



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the

The Camaraderie

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, and the COMMUNITY



November 2017

Volume 16-11

Taking Care of Veterans for Seventy Years 1946~2016

THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

By Post Commander Joseph Byrnes "Hoss"



On behalf of the Commander, who is presently homebound due to health reasons, we would like to invite you to please join us in honoring and recognizing our veterans at a joint ceremony hosted VFW Post 7327 and American Legion Post 176.

Saturday, November 11, 2017

American Legion Post 176

6520 Amhearst Avenue, Springfield, VA

Ceremony will be at 11:00 am followed by a luncheon.

November is Military Family Appreciation Month. The military family knows what it means to serve and support their military servicemember. We would like to extend a very special thanks to our family members for your contributions, support, and sacrifices for the years past and the years to come. In addition, we would like to invite you to join our Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary is now open to both men and women. If you would like to become a member, please contact Linda Byrnes (703-732-7539) or any current Auxiliary member for more information. We appreciate you and the contributions you make to our military!



*On behalf of Commander Byrnes, may you all have a Happy Thanksgiving.
Thank you for your service to our nation and continued service in
support of veterans and their families.*

Auxiliary Membership Update

Treasurer Linda Byrnes

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL. We are at 89% for the 2017-2018 year!! If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so today. You have a couple of options listed below. Questions? Feel free to call Linda Byrnes at: 703-732-7539.

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 Linda Byrnes, Treasurer, 8209 Terra Grande Avenue, Springfield, VA. Membership dues are \$23.



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
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!

Message from Your Auxiliary President

By Barbara Major

November is the month traditionally designated for giving thanks—thanks to our families, friends, and those who have been there for us when we needed them. This especially applies to our veterans and active military and their families, who have sacrificed much to keep us free. To all of them we give an enormous THANK YOU! Also, please join us on Veterans Day, November 11, at 11am, at American Legion Post 176 to observe this holiday and to show our gratitude.



At our October meeting, District 10 President Gina Meehan was our honored guest. In her inspection report, she mentioned that we are “an exemplary” Auxiliary. For me, it was wonderful to see such a good turnout, and I thank you for your support. Also, the Bakeless Bake Sale fund raiser is now closed. We brought in more than one thousand dollars. Again, I have to say thank you. These monies will be used to help us attain this year’s goals.

Also at the meeting we decided to take a photo of our new banner, which we plan to hang side by side with the framed photo that we took earlier of our Ladies Auxiliary banner before retiring it in a prominent place at the post.

Our next meeting will include a potluck to commemorate our 40th anniversary, which we celebrate this year. If you want to take part in the pot luck, just contact Itty Neal (ineal@cox.net) or me (bmajor129@gmail.com). We’d love to see you there.

Note: We’ve moved the meeting date to Wednesday, November 15, at 5:30pm. This will give us time to chow down and to socialize before the meeting. I’ve seen a partial list of what people are bringing, and all I can say is, “Yum.” Bring a good appetite.

Our holiday plans are still being forged. Stay tuned.

A happy and safe Thanksgiving to all!



Auxiliary Members with the new banner, October 2017.

VFW Post & Auxiliary 7327

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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 saddens me to report that Gaetano "George" Calise, husband of Auxiliary member Crystal Calise; brother-in-law to Auxiliary member Ginger Payne, and son-in-law to the late Jack and Phebe Payne passed away on October 16, 2017. His funeral was October 28, 2017.

Commander Byrnes underwent a procedure recently and must undergo another one in the near future. He is restricted to his home until the final procedure is completed and he recuperates. I'm sure he will be communicating with us by phone and computer while he is out of commission. Let us know if you need anything, Commander.

Please keep the Calise and Byrnes families in your thoughts and prayers as they go through these difficult times.

Our next VA hospital visit is scheduled for Tuesday evening, November 14, 2017. We will leave the Post Home at 6:00 pm and will return at approximately 9:00 pm.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do for anyone.

Home: 703-317-7660, Cellular: 703-350-8409, E-mail: w.yancey@cox.net

VFW Member's Photography on Display at Smithsonian

www.VFW.org

A member of VFW Post 10256 in Goose Creek, S.C., Comrade Stacy Pearsall's images from the war zone can be seen at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C., through January.

Pearsall's work illustrating the war zone is on display at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. Her images from the battlefield are included in The Face of Battle: Americans at War, 9/11 to Now, on display through Jan. 28. She is one of only six artists selected, and the only veteran.

