



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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# The Camaraderie

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, and the COMMUNITY

September/October 2019

Volume 18-5

*Taking Care of Veterans is Our Business*



## THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

*By Post Commander Joe Byrnes*

Hello folks. This is not going to be a very long article but it has a few important notices in it. I hope you all had a great summer.

Each newsletter the officers from the Post and Auxiliary take time to write a few words for your enjoyment. Please take a look at all the articles in the newsletter. This shared knowledge is a gift for you to enjoy and learn from. I know the Surgeon mentioned this, but I wanted to put it on the front page. SCHOOL is open and the busses are out, so please be aware of the little ones.

I want to thank all our BINGO volunteers who have stepped up. You all are the life blood of the program, if not for you we would not be doing all the good for our veterans in need and the community. So, this next part should not be a surprise; we need more volunteers for BINGO, especially with school starting and the holidays coming. Each week we need to staff eight slots for just one night of bingo. That's sixteen a week and on average it's sixty-four slots that must be filled each month. If you have some free time or have a child or grandchild that needs community service time, please contact Diana Regan at oregandl@cox.net and she will be happy to schedule you.

I know many of you miss Comrade Jason Turney. I was informed that Jason is doing great and is back with his family in the UK and has started his new job after some well needed vacation time. If we hear from him, we will pass it along to you.

Many of you know that Katy Sylvester our editor of the newsletter is a very patient and spiritual person. She has been doing this for many years and each year I promise that I will get my article in on time and each deadline I end up being late. This time I can explain. See the big news below.

Every month the Comrades hold a General Membership Meeting. Last month's meeting was on Monday, August 26th and covered several topics. I wanted to share some of them with you.

Since 2006 the Post has been operating out of temporary leased admin space. We have chosen not to renew the lease for an extended time. Our plan is not to be in this location past June of 2020. We have also decided to sell the 2.1 acres of land located on Beulah Street. The Post purchased the property in 2006 and it is located next to the Moose Lodge. The listing will be available in early September. The last bit of information I have for you is that the Post is actively looking at a few possible locations to purchase. We are in the feasibility study phase and hope to present the best option for a vote of the members very soon. I know this is a lot of information all at once, but the members felt this was the best direction for the Post going forward. We need a permanent home. We welcome any comments or suggestions you may have. Please join us each month and let your opinions be heard.

Housekeeping:

Please take a look at the Post website [www.vfwpost7327.org](http://www.vfwpost7327.org), it has been completely updated. We have a new BINGO page where you can sign up for notifications each Thursday and Friday on the current jackpots and as needed if we have closing or delays. If you know of any members who are not getting this newsletter, please be sure to let them know that they can sign up there as well; just click the Camaraderie link in the menu.

I want you all to know that it is my honor to be the Commander of Post 7327. Our post has been servicing the Springfield and Northern Virginia area for seventy-three years. We are proud to count events such as Adopt-A-Military-Family during the holidays, sending troop boxes to our members deployed overseas, visiting VA Hospital residents, and participating in community programs among our proudest moments. I know that what we do is good and helps people who cannot help themselves. When I was first elected as the Commander five years ago, I wanted to make sure that our Post's primary goal was to help no matter what, and this VFW family has done just that. Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of this and as I have said in all of my articles and will continue, if you are asked about our Post, please proudly say, "Yes, Springfield VFW Post 7327 is open for business and we are in the business of taking care of veterans." Have a great couple of months and please be safe.

## Post Chaplain's Corner

Post Chaplain Wayne Yancey

Hello Comrades, Sisters and friends of the Post,  
Thankfully it has been a fairly quiet month in the Chaplain's Corner.

To my knowledge, no Comrade is sick or in need of assistance at this time. Comrade J. B. Young has had some elective procedures recently which will hopefully be to his advantage in the future. J. B. is at home, recovering nicely from them and is doing well.

Our much beloved Willie Jones had recent eye surgery and is on the road to recovery. I know Willie would like it if you stopped in and said hello to him at the Post Home.

