

Organized 1919  
Chartered 1933

American Legion  
Williamsburg Post 39

# Newsletter

*"For God and Country"*

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WILLIAMSBURG POST 39

Volume 15 Number 11

November 2014

Williamsburg, Virginia

#### Executive Board

Bill White, Commander	James Gilley, Adjutant
Bill Pinckney, Vice-Commander	
Fred Malvin, Finance Officer	Jim Snyder, Sgt-at-Arms
Pete Womack, Past Commander	Ben Machinist
Post Chaplin, George Washington	

Website: <http://www.alpost39wmsbgva.com/>

Meetings Every Fourth Monday  
of Each Month –Rocco's BBQ Grill  
6:00 PM – Dinner Meeting  
Except July & August —No Meetings

*Next Meeting November 24 at  
6PM at Rocco's Smokehouse Grill on By Pass Road  
Speaker: Jim Icenhour  
Virginia Veterans' Services*

#### Sick List

Art Sass      Joe Henzel (knee replacement)

*Please keep these families in your thoughts*

From the Commander,  
Fellow Legionnaires, and wives,  
Thank you to all who attended, and participated in the various Veterans Day events. The Honoring of Veterans, sponsored by CVO, at the Tribute Tower, was a success, and it was so nice to see a lot of familiar faces. As usual the Veterans Day parade, sponsored by CW, was most rewarding and successful, even in the rain! Thank you to all who participated. Of particular note, this year the parade was led by two veterans in wheelchairs. One was a highly decorated, Silver Star, two (2) Bronze Stars, and Purple Heart, WWII and Korean War Veteran (Army). He carried his

shadow box of all his medals, and qualification badges with him as he marched. Very fascinating gentlemen to talk to. Unfortunately, I didn't get the name or history of the other gentleman who participated. Guest speaker this month will be, Jim Icenhour, who will speak to us about all the Veteran Services/Benefits that are available, via the State of Virginia.

Need ideas for what fun things we might want to do at our Christmas party?

Commander Bill

**Of Note: Members of Congress with Military Experience**

The number of Representatives with military experience in the upcoming 114<sup>th</sup> Congress will decline from 84 to 81. The number of Senators will actually increase from 19 to 20. This will be the first Congress in a very long time that does not have any WW II veterans.

**Adjutant Notes**

Membership renewals have slowed down a bit. Don't forget to renew!! Thanks to everyone who attended and participated in the local Veterans' Day celebrations. As usual, the programs were well attended and inspiring.

Please keep Will Barnes of Post 1776 in your thoughts. Will suffered a severe fall and has possible broken vertebrae in his neck. Surgery will be performed after he stabilizes from fluid buildup in his lungs. Will has been instrumental in planning local veterans' observances and is active on the James City County clean county commission.

Mark your calendars: our annual holiday celebration/ladies night will be December 15 at 6PM at Roccas.

## DFAS 1099-R Update 2014 Availability

The IRS Forms 1099R for the 2014 tax year will become available online in mid-December 2014. You will be able to access yours on myPay. DFAS will also mail hard copy versions of the 1099R to those of you who have chosen that option. Please keep in mind that hard copy versions of the 1099R are issued later and will take a while to reach you. If you have elected hard copy, you may not receive it until mid-January 2015. Note that 1099R's are not automatically issued for deceased members. If you want to receive a 1099R on the behalf of a member who passed away, a certificate of death must be on file, and you must request that a 1099R be issued. At <http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/retiredmilitary/about/aboutus/customer-service.html> are listed the various ways to contact them if you would like to make this request, or have questions regarding a 1099R for a deceased member

## VA Health Care Access New ACA Webpage

The Department of Veterans Affairs updated its website with a new page containing information on the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The page is easy to navigate, and is broken down into different links for veterans already enrolled in VA care, unenrolled veterans, and family members. Those who are not enrolled yet can use the site to learn more about eligibility, begin the enrollment process, or initiate an online chat for more help. There are also various fact sheets and FAQs available. As a reminder, all enrolled veterans, TRICARE beneficiaries, and CHAMPVA family members already meet the minimum standard for coverage required by the ACA. To visit the website go to <http://www.va.gov/health/aca>. [Source: VFW Action Corps Weekly, October 31, 2014 ++]

**November 24 at 6PM at Rocco's on By-Pass Road**

**Menu  
Two Rocco's Choices**

**Beef Brisket**

**Crab Cake**



## **New American Legion Executive Director**

. Verna Jones is first female executive director of the American Legion. Jones, an attorney and Army veteran, said she was proud that she is able to offer her personal experience as a woman, to fellow female veterans. Women are one of the fastest growing segments of veterans entering the military today, she said. “What I bring is that personal touch, that personal experience,” she said, adding that she once waited 15 hours for a bed at the D.C. VA medical center because there weren’t any beds for women. A few months ago, the center opened an entire pavilion for women, but that experience still allows her to understand the specific challenges that women veterans face. She started in the post earlier this month, succeeding Peter Gaytan. Jones wants to push for more “accountability and consequences,” especially when it comes to the sexual harassment and military sexual trauma experienced by many female veterans. “ Jones is 49 and her appointment comes at a time when the VA has been criticized for being seen as filled with older veterans and many of those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan see the organization as outdated. She said she’s proud of the membership and the passion that older veterans have. “You see them with their oxygen tanks and canes and they are so committed,” she said. “That’s called experience and they don’t stay home in front of the television. They are out still waging the war for veterans. We don’t apologize for who we are and the next generation will be the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. You will see their faces changing. Because you can never replace the passion of the American Legion

**Williamsburg Post 39  
PO Box 2782  
Williamsburg, VA 23187**