



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the

The Camaraderie

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, and the COMMUNITY



December 2017

Volume 16-12

Taking Care of Veterans for Seventy Years 1946~2016

THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

By Post Commander Joseph Byrnes "Hoss"



I would like to start this December article off by thanking each and everyone of you that called, emailed, or posted on Facebook for my speedy recovery. The good news is the first surgery is completed and I am healing, albeit slowly, but I am on the mend. I am a great deal more mobile than I was a few weeks ago. The folks at work are happy that I am actually sitting at my desk and not just a body-less voice over the phone.

I would like to single out a few folks who have stepped up to keep the Post going. Comrades Turney and Kelch, some of the best Jr and Sr Vice Commanders a guy could ask for; thanks for stepping up. There is one person I really want to publicly thank and that's my wife. Linda has been putting up with a lot of stuff over the thirty plus years of our marriage, but recently you have no idea how blessed I really am. She even kept up with her work, Auxiliary, and Bingo duties. Thank you, Linda!

Honestly, I really am proud to be part of a great organization (family) like this. I am so blessed to know all of you.

While I am on this kick of blessing folks; I would like you all to keep our Chaplain Wayne Yancey in your prayers for a speedy recovery so he can have a joyful retirement. I hope this one sticks. Take it slow, Wayne, and listen to Diana. Congratulations on your retirement!

Housekeeping time: Bingo is booming and help is needed, especially with two of us down. Folks, please step up, if just for this month. With many local bingo operations closed for one reason or another, we are seeing a great increase in attendance, especially on Friday nights. I am urging you to contact Diana Regan at oregandl@cox.net to fill the empty spaces. Would you fill just one spot?

From the folks at the VA— Many veterans do not have retired ID cards or any other form of identification except their DD214. This means they cannot enjoy the benefits of discounts available to veterans. This has been fixed. Last week the VA announced that they are ready to roll out the new "Veteran ID Card". The new Veteran ID Card may be applied for through Vets.gov (www.vets.gov/veteran-id-card/). **It should be noted, this ID Card has no benefit over the VA Healthcare ID Card, Military Retiree ID Card, or Veteran Indicator on State Driver's License.**



I think that covers everything for this month. I wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Please enjoy each other's company and cherish the time together and most importantly, be safe.

Since I am also the District 10 Chaplain I will add: May God bless and keep you in His arms and protect all of you from harm.
~Joseph Byrnes, Commander

Auxiliary Membership Update

Treasurer Linda Byrnes

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL. We are at 91.8% for the 2017-2018 year. We are making good progress. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so today. Please remember that to keep your membership in good standing, your dues must be received by 31 December.

Payment options listed below. Do you still have 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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!! Even if all unpaid members renewed, we won't make 100% +1. We need at least seven new or transfer members to reach our goal and get our banner!! Please encourage friends and family to join—*membership would make a great Christmas gift!*

Applications are available on the VFW Auxiliary website or contact Linda Byrnes.

 **If you have not received your new membership card from National, please let me know by December 20.** If your address has changed, please be sure to let me know so I can provide it to our Department Treasurer. This could be why you didn't receive your new card.



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 began with our annual Veterans Day celebration which we hold jointly with American Legion Post 176. Though the crowd was smaller than usual, most likely because this year Veterans Day fell on a Saturday and people were away, the atmosphere in the room was warm and congenial. A favorite part of this event is watching the veterans proudly stand as VFW 7327 Chaplain Wayne Yancey plays the individual service songs. This year everyone associated with a particular branch of service also stood, which was especially meaningful to me as I stood in honor of my father, who had served in France during World War I.



Also In November the Auxiliary marked the 40th anniversary of its institution, which we celebrated with a pot luck prior to our monthly meeting. Suffice it to say, the food was varied and yummy. We have a number of talented cooks among us. On this occasion we received the following message from Post Commander Joe Byrnes:

To President Barbara Major and the Members of the Post Auxiliary:

When I became the commander of Post 7327 three years ago, it was my goal to include the Auxiliary in all the aspects of the Post. Today I am so very happy that I did.

Our Post is made up of 500 plus veterans, which is considered the body of our Post. But for the last forty years, it has been our Ladies Auxiliary, and now Auxiliary, that has always been its true heart and soul. If not for you, our Auxiliary, there very likely would not be an active Post. From your support of Bingo to the Adopt-a-Family Program and Buddy Poppy distribution, you have given us the understanding of what true patriotism means. Your unwavering support to our veterans is second to none and I thank you for all of your time, and most of all for your patience with us.

So, from all the members of VFW Post 7327, I would personally like to wish President Barbara Major and all of the Sisters and Brothers of our Auxiliary, a very happy and blessed 40th birthday.

Thank you, Commander Byrnes, for your warm wishes.

At the meeting, as an alternative to our Adopt-a-Family holiday project, which we suspended for this year, we voted to support the Angel Tree programs of two Springfield area churches. We will be providing sixty-five gift cards that the churches will forward to their Angel Tree families. In this way we are hoping to brighten the holidays for the recipients.

Also with the upcoming hustle and bustle of the holidays, we decided to forego our December meeting. Therefore, **our next meeting will be on January 10, at 7pm.** As usual, I hope to see you there.

Meanwhile, Merry Christmas and Happy (and healthy) New Year to you and your families!

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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.

Happy 40th Anniversary Auxiliary!

1977-2017



Reminder—Join us on National Wreaths Across America Day Saturday, December 16, 2017



Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to *Remember, Honor and Teach* is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,200 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad.

Timeline of Events for Arlington:

- 7:00 AM- Screening Process will begin at the ANC Welcome Center
- 7:45 AM- Wreaths Across America Convoy Arrives
- 8:15 AM- Opening Ceremony at the Women In Military Service for America Memorial
- 8:30 AM- All gates into the cemetery grounds will be opened to the general public
- 9:15 AM- Wreath Placement will begin

It is suggested that you leave any large bags, knapsacks, etc, at home or in your vehicles. In addition, food and drinks are not allowed on cemetery grounds. (Bottled water is okay.)

Wreath Clean-Up Day is January 20, 2018.

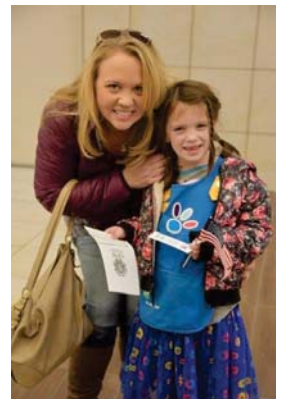


Veterans Day Joint Ceremony

On Saturday, November 11, we gathered together with American Legion Post 176 to honor and remember our veterans.



Buddy Poppy Distribution





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



Upcoming Events and Activities

December 7—Pearl Harbor Day 
December 13—National Guard Birthday
December 16—Wreaths Across America
December 25—Christmas
December 26—Post General Membership Meeting, 7:30
**No Auxiliary Meeting in December.*

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.