



## *Newsletter*

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*December 2002 Manny Bacon Post 1758*

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### *Correction*

In last months letter there was a typo that stated the post meeting was January 13. The correct date is January 14th. Sorry for any inconvenience.

### *Agent Orange*

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Any veteran who has ever filed a claim for compensation due to exposure to Agent Orange may be eligible for a retroactive settlement.

You can contact the

lawyers who represent the Nehmer class members at the following address:  
Counsel for Plaintiff Class National Veterans Legal Services Program  
Attention: Nehmer Class Member Information 2001 S. Street, N.W. Suite  
610 Washington, D.C. 20009 VA benefits counselors are also available at each  
VA Regional Office to answer any questions you may have concerning your  
rights under this Notice, please call us at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a  
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the number is  
1-800-829-4833. Sincerely yours, Ronald J. Henke, Director Compensation  
and  
Pension Service

### *High School Teacher In Afghanistan*

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Stars & Stripes interviewed a high school teacher from Beacon.

Service members who are in Afghanistan were asked "what is a hero?"

"I feel like I'm doing my part," said Army Sgt. Julia Pilat, a civil affairs specialist. "I think the term 'hero' is over used."

The 28-year-old from Beacon, N.Y., which is up the Hudson River from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, is a reservist. Pilat spoke on her last day in Afghanistan. After the holiday break, she'll return to her job as a 10th-grade social studies teacher at Beacon High School.

"There are thousands of soldiers over here doing their job, and that's what it is — a job," she said. "There are heroes amongst us, don't get me wrong, but it's not the group."

### *County @ Post Meeting*

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The County meeting will be held December 18th at Post 1466 Legion Rd Poughkeepsie Dinner at 7pm, meeting at 8pm .

*Post meeting January 14th 8pm.*

### *Christmas Party*

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The Christmas party was a great success; a good time was had by all.

Pictures going up on the web site soon. Thanks to Larry for making it all possible.

## *New Members Are 1st Priority*

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The post will give any member who brings in 4 new members an American Legion Jacket with embroidered logos, post name and town, on front and back and your name on right front. These jackets go for about 100.00, I have one and can tell you they are really nice. You have till Sept 1 2003. I paid for mine. You can get yours for free. Can you do it?

## *M.I.A / P.O.W*

The Remains of Capt. Francis W. Townsend who was listed as MIA in the war in Vietnam have been identified. Townsend was shot down over North Vietnam on 8/13/72 while on a photo recon mission. The pilot of the F4 ejected seconds after ordering Townsend to do the same. The pilot was captured and became a POW. Capt Townsend was laid to rest in his home town of Rusk Texas.

## *Web Site News*

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You can now E-mail your representative in Washington by going to our web site. Just type in your zip code in the little box on the home page that says write congress and click on go. It will take you to the DAV website and you will see a list of pre typed letters already addressed to our reps. Choose one, and follow directions. It's very simple and of course you do have to give your name and address. Write them and tell them to keep their promise for guaranteed health care. The Address for our web site is "<http://americanlegion1758.tripod.com/index.htm>"

## *USS George H.W. Bush*

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The Navy bestowed one of the nation's highest honors on former president Bush here today by naming the service's 10th Nimitz class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier after the former naval aviator.

"The USS George H.W. Bush will serve as a worldwide deployable symbol of our nation's resolve," Navy Secretary Gordon England said during a naval ship-naming ceremony in the Pentagon.

England called Bush "a great, great American (and) a great patriot." Bush enlisted in the Navy at age 18 in 1942 and became the youngest pilot in the Navy before his 19th birthday. He flew a bomber off the carrier USS San Jacinto and was shot down in the Pacific in 1944. The future president went on to earn the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals for his service.

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### *January 14th 8pm next meeting !!!*

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This is shaping up to be an important meeting some new faces will be attending, we will be discussing the post starting to do bingo and weather or not to use the office space in Fishkill. Please make an effort to attend.