



American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

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American Legion Post 1758,
Junction, NY 12533

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Hopewell

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Our next meeting will be April 9, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Whortlekill Rod and Gun Club.

Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.

Maria Robinson

St Jude's Solicitation

We had a good day collecting money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital on Saturday March 2nd. Thanks to John Pizzuti, Norm Dauerer, Neil Klock, Jim Reynolds, and Ed Kantrowitz for braving the cold. The day would have been more bearable if the sun could have broken through the clouds. As usual Norm's jeep gathered quite a bit of interest and we made some new friends. Also thanks to Tom Masch and John Lyons for helping us breakdown our displays, etc. We were able to collect \$471.00 for St. Jude's.



Women's History Month: Remembering Dr. Mary E. Walker



From the DoD Military Health System blog, posted on March 4:

Medal of Honor recipient, Mary Edwards Walker, a female physician who blazed a trail for women in the 1800s, is remembered this Women's History Month.

Often dressing as a man to avoid discrimination, Walker was the first and only woman to receive the Medal of Honor for wartime contributions in the Civil War. Walker was born in Oswego County, N.Y., in 1832 and graduated from Syracuse Medical College in 1855. She married a fellow student and opened a medical practice in Rome, N.Y. The community did not accept a female physician at the time, so the practice was short-lived. Likewise, the Union Army did not accept women doctors, so Walker volunteered as a nurse, treating soldiers at the Battle of Bull Run in Virginia. In September 1863, Army Maj. General George H. Thomas appointed Walker as an assistant surgeon in the Army of the Cumberland.

In April 1864, Walker was tending to wounded soldiers when she was captured by Confederate troops and charged with espionage. Walker was detained for four months as a prisoner of war. She received her freedom in August 1864 in exchange for a Confederate surgeon. President Andrew Johnson signed the citation for Walker's Medal of Honor in November 1865. Walker was cited for devoting herself, "with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers, both in the field and hospitals, to the detriment of her own health," and for enduring hardships as a prisoner of war.

Walker refused to give up her medal after Congress revised the Medal of Honor standards in 1916 to include only combat with an enemy. Walker defiantly wore her medal until her death in 1919. Her medal was restored in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter and is displayed in the Pentagon's women's corridor.



Good Of The Legion:

John Polasko's name was pulled for the Pot Of Gold Drawing. Unfortunately John was not in attendance so the money is added to the Pot.

A Message From the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

You now know that budget sequestration is in effect, and VA has been exempted from it. Sequestration will bring difficult cuts to the budgets of many other departments and agencies of the federal government. This exemption acknowledges the Nation's obligation to provide care and benefits to our veterans who earned them, their eligible family members, and our survivors. Even in a time of difficult economic choices, this obligation to veterans must endure. You are crucial to achieving that mission.

We, as a department, have always focused on fulfilling these obligations, while also serving as good stewards of taxpayer dollars. We will not compromise the safety, security, or well-being of veterans or our employees, but we must scrutinize every event, initiative, program, and proposal to assure that each is absolutely essential and will produce positive, measurable returns to the accomplishment of our mission.

In his recent State of the Union Address, President Obama discussed the need to rebuild a competitive middle class in this country and the importance of education, health care, and employment opportunities to doing so. The veterans of World War II saved the world from oppression, returned home, used the original GI Bill to gain an education, bought homes, started businesses, became entrepreneurs, business leaders, doctors, scientists, and politicians and thereby earned for our country 60 years of sustained global leadership, prosperity, and security. In that same way, today's veterans are fully capable of helping grow our middle class, and providing a powerful return on the country's investments in them. Veterans have done it before; they will do it again.

As we look to the future, our mission is clear, our values define who we are, and our priorities — expand access for veterans, eliminate the claims backlog, and end veterans' homelessness — will be our guideposts through this difficult time for the Nation. Serving veterans is a privilege and an honor. I am proud of you, and I look forward to continuing our work together.

Eric K. Shinseki

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.

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

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*

Membership

Although our Post has done fairly well with renewing memberships, there are still a few people who have not renewed for 2013.

Remember American Legion membership can save you money. Discount programs for products and services such as travel, health care, personal finance and computers are offered exclusively to members of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion.

Our membership helps support Department Service Officers nationwide who assist veterans in preparing claims and obtaining their full military healthcare benefits through the VA.

*Our nation's leaders speak directly to citizens on the pages of **The American Legion Magazine**.*

The American Legion is the nation's most influential, effective and dependable advocate of veteran affairs fighting for better active-duty pay, improved housing for active-duty families and helping to ensure that the VA's medical system can properly care for veterans.

Remember you can renew online if you wish at:
<http://www.legion.org/renew>

Sick Call

Dan Oberhauser is recovering at home from recent surgery.

Don Burns had knee replacement surgery on March 6th and is currently in a rehabilitation center.

Please keep both of these gentlemen in your thoughts and prayers.