



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the

The Camaraderie

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, and the COMMUNITY



September 2017

Volume 16-9

Taking Care of Veterans for Seventy Years 1946~2016

THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

By Post Commander Joseph Byrnes "Hoss"



Hello folks, welcome to our September *Camaraderie*. This article is going to be very different than any that I have written in the past two years. Due to the storm in Texas, I felt it would be best to post what the National VFW headquarters sent me earlier this week.

As I write this I have FOX news on the screen next to me and I am watching the devastation in Texas. This storm has basically crippled folks from Galveston to Houston and as far north as Austin with more rain to come. Please find additional information below. Please note that the text service will show up as a charge on your cell bill, see the disclaimer for more information.

VFW Offers Hurricane Harvey Support Text "NEEDS" to 27722 to show your support!

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (August 28, 2017) – As the devastation in the wake of Hurricane Harvey continues in Texas and Louisiana, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. stands ready to help affected service members, veterans and their families.

While the full extent of Hurricane Harvey's level of destruction is still being evaluated, the VFW knows from its past support of Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina victims that the need for financial assistance will be great. The VFW is calling on you to help ensure America's brave warriors and their families have the immediate help they need to start rebuilding their lives.

Join with the VFW and show your support by making a \$10 donation to the VFW's relief efforts by texting the keyword "NEEDS" to 27722, or mail in your donation of any amount to: VFW Quartermaster General, 406 W 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. All funds raised will be distributed to veterans, military personnel and their families.

"Our hearts and prayers are with all those impacted by this hurricane's destruction," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. "The VFW has a long history of supporting America's communities in the wake of tragedy, and the VFW stands ready to support them now."

I know that you all feel for the folks in Texas and I hope that you can reach out and help them in your own way. Thank you for your time and remember that school is open and not all kids are happy about that. Please pay attention, because the kids do not. Have a great month and remember we are in the business of taking care of veterans and we are open for business.

Disclaimer: Texting "NEEDS" to 27722 will result in a \$10.00 donation to VFW Foundation. Charges will appear on your wireless bill, or be deducted from your prepaid balance. All purchases must be authorized by account holder. Must be 18 years of age or have parental permission to participate. Message and Data Rates May Apply. Text STOP to 27722 to STOP. Text HELP to 27722 for HELP. Full Terms: www.mGive.org/T. Privacy Policy

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Post Chaplain Wayne Yancey

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

I hope this article finds everyone healthy and safe. I say this as I listen to the news about the devastation in Texas. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those struggling to recover from the unbelievable storms they are experiencing.

We held a very nice VFW service for fallen Comrade William (Bill) Hanusek on August 3, 2017. Bill was a member of the VFW for more than 50 years and was a member of Post 7327 nearly that entire time. Thanks to Past Commander Chris Braun, Past All-State Commander Sonny Thomas, Comrades Willie Jones and Clarence McNeill for helping with the service. Thanks also to the many Comrades and Auxiliary members that attended the service. Many did not know Bill personally but still attended to say farewell to our fallen Comrade.

Comrade Patricia Bianco is recovering from a serious fall she experienced a month or so ago. She hit her head when she fell and was hospitalized for several days immediately thereafter. Pat is staying with Sister Marilyn at this time and is steadily improving; but it is a slow process. Please keep Pat and Marilyn in your thoughts and prayers.

Our next scheduled highway cleanup will be on September 16, 2017. We will meet at the American Legion parking lot at 8:00 am and will proceed to our assigned stretch of road immediately thereafter. It's about a three mile stretch (including the middle) and we can use all the help we can get.

As always, please contact me using one of the options provided below if there is anything I can do for you.

Home: 703-719-7660, Cellular: 703-350-8409



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OF SPRINGFIELD
www.saffordauto.com

Jeep

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**



B I N G O

Early Birds - 7:00 pm
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Every Thursday and Friday Night! 7:00 pm

Three Progressive Jackpot Games Each Night!!

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At the Springfield Volunteer Fire Company
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Springfield Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7327

Lucky Seven!
Pull Tabs!

Join us for an Evening of Fun!



Message from Your Auxiliary President

By Barbara Major

As I write this article, my thoughts and prayers are with all those impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The devastation is massive and the needs are great. If you are able, please consider supporting the VFW's relief efforts by mailing in a donation to VFW Quartermaster General, 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111. All funds raised will be distributed to veterans, military personnel, and their families. I'm sure any amount would be useful. It is expected that the path ahead for those affected will be long and challenging. Keep all in your prayers.



Closer to home (and on a lighter note)--in August several Auxiliary sisters and friends joined with our VFW comrades to supply the cookie refreshments for Lee District Nights, a part of Fairfax County's Summer Entertainment Series. This night the band was the Mariachi Los Amigos, and very lively. It was wonderful to meet the people who stopped by our table and to promote our various programs supporting veterans and active military and their families. The interactions with the kids who "visited" us for cookies were priceless.

On a serious note--September is designated Suicide Awareness Month. Everyone should be alert to the signs of someone needing help, including feelings of hopelessness or no reason to live, mood swings, great anxiety, anger or rage, among other things. If you know a veteran needing help, provide resources for the individual. Call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1(800) 273-8255. If you feel the situation is severe, take the person to an emergency room. Let's see what we can do to help others avoid this senseless tragedy.

Finally, because of a conflict, **our September meeting is being rescheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 7pm.** We are gearing up for our Fall events, and new ideas are always welcome. I hope to see you there.

MEMBERSHIP AUXILIARY LEADERSHIP TECHNOLOGY ACCESS (MALTA)

What is MALTA? MALTA is a National VFW Auxiliary system that will allow members to pay their annual dues online, convert to life membership and access membership cards.

