



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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# The Camaraderie

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, and the COMMUNITY



August 2017

Volume 16-8

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

## THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

By Post Commander Joseph Byrnes "Hoss"



Hello and welcome to summer! With the end of the VFW National Convention, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2017-2018 VFW Year. I would also like to welcome our new Post Quartermaster(QM), Comrade JB Young. Comrade Young stepped in as an interim QM while he was also serving as the Three-Year Trustee. Last month he was approved by the membership to be the Post QM. With the Three-Year Trustee vacancy, Comrade Pete Pate has agreed to act as interim trustee for our Post until we have an election at our next membership meeting. Thank you so much to these two individuals. I just want to say how grateful I am for your commitment to the Post. If you are interested in running for the Three-Year Trustee position, please let me know as soon as possible.

As we move further into the year, I have cancelled the monthly Executive Committee meetings. I request the current elected members and committee chairs to submit any items of interest or any agenda they would like to discuss during the monthly General Membership meeting to me via email or phone. For your situational awareness, we are a busy Post and require volunteers to help veterans in need. Our upcoming programs include Commanders Call, MAP Fundraisers, Adopt-a-Family, Buddy Poppy, Adopt-a-Highway, and more. As stated, if you can spare your time and assist with any of our programs, please email me. Thank you.

Speaking of Adopt-a-Highway, Fairfax County has finally come through with the VFW Post 7327 sign. Comrade Wayne Yancey did an outstanding job of getting after Fairfax County and putting together the volunteers to participate in cleaning our highway project. Our portion of the highway starts at the Veterans of Foreign Wars bridge on Route 289 and Fairfax County Parkway and continues approximately two miles to Beulah Street. We will have another Adopt-a-Highway cleanup event on Saturday, September 16. We will meet at the American Legion Parking lot at 8:00 am. Please contact Comrade Yancey if you are able to volunteer. This is a project the whole family can participate in!



Now, on to Bingo. I know I have requested volunteers every month; however, of all the months that is toughest to fill with volunteers, August is it! So here goes again... Bingo is our chief source of revenue for our Post and this program is what makes it possible to support veterans throughout the year and during the holidays. My request is simple- please volunteer either on Thursday or Friday nights from 7 pm till about 10 pm. We are not asking folks to work every week, we are only seeking folks to come in for a few hours, maybe once during the month. We really need volunteers to step up this year and help. We have on record over 500 Comrades and over 100 Sisters and Brothers of our Auxiliary. I am asking that you please give us a night of your time to support your Post! Please contact Diana Regan at oregandl@cox.net and she will be happy to schedule you. Thank you.

I know I have said this in the past and will continue to do so, we can do anything as a team. Have a great month and please be safe on the roads if you will be traveling. As always, if you are asked about our Post, please proudly say, "Yes, Springfield Post 7327 is open for business and we are in the business of taking care of veterans."

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Post Chaplain Wayne Yancey


Hello Comrades, Auxiliary Members and Friends of the Post,

I hope this article finds everyone in good health and good spirits.

It saddens me to begin my article by reporting the death of Comrade William (Bill) Hanusek. I received a call from Pamela (Bill's daughter) on July 23, 2017 informing me that Bill had passed away while in Florida. Bill was a highly distinguished retired Army Veteran. Bill's viewing was held at the Demaine's Funeral Home, 520 South Washington Street, Alexandria on Wednesday on August 2, 2017 from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm and from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. The family asked that we conduct the VFW Ritual at the evening viewing at 7:00 pm and we were pleased to honor our comrade this way. The funeral service was on Wednesday August 3, 2017 at 10:30 am at the Good Shepard Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA. There was a reception at the Old Dominion Boat Club, 1 King Street Alexandria VA 22314 on August 3, 2017 from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm. Thank you to all members of the VFW and the Auxiliary who attended the 7:00 pm service on August 2, 2017 and said farewell to our fallen Comrade.