By the time you get this I, and hopefully several additional Comrades, will have paid our final respects to Comrade Tony Dzerski at his interment on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at Arlington National Cemetery. Tony was a life member of both VFW Post 7327 and American Legion Post 176. Tony passed away on February 15, 2019 at the age of 94. A joint VFW and American Legion ceremony was conducted for Tony on February 22, 2019.

As always, if I can be of service to anyone please don't hesitate to call me at home or on my cellular.

Home: 703-719-7660, Cellular: 703-350-8409, E-mail: [W.Yancey@Cox.Net](mailto:W.Yancey@Cox.Net)

## Reminder - ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY Clean-Up October 19

Marty Holland, Program Chair

Adopt-A-Highway cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, 19 October with an "inclement weather" date of Saturday, 26 October. As we have done in the past, we will meet in the American Legion parking lot and head out to our section of the Franconia-Springfield County Parkway at 8:00 am. All necessary equipment -- reflective vests, grabbers, and orange garbage bags -- as well as donuts and water will be provided. Gloves, pants, long-sleeve shirts, and boots are encouraged.

If you have questions or want more information, please contact Marty Holland,

703-232-5611 or [martyholland@verizon.net](mailto:martyholland@verizon.net)



**Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy.  
You vote in elections once a year but when you  
volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of  
community you want to live in.**

# Message from Your Auxiliary President

By Barbara Major



I must admit that I'm not sorry to see the hot summer days leave, but I don't think I'm ready to say Hello to winter yet. The past few months seemed to have flown by, and it's now time to gear up for our Fall initiatives, including Buddy Poppy events and Veterans Day.

It's great to report that we have a new Chaplain, Ann Taylor, who was elected and installed over the summer. Thank you Ann for stepping up to take this position. Also, a huge THANK YOU goes to Alice Merrill, who aptly covered this position until we could bring Ann up to speed. It is exactly this type of cooperation that fills me with pride about our Auxiliary.

Unfortunately, because of inclement weather, the Navy Cruisers concert was cancelled this past August, and we were not able to support the Fairfax County's Concert in the Park Series as we have done for the past several years. However, I want to thank Sisters Itty Neal, Linda Byrnes, Floy Lipscomb, and Joyce Engel, among others for being ready to cover that event. And remember—there's always next year.

By now you should have received your Bakeless Bake Sale letter. All monies received through this fund-raising endeavor are earmarked for administration purposes, such as postage, paper, etc. Thank you all ahead of time for your contributions.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 7pm at the Post Home. I hope to see you there.

## Auxiliary Membership Update

Treasurer Linda Byrnes

Welcome to Ann Taylor, our new Life Member and Auxiliary Chaplain!

### ANNUAL MEMBERS--PLEASE NOTE!!

If you renew by 30 September, you are eligible for our drawing for a free Life Membership!!

You can pay your dues (\$23) at a meeting or you can mail your check to me at: 8209 Terra Grande Ave, Springfield, VA 22153

Questions? Feel free to call me at: 703-732-7539

**Veterans  
Crisis Line**



1-800-273-8255  
PRESS 1

If you or someone you know is at risk for suicide, please reach out to military and veteran crisis line at

1 (800) 273-8255 press 1,

or you feel like you just need someone to talk to reach out to vets4warriors at

<http://www.vets4warriors.com/>

These resources are available to active duty military, veterans, and their family members.

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Chaplain: Ann Taylor  
Conductress: Barbara Bucklin 703-971-8299  
Guard: Virginia O'Daniel  
1-Yr Trustee: Valerie Murrell  
2-Yr Trustee: Marilyn Bianco  
3-Yr Trustee: Janne Best  
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 Bridgewalk & Buddy Poppy Report

By Junior Vice Commander Jim Ellett

“Thank you” - Again to all who have supported the campaign in years past.



