



# American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

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American Legion Post 1758,  
Junction, NY 12533

PO Box 92,

Hopewell

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- 1 Veteran's Appreciation Day
- 2 Veterans Day Solicitation
- 3 GM & M16
- 4 The Legion – By the Numbers
- 6 Veteran's Concert

Our next meeting will be November 13, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Whortlekill Rod and Gun Club.

## **Dutchess County Veteran's Appreciation Day**

**Saturday November 3 2012**

Will be held at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the **FDR Presidential Library and Museum** located at 4097 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, New York 12538.

Holiday Party  
December 9th  
see attached Flyer

"It often takes more courage to change one's opinion than to stick to it."

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

**East Fishkill Community Day** – Post 1758 was represented at the annual East Fishkill Community Day held on September 15. We had a small contingent of marchers with John Lyons, Dan Briscoe, Jim Broughton and Kevin Hathon doing the honors. Norm Dauerer brought his jeep which is always a crowd pleaser. Neil Klock, Dan Oberhauser and Kevin manned our booth selling ice cream, water and coffee. Len Hart helped with the set up, John Lyons retrieved all the equipment from storage and Jim Reynolds picked up the ice cream freezer. Thanks to everyone's efforts the post raised \$281. Thanks also to Tom Masch for donating the water, milk and cream and returning the freezer. Thanks to Neil for providing the coffee. My apologies if I've left anyone out. Good job!

## Veteran's Day Solicitation

***Veteran's Day weekend our Post will be soliciting funds to help support Post activities.***

***We will be at Adam's Fairacre Farm on Route 9 in Wappingers Falls on both Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>.***

***On Sunday we will also be at the Stewarts Lake Walton store.***

***Hours are 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM***

***Your help would be greatly appreciated.***

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE VETERANS' AID AND ATTENDANCE IMPROVED PENSION**

The Veterans Administration offers Aid and Attendance as part of an "Improved Pension" Benefit that is largely unknown. This Improved Pension allows for Veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing, undressing, medication dosing, or taking care of the needs of nature to receive additional monetary benefits. It also includes individuals who are blind or a patient in a nursing home because of mental or physical incapacity. Assisted care in an Assisted Living facility also qualifies.

This most important benefit is overlooked by many families with Veterans or surviving spouses who need additional monies to help care for ailing parents or loved ones. This is a "Pension Benefit" and IS NOT dependent upon service-related injuries for compensation. Aid and Attendance can help pay for care in the home, Nursing Home or Assisted Living facility. A Veteran is eligible for up to \$1,704 per month, while a surviving spouse is eligible for up to \$1,094 per month. A Veteran with a Spouse is eligible for up to \$2,020 per month and a Veteran with a Sick Spouse is eligible for up to \$1,338 per month\*.

Many families overlook the A&A Pension as it pertains to veterans who are still independent, but have an ill spouse. Keep in mind that in this situation, if the spouse's medical expenses completely depletes their combined monthly income, the Veteran can file as a Veteran with a sick spouse.

The Aid and Attendance Benefit is considered to be the third tier of the VA's Improved Pension. The other two tiers are known as "Basic" and "Housebound". Each tier has its own level of benefits and qualifications. While the objective of this site is to disseminate information on the Aid and Attendance level of the Pension, often referred to as A&A, we encourage you to view the other two levels in the event you or your loved one does not qualify for A&A. [Click Here](#) for more information about the Basic and Housebound tiers. The Improved Pension is not a new benefit, and has in fact been an entitlement for 60 years sitting idle while millions have and still are missing out on.

Please browse this site using the menu on the left to learn more about the Aid & Attendance Pension, FAQ's, Eligibility Requirements, How to Apply, What to Expect, and Resources to help you with filing for this critical benefit. Our forum offers a wealth of information and insights to the process of filing for Aid and Attendance. Be sure to take advantage of this resource.

To be eligible for Basic Pension:

- A veteran alone must have countable income LESS than \$11,830 a year\*
- A veteran with a spouse must have countable income LESS than: \$15,493 a year\*



### **Good Of The Legion:**

**Dennis Rampe's** name was pulled for the Pot Of Gold Drawing. **Dennis** was not in attendance so the funds were added to the Pot which had a "Zero" balance due to last month's winner.