Sister Floy Lipscomb (Chaplain of the Auxiliary), Past All State Commander Sonny Thomas, and Comrade Rosco Newsom accompanied me on a VA Hospital visit to the VA Hospital in D. C. on Thursday July 20, 2017. We gave away \$85.00 to approximately 20 residents. A good time was had by all. The next hospital visit is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2017.

As always, please contact me using one of the options provided below if there is anything I can do for anyone.  
Home: 703-719-7660, Cellular: 703-350-8409



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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.  
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Early Birds - 7:00 pm  
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**Springfield Veterans of Foreign  
Wars (VFW) Post 7327**

Lucky Seven!  
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Join us for an  
Evening of Fun!

# Message from Your Auxiliary President

By Barb Major



August looks like an active month for the Auxiliary. On Wednesday, August 9, we are sponsoring the refreshments for Fairfax County's Summer Entertainment Series, "Lee District Nights." Appearing that night will be the Mariachi Los Amigos, and the music should prove to be very lively. If you are free that evening, come out and support us, and be entertained. The event runs from 7:30-8:30 pm, and will take place in the Lee District Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Rd., Franconia.

Later in the month, on Saturday, August 26, several of us Auxiliary sisters will be traveling to Battlefield VFW Post 9808 in Mechanicsville, VA, for a School of Instruction. There we hope to learn more about the new MALTA online system which the National Auxiliary has adopted. Stay tuned for more info on this topic in future columns.

On Tuesday, August 29, is the annual BridgeWalk, and again this year we are planning to participate by walking the bridge and by working the food line. Volunteers are very welcome. If you are able to help or need more information, please contact Alice Merrill (a-b6103@cox.net).

Also, the Bakeless Bake Sale is in full swing, and we have been receiving donations. Thank you all for your consideration and support in helping us help veterans and active military and their families.

**Please note: Because we will be at the Lee District Park on our usual meeting date, Wednesday, August 9, we have moved our August meeting to Tuesday, August 8, 7:00 pm. We hope to see you there.**

## Auxiliary Membership Update

Treasurer Linda Byrnes

Annual members wanting to renew for the 2017-2018 year, can send the \$23 dues renewal to me, as the MALTA system is not yet available. My address is: 8209 Terra Grande Avenue, Springfield, VA 22153. Please note that all membership cards will be coming from National in the future, so if you have an address change please let me know when you send your payment.

If you have any questions, please call me at 703-732-7539 or email me at lhb@hossmedia.com. I will be attending the 26 August School of Instruction, so hope to get the latest scoop and training on MALTA.

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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.*



## Service Officer's Corner

### Frank Konieczny, Post Service Officer

### Seniors and Finances

#### *Part 1 of 8*

This is Part 1 of an 8 part series about financial abuse of senior veterans.

Let's be clear about something at the outset of this series. I'm no financial planning expert and I'm not passing myself off as one. In this series, I've attempted to share what I think are important points about financial abuse with my fellow veterans. I've gathered advice from several professional sources.

As I climb the age ladder, I find myself worrying about things I never gave more than a passing thought to when I was younger. A good example is my own finances. In researching this article, I've learned that older veterans are as susceptible (if not more so) than non-veteran seniors of the same age group.



Although I admit I've grown a bit paranoid about my finances over the years. I would like to think that my paranoia has paid off. Simply stated, the best way to insure your finances are secure and are being invested according to your overall strategy is to find a good wealth management company with a solid professional reputation to administer your investments. The emphasis here is: good. Much more about that in later issues of the Newsletter.

