



American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

Est. 1949

May 2014

American Legion Post 1758,
www.4ever66/legionpost1758

PO Box 92,

Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
email: ALPost1758@aol.com

Our next meeting will be Jun 10, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the **Old East Fishkill Town Hall**, Rte. 52, next to the Police Station. At this meeting we will be swearing in our new officers for 2014/15. Please try to attend.

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Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are – John Wooden.

Lots of Activity coming up

Saturday 5/17 - We will be placing flags at the local cemeteries. Breakfast at the Plaza Diner at 9:00 AM. Flag placement at St. Denis starts at 10:00 AM

Saturday 5/24 - Poppy distributions at Stewarts on Lake Walton Road and the Convenient Mart on Rte. 52 near the Rte. 82 intersection. 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Monday 5/26 - Our annual **Memorial Day Parade** and Ceremony. Please be at the East Fishkill Community Center at 10:15 AM. Step off for the parade is 10:45.

Saturday 6/7 - We will be retrieving the flags from the cemeteries starting at 10:00 AM

Saturday 6/14 - Flag Day ceremony and retirement. 7:00 PM behind the East Fishkill Library.

Assemblyman Kieran M. Lalor will host a **70th Anniversary of D-Day ceremony** on June 6th at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at Freedom Park in the Town of LaGrange.

All are welcome. I may be reached on my cell at (845) 235-2966 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Sarah Helene Murray

Regional Coordinator Mid-Hudson Regional Office New York State Assembly Minority

Good of the Legion:



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

Wake Break

We have our first two Wake Breaks under our belt. On a cold misty Saturday, the 26th of April we raised a little over \$500 and on a nice mostly sunny May 10th we raised just over \$400. Maybe the people on the 26th felt sorry for us with the weather!

Thanks to Hopewell Hot Bagels we had a couple of dozen bagels to offer weary travelers. Other homemade treats were provided by Mark Baaden, Joe Ryan, Jim Reynolds' wife Cathy and his daughters Terri and Christi.

Neil Klock provided coffee in addition to the coffee, tea and hot chocolate the post bought.

We had a really good turn out on the 26th with Mark Baaden, Jim Reynolds, Neil Klock, Dan Oberhauser, Joe Ryan, Kevin Hathorn, Jeff Boes, Jay Livermore, Tom Masch, Marty Nolan and Don Burns.

This photo was snapped on the 26th before Tom, Kevin and Don arrived.



On the 10th we had a smaller crowd consisting of Mark Baaden, Jim Reynolds, Neil Klock, Kevin Hathorn,

One of the true story's of Guadalcanal

One hill: one Marine.

On Nov. 15, 2003, an 85-year-old retired Marine Corps Colonel died of congestive heart failure at his home in La Quinta, Calif., southeast of Palm Springs.

He was a combat veteran of World War II. Reason enough to honor him. But this Marine was a little different. This Marine was Mitchell Paige.

It's hard today to envision -- or, for the dwindling few, to remember -- what the world looked like on 26 Oct 1942.

The U.S. Navy was not the most powerful fighting force in the Pacific. Not by a long shot. So the Navy basically dumped a few thousand Marines on the beach at Guadalcanal.

As Platoon Sgt. Mitchell Paige and his 33 riflemen set about carefully emplacing their four water-cooled .30-caliber Browning machine guns, manning their section of the thin khaki line which was expected to defend Henderson Field against the assault of the night of 25 Oct 1942, it's unlikely anyone thought they were about to provide the definitive answer to that most desperate of questions: How many able-bodied U.S. Marines does it take to hold a hill against 2,000 desperate and motivated Japanese attackers?

Nor did the commanders of the Japanese Army, who had swept everything before them for decades, expect their advance to be halted on some jungle ridge manned by one thin line of Marines in October of 1942.

But by the time the night was over, The Japanese 29th Infantry Regiment has lost 553 killed or missing and 479 wounded among its 2,554 men, historian David Lippman reports. The Japanese 16th Regiment's losses are uncounted, but the [US] 164th's burial parties handled 975 Japanese bodies. ... The American estimate of 2,200 Japanese dead is probably too low.

Among the 90 American dead and seriously wounded that night were all the men in Mitchell Paige's platoon; every one. As the night of endless attacks wore on, Paige moved up and down his line, pulling his dead and wounded comrades back into their foxholes and firing a few bursts from each of the four Brownings in turn, convincing the Japanese forces down the hill that the positions were still manned.

The citation for Paige's Medal of Honor Citation defines the event: "When the enemy broke through the line directly in front of his position, P/Sgt. Paige, commanding a machinegun section with fearless determination, continued to direct the fire of his gunners until all his men were either killed or wounded. Alone, against the deadly hail of Japanese shells, he fought with his gun and when it was destroyed, took over another, moving from gun to gun, never ceasing his withering fire."

In the end, Sgt. Paige picked up the last of the 40-pound, belt-fed Browning (the same design which John M. Browning fired for a continuous 25 minutes until it ran out of ammunition, glowing cherry red, at its first U.S. Army demonstration) and did something for which the weapon was never designed. Sgt. Paige walked down the hill toward the place where he could hear the last Japanese survivors rallying to move around his flank, the belt-fed gun cradled under his arm, firing as he went.

The weapon did not fail.

At dawn, battalion executive officer Major Odell M. Conoley was first to discover the answer to our question: How many able-bodied Marines does it take to hold a hill against two regiments of motivated, combat-hardened Japanese infantrymen who have never known defeat?

On a hill where the bodies were piled like cordwood, Mitchell Paige alone sat upright behind his 30-caliber Browning, waiting to see what the dawn would bring.
One hill: one Marine.

But "In the early morning light, the enemy could be seen a few yards off, and vapor from the barrels of their machine guns was clearly visible," reports historian Lippman. "It was decided to try to rush the position."

For the task, Major Conoley gathered together "three enlisted communication personnel, several riflemen, a few company runners who were at the point, together with a cook and a few messmen who had brought food to the position the evening before."

Joined by Paige, this ad hoc force of 17 Marines counterattacked at 5:40 a.m., discovering that this extremely short range allowed the optimum use of grenades. They cleared the ridge. And that's where the previously unstoppable wave of Japanese conquests finally broke and began to recede. On an unnamed jungle ridge on an insignificant island no one had ever heard of, called Guadalcanal .

But who remembers, today the ridge held by a single Marine, in the autumn of 1942?

Some time after, when the Hasbro Toy Company telephoned asking permission to put the retired Colonel's face on some kid's doll,
Mitchell Paige thought they must be joking. But they weren't.

That's his face on the original little soldier Hasbro called "G.I. Joe."



We have 3 Eagle Scout Courts Of Honor in June. If you would like to attend one and represent The American Legion contact Dan Briscoe at 226-6937

Memorial Day Eve Illumination of the Walkway Ceremony

Sunday, May 25, 2014 - 7:45pm

at the Flag Pole in the center of the Walkway Over the Hudson

Join Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro, the Dutchess County Division of Veterans' Services, and Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park for a very special event to honor those who gave their lives for our country.

Ceremony Overview

- Flag Ceremony with the Pleasant Valley American Legion, Highland Veterans of Foreign Wars, and New York State Park Police
- Retired Flag Presentation to the family of Sgt. Mark Palmateer, first Dutchess County soldier Killed in Action in Afghanistan
- Buglers Across America will span the Walkway to play Taps

Sunset Illumination Vigil to Span the Walkway

Please bring something to "Illuminate" the Walkway, i.e. flashlight, glow stick. Please No Open Flames!

For more information:

Dutchess County Division of Veterans' Services

(845) 486-2060

www.dutchessny.gov

