

Occoquan Veterans

News & Notes



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7916
703-491-1884
204 Mills Street (PO Box D)
Occoquan, VA 22125



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Commander's Corner

By Wayne Dearie

Welcome to our new members and I hope you will continue to enjoy our hospitality and participate in all of our functions. Speaking of which, we kicked off this year by participating at a 4th of July picnic at the American Legion Post 364.



We had a terrific POW/MIA Ceremony in Mamie Davis Park across from the Post on 18 September. We had representatives from Boy Scout Troop 1352 post the colors and then we had a very moving Missing Man Table ceremony conducted by the Hylton Senior High School Air Force Junior ROTC unit. After that, balloons were released to honor those Prisoners of War and men and women Missing in Action since WW II. After the ceremony the Ladies Auxiliary had Hors D'ouveres and cake. The Post also had a fried chicken dinner. I want to thank the scouts the AF JROTC, Ladies Auxiliary and the volunteers who made this event a success, Susan Wroth and Gary Swedorski.

Donations and time are hallmarks to our continuing successful Hospital reporting program. Special thanks go to Loretta and Leon Smith for the incredible amount of time and effort the both of you give to our veterans.

Upcoming events are a Halloween Party with our Sea Scout Ship 7916. The Sea Scouts have had a couple of Car Wash fundraisers and I would like to thank the members who supported this effort. For the rest, keep an eye open for flyers when the next fund raising event will take place.

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“Honor the dead by serving the living”
VFW Motto

Commander (From Page 1)

Veteran's Day is fast approaching and we have a couple of venues that we support. Quantico National Cemetery will have ceremony's starting at 1100 on the 11th of November. A little hard to forget 11/11/11. Also, some of our Veterans will be at The Vietnam Memorial along with a few motorcycles as this has become an annual event.

We know we will have a Christmas Party for the children and hope to have the dates set soon for planning purposes. The Ladies Auxiliary will put out more details.

We are shy of our goal of 100% membership and I ask each of you to find the time to either send in your annual dues or better yet, stop in to pay them and see all of the improvements your Post Home has accomplished. Renewal is our biggest priority because if you don't keep coming back then I or the other members are doing something wrong. Please let us know if that's the case and I will assure you it will be corrected.

Again I encourage all of our members to participate in events and functions throughout the year as we have a lot scheduled.

Thank you again for your service, support and patronage.

**Wayne Dearie
Commander**

A Very Busy, Fast Fall Underway

The Ladies Auxiliary has really been busy. We helped the friends of the Backyard Blues Band raise money for a medical unit in Afghanistan. The Ladies participated in a very moving POW/MIA ceremony. The following weekend found us 'slinging hash' and hosting Occoquan Days. A great time was had by all!

Coming up, we will need your help with the Buddy Poppy Drive on November 7th and 8th. Please stop by the Post or give us a call to sign up for an hour or two.

Friends of the Auxiliary will be hosting a BRUNCH on 15 November from 1100 - 1300. \$10.00 per person. All proceeds go directly to our Vets! Eat well and pass on the blessing...

Our annual Children's Christmas party will be held on 5 December and your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please sign up for this event at the Post or drop me an email. Nancy Huff - parlover@comcast.net. More details on the party will be available once our entertainment is secured.

Please mark your calendars and join us for the Veteran's Day ceremonies at Quantico National Cemetery. We will be hosting an Open House at our Post home following this event.

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Thank you to all members who have renewed their membership or switched to Life Membership. Speaking of membership, gentlemen, we'd love to have your spouses join our Auxiliary. We have a great group of women who actively strive to make a difference in the lives of our Veterans and do a phenomenal job. The women donate their time as their schedules permit and are able to choose tasks to suit their individual interests.

We'll be kicking off the Season of Giving at the Oktoberfest/Halloween Bash on 30 October with our Annual Food Drive. Please bring in non-perishable food goods and/or toys which will be distributed to families in need for Thanksgiving and again at Christmas. Should you be interested in meeting specific needs, please contact Loretta Smith at - Pdploretta@aol.com Your thoughtful generosity is greatly appreciated.

