good **FOR VETERANS**.

Housekeeping section:

Our Bingo volunteers should be sainted for the work they do each week. Leading this are our Bingo Managers Gary Kelch, Marcia Lohr, Linda Bond, and Jason Turney. You folks are doing a great job! For some people, volunteering is about giving, but for the likes of our Bingo Managers, it is a way of living. These managers are proof that volunteers are people who don't want to be thanked for helping others, but want to thank others for giving them the opportunity to help. God bless you. Comrades, if you happen to bump into them, please let them know just how much we appreciate them and all the personal time they put in to making our Bingo Program so successful. *I am putting a plea out to our members in the local area to consider giving us a night of your time on a Thursday or Friday.* By volunteering you have just given the most expensive and priceless gift anyone could have ever given- kindness and love. The volunteer program is what keeps Bingo going and Bingo is what maintains our ability to help our fellow veterans. We are very lucky to have the Bingo program. Many Posts in the area do not have this avenue and are forced to find additional ways to raise money; for this we are blessed. Please be a part of this and contact Diana Regan and let her know you are willing to help. Her email is oregandl@cox.net and she will be happy to fit you in to the schedule (or call at: 703-719-7660).

As I mentioned at the top of the newsletter, we will hold our annual elections at our April General Membership meeting. We are currently looking to fill many positions since several Officers have to leave to fulfill their military commitment. Comrade Sr. Vice Commander Dorian Brunson has moved to Fredericksburg with his bride. That move, combined with his active duty time, will require him to travel more over the next few months. We wish him and Stephanie all the best and hope that they will travel up north from time to time and say hello. Comrade Jr. Vice Commander Raj Lobrecht will be leaving the area for distant lands (ask him where he is going and trust me, he'll be happy to tell you). We wish him good fortune and safe passage with the hope that he will return some day.

Remember that all members in good standing can run for any of the positions open and you are encouraged to run. Volunteering will not make you a millionaire money-wise, but it will make you a billionaire blessing-wise. Thank you.

Elected Positions:

Commander
Sr. Vice Commander
Jr. Vice Commander
Quartermaster
Chaplin
3 Year Trustee

I look forward to seeing you around the Post and at Bingo this month. Remember, if anyone asks you about our post let them know we are open for business and our business is taking care of veterans!

Joseph Byrnes, Post Commander

Message from Your Auxiliary President

By Auxiliary President Barbara Major

Happy Spring! We've made it through Winter, and sun and fun are on the way. Yea!

I have good news to report. We have a full slate of officers to elect at our April meeting. The following people have agreed to serve if elected:



President:	Barbara Major
Senior Vice:	Shirley Norris
Junior Vice:	Diana Regan
Treasurer:	Linda Byrnes
Conductress:	Barbara Bucklin
Chaplain:	Floy Lipscomb
Guard:	Marcia Lohr
1st Trustee:	Joanne Kelch
2nd Trustee:	Valerie Murrell
3rd Trustee:	Marilynn Bianco

Alice Merrill, Joyce Engel, and Linda Bond have accepted appointments as Secretary, Patriotic Instructor, and Historian respectively. Elections will be held at our April meeting, and installations will be held in May. All will assume their duties after the Department President (our own Linda Bond) is installed at the Department Convention in June. I want to personally thank everyone who has agreed to run and serve if elected.

Our second order of business in April will be to retire our former Ladies Auxiliary Banner, which has been superseded by our Auxiliary Banner. We plan to take a picture of the banner with members in attendance. The photograph will be framed and later hung at the Post Home. The banner itself will be retired and destroyed at a future Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Pictured at right is Sister Linda Bond, National President Colette Bishop, and Ellie Smith at dinner during the National President's visit to Virginia. Looking good, Ladies!

Our April meeting, April 12, 7 pm, will be busy. Please put the date on your calendar, and plan to attend. We'd love to see you there.



Auxiliary Sisters Linda Bond and Marcia Lohr presented the National Citation at Lane Elementary school to Mrs. Tunstall and her 5th grade class for their participation in our Adopt - A- Military Family program. They adopted a family with two children and bought and wrapped all the gifts and clothing. Thank you Mrs. Tunstall and class!



VFW Post & Auxiliary 7327

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Post Officers

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Sr. Vice: Dorian Brunson,
svrvice@post7327.org

