



## *Newsletter*

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*December 2003 Manny Bacon Post 1758*

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### **Christmas Party**

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WOW! That was GREAT !!! If you missed it , we had over 50 people in attendance. Guests included Mary Swartz from the Dutchess County Legislature, Legion County Commander Tony Storezeri, and Legion County Adjutant Barbara Milton. The County Commander was so impressed , he asked if he could attend next year and said he would gladly pay to do so !! We also had two guests attending from the Paulding Post. Pictures on the web site.

Naturally we have to thank John and Larry for getting the arrangements done but most of all we need to thank Neil Klock.

Neils bar tab came to over \$300.00. That's way above and beyond. Please make sure to thank him when you see him.

Keeping on the party theme the post served dinner to members of the Disabled Veterans of America ,Castle Point Post at the Knights of Columbus . Pictures on the web site.

Thanks to everyone that helped out with that .

And finally I attended the Christmas Party at Castle Point for the Veterans Hospitalized there . It was very moving to see these guys and try and cheer them up for the holidays. There were Legion members there from all across the Hudson Valley , Westchester , Rockland and Orange . I'm proud to say Dutchess seemed to lead the way as we went room to room serving ice cream to the vets who couldn't make it down stairs.

And my parting thought for this Party theme, The post is thinking about some type of outdoor party around memorial day. Got an idea? Bring it to the meeting. I'm thinking clam bake at the gun club. Stay tuned.

## **BINGO**

**There is no two ways about it . The best shot this post has for ever getting a post home is by doing bingo. By doing bingo we can afford a post home in a few years if not sooner.**

( sooner being a bank loan using bingo to pay mortgage or rent)  
John Lyons has said in the past the Knights will let us do it at there building, we have the money for the machine so the only thing holding us back is ourselves.

In other words the only thing stopping us from having a post home is ourselves.

**I need 8 guys willing to give up 1 night every other week. Are there 8 guys who feel as passionate about this as me out of 66 members?**

If you want to help out with bingo please come to the next meeting. Maybe this is the year .

I will try to work out something to compensate the members who do bingo. Maybe pay there dues. Maybe a paid dinner for those members only. Awards ? Ideas ?

That will have to be worked out at the meeting.

## **Donation Letter**

If you made a donation into the Building fund in 2003 you will find a letter for tax purposes in this issue. If I forgot anyone or the amounts are off just let me know and I will give you another. I never claimed to be an accountant and did the best I could hopefully there all right.

**This Story submitted by James Reynolds :**

**A veteran reminds us of the true meaning of Veterans Day.**

I generally bite my tongue and try to avoid topics of discussion long banned from dinner tables as the basis for ruining everything from good friendships to family ties. However, I can't help but say that not only didn't I find anything in the update "in honor of Veteran's Day," but found it totally lacking any relevance to The Day at all!

I guess what really gets to me is that, once again, it seems easier to pass by the

meaning of Veterans Day without remembering, not only what it derived from, or what the cost was, but also what it continues to be.

No matter what branch of the military or specific capacity they served; whether their service was within the boundaries of the United States or in some foreign country; whether they are on the ground, in the air, on the water, or below the water, whether it's a "conflict," a "police action," a Cold War, a Hot War, or no war at all; whether they were in combat or not; no matter what their race or religion, the moment they don the uniform, children of the day become adults. What they do is serve where and when they are told to, and do and what they are told to. At the very least, they are preparing to, or providing support, in some manner for those that, at the very worst, are preparing to do, or are doing, the unthinkable and unimaginable. This is what earns a person the title of Veteran. *In Honor of Veterans Day*, I wonder how many of today's children (and maybe some adults, too) know the history of what we now know as Veterans Day? I wonder how many know the saying, "The War to End All Wars," or what "Armistice Day" is ... or was; or the significance of "*the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month*?" I wonder how many children, or adults, know that some 4,734,991 men and women are Veterans of that "War to End All Wars;" or that 116,516 military personnel died while in uniform; or that another 204,002 were wounded?

