



*American Legion* *Est. 1949*  
***Post 1758***  
***Newsletter***  
[www.4ever66/legionpost1758](http://www.4ever66/legionpost1758) *November 2016*

American Legion Post 1758  
Facebook.com/Post 1758

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***Food for thought:***  
  
*“We don’t develop  
courage by being happy  
every day. We develop it by  
surviving difficult times and  
challenging adversity.”*  
  
*Barbara de Angelis*

*Our next meeting:  
10 January 2017 @  
7PM, in the Old  
Town Hall. **County  
meeting is in Pleasant  
Valley, Post 739, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday monthly  
See you for dinner @  
6:30PM. Hosted by  
1303.***



### **Our Meeting**

November’s meeting had 17 of us there ! The Pot of Gold got larger, and the winner was our Commander. But, instead of taking half the “Pot”, he left it there. That’s great! Good to have you at your second meeting, John Call and Carl Eyler