## **GM had a Big Hand in Making the M-16**

When you think of General Motors you think of automobiles, not rifles. But the car maker's Hydra-Matic division played a big part in manufacturing the M-16 – the most widely used infantry weapon in the history of the U.S. military.

In 1948, after analyzing three war's worth of bullet hit data, the Army's Operations Research Office determined the service needed a rifle with low recoil that fired a small number of rounds. In 1957 the Army awarded contracts to Winchester and Armalite to design weapons that could penetrate both sides of a standard Army issue helmet at 500 meters with a magazine of 20 rounds that weighed around six pounds. The rifles also had to have both automatic and semi-automatic firing modes. Armalite's AR-15 won the competition, and the Pentagon rebranded it as the M-16.

In late 1959 Colt obtained manufacturing and marketing rights, and a few years later the company got the Pentagon's Advanced Research Project Agency to test 1,000 weapons as part of Project Agile – a DoD weapons initiative focused on potential fighting in southeast Asia, which was becoming more of a possibility at that point. The Army wasn't particularly impressed with the early version of the rifle, but the ever-controversial Defense Secretary Robert McNamara ignored their input and ordered 85,000 for the Army and 19,000 for the Air Force.

But the early versions of the rifle had significant reliability problems, mostly around the fact that they had a tendency to jam in the tough conditions that went with the battlefields of Vietnam. Word circulated across the rumor mill that many troops disliked the new weapon so much that they bypassed it in favor of the older and heavier M-14.

The bad press reached the Hill, and a congressional committee demanded answers. The lawmakers eventually forced the Army to do something about the situation – both real and perceived. The result was the U.S. Army Weapons Command's issuing of a new set of requirements beyond what the original M-16 design demanded. The new weapon – labeled "M16A1" – required a chrome-plated chamber to prevent rust, better powder, and an additional ten rounds in the magazine, bringing the total to 30.

Enter GM's Hydra-matic division, the organization that got the nod to answer DoD's emergent need.

The organization that would become Hydra-Matic Division was founded in May 1939 as Detroit Transmission Division. It was created to continue the developmental work begun by Cadillac engineering and to manufacture the newly developed Hydra-Matic automatic transmission..

In 1953, following a fire at its plant in Livonia, Michigan, Detroit Transmission Division moved into a leased facility near the Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti that once housed a WWII bomber plant. It was at this facility in Ypsilanti that the M16A1 was manufactured. In 1962, DTD officially changed its name to Hydra-Matic Division. The division would later be combined with GM Engine Division to form GM Powertrain.

In view of what the government called an "urgent need" Hydra-matic management instituted a "crash" program. Part of this effort required GM's team to go to various government storage depots around the country to find the necessary machine tools in order to get the rifles out the door in a hurry without compromising on the military's requirements. Ultimately they obtained more than 1,000 machines that Hydra-matic housed in a 348,000 square foot facility.

GM shipped the 100,000th rifle to the Army in September of 1969, two months ahead of the required schedule. A year later the company had delivered another 140,000 rifles. The company was awarded a second contract and eventually the tally hit 469,217 M16A1s provided to the Pentagon.

The M-16 underwent additional mods in the years that followed, including the development of a shorter barreled version that has been extensively used by special operators in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But arguably, GM's model gave the weapon what it needed to become an icon of military hardware.

## **American Legion: By the numbers**

**Here is a snapshot of the activities performed by Legion posts nationwide, according to the 2011-2012 American Legion Consolidated Post Report: Service**

- 3,917,943: Hours of volunteer community service logged by Legion posts
- \$4,621,777: Money spent on community services by posts
- 140,978: Veterans benefits cases handled by American Legion post service officers
- \$2,258,893: Money posts spent to provide emergency aid at the local level
- \$1,585,868: Money posts raised for VA hospitals in their local communities
- 32,016: Registered VA Volunteer Services members
- 825: Heroes to Hometowns coordinators
- 83,746: Pints of blood donated through posts
- 46,528: Blood donors who gave through posts
- 853: Crime Prevention/Law and Order programs conducted
- 959: Fire Prevention Programs conducted
- 756: Homeland Security/Disaster Relief programs conducted
- 36,891: Annual community events conducted by posts
- \$277,735: Money raised by posts for the National Emergency Fund

### **Troop Support**

- \$376,495: Amount posts provided for the Family Support Network
- \$301,478: Amount posts provided through the Temporary Financial Assistance program
- \$946,400: Amount posts spent on Support Our Troops efforts
- 500,625: Volunteer hours spent on Support Our Troops efforts

Thanks to **Jim Broughton** for sending in this article.

