

Newsletter

October 2003 Manny Bacon Post 1758

POST 1758 #1 IN THE STATE

According to the Dept. web site Manny Bacon Post 1758 is listed as the #1 post in the state of New York having reached 127 % of the 2004 membership goal . You guys are awesome! Thank you . Remember we are all recruiters . Everyone should be on the look out for any potential new members.

An American Hero Comes Home

On Monday October 6 My wife and I represented our post , at the funeral service at Arlington National Cemetery for the Coast Guards Loan MIA of the Vietnam War. Lt. Jack Columbus Rittichier was shot down while trying to rescue a downed Marine pilot who suffered a broken arm and leg when he ejected. Lt Rittichier made 3 attempts to rescue the downed Marine despite intense enemy fire. On the third attempt a forward air controller notified Rittichier one of his engines was on fire . He advised Rittichier to abort the rescue and proceed to a clearing a few 1000 yards away. Rittichier made the clearing however upon reaching it his rotors suddenly stopped and the Jolly Green plunged to earth erupting into a huge ball of flame on impact. All 4 crewman were lost , 3 of them belonging to the US. Air force. The Marine Pilot is still listed as MIA. Lt Rittichier was the first Coast Guard KIA of the Vietnam war and the only one left unaccounted for at the wars end.

Lt. Rittichier was a hero even before entering the Vietnam war, having won his first Distinguished Flying Cross by pulling 7 sailors of a sinking freighter in a blinding snow storm on the great lakes. 2 weeks after his arrival in Vietnam he won his second by pulling 9 men, some badly wounded off the side of a mountain under intense enemy fire. He would win his 3rd in the rescue attempt which ultimately cost him his life. All total he won The Silver Star , 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses, The Purple Heart, and 8 Air Medals.

His brother Henry told me “ my brother isn't just a Coast Guard Hero. He's an American Hero. “

Anyone who doubts it wasn't there that Monday. It was an Experience my wife and I will never forget.

We placed a beautiful wreath at the grave side that was donated to the post by Sabellico Florist. My wife gave Henry her MIA bracelet that she had worn for about 5 years at the graveside. Pictures on the web site.

Gold Star Mothers Monument

Mark September 26 (Sunday) 2004 on your calendar. (speaking of which we have some left for \$5.00) On that day in Veterans Memorial park in the town of Kent, A monument will be dedicated to the Gold Star Mothers. The 5 foot 7 inch statue of a grief stricken Women holding a crumbled telegram will stand behind a fountain of tears. The statue will stand upon shiny black granite , the granite upon a gold star.

Pot Of Gold

Name Drawn, Amy Verissimo. There was no winner. Pot stands at \$99.00

Veterans Day

Anyone who wants to help out selling Poppies and 50/50 tickets on Veterans Day Nov 11 please meet at the community Center at 10:30 am.

Party for Disabled Vets

There will be a Christmas party for Disabled Veterans at the knights of Columbus building on rte 82 , 12pm to 4 pm December 13 . They are looking for people to help setup , serve ect. any interested may contact John Lyons for more info at 845-221-6018___

Office Space

The office space in Fishkill fell through. The powers that be in the Village wanted us to share it with several other organizations, and rather than put ourselves in an uncomfortable situation we declined the offer. Thanks for all the effort though Danny. We know you tried.

Fund raiser for Richard Conley

I want to thank everyone who turned out to help a fellow Veteran. They raised almost \$9000.00 and Mr. Conley stood up and thanked everyone. Sgt. McKenna also thanked the Legion. Post 203 donated \$100.00 and our post donated \$150.00. Post 37 also made some donations but I'm not sure of the amounts. Danny won a foot ball signed by the entire Jets team. A good time was had by all. Thanks again.

Bill Would Lower Retirement Age

October 3, 2003 Senator Jon S. Corzine (R-NJ) filed an amendment, 1811, to the FY 04 supplemental appropriations bill, to reduce Reserve Retirement from age 60 to age 55. The amendment, which was originally offered as S. 1035 and its companion bill H.R. 742, would reduce the retirement ages to the same as a federal government employee.

The nature of the service in the Reserves and Guard has changed since winning the Cold War. Over the last decade, the Reservist has been called up as never before, to augment the active component all over the world to fight the war on terror.

You May contact your reps via our web site or
The Reserve Officer Association has given us permission for our members to contact their Senators' office in Washington DC by calling toll-free 1-888-ROA-US60 (1-888-762-8760) and then tell the Capitol operator the name of the Senator and Representative.

Hey!! I MAILED THAT IN !!!

Members who have paid there renewals for 2004 have been receiving renewal reminders in the mail from national headquarters in error. Be advised if you have a 2004 card from this post , just throw the reminder away.

It even happened to my wife and I paid her dues months ago. If you don't have a 2004 card we are looking for about 5 more members who need to renew for 2004 so get them in.

Top Recruiter for 2002-2003

Neil Klock was our top recruiter for 2002-2003. He recruited 4 members before Sept 30 and therefore qualified for the Post Jacket. Neil has instead requested the money be donated to a Vietnam Veterans memorial being built at Cape May NJ. Thanks Neil.

Waking Up and Smelling the Coffee

We are getting a lot of feedback from our Reps lately all saying they are opposed to any closing of VA facilities in NY State. Please continue to tell our reps we do not want any cuts in VA services. In other news the plan to limit future disability claims to pay for concurrent receipt seems to have been scrapped after the outcry from all the major veterans organizations. The plan currently being discussed would expand on eligibility that is currently in place, however it still would leave some still paying the "disabled veterans tax".

Sick and injured need clothing

Donations are being accepted to buy clothing for sick and wounded GI's arriving at Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany. The GI's sea bags are forwarded to their home bases after arrival leaving them only the BDU they were wearing when they arrived. Their branch of service will provide uniforms, but the GI's would rather wear civvies when traveling or lounging around. As we all know civilian socks are far better than any military sock yet devised by our government. Make checks out to: Friends of Fisher House and mail to: Dutchess County Veterans Service Agency 22 Market St Poughkeepsie NY 12601.

US Army Band Bus Trip

The Hudson Valley Council Band is sponsoring a trip to Lincoln Center on Saturday November 8, 2003 to see the US Army Band from Washington DC. Cost is 20.00 per person 11 am to 7pm. Bus leaves from the East Fishkill Community center. Call Althea Richards at 226-4458 for details.