The 2009 White House Christmas ornaments are now on sale at the Post for \$20.00! Please stop by to purchase one or ten of these very special treasures. They make great gifts, especially for those on your out-of-town list as they ship well and aren't readily available outside of our area. All proceeds go to the Veterans.

**Nancy Huff
President, Ladies Auxiliary**

When The Rhetoric Dies Down...

You get to live with your decision.

Hopefully, you made one.

If not, Don't Complain!

VOTE IN NOVEMBER!



From Pumpkins to Christmas Trees



CANTEEN NOTES

As I sit here thinking of how to begin, I'm realizing just what a nice day we're having today. It's Occoquan Daze weekend and we're having a great time sharing our Summer stories and reuniting with those we haven't seen in a while. Are we working? Sure ... We're just enjoying a lovely day in our quaint little town and sharing our hospitality with our guests. If you've never had the pleasure of lending a hand for this event, you need to give it a try. We'd love to have you!

Friday Night Dinners and Karaoke

Fall is finally here and with it comes Friday night dinners and karaoke. We'll be offering a special meal each Friday, along with our Seafood specials. I can't wait to get back in the kitchen and start creating again! We take great pride in putting out some fantastic food and love watching your happy faces as you enjoy our craftsmanship.

We have new Karaoke DJs and they've been doing a wonderful job. Welcome Jason and Joe Clay!

Fall House Cleaning

On the maintenance side of the house, we have pressure washed the outside wood and replaced dead wood, cleaned the entrance and outside of the building in order to present our best face. A new security light has been replaced on the side of Post. Inside, the tile around the bar is new ... We don't have to worry about falling through the floor any more! The carpets have been cleaned, new compressors have been installed on two refrigerators. Guess we're trying to tell you that we've been busy putting back together that which has fallen apart. Anyway, the Club is looking good, come on down and enjoy the fruits of our labor ... and your money!

Special Entertainment Venues

The Backyard Blues Band rocked the Post on 19 September with a Back-to-School Bash. We're hoping to get them back early in the new year. These folks always put on a show to remember, and this was certainly no exception! Robin West was the big winner in our coloring contest. Yep, you read that right ... we had a coloring contest, bringing out the little kid in all of our participants. Thanks to Ray Bender for coordinating the band. And being a show off. Page 3

You're As Old as You Feel – But Not After This!

We are planning a BIG BIRTHDAY party in 2010. Please let our Commander or any Staff Member if you or your family member is having a birthday ending in a zero in 2010. (20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100)! This will be the party of the year and we'll let you know more as soon as we get more information.

Friday Night Dinners ~ 1800 - 2000

- Oct. 02 ~ Pork Roast
- Oct. 09 ~ Roast Beef
- Oct. 16 ~ Chicken Divan
- Oct. 23 ~ Shrimp Scampi
- Oct. 30 ~ Oktoberfest Dinner/Halloween Smash

~Seafood selections available at all dinners~

Subsequent Monthly menus available last Friday of the current month.

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

30 October ~ Oktoberfest/Halloween Smash event details will be available at the Post after 5 October. Please stop by or call for more information!

3 November ~ Election Day Deal ~ Wear your I VOTED sticker into the Post for a \$.25 beverage of choice and \$2.00 off our Election Day STUFFED CABBAGE DINNER!!! Served all day. Reg. \$8.00

11 November ~ Veteran's Day ~ Stop on by and bring family and friends in for our Open House, following ceremonies at Quantico.

26 November ~ Thanksgiving ~ Post Closed Have a blessed Holiday!

**Our Post will be having it's annual
Christmas party on 21 November**

25 December ~ Christmas Day ~ Post Closed God Bless you and yours!

31 December ~ New Year's Eve ~ Pot Luck Details available by 1 November.

01 January ~ Happy New Year!!!

Our New Year's pledge to our Post family is to continue giving you the highest quality service and to maintain a gracious atmosphere in the Canteen. All day, every day. As always, we welcome your suggestions and feed back! We're looking forward to seeing you soon!