The Face of Battle: Americans at War, 9/11 to Now

Now - January 28, 2018

**National Portrait Gallery
8th and F Streets NW
Washington, DC 20001**

**Hours: 11:30 AM - 7:00 PM daily
Closed December 25, Admission is free**

Display is on the first floor.

Service Officer's Corner

Francis W. Konieczny, Post Service Officer

Wreaths Across America (Arlington and Alexandria National Cemeteries)



This is the time of year again to remind our Post VFW Comrades about the 2017 Wreaths Across America Program. This year, our Post and Auxiliary will be supporting the Wreaths Across America Programs at both Arlington National Cemetery and Alexandria National Cemetery. Both are currently scheduled for 16 December.

First, a little history. The custom of placing Christmas wreaths against the headstones of our veterans was started by the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine. In 1992, the Worcester Wreath Company found itself with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the Christmas season. Remembering what he saw at Arlington National Cemetery as a young man, Morell Worcester, was reminded that his good fortune was due - in large part, to the values this nation holds close and her veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. As he looked at his surplus wreaths, he realized that he was presented with a unique opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the help of then-U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the surplus wreaths to be placed against the headstones at Arlington National Cemetery. The most recognized Christmas symbol is the wreath. Unpretentious in its tradition, yet rich in its meaning, it is often woven into a familiar circle of living evergreens with no end. The simple act of placing this wreath, with its bright red bow against the headstone of a person who took up arms in defense of our nation and, in some cases, made the ultimate sacrifice serves as a gentle reminder that there will be empty chairs at dining room tables across America this Christmas. Civilian trucking firms generously provided transportation for the wreaths to be transported from Maine to Virginia. Volunteers from local American Legion and VFW Posts quickly mustered to help because everyone involved understood that Christmas was a very special time of year. Especially if a family member wears the uniform of the United States Armed Forces and is away from home. Regardless of our religion, or our beliefs, we are all surrounded with symbols of Christmas. Over the years, the wreath laying evolved into a Christmas tradition and extended to national cemeteries. While Arlington National Cemetery needs no introduction, Alexandria National Cemetery is lesser known, but just as important.

Alexandria National Cemetery is one of the original 14 soldiers' resting places designated as National Cemeteries in the United States. Established in 1862, the cemetery is located on 5.5 acres near Old Town Alexandria and contains 5,001 veteran graves. Our Post and Auxiliary supports the wreath laying at Alexandria National Cemetery. As of 1871, Alexandria National Cemetery encompassed a cobblestone avenue, a fountain, an ornate wrought-iron rostrum, graveled walks and paths, a small pond and a greenhouse. The first burials made in the cemetery were soldiers who died during training or from disease in Alexandria. By 1864, the cemetery was nearly filled to capacity, which eventually led to the planning, development and construction of Arlington National Cemetery. Today, the superintendent's lodge is the primary building on the grounds and the oldest surviving structure. It is under the supervision of the Director of Quantico National Cemetery. The wreath laying at Alexandria National Cemetery is sponsored by VFW Post 609, also known as Russell Mitchell VFW Post 609 (Telephone: 703.683.4127). It is also supported by many Scout Troops including BSA 996. The wreath laying begins at 0800 and concludes around 1300 hours. Alexandria National Cemetery is located at 1450 Wilkes Street in Alexandria, Virginia.

Perhaps the best known of the national cemeteries Arlington National Cemetery. The wreath laying is open to the general public. This year's wreath laying is scheduled from 0800 to 1300 hours. According to Arlington officials, teams will be standing by to direct volunteers that would like to help lay the wreaths. They will try and have one truck with wreaths parked at each Section of the cemetery. Volunteers will be handing out wreaths from the open back-end of each 18-wheeler. They will also try and give preference at each Section to family members who have a relative interred. Go to the front of the line when they open the boxes and tell them you have a relative interred at (this) Section. Recommend keeping an eye on the Washington Post. As the date draws closer, there will be updates. Strongly suggest calling Wreaths Across America @ 877-907-8585 beforehand to confirm the scheduled date and adjust to any time changes. You can also check their web site (www.wreathscrossamerica.org). Remember, while they support the effort, the Government does not place these wreaths against the headstones. We do. And don't forget to mark your calendars!



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

November 11—Veterans Day 
Joint Veterans Day Service at Springfield American Legion Post 176 11:00am
November 14—VA Hospital Visit, meet at Post Home at 6:00pm
November 15—Auxiliary Membership Meeting & Potluck Dinner 5:30pm
November 23—Thanksgiving Day
November 23—No BINGO
November 28 —General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm

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.