Jr. Vice: Raj Lobrecht, jrvic@post7327.org

Quartermaster: Joe Baringer
qm@post7327.org

Judge Adv: Jason Turney
Chaplain: Wayne Yancey,
w.yancey@cox.net

Surgeon: Michael Kephart,
mike.kephart@cox.net

3-Yr Trustee: Vacant

2-Yr Trustee: Clarence McNeil

1-Yr Trustee: Gary Kelch

Post Adjutant: Roberta Borka
adjpost7327@va.vfwwebmail.com

Service Officer: Frank Konieczny,
fwkret@gmail.com

Auxiliary Officers

President: Barbara Major 703-548-8343

Sr. Vice: Shirley Norris 703-971-1939

Jr. Vice: Diana Regan 703-719-7660

Secretary: Alice Merrill 703-569-1771

Treasurer: Linda Byrnes 703-732-7539

Chaplain: Floy Lipscomb 803-271-3081

Conductress: Barbara Bucklin 703-971-8299

Guard: Janne Best 703-321-7349

1-Yr Trustee: Linda Bond 703-407-3106

2-Yr Trustee: JoAnne Kelch 703-644-8485

3-Yr Trustee: Valerie Murrell

Patriotic Instructor: Joyce Engel

The Camaraderie newsletter is published by Springfield, Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327, a community based 501c19 not-for-profit Congressionally Chartered Veterans Organization. Mailed for educational outreach and information purposes to our members, volunteers and friends. The newsletter is distributed to over 700 individuals. We have served our community since 1946, providing support to Veterans, their families, active duty military and community based organizations.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Post Chaplain Wayne Yancey

Hello Comrades, Members of the Auxiliary and Friends of the Post,

It's a beautiful Sunday morning in the neighborhood and I'm knocking out my Chaplain's report early so I can get started on my "Honey do list".

It saddens me to report that Comrade Ken Ward passed away on Tuesday, February 28, 2017. I'm sure some "old timers" remember Ken and Jan Ward, who were very active in our Post and Auxiliary until approximately ten years ago when they moved to Las Vegas. Ken was 86 years of age when he passed away from various ailments. He and Jan (Past Auxiliary President many times) were married for 30 Years. Ken was a Past Post Commander and a Past District Commander. He was also very active in the Cooties. In fact he recruited me into the Cooties (back in the day). Ken was a retired Colonel in the Air Force. He served as a pilot in Korea and in Vietnam. A memorial service was conducted for Ken in Desert Springs, NV on March 6, 2017. No one from the Post was able to attend the service, but we did send flowers and the Auxiliary made a donation to a Veteran's program in his honor.

Comrade Haywood Thomas has been in Walter Reed Medical Hospital since December 24, 2017. He is suffering with an ulcer on his back that will not heal. He is finally doing better and is expecting to be discharged soon.

It was great to see Rudy Gartner back in action and at the most recent General Membership meeting. Rudy said he is feeling much better and is even back to working Bingo.

You may remember that Comrade Ted Scott passed away on January 9, 2017. His Memorial Service and funeral were January 26, 2017. We learned recently that Ted will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on June 9 at 1:00pm. We recently received a very nice card from Mrs. Susan Scott (Ted's wife). She thanked us for our support, for the fruit basket we sent to Ted when he was sick and for the beautiful VFW ritual we conducted in Ted's honor at his Memorial service. Thanks to Past All State Commander Sonny Thomas, Service Officer Frank Konieczny, Judge Advocate Jason Turney, and Willie Jones for helping with the Service.

The next VA Hospital visit will be April 18, 2017. As usual we will leave the Post Home at 6:00 pm and will be back at approximately 9:00 pm. All members of the Post and Auxiliary are invited to assist. If anyone would rather go directly to the hospital please give me a call and I will give you the details.

As always, please let me know if I can be of assistance to anyone.

Home: 703-3719-7660, Cellular; 703-350-8409, E Mail – W.Yancey @Cox.Net

B I N G O

Early Birds - 7:00 pm
Regular Bingo - 7:45 pm

Every Thursday and Friday Night! 7:00 pm

Three Progressive Jackpot Games Each Night!!

TWO \$500.00 JACKPOTS Each Night!!

At the Springfield Volunteer Fire Company
7011 Backlick Road

Springfield Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7327

Lucky Seven!
Pull Tabs!

Join us for an Evening of Fun!

DODGE **Safford** **Jeep**
OF SPRINGFIELD
www.saffordauto.com

Errett "Sonny" Thomas, Life Member and Past All State Post Commander of VFW Post 7327, is a Sales Liaison with Safford Dodge Jeep of Springfield. He invites you to come and have a look at the great selection of Dodge & Jeep Vehicles.

A donation of \$100 will be made to the Post or Auxiliary in the name of any VFW Post or Auxiliary Member for every new or used vehicle purchased. Just mention Sonny's name or this ad. Please bring in your current membership card with you.

Call Sonny at 703-629-4513.

Safford Dodge Jeep, 7611 Loisdale Road, Springfield, Virginia 22150

Service Officer's Corner

Francis W. Konieczny, Post Service Officer

Supplemental Medical Coverage for Veterans

We've all seen the commercials: "Medicare covers only 80% of (Medicare approved) medical bills. You are responsible for the rest." And then come the advertisements for any one of several options supplemental to Medicare. The question is: "Do we all know what the different options mean for veterans?" For veterans, the options boil down to (really) three main selections. There are additional selections but let's concentrate on the following three.

