



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the

The Camaraderie

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, and the COMMUNITY



January/February 2018

Volume 17-1

Taking Care of Veterans for Seventy Years 1946~2016

THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

By Post Commander Joseph Byrnes "Hoss"



Hello, Folks. Congratulations on making it through another holiday season and welcome to 2018! No, you did not miss the January *Camaraderie*, nor did we forget to send it out. We have scaled down the number of newsletters we will be sending out. We will now publish *The Camaraderie* on an altering month schedule. This is our January-February edition and the next one will be out in April to cover March and April. This will allow us to get more information out and stop clogging up your email folders.

Funny, each month I write this, I look back at what I wrote in the past. This time around, I looked at my first article from three years ago in July. We were in the middle of the Temporary Post Home face lift and boy was it hot. I called that my volunteer diet, losing something

like thirty pounds. I can honestly say it has been a blast serving as Commander. I have met a lot of new friends and found out the best way to spend my free time was to help veterans who cannot help themselves. When I took over as Commander, I made it my mission to do more each month. I hope I have accomplished that.

As we move forward to the second half of the VFW year, I wanted to give you a few hold the dates. We will be distributing Buddy Poppies for Memorial Day again in May. It is our goal to work a total of three locations this year. The first one will be at the Commissary on Fort Belvoir where we will have two tables setup at each end of the store. Our goal is greeting folks coming and going. We are also going to be at the Huntsman Giant in the main hall. The third location is still in the planning stages and Jr Vice Commander Turney will be updating me and I will pass it along to you. If you can volunteer for this May activity, please drop Jason an email jvice@post7327.org. He will get back to you on the dates and locations. If you have never distributed Buddy Poppies before, he would be happy to partner you with someone experienced. It's one of the easiest and most gratifying volunteer opportunities of the year.

We will be holding Post elections very soon and will need a full slate of officers to step up. I will not be able to service a fourth term due to work and family commitments. It is my understanding that both the Sr. Vice and Jr Vice Commanders will also be stepping down as well. So, if you are interested in leading the Post through 2018 and 2019, please drop me an email at cmdr@post7327.org As I said before, my run was a blast and was well worth it. At the time I was terrified, but with all your support I made it through.

Please be sure to check out the Post website to see back copies of *The Camaraderie* and other updated Post information. We are still posting the Jackpots for BINGO when Gary or I remember. If it is old, drop me a line and I'll update it right away. As for Bingo, we are really going strong and are busy each Thursday and Friday night. With some other BINGO operations either closing or taking time off to remodel, we have increased our attendance. We are always looking for help, so please contact Ms. Diana Regan at oregandl@cox.net to get on the schedule for either Thursday or Friday night. Remember, our Bingo program provides the Post financial stability and allows us to give back to our Veterans in need. The Bingo program is the lifeblood of our charitable capabilities and without your support, this program may go away.

Last thing and I am off my soapbox. We are currently at 91% of membership and it is only January. Please take the time to update your membership or look at switching to Life Membership. Our goal is to be 101% this year. It is nice to know that this is not an organization of one, but a strong proud group of dedicated individuals who, by their nature, know what it means to serve the greater good. The Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary is an exclusive organization that not everyone can join, I am proud to be a member with you.

Remember, if anyone asks, we are open for business and our business is taking care of Veterans.

Joseph Byrnes USN
Commander

Chaplain's Corner Post Chaplain Wayne Yancey

Hello Comrades, members of the Auxiliary, and Friends of the Post.
I hope this article finds everyone happy, healthy, and enjoying this spring-like weather.

Unfortunately, I must start my article this month with some sad news. Past Post Commander James Carlton Grummons passed away on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 in Boling, Texas. Jim was born on February 23, 1933 and was 84 years young. He was Commander of Post 7327 for three consecutive years: 2003, 2004, and 2005. There have been only three "All American Commanders" in Post 7327 and Jim was one of them. He was a veteran of the U. S Air Force and earned illegibility for the VFW through service in Korea. He and Past Auxiliary President Isabel Grummons were married for 56 years. Jim will be missed by everyone that had the pleasure of knowing him.

Comrade Willie Jones spent a few days in Bethesda Medical Center last week. They ran several tests on him while he was there and he left with a clean bill of health. He is home now and says he is feeling better than ever. Willie is truly "one in a million". He has contributed significantly and consistently to the success of both the Post and the Auxiliary for more than 25 years, that I personally know of, and is still going strong. Thanks Willie for all you do.

We will be setting a date for the next highway cleanup at our General Membership Meeting in February. I will announce the date via e-mail if the date is before our next Newsletter in April. Please consider coming out and helping us. Our stretch of road is on the Fairfax County Parkway from Beulah Rd. to I - 95. We are responsible for the north bound side, the south bound side and the center of the highway. There is usually a team of four or five members completing the task and at least four of them are senior citizens! We usually leave the American Legion parking lot at 8:00 am and are finished by 11:00 am. We have not done a highway cleanup since the fall of the year so I'm sure it is in need of clean-up. We seniors could use a little help, please.

