



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the

The Camaraderie

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, and the COMMUNITY



June 2017

Volume 16-6

Taking Care of Veterans for Seventy Years 1946~2016

THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

By Post Commander Joseph Byrnes "Hoss"



Hello fellow Comrades and Auxiliary members. Summer is finally here! As I am writing this newsletter column, my beautiful wife of thirty-two years and I are traveling to Seattle to attend our daughter Heather's Graduate School Graduation and taking a much needed vacation on an Alaskan cruise. If a vacation is in your near future, have fun and please be safe.

We finished another exciting VFW calendar year and I want to thank all of the Post Comrade and Auxiliary members who made it possible. Last year VFW Post 7327 was able to help over twenty-nine military families and over ninety children during Thanksgiving and Christmas by giving one week's worth of groceries and Christmas presents for all the children. I also want to recognize our Bingo volunteers. Without your dedication to our Bingo Program, VFW Post 7327 would cease to exist. You are an exceptional group of people! I would also personally like to thank Chaplain Wayne Yancey, who has served without question for over twenty years in this Post and District. His continuing support and dedication to Veterans is recognized and appreciated by all. Wayne, accompanied by several Post members, visits the VA hospital in Washington DC every couple of months and the Veteran residents really enjoy participating in a few Bingo games. Our Post continued the long standing tradition of distributing Buddy Poppies over the Memorial Day and Veterans Day weekends at the Fort Belvoir Main PX and Commissary. We raised over \$5K over two weekends. The contributions go directly into our Relief Fund to assist Veterans and their Families that are in need.

As we move into the next year, I would like to welcome the new elected 2017/2018 Post Officers who will start their positions after the Department Convention which is being held again in Williamsburg. Comrade Gary Kelch will assume the Senior Vice Commander and Comrade Jason Turney will assume the Junior Vice Commander positions effective June 17, 2017. I will

(Continued on page 2)

2017-18 Scholarship Themes Announced!

Established in 1947, our **Voice of Democracy** audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 40,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of \$2.1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. The first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

The 2017-18 theme is:

American History: Our Hope for the Future

Each year more than 132,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's **Patriot's Pen** youth essay contest. The national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$54,500, with each first-place state winner receiving a minimum of \$500 at the national level. The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief.

The 2017-18 theme is:

America's Gift to My Generation

Want to apply? Read the rules and eligibility requirements and download the entry form and brochure at www.vfw.org before submitting your entry to our Post. Deadline is October 31, 2017.

Commander's Commentary—continued from page 1

continue to be your Post Commander for another year. Thank you so much for your support and please congratulate our new officers.

As always, I continue to 'sing the same song' as we are always in need of volunteer support for the Bingo Program. This program provides us the financial ability to give back to our Veterans in need, i.e. Thanksgiving and Christmas program (see above, 2nd paragraph). Please understand that the Bingo program is the lifeblood of our charitable capabilities and without your support, this program may go away. Please contact Diana Regan at oregandl@cox.net to get on the schedule for either Thursday or Friday night.

When we return from the Department Convention, I am planning to set up a meeting with the Auxiliary and Post Executive Committee members to discuss having a Commander's Call just so we can get together. Our meet and greet event is a must and I will discuss further in the July newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you around the VFW Post Home or at Bingo. Remember if anyone asks, we are open for business and our business is taking care of Veterans.

Joseph Byrnes, Commander



Virginia Police Officer of the Year



District 10 Officer Installation,
Commander Byrnes is installed as Chaplain



Comrades Jim Ellet and Frank Konieczny distribute Buddy Poppies at the Ft. Belvoir Commissary.

Flag Day History



On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation deeming June 14 as Flag Day. President Wilson stated, "It is the anniversary of the day upon which the flag of the United States was adopted by the Congress as the emblem of the Union." He also wrote, "On that day rededicate ourselves to the nation, 'one and inseparable' from which every thought that is not worthy of our fathers' first vows in independence, liberty, and right shall be excluded and in which we shall stand with united hearts."

Taken from NationalDayCalendar.com

Message from Your Auxiliary President

By Barb Major



Happy Summer! I hope everyone has an enjoyable couple of months of sun, fun, and laughter. Let us all be safe. Please keep our veterans and military and their families both deployed and stateside in your thoughts and prayers.

At our May meeting we installed the officers for the upcoming 2017-18 year. They will assume their responsibilities following the Department Convention in June. The pictures below are from that meeting.



On the agenda for the Auxiliary later in June is our Department Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia, and in July our National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. Closer to home, in August we will again be providing the refreshments for a Lee District Park evening concert. Last year it was Big Band Sounds; this year we have chosen Mariachi music. The music should be very lively. We are looking forward to this. If you are willing to help, let us know. Stay tuned for more info in the July newsletter.

I hope to see you at our June meeting on the 14th at 7:00pm.

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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w.yancey@cox.net

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1-Yr Trustee: Gary Kelch

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Sr. Vice: Shirley Norris 703-971-1939

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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.

Congratulations to the members and friends of the Post that are celebrating graduations this time of year. I know that Heather, the daughter of Commander Byrnes and his lovely wife Linda earned a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Washington this year. Plus Ruth Sylvester, daughter of Katy and Aaron Sylvester, graduated from high school this year. Ruth also recently celebrated her 18th birthday and will be headed to Appalachian Bible College in West Virginia this fall. Ruth and her sister Grace are both homeschooled. Katy Sylvester is one of several "behind the scenes" people that you seldom see or hear anything about, but they are the glue holds us together. Katy has been Editor of *The Camaraderie* for nine years and has done an excellent job. Both graduates are members of the Auxiliary. Again, congratulations to all the graduates and their families!



Sister Alice Merrill has been convalescing in the Fort Belvoir Hospital for nearly two weeks. Get well soon Alice and if you need anything please don't hesitate to ask. We are keeping you in our prayers.

Comrade Haywood Thomas is home from the hospital but is still recuperating. He says he is getting a little better each day.

Our next VA Hospital visit will be on July 15th, 2017. As usual we will leave the temporary Post Home at 6:00 pm and will return at approximate 9:00 pm.

Please feel free to reach me by phone or email,
Home: 703-719-7660, Cellular 703-350-8409, email 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

Memorial Day 2017

Photo Credits Bill Durham, American Legion

The annual Joint Memorial Day Service was conducted on May 29 with American Legion Post 176. Thank you to all who supported the service with your attendance!





Veterans of Foreign Wars of the
United States

Web Site:
www.post7327.org

The Friendliest VFW Post in Virginia

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

Upcoming Events and Activities

June 6—D-Day

June 13—Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30pm

June 14—Flag Day 

June—14 US Army Founded

June 14 —Auxiliary Membership Meeting, 7 pm

Jun 14 -18 - Dept Convention, Ft Magruder Hotel, Williamsburg, VA

June 18—Father's Day 

June 27—General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm

Jul 22-26 - National Convention, New Orleans

 =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

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.