



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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# The Camaraderie

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, and the COMMUNITY



May 2017

Volume 16-5

*Taking Care of Veterans for Seventy Years 1946~2016*

## THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

By Post Commander Joseph Byrnes "Hoss"



Greetings to all my fellow Comrades, Auxiliary Members, and friends of the Post! As you all know very well, balancing two distinct lives between family/work lives and volunteering at the Post is very challenging; especially when the two collide at the most inopportune time.

We have a very busy month this May and I need your assistance. My duty to my family and work this month have caused a few requirements in the VFW to need extra attention. As required each year, we hold elections for the VFW Post Officers for the following year. This normally happens in April. Due to the lack of interest from our members to serve and volunteer, we were unable to have the elections last month because we did not have a full list of dedicated and motivated volunteers as required by our charter. If any one of our members of Post 7327 wants to make a difference and improve our Post, this is the time to do it! We need your help!

Memorial Day is coming up very soon and every year VFW Post 7327 and American Legion Post 176 hold a joint Memorial Day Service at the Springfield American Legion Post. This year the service will be on May 30, 2017. Past District Commander Gary Kelch will represent VFW Post 7327 this year and I am asking each one of you to attend the service to provide a show of support and represent VFW Post 7327. My sincere thanks to Comrade Kelch for stepping up!

Along with Memorial Day service, each year VFW Post 7327 conducts our annual Buddy Poppy Distribution. We will be distributing Buddy Poppies at the Fort Belvoir Main PX and the new commissary on May 20-21, 2017. 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. Today, our Buddy Poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals. We are also looking at scheduling another weekend for Buddy Poppy distribution at the Giant location in

*(Continued on page 2)*



It's that time again - the annual run/walk your Post and Auxiliary have been sponsoring since its start!

The race is the traditional kick-off to the Springfield Days weekend.

This year it will start and finish at the Edison High School track on Saturday, June 3, starting gun at 9am. As usual, there will be lots of amenities. This year's offerings include live music, a free 100 yard kids run, a post-race sponsor expo (join us or look for our table!) and more.

To register to run/walk: [www.signmeup.com/site/reg/register.aspx?fid=TL2VCH7](http://www.signmeup.com/site/reg/register.aspx?fid=TL2VCH7) or just google springfield 5K 2017 and follow the registration link.

To volunteer to help with race operations or our expo table, contact Auxiliary Sister Alice Merrill at [a-b6103@cox.net](mailto:a-b6103@cox.net).

Run, volunteer, sample vendors offerings, or just come to have some fun cheering the runners to the finish! We hope to see you there!

**Commander's Commentary—continued from page 1**

Springfield near Trader Joes and Kmart on May 27-28, 2017. Again, we need volunteers. Please step up and assist! Even an hour or two makes an impact.

The General Membership Meeting in May will be held on May 16, 2017. This is a change from our regular schedule of the fourth Tuesday of every month. Our team meeting is a level playing field and an open forum, which means that everybody present shares the same opportunity to communicate and listen. Everybody gets the chance to speak and hear what's said! Our monthly meetings are an inevitable part of our organization, whether we like them or not! This monthly meeting is a good place to learn about our organization, how we work as a team, how to manage a team towards our objectives, and what improvements a team can achieve together. Lastly, our meetings give team members a place to help each other and offer their support. So, if you can dedicate about an hour of your precious time on May 16, I am encouraging you to stop by at 7:30 p.m. and join us. Thank you.

Before I finish my newsletter, I cannot forget to talk about Bingo. As you all know, our Bingo operations pay our bills and support projects that help veterans. Every month, I am asking for volunteers and I will ask again. Please contact Diana Reagan ([oregandl@cox.net](mailto:oregandl@cox.net)) soonest if you can spare four hours a month.

I need to recognize two individuals who have been a vital part of both our Bingo operations and Adopt-a-Family programs. These two volunteers are worth their weight in gold as they share their time and talents without any compensation, so it's crucial for me to acknowledge their contributions and let them know they are valued. FYI, the Adopt-a-Family program is the result of our weekly Bingo program. I wanted to let Ms. Linda Bond and Ms. Marcia Lohr know what an outstanding job I think you two are doing. I know it has been a lot of work, but you two have done a wonderful job in running the Bingo and Adopt-a-Family operations smoothly. You two are such an important part of our organization, and I hope you know that as well. Another FYI, I would like to wish good luck to Ms. Linda Bond on her upcoming Auxiliary Department elections as she is running for Auxiliary President. I know she will do well to represent the Auxiliary!

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter and 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

**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 OF SPRINGFIELD** **Jeep**  
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**

# Message from Your Auxiliary President

By Auxiliary President Barbara Major

At our meeting in April, we elected our officers for the 2017-2018 period. They will be installed at our May meeting and take office in June after our Department Convention. I want to sincerely thank everyone who served with me this year and those who stepped up to serve next year. Let's all do what we can to make next year a banner year serving veterans, active military, and their families.



Also at the meeting we retired our former Ladies Auxiliary Banner, which has been superseded by our Auxiliary Banner. The photographs shown here will be framed and hung at the Post Home. The Ladies Auxiliary Banner itself will be destroyed at a future flag retirement ceremony.



Scheduled for May are the Buddy Poppy distributions and our customary joint VFW-American Legion Memorial Day commemoration. Let me know if you can spare some time to distribute poppies. The Memorial Day event is an important way for us acknowledging the sacrifices that have been made, and are still being made, to keep us free.

In addition, we are always in need of Bingo volunteers. Please help if you can.

Here other events to be aware of:

June 14-18 Department Convention, Ft. Magruder, Williamsburg, VA

July 22-26. National Convention, New Orleans, LA

Closer to home--our next meeting is May 10. I'd love to see you there.

## Early Bird Dues Renewal

Auxiliary Treasurer Linda Byrnes



Once again we are offering a \$5 Earlybird discount on dues renewals. Annual members wanting to take advantage of the discount must get their \$18 payment to the Treasurer, **No Later Than June 30**. If mailing a check, please make the check payable to VFW Auxiliary to Post 7327 and mail to:

Linda Byrnes, Treasurer  
8209 Terra Grande Avenue  
Springfield, VA 22153

Note: National Headquarters is launching a new web system in July that will allow all members to pay their dues and change their address, phone number and email address on the National website...more information to follow!

## VFW Post & Auxiliary 7327

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### Auxiliary Officers

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Treasurer: Linda Byrnes 703-732-7539

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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.*



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United States



*The Friendliest VFW Post in Virginia*

Web Site: [www.post7327.org](http://www.post7327.org)  
e-mail: [cmdr@post7327.org](mailto:cmdr@post7327.org)  
703-541-3139 Phone



### **Upcoming Events and Activities**

*May 9—Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30pm*

*May 10—Auxiliary Membership Meeting, 7 pm*

*May 14—Mother's Day*

*May 15—Peace Officers Memorial Day*

*May 16—General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm*

*May 20—Armed Forces Day*

*May 29— Memorial Day*

*May 29—Joint VFW-American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony*

=Fly The Flag

*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.