First, let's talk a little about financial abuse, in general. Financial abuse is the illegal or unauthorized use of a person's property, money, pension book or other valuables (including changing the person's will to name the abuser as heir), often fraudulently obtaining power of attorney, followed by deprivation of money or other property, or by eviction from own home. It can happen to anyone. A new survey of more than 3,500 Americans conducted by the nonprofit Investor Protection Trust (IPT) found some troubling signs of what seniors are running into vis-a-vis their finances. Seventeen percent of Americans age 65 (or older) have been taken advantage of in terms of inappropriate investment, unreasonably high fees, financial services, or outright fraud. Although that number is down 3% from 2010, it's still bothersome. When kids of seniors were asked if their parents were swindled by financial "snake-oil" salesmen, 20% answered they had (compared with 15% six years ago). What's particularly striking is that financial abuse/fraud seems to have been committed by relatives, or someone close to a senior. Robert Roush, Ph.D. Director of the Texas Consortium Geriatric Education Center at Baylor College of Medicine and a Professor in Geriatric Medicine, advises that (medical) doctors should be observing people who accompany seniors to appointments. Dr. Roush goes on to say that certain medical personnel are required to report signs of abuse, to include indications of financial fraud. But, they rarely do that because they are concerned that they may be wrong about a situation.

Almost 50% of the adult children of parents age 65 and over said they were "very," or "somewhat" worried that their parents have already become or will soon become less able to handle their personal finances over time. While the below "bullets" are applicable to veterans, as well, IPT estimates that 43% of seniors had exhibited one or more of the following warning signs of financial abuse:

- They received phone calls from people asking for money (either as part of a bogus investment scheme, they won a lottery or another money-producing contest);
- They become more nervous about making a financial decision;
- They appear confused about financial decisions made (for them) by someone else;
- They mention loans or gifts they have committed to, but clearly can't afford;
- They mention "someone" requested they change their will, or sign a durable power of attorney.

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)



In November of 2009, President Obama established the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force to wage aggressive and coordinated investigations and prosecutions of financial frauds and maximize the ability both to recover the proceeds of these frauds and obtain punishment of those who commit them.

In Part 2 of this series, we'll talk about financial abuse as it applies specifically to veterans.

*Portions of this article were sourced from the following:*

*The Washington Post (Wednesday 23 March 2016 from an article by Michelle Singletary);*

*Roush, Robert, Ph.D., Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, The Texas Consortium*

## VFW Applauds Unanimous Senate Passage of Forever GI Bill

*From VFW.org*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** — August 2nd, in a true display of patriotic bipartisanship, the U.S. Senate voted unanimously to pass S. 1589, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, informally known as the Forever GI Bill.



“The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is extremely pleased with the swift passage of this bill. The GI Bill is one of our nation’s best tools for setting our veterans up for future success,” said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. “This new legislation improves upon that tool. And its unanimous passage by the House and now the Senate, shows our nation’s commitment to those who served our country.”

The legislation, geared to address eligibility and coverage gaps in the current Post-9/11 GI Bill has been strongly supported by the VFW. Joining it in its advocacy efforts regarding the bill were several other veterans organizations to include Student Veterans of America, The American Legion, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Vietnam Veterans of America and Got Your 6.

The VFW has strongly advocated on behalf of America’s student veterans for more than a half a century. Its efforts have led to the 1944 GI Bill of Rights, the 1984 Montgomery GI Bill, the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and now, the reformed legislation, the Forever GI Bill.

Since the activation of the Post-9/11 GI Bill in 2008, more than one million veterans have taken advantage of the benefit to pursue their post-military educational goals. However, the Forever GI Bill ensures more veterans and their survivors have an opportunity to pursue their educational goals, such as Purple Heart recipients who do not have the requisite three years of active service; veterans attending schools that close abruptly through no fault of their own; thousands of involuntarily activated Reservists and Guardsmen; surviving family members; and it eliminates the 15-year use-or-lose limitation, which means veterans truly have a lifetime to use their GI Bill.



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the  
United States

Web Site:  
[www.post7327.org](http://www.post7327.org)

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*Air Force Day August 1*

### *Upcoming Events and Activities*

*August 1—Air Force Day*  
*August 4—U.S. Coast Guard Established*  
*August 8—Auxiliary Membership Meeting, 7 pm*  
*August 22—General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm*  
*August 29—Springfield Bridgewalk*

*September 16—Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up,  
meet at 8am, American Legion parking lot*  
*September 18—VA Hospital Visit, meet at Post Home 6pm*

*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.