How do you access MALTA? Go to the VFW Auxiliary website: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/> and click on Member Login. The first time you login to MALTA you will need to click 'Activate Account.' You will need to fill out a form and type in your name, member ID number and zip code. Once your account is activated, you will need to create a password and confirm the password to completely activate your account. Then you can proceed by clicking on the appropriate button to complete your transaction. Note: You will receive your new membership card in the mail from National. It can take up to several weeks, so you can always print a temporary membership card.

SOUND COMPLICATED?? You can still send your 2017-2018 dues renewal requests to me, Linda Byrnes, 8209 Terra Grande Avenue, Springfield, VA. Membership dues are still \$23. Payment by 30 September puts your name in the VFW Auxiliary to Post 7327 drawing for a free life membership. Questions? Feel free to call me at: 703-732-7539.

VFW Post & Auxiliary 7327

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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.

Springfield Bridge Walk 2017 Alice Merrill



2017 Springfield Bridge Walk: A fun night indoors at the American Legion with more than 250 attendees despite the rain! Post Commander Joe Byrnes along with other officials signed the mutual support covenant between Springfield and Ft Belvoir. The Auxiliary donated funds and members donated volunteer hours giving out Buddy Poppies and working the Hard Times Cafe food line and ice cream bar. A fun and informative evening for the community!



Veterans' Hotline

The veterans' hotline — live now at **855-948-2311** — is designed to “collect, process and respond to the complaints of individual veterans in a responsive, timely and accountable manner,” according to Department of Veterans Affairs officials.

Vet Center Program

Life isn't always easy after a deployment. That's where Vet Centers can help. Vet Centers across the country provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to combat Veterans and their families. Vet Centers guide Veterans and their families through many of the major adjustments in lifestyle that often occur after a Veteran returns from combat.

Services for a Veteran may include individual and group counseling in areas such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), alcohol and drug assessment, and suicide prevention referrals. All services are free of cost and are strictly confidential.

Alexandria Vet Center
6940 South Kings Highway #204
Alexandria, VA 22310
Phone: 703-360-8633 Or 703-360-8633

Call Center/ Crisis Line 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)
For Further information go to <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/> Vet Centers

Service Officer's Corner

Francis W. Konieczny, Post Service Officer

Financial Abuse and Veterans (Part 2 of 8)

This is Part 2 of an 8 part series on financial abuse of senior veterans.

The general population (and not just veterans) are living longer and healthier lives. Well into their 90's, WWII veterans lead the rest of us into area(s) previously unexplored. Namely, management of their finances. Generally speaking, veterans encounter many of the same financial abuse problems as their senior civilian counterparts. There are, however, several issues that are unique to senior veterans of the Armed Services.

For example, I have a personal story of a decorated WWII combat infantry veteran. On June 6th, he landed at Omaha Beach, as part of the first wave and fought his way through to the Bulge where he sustained wounds severe enough for him to be evacuated to a hospital in England. As the years passed, he evolved from a robust, middle aged man into an elderly and frail 92-year-old. While he had retained all his faculties, he was quite simply slowing down mentally. It became more and more obvious. When his daughters sat down with him and attempted to talk with him about his financial investments (not once, but countless times), his answer became increasingly: "Do what you think is right." With that pronouncement, he would amble off to play with his grandchildren and his dogs. But, in a sense, he was very fortunate. His daughters placed his hard-earned money into a trust. And they routinely consulted with an investment company that represented his best financial interests. They ensured he was invested in the best financial strategies that would guarantee him a solid income for the remainder of his life. The income from those investments, plus his pension, Social Security, Medicare and supplemental medical insurance from his civilian job, allowed him to retire comfortably. But, the point here is: as he aged, he found himself paying less and less attention to the financial details that made it happen.

The same is true of a lot of veterans, but most are not as fortunate as this individual. They have no one to watch over their shoulder and ensure they make smart financial decisions. Because no one is there to help them, they become susceptible to financial abuse. Sometimes, they are specifically targeted by people who take advantage of their age and their lack of financial knowledge.

They are also targeted because those who commit elder/financial abuse believe they can more easily take advantage of someone who is old, possibly ill, and possibly suffering from degenerative mental diseases like dementia. More so than the average elderly population, a higher percentage of veterans suffer from serious, combat-related injuries and disorders such as PTSD. This makes them more attractive targets and more susceptible to abuse because they have expanded access to government benefits due to their status as veterans. This makes them more attractive to those who would exploit them financially because these veterans represent a greater source of income than other senior citizens. Studies show that 25% of the time financial abuse of veterans is committed by family members. This is similar to the general elderly population. Family members usually have the most knowledge of a veteran's financial resources and also have easy access to the veteran and his finances.

Disabled veterans may be especially susceptible to financial abuse because they could be receiving compensation that could attract the attention of those in a position to financially exploit or abuse the patient. These include appointed fiduciaries, caregivers, family members, religious leaders, or salesmen who may persuade or threaten patients into buying unnecessary items or giving cash as a gift. Patients may feel obligated to provide the money, especially if the financially abusive party is a caregiver.

In Part 3 of this series, we'll talk a little about veterans and financial advisors.

Portions of this article were sourced from:

"Help Veterans Protect Themselves from Scams and Financial Abuse." Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect. University of California, n.d. Web. 25 Feb 2014.





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




POW/MIA Recognition Day September 15

Upcoming Events and Activities

September 4—Labor Day 
September 11—Patriot Day 
September 12—Auxiliary Meeting, 7pm
September 15 - POW/MIA Recognition Day 
September 16—Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up,
meet at 8am, American Legion parking lot
September 17—Constitution & Citizenship Day 
September 18—Air Force Birthday
September 19—VA Hospital Visit, meet at Post Home 6pm
September 24 - Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day
September 26—Post General Membership Meeting, 7:30pm

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

 = *Fly the Flag*

**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.