As always, please let me know if I can be of assistance to anyone. I can be reached using any of the information provided below.

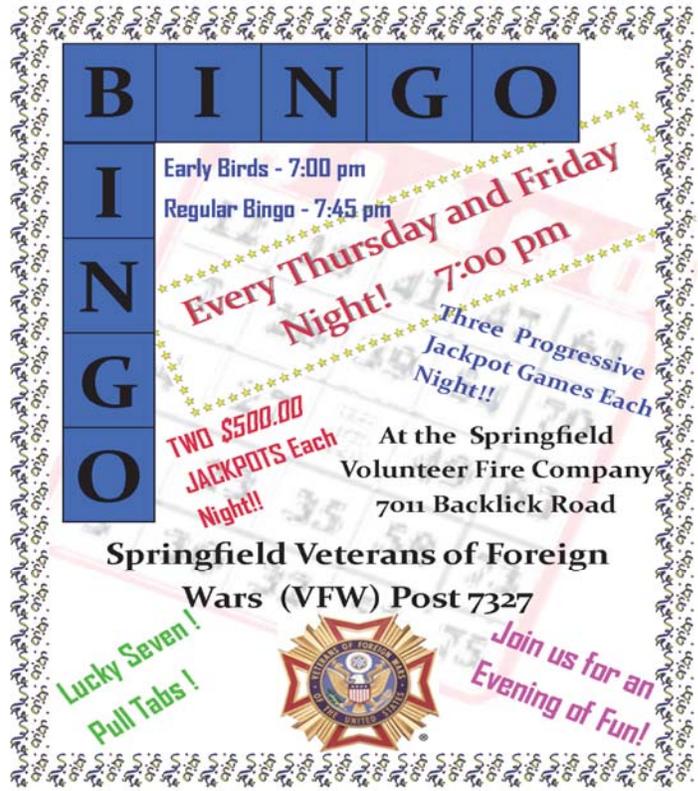
Home: 703-719-7660, Cellular: 703-350-8409, E-mail: W.Yancey@Cox.net



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

Happy new year! I hope everyone had a warm and joyous holiday season.

At our January meeting, one of the Auxiliary sisters suggested that I start the year off with the eligibility requirements for joining the VFW Auxiliary. And I agree.



Membership in VFW Auxiliary is limited to relatives of those who have served in overseas combat. For example, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, widows and widowers, grandfathers and grandmothers, and grandsons and granddaughters of people who have served in combat abroad. Also, they must be native-born or naturalized U.S. citizens, profess a belief in God, and be no less than 16 years old.

The VFW Auxiliary was established in 1914 and is the nation's oldest veterans' service organization auxiliary. We number nearly a half million members, representing all 50 states. It is our mission to assist the VFW in any way we can. In this way we serve the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform. Every year members of Auxiliaries across the country fund-raise millions of dollars for charitable projects that benefit veterans and their families, including scholarships for our nation's youth. Helping our veterans and their families is only one, though most important, reason to join. I've not even mentioned the wonderful, dedicated people I have met and worked with and the friendships I've forged since joining. If you'd like more information about us, just let me know (703-548-8343).

Due to Officer illness we have moved our February meeting to **Tuesday, February 21, 7:00pm**. I hope to see you there.

Auxiliary Membership

Auxiliary Treasurer Linda Byrnes

First of all, I want to welcome our newest life member, Melanie Gleason! Thanks for joining, Melanie!

Second, I want to give you a membership update. As we approach the second half of the 2017-2018 membership year our membership stands at 97%. We are doing pretty well, but we really need your help! We need six new, rejoin or transfer members to reach the 100% + 1 goal to meet our banner requirement.

Please encourage eligible family and friends to join! Applications are available in MALTA or you may contact the following officers:

Linda Byrnes, Treasurer, 703-732-7539, Alice Merrill, Secretary, 703-569-1771

Barbara Major, President, 703-548-8343

We hope to hear from you soon!!

VFW Post & Auxiliary 7327

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3-Yr Trustee: Marilynn Bianco
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.



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United States



The Friendliest VFW Post in Virginia

Web Site: www.post7327.org
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703-541-3139 Phone

Upcoming Events and Activities

February 12—Lincoln's Birthday 

February 14—Valentine's Day

February 19—President's Day, Washington's Birthday Observed 

February 21—Auxiliary Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm

February 22—Washington's Birthday

February 27—Post General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm

March 3—'Star Spangled Banner' Made U.S. National Anthem 1931

March 11—Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 14—Auxiliary Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm

March 17—St. Patrick's Day

March 20—Spring Begins

March 27—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.