## Great piece of trivia

Starting in 1940, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape...

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush. Someone in MI-5 got the idea of printing escape maps on silk, it's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located ). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony.



## Reminder

### Veteran's Concert

Dear Veterans,

West Road School celebrates Veteran's day in a special way each year. Once again, our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be leading a patriotic "sing-a-long" for you, our very special Veterans.

If you know of any veteran who might like to come to our performance to be honored, please extend this invitation to them. Invitations were sent to local American Legions, VFW posts and various other Veteran organizations, but I want to extend the invitation to ALL veterans. Please invite any veteran you may know to our tribute.

DATE: NOVEMBER 16th

TIME: 9:30 AM-10:30 AM

PLACE: WEST ROAD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL- Gymnasium Pleasant Valley, New York 635-4310

We will also be constructing a red brick paper "wall of honor" with the names of the veterans we know. This will be displayed in the back of the gym.

We look forward to seeing you on the 16<sup>th</sup>!

## Fight Hunger campaign at ShopRite

On Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, Jim Reynolds packed grocery bags for customers at ShopRite in Fishkill. The store was collecting donations to Fight Hunger. The cashiers were asking patrons if they would like to donate to the Fight Hunger cause and we “guest” baggers were helping draw attention to the campaign. Hey, that store is much busier and the cashiers faster than when I packed bags in high school in 1962! Back then there were no scanners and the gals had to hand out the Green Stamps too, so I could keep up with them.

We were invited by ShopRite to participate but the letter came in late and I didn't have time to contact people to help out.. I figured it's the least we could do as ShopRite has let us solicit funds in front of the store for years. Next year I'd like to get 4 or 5 members to attend. You can show up anytime that day and work as long as you'd like. I did about 2 ½ hours and it felt good to get home and sit down!



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

**SUICIDE PREVENTION 1-800-273-TALK**  
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

**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 a veteran. All calls are confidential.**

Subject: **New York City Veterans Day Parade**

To: All Post Commanders

Because this year Veterans Day falls on a Sunday, the United War Veterans Council (UWVC), which organizes the annual NYC Veterans Day parade, is planning a week-long celebration culminating in their largest parade in many years. Veterans of the Vietnam War will be especially honored. The parade will be televised in New York City, and ten major cities around the nation, as well as to our Armed Forces personnel in Germany, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Fang Wong, Past National Commander of The American Legion, will be the Grand Marshal. This is a great chance to showcase The American Legion Family in the Department of New York. We need to show the nation and the world that the world’s largest veteran service organization is alive and well.

I am attempting to get a mass contingent of Legionnaires, along with their Post, County, and District colors, from all five counties in New York City as well as Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester and the entire state. If each county can provide 100 Legionnaires, Auxiliaries, and Sons, we can put over 1,000 members of the Legion Family on the street! This would be the largest American Legion showing in many years.

I know that many posts are planning their own local observances, but the 2012 parade is a special event for The American Legion. Again, since Veterans Day falls on a Sunday, most members who are still working will have Monday off, and local events can be rescheduled to Monday just for this year.

The exact details are still being worked out, but I wanted all posts to begin recruiting their personnel for this parade before they make other plans. The UWVC stated that they might be able provide a limited number of floats and busses to transport along the parade route those Legionnaires who can’t walk too far. I would have to know how many folks will require a ride.

I will provide a more detailed letter of instructions when I complete the coordination with the other counties. I hope we can get your complete support.

David Valentin  
Queens County Commander



**Sick Call**

**Joe Green** had his surgery on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and is home recuperating.

**Evert Munning** has returned home after several weeks in the Putnam Rehab Center. He’s now waiting for a new date for his knee replacement.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Joe, Evert and all veterans and military personnel for a speedy recovery.