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND HER TROOPS

**House Committee Chairman ~ Don Ohs
Club Manager ~ Kama Taylor**

Paying Tribute to the ‘Missing Man’

Prince William County Public Schools



The C.D. Hylton High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) wasted no time accepting the invitation to the "Missing Man" table ceremony. The ceremony took place in honor of the nation's service members who are missing in action or who have been prisoners of war. Accompanied by retired Air Force Maj. Sheila Allen, the group of cadets performed the ceremony in a small wooded park in Occoquan, VA, across from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post (VFW) 7916.

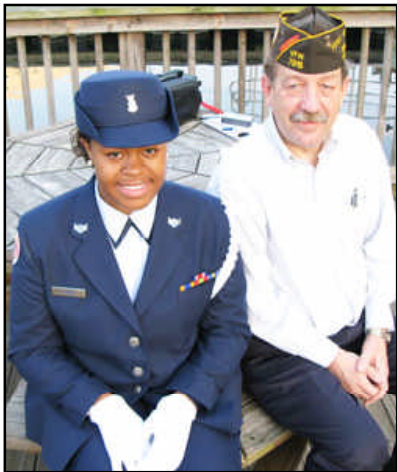
This day of remembrance is held by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) every year. Retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Wayne Dearie said, "The POW/MIA ceremony is significant to all of us because we want to account for all of our brothers and sisters." The act of compassion by the veterans has shown the cadets that those joining the service are not only going to be defending our country, but joining a family.

The cadets received much praise for their ceremony honoring almost 88,000 U.S. service members who have been recorded as missing or unaccounted for. Dearie complimented the cadets by saying, "They did a wonderful job. I have never seen that particular ceremony done that well." Retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. B.J. Richardson, who recruited the cadets to perform, was also pleased and impressed by his selection of talented junior officers.

This ceremony is done to honor those who have not been forgotten and is a special and emotional day for many. The cadets felt privileged to be guests and spoke highly of their experience. "I was very honored to be able to do

this POW/MIA ceremony. Every day I learn something new in JROTC," said Air Force JROTC Cadet Airman 1st Class Jannel Rapier. Rapier also plans to become an Air Force officer after she graduates from college. As many were appreciative of the cadets' performance, the day ended with a new bond between the veterans and the JROTC cadets.

JROTC Cadet Jannel Rapier relaxes with VFW Post Commander Wayne Dearie after the ceremonies. IPHOTOS courtesy of Prince William County Public Schools)



Army Unveils New Look for National Museum of the Army

ARLINGTON, Va. (Army News Service, Sept. 25, 2009) — Army representatives have released a series of full-color architectural renderings for the National Museum of the United States Army, to be built next year at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The renderings, prepared by an architectural engineering firm, were unveiled by Judson E. Bennett Jr., National Museum of the United States Army project director.

Bennet hopes to break ground for the museum next year and anticipates it actually opening to the public in 2013.

The illustrations include conceptual views of the museum's approach, main entrance, lobby, observation tower, and adjacent amphitheater. Bennett also released a site plan for the overall 41-acre museum campus footprint showing egress points, parking areas, and proposed locations of the museum's major adjacencies, including the Amphitheater, Memorial Gardens, and Parade Ground.

"The current renderings are the product of many hours of meetings and coordination among a team intent on providing our Army, its Soldiers and veterans and their families, and the general public with a world-class historical and educational facility," Bennett said.

He cited as participants members of the National Museum Project Office; the Army's Corps of Engineers; the Army Historical Foundation; and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, all of whose efforts were directed by Jerry Hansen, project executive officer for the Museum and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Strategic Infrastructure).

"It's important to note that these renderings are conceptual and an early but important milestone in the architectural design process," said Mark Regulinski, managing partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill architectural engineering firm.

"Some changes can be expected. Over the next month we'll continue our work in close coordination with Mr. Bennett and his staff and the Christopher Chadbourne & Associates' exhibit design team on any necessary external and internal modifications."

Regulinski noted that one of his firm's major objectives was to make certain the museum offered visitors an extended experience, beginning with their first glimpse of the imposing four-story tower structure from a distance and continuing throughout their initial and return visits.

The Army Historical Foundation, designated by the Army as the official fundraising entity for the \$200 million Capital Campaign for the National Museum of the United States Army, will incorporate the new conceptual renderings into its publicity and fundraising efforts immediately.

More information about the National Museum of the United States Army is available online at www.armyhistory.org.