



American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

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American Legion Post 1758,
www.4ever66/legionpost1758

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Our next meeting will be March 11, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the **Old East Fishkill Town Hall**, Rte. 52, next to the Police Station. Please try to attend.

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Membership

There are a couple of long term members who have not paid their 2014 dues and their membership has expired. This will be **their last newsletter**. I hate to lose good members so please renew your membership ASAP. Dues are now \$40.00 per year.

You cannot plough a field by
turning it over in your mind.
Author Unknown

St. Jude's

We will be soliciting donations for St. Jude's Children's Hospital on Saturday, March 15. We're scheduled to be at the Stewart's Shop on Lake Walton Road from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM and the Convenient Mart on Rte. 52 near the Rte 82 intersection. This has been an annual event for us the last 10 years or so. We schedule it to coincide with WRWD's Radiothon and usually collect \$700-\$800 for the hospital. Please come and help out.



Good of the Legion:

Mark Johnson's name was pulled for Pot Of Gold Drawing at our February meeting. Unfortunately Mark was not in attendance so the money gets added to "the pot".

Veteran's School Tax Exemption

By now most of you should know about New York State's recently amended Real Property Tax Law that allows eligible veterans the opportunity to receive a partial exemption from their school taxes. On Monday, February 10th the Wappinger Falls Central School District passed that resolution. It will take some time for the school district to notify the various townships involved and agree to the procedures on verifying eligibility and processing the exemptions. Some other school boards have also passed the resolution, still others have not addressed the issue yet.

Here is the basic information about the law. If you qualify your assessment will be lowered, therefore lowering your taxes.

The basic exemption for qualifying residential property allows for an exemption of up to 15% of the primary residences assessed value of the property not to exceed the lesser of \$12,000 or the product of \$12,000 and the latest equalization rate if the property is owned by a veteran, spouse of a veteran or the un-married surviving spouse of a veteran.

Additionally, if service was in a combat zone, the veteran may receive an additional 10% exemption based on the assessed value not to exceed the lesser \$8,000 or the product of \$8,000 and the latest equalization rate. In conjunction with a service related injury, the exemption could be increased to 50% of the assessed value of the primary residence not to exceed the lesser of \$40,000 or the product of \$40,000 and the latest equalization rate.

These levels of exemption are the default amounts under the law based on calculations and require one public meeting by the Board of Education and the passage of the default resolution by March 1, 2014 for inclusion in the 2014-2015 year. If the Board of Education wished to implement higher exemptions than additional action would be needed separate from the default resolution.

Wake Break

We have obtained 3 dates for Wake Breaks at the Eastbound Stormville rest area on I-84. The dates are all Saturdays and need to be manned from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. These should be good fundraisers for the Post. We can offer coffee, hot tea, hot chocolate, and doughnuts/baked goods. Each item must be individually wrapped (sandwich bags, etc). The goods are available for donations, no fees or charges are permitted.

We cannot offer candy, soda, water, chips or anything that the vending machines offer.

If we break the days in to two shifts: 8:00-12:00N and 12:00N to 4:00 PM none of us should be overworked. The dates are:

- April 26
- May 10
- June 28

If you, your significant other, or children like to bake we would appreciate donations.

If anyone has a large percolator coffee pot we could borrow it would be appreciated. More information will follow.

Rufus

While Sgt. Chris Duke, a National Guardsman, was serving in Afghanistan, he and his fellow troops made good friends with a few of the stray dogs, who the soldiers named Sasha, Target, and Rufus. So when the dogs had a chance to defend the soldiers, they didn't back down.

One February night, an insurgent covered in explosives tried to enter the soldiers' quarters to kill the 50 men inside. But he didn't count on the dogs: the three strays began barking and biting the suicide bomber, trying to keep him from harming the people inside. When his explosives detonated, he was killed, but all of the American troops remained safe.

Sadly, one of the dogs, Sasha, was severely injured by the bomb, and had to be euthanized. But both Rufus and Target survived the assault, and were celebrated as heroes by the soldiers they had saved.

When Duke finished his tour of duty and returned home the following month, he wanted to bring his loyal friend Rufus along—but military regulations wouldn't allow it. So, after returning to Atlanta, Duke wrote to a veterans' assistance group, Hope for the Warriors, asking for their help to bring the two dogs overseas.

"This was going to mean a lot to him," the group's president, Robin Kelleher, told CBS. "So whatever we needed to do to get this wish done we were going to do that." Another grassroots group, launched on Facebook, raised over \$21,000 to pay for the dogs to be flown to the United States.

Now, Target has been transported to Arizona to live with another soldier, and Rufus has just arrived in Atlanta, where he'll live out the rest of his days with Duke and his family. Duke is thrilled to make the commitment to care for Rufus for the rest of his life—in his eyes, it's the least he could do for his furry friend.

"I firmly believe I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for him," he said.

Welcome

At our February meeting the we voted to accept new members Jeff Boes, a US Navy Veteran, and Bob Logan who served with the US Army.

Castle Point Food Pantry

We now have two food collection for Castle Point boxes set up. One is located at Adams Fairacres Farm on Route 9 in Wappinger Falls and the other is at the East Fishkill Town Hall. The Town will be putting a link to our web site and the food collection on their web site. Please spread the word to neighbors and friends and drop something off if you are at either location.