Poppies and American Flags were provided to friends, families and participants at the 19th annual Springfield Bridge Walk, held Tuesday, August 27, 2019. Post Auxiliary President Barbara Major and Auxiliary Americanism Program Chair Joyce Engel, among others, staffed the table to share information on a wide range of topics. Due to the large numbers of Uniformed Army active duty soldiers and their families who participated, the Auxiliary and Post support was rewarding. This was the 19th Veterans Bridge Walk supported by Supervisor Jeff McKay, Lee District Representative on County Board of Supervisors. The Springfield Chamber of Commerce has become the key organizer to obtain sponsors - such as our VFW Post 7237 and Post Auxiliary who funded Hard Times Company's chili & hot dogs with all the fixings. American Legion Post 176 welcomed and supported the subsequent formal ceremony where a community covenant was signed with Fort Belvoir Commander. Again this year the Kings Park Concert Band provided patriotic music.



### Veterans Day Poppy Distribution Dates

November 2nd & 3rd and 9th & 10th are the upcoming distribution dates for Buddy Poppies. The coordination for authorization permission inside Belvoir PX Lobby and Huntsman Lobby is continuing. More details will be sent by the Post Commander and Auxiliary President during September, so stay tuned!

## Auxiliary Chaplain's Update

*Auxiliary Chaplain Ann Taylor*

I'm your newly elected Chaplain and am honored to be trusted with this way of serving you. Updates since our last newsletter:

Calls and cards with assurance of our thoughts and prayers were sent to Sister Carol Davies on the loss of her mother, to our Department President Marcia Semones on the sudden loss of her son from a work injury, to our Past National President Collete Bishop following her surgery for a brain tumor, and to our Brother Bill Byrnes following hospitalization for a mini-stroke.

We've remembered our Sisters Jacqueline Bond, Diana Bartruff, Starla Stoesser, and Jeannine Hazard with calls, emails, and flowers to cheer them and our good wishes for their return to good health following surgery or illness.

On a happier note, we sent 26 birthday cards to our members, and Sisters Debbie Casselbury, and Alice Merrill have both said how grateful they are for the generosity of their sisters and comrades for their gifts of time and effort to help them through this time of need.

Debbie got the good news in August that her eyesight has improved enough that her treatments can now be upped to 2.5 months apart. Alice had another MRI the end of August for another look at the spine fracture and hopes for a solution.

Please remember these members and all our veterans and active duty troops in your prayers and let me know of anyone in our VFW Family who is suffering or needs assistance.

anntaylor0116@gmail.com. (H) 703-751-0147 (C) 703-919-75235

*“I lift up my eyes to the mountains; whence shall help come to me?  
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.”  
Psalm 121:1-2*

## Remembering Comrade Tony Dzierski

Junior Vice Commander Jim Ellett, Jr.

*Anthony Paul Dzierski - Pennsylvania Native - Army Air Corps World War II Veteran - Fort Myer Service*

On August 28, 2019 Final funeral services and holy Catholic Mass were conducted for VFW Life Member of Post 7327, Anthony P. Dzierski. “Tony” joined his late wife, Mary, at Section 55, Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), after the Post Chapel service.

A host of family, friends, associates from other organizations, members of the Springfield VFW Post 7327 and members of the Springfield American Legion Post 176 filled the Chapel.

Many of us know the Post Chapel on Fort Myer, Virginia is adjacent to the West Gate of ANC. The “Full Honors” ceremony began after Chapel services with the U.S. Army Old Guard’s Mounted Horse Cassion platoon and accompanying U.S. Air Force Full Honors ceremonial detachment from Bolling Air Force Base. The Air Force detachment included a flag honor guard, Air Force Band, Air Force Rifle Salute Team, bugler, formation of honor guard airman-airwomen-enlisted Air Force personnel.

LtCol Dzeirski was retired from the U.S. Air Force, and also retired from the Defense Intelligence Agency. Additional details on his service in the Korea War and WWII can be found in several on-line obituaries.

The Washington Post’s obituary states, “Having served God, Country, and family for 94 years, “Tony”, longtime Springfield resident ....” His personal, professional, and community service can not be summed up in a few paragraphs. So many will miss his friendship, inspirations, and service .... We urge additional research, reflection and continued prayers for his family, friends and church.



