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American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

July 2011

American Legion Post 1758,
Junction, NY 12533

PO Box 92,

Hopewell

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Our next meeting will be August 9, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Whortlekill Rod and Gun Club. We'll be making plans for our participation in the East Fishkill Community Day to be held September 17th so it's important to have a good turnout at



“Human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind.”

Membership: In July you will start receiving membership renewal forms for 2012 in the mail. The Post processes the renewals within 30 days of receiving your check. Some are held for a couple of weeks so that a trip to the bank isn't necessary each time an individual renewal is received. However the process through the Department Of New York and National seems to take an extraordinary amount of time. You may receive another notification that your dues are due when you have actually paid them. If you check your latest membership card and it is for 2012, you have already paid your dues.

Renew your membership online

Five American Legion departments have tested it over a three-year period. In each of those departments, the number of Legionnaires using the Internet to renew their membership has grown.

As of July 1, the ability to conveniently and safely renew a Legion membership online is available nationwide.

Wartime veterans have been able to join the organization through The American Legion website for several years, but the renewal process was more complicated, because dues vary by post and a method of dues processing had to be developed and approved.

“Now, in response to member demand, The American Legion offers online renewals to everyone” National Commander Jimmie L. Foster said. “I want to emphasize that this is an offer and not a mandate. Members can still renew using the traditional paper method. However, we have found that a growing number of people prefer to renew their memberships using their computers or phones” All it takes is a credit card and access to the Internet for a member to re-up for another year in the nation's largest veterans organization. At www.legion.org/renew, a member can pay dues, read a pop-up thank-you message from National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler, and receive a printable, temporary membership card that they can use until issued their regular card by their post. For information on how it all works, visit www.legion.org/renew, where tutorial videos are available to explain the option to members, department officers and staff, and post officers.

Good Of The Legion:

William De Matte's named was pulled for the Pot Of Gold Drawing. Unfortunately William was not present at the meeting so the total amount was added to the Pot Of Gold fund.



Castle Point is always looking for volunteers in a variety of positions. Call (845) 831-2000



July 16th we will be soliciting funds for the Post at Walmart in Fishkill. We'll be there from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Please come out and help for a couple of hours!

Holiday Party

Reminder: To take advantage of a reduced fee for your significant other to attend the Holiday Party you must participate in at least 4 activities with the Post this year. There are at least 7 activities scheduled for the remainder of the year: Meetings in August, September, October and November. As well as the fund solicitation on July 16th, the East Fishkill Day activities on September 17th, and the Poppy distribution on November 11th.



Special Notice: If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call this toll-free number **1-800-273-8255, available 24/7, and tell them you are**

Japan's 3 biggest mistakes

Tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes. We just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time. In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war. On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?"

Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?" Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?"

Nimitz explained. "Mistake number one: the Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800."

"Mistake number two: when the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow everyone of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships."

"Mistake number three: every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America."

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas--he was a born optimist. But anyway you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism. President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. There is a reason that our national motto is, IN GOD WE TRUST.

Living space available for Veteran in need. *Do you know a homeless Veteran? Commander Klock has room in his home and is willing to take in a Veteran. Contact Neil at 845-227-6091*

Your Post needs your help. Contact Commander



Did You Know?

National Parks Senior Pass. - Cost \$10

This is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. The pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity. The pass admits the pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas (children under 16 are admitted free). The pass can only be obtained in person at the park. The Senior Pass provides a 50 percent discount on some Expanded Amenity Fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launch, and specialized interpretive services. In some cases where Expanded Amenity Fees are charged, only the pass holder will be given the 50 percent price reduction. The pass is non-transferable and generally does NOT cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires.

Do you know anyone who might like to join the American Legion? Print out the application on the next page and have them return it to our Post.

American Legion Application

Please return to:

American Legion Post 1758
P.O. Box 92
Hopewell Junction, NY
12533

YES! I want to become a member of the American Legion by completing this application that I served at least 90 days of active duty in the armed forces and was honorably discharged.

Verify by forwarding this application during the dates marked below

Last Name

First Name

Street

City

State

ZIP

Home Phone

Email address

Period Served (see blow)

Branch Of Service

To be eligible for The American Legion, a man or woman must have served at least one day of active duty in one of the armed forces of the United States during one of the following eligibility eras.

They are:

World War I - April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918

- **World War II** - December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946
- **SPECIAL NOTE** - Merchant Marines - December 7, 1941 to August 15, 1945
- **Korea** - June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955
- **Vietnam** - February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975
- **Lebanon & Grenada** - August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984
- **Panama** - December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990
- **Persian Gulf** - August 2, 1990 until cessation of hostilities as determined by the United States Government (**NOTE: this means that all military personnel now on**

active duty are eligible for membership in The American Legion).