*In Honor of Veterans Day*, I wonder how many people know there are another 33,464,898 men and women Veterans who have served during "recognized" times of conflict since then, up through the Gulf War of 1991; or the other 501,409 military personnel who died while in uniform; or the 775,597 individuals who were wounded?

*In Honor of Veterans Day*, there is, of course, the uncounted numbers of Veterans, many of them Active Reservists serving in-between the "recognized" conflicts and wars, and the unknown numbers of them who were killed or injured while in uniform on specific assignment, tactical training missions, routine exercises, or even simply due to an accident.

According to the VA, there are some estimated 25,625,000\* living veterans, approximately 17,578,500 of whom are wartime Veterans. Bad enough the meaning of the day is overlooked and forgotten, but so are the battles Veterans continue to fight here at home after their military service.

*In Honor of Veterans Day*, who remembers the "Bonus March" and its resulting horrors? Who remembers "The Forgotten War?" for which a service ribbon was only recently authorized? What about the Veterans whose war was only a "conflict" and whose welcome home was to be spat upon? How about those with "Agent Orange?" What about those with PTSD? What about those strange new neurological and physiological disorders they are developing? How about changes in the Veteran themselves? Will they ever be the same, or even close to as we knew them before they served? And how about the Veterans Hospitals, which now routinely close their doors to a multitude of our nation's Veterans?

*In Honor of Veterans Day*, a survey reported on CNN this Veterans Day points out that many of our nation's Veterans are right in front of you, everyday. They're the ones you avoid because of how they look and sometimes act. They are the

homeless. The survey went on to tell us that 32% of men who stay in homeless shelters are Veterans who served during Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf Wars, and among the nations homeless Veterans, 42% served in Vietnam.

*In Honor of Veterans Day*, the only thing Veterans seem to be able to count on is that whatever benefits are offered to them when they go in, they'll ultimately be changed or be completely taken away from them at some point in the future.

Maybe I'm too sensitive to this. Maybe, as my kids frequently tell me, I am old school. Yes, I am a Vet (with no great claim to fame), and yes, I come from a family with a history of military service dating back to "Armistice" Day; and yes, we've managed to have at least one individual in each branch of the armed forces at one time or another, or at the same time. And yes, like so many other families over the years, ours produced a Gold Star Mother in one era and a Gold Star Wife with two small children in another.

*In Honor of Veterans*, forget the rhetoric and platitudes. And you don't have to agree with the politics of the day, either. Just don't take that out on the Veterans, because they don't make policy.

*In Honor of Veterans*, think about the Veterans on active duty, and the Reservists who have been called up, who, along with their dependent families, must apply for food stamps and other forms of public assistance because a Veteran's pay isn't enough to sustain their families; or the ones who are now facing losing their houses because they have fallen behind in their mortgage payments.

*In Honor of Veterans*, think about the changes endured by both the Veterans and their families resulting from prolonged absences. Think about the adjustments and changes in family structures and roles: new babies born, yet never seen; family deaths yet to be faced.

*In Honor of Veterans*, think about the not-so-remote possibility of a family having to face the ultimate sacrifice which every Veteran might make, and the resulting leaving behind of grieving parents, siblings, wives, and children.

*In Honor of Veterans*, next time you're at the airport and see that kid in fatigues with an M-16 slung over his shoulder, or simply see someone in a military uniform, be they a "ground pounder," a nurse, a clerk, or a fighter pilot, just go up and just say "Thank You!" to him or her.

*In Honor of Veterans*, you could even go a step further. Forget the barbecue for once. Next Memorial Day, go to one of your local parades. Afterwards, take a trip to the National Cemetery nearest your home. Walk around, read the inscriptions, or simply look around you. What you see, says it all.

*In Honor of Veterans*, on Long Island you have a choice between the Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale (also known as Pinelawn), or the newer one in Calverton. I know I'll be at one of them.

(Story by Jim Lorey past Vice Commander of Post 269 in Patchogue, LI.

**Amy and I wish you and your Family a happy healthy New Year**