### Patriot Day September 11—How Patriot Day is Observed

- Americans are called on to observe Patriot Day each September 11th with a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 AM Eastern Daylight Time.
- Observe the day with ceremonies and activities, including remembrance services.
- Flags should be displayed at half-staff in honor of the individuals who lost their lives from sunrise to sundown
- Patriot Day has been added to the Flag Holidays listed in section 174 of the US Flag Code
- State and local governments and the people of the United States are asked to observe Patriot Day with appropriate programs and activities



## *Thank You! Lee High Lancer Singers Made it to Carnegie Hall*

The Lee High School Lancer Singers would like to extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Springfield VFW Post and Auxiliary for your support last school year. Before the Lancer Singers become immersed in this school year programs and concerts, we wanted to say a big shout out THANK YOU! We are thrilled to report with your past support Lancer Singers were able to be part of the National Youth Choir in Carnegie Hall in New York last Spring. The experience and concert was spectacular and we thank you so much for your support.

To redcap, upon arriving in New York, the students were integrated into a national youth choir of 388 students from across the country. They settled into the ballroom of the hotel and for 3 days they worked extremely hard to learn and perfect the songs. It was fascinating to watch renowned Choral Director Dr. Edith Copely from Northern Arizona University provide guidance and tutelage asking these students to give more than they thought possible. She raised the bar and challenged them, and we are happy to report that our Lancers rose to the challenge! (We even had several who tried out for a solo.)

The kids were extremely excited as the performance neared and it was obvious they were proud of their hard work. As they entered Carnegie Hall it truly took their breath away. The magnificence of the venue was stunning. They warmed up and waited until it was their time to perform. Honestly, to hear the synchronicity of 388 youth voices rising up to the far reaches of the audience gave us all goosebumps. It was a once in a lifetime experience. An experience they could not have had without your generous support. Thank you so much for supporting these kids. I urge you to please visit this link to hear the (warmup) performance to fully appreciate and their efforts and success: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bNQ63M4Hnw> .

We hope you can join us for a performance or two this year and we that we can count on your support again in the 2019-2020 school. For more information about the Lee High School Lancer Singers, visit [www.lancersingers.org](http://www.lancersingers.org)

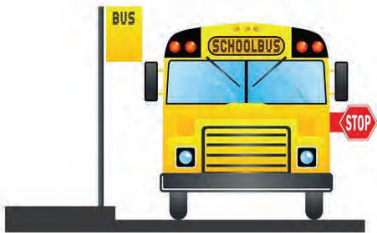


## Comrades, Sisters, Brothers, Friends....



Camaraderie was enjoyed at the American Legion Fish Fry.

Comrades Marilynn Bianco and Wayne Yancey birthdays were also celebrated.



## Back to School Bus Safety

- Never pass on the right side of a school bus where children enter or exit. This is illegal and can have tragic results.
- Yellow flashing lights mean the bus is preparing to stop and load or unload children. Motorists need to slow down and prepare to stop.
- Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm mean the bus has stopped and children are boarding or exiting the bus. Motorists must come to a complete stop a safe distance from the bus and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the stop arm is retracted, and the bus begins moving before they start driving again.
- Watch out for children who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking about getting there safely.
- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- When approaching a bus stop with children waiting for the bus, slow down and drive with caution. Children are unpredictable with their behavior and they may accidentally step into the street unaware

## *Upcoming Events and Activities*

### **September**

September 11—Patriot Day & National Day of Service and Remembrance 

September 11—Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm

September 17—Constitution Day 

September 20 POW/MIA Recognition Day 

September 24—Post General Membership Meeting, 7:30pm

September 29—VFW Established 1899

September 30—Last Day to enter Auxiliary Life Member Raffle


### **October**

October 9—Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm

October 14—Columbus Day 

October 19—Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup, meet at the American Legion parking lot by 8am

October 22—Post General Membership Meeting, 7:30pm

October 27—Navy Day 

### **Save these Dates!**

November 2 & 3—Buddy Poppy Distribution

November 9 & 10—Buddy Poppy Distribution

*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**

**‘Brew Crew’ Saturdays at the Post Home, 11:00am**

### *Post Hours of Operation*

Monday / Tuesday – Closed (except for meetings)

Wednesday / Thursday–10:00am – 2:00pm

Friday – 12:00pm– 4:00pm

Saturday / Sunday – 9:00am – 1:00pm

The Post may be open other than these hours as events require and personnel are available.