First, there is TRICARE. TRICARE is a medical care program available to uniformed service members - including those on active duty, National Guard and Reserve members and retired service members and their families.



Second, there is CHAMPVA. The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) is a comprehensive health care program in which the VA shares the cost of covered health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. It sponsors medical care costs or the spouse or widow(er) and children of a veteran who was permanently and totally disabled doing work associated with their military service. It also covers the families of those who died due to a permanent and total disability while on active duty. CHAMPVA is available to anyone who fits the criteria and is not eligible for TRICARE.

Both TRICARE and CHAMPVA are designed to pay for a significant portion of individual and family health care needs. But, there are some gaps in coverage that can be concerning if you have a serious accident, or illness. There are also certain co-insurance charges and co-pays associated with each plan. Fortunately, there are supplemental policies available that pay eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses. Generally, they include both outpatient services (such as doctor and clinic visits, prescription) and inpatient services (such as room and board, supplies, staff and other services billed by a hospital). Even if you live overseas, you are still eligible to purchase supplemental TRICARE and CHAMPVA coverage if you meet other eligibility requirements. There are a number of different TRICARE and CHAMPVA supplemental plans on the market. It is recommended you compare rates and services covered to help you decide which is right for you.



Generally speaking, CHAMPVA and TRICARE coverage is quite affordable, comparatively speaking. That makes it a valuable safety net to ensure that you and your spouse have the maximum amount of coverage available in case of illness or accident. TRICARE and CHAMPVA supplemental plans are designed to provide personal coverage for you and for eligible family members. That means they follow you no matter where you live or work. If you begin a civilian career, or move to another region, your coverage remains. Even if you have existing CHAMPVA or TRICARE supplemental coverage, it's a good idea to occasionally research your options to make sure your current plan(s) meet your needs.

For additional information, please call the VFW Member Benefits Department @ 1-800-821-2606 and select Option #1.

Third, there is TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL). TRICARE For Life is Medicare-wraparound coverage for TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries who have Medicare Part A and B. Enrollment not required and coverage is automatic if you have Medicare Part A and B (but, you must pay Medicare Part B premiums). You may visit any authorized Medicare provider. Your provider files your claims with Medicare, Medicare pays its portion and send the claim to TFL claims processor. TFL then pays the provider directly for TRICARE covered services. As a general rule, if Medicare accepts the cost, TFL (acting as your supplemental) will pay the difference. If you coordinate and plan smartly, your out-of-pocket expense should be minimal.

Major portions of this article were sourced from:

Veterans of Foreign Wars Magazine (Benefits of Membership, "Filling the Gaps with TRICARE or CHAMPVA Supplemental Coverage"), September 2015, <http://www.tricare.mil/tfl>

2017 Community Awards Ceremony



Buddy Poppy History

From VFW.org

Before Memorial Day in 1922, we conducted our first poppy distribution, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, as it remains today.



During our 1923 encampment, we decided that VFW "**Buddy**"® **Poppies** would be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance. The next year, disabled veterans at the Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh assembled VFW Buddy Poppies. The designation "Buddy Poppy" was adopted at that time.

In February 1924, we registered the name Buddy Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting our organization all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. We've made that trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name Buddy Poppy.

Today, our Buddy Poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals.

The VFW Buddy Poppy program provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home For Children.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS POEM

By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead: Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved: and now we lie
In Flanders fields!

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you, from failing hands, we throw
The torch: be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

*Composed at the battlefield on May 3, 1915
during the second battle of Ypres, Belgium*

****Local Buddy Poppy Distribution****

Our Post will distribute Buddy Poppies:

May 20-21 at Ft. Belvoir PX and Commissary
May 27-28 at Huntsman Giant
Other area Giants as volunteers are available.

Please mark your calendars now and set aside a few hours to volunteer. It's as easy as passing out Poppies and flags to our community. No experience needed, just smiling, willing volunteers!



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the
United States



The Friendliest VFW Post in Virginia

Web Site: www.post7327.org
e-mail: cmdr@post7327.org
703-541-3139 Phone



*Nothing is as
strong as the heart
of a volunteer.
~Jimmy Doolittle*

Upcoming Events and Activities

April 6—Army Day

April 9—National Former POW Recognition Day

April 11—Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30pm

April 12—Auxiliary Membership Meeting, 7 pm

April 17—VA Hospital Visit, meet at Post Home at 6:00pm

April 25—General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm

*May 7 – VFW District 10 Convention, lunch 11:30, mtg 1pm,
Post 1503, Dale City – join us!*

May 29- Joint VFW-American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony

Come early to meetings and join us for drinks and camaraderie!

**BINGO - EVERY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY evening beginning at 7:00 pm at
Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department**

Post Hours of Operation

Monday / Tuesday – Closed (except for meetings)

Wednesday / Thursday—10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Friday – 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday / Sunday – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Post may be open other than these hours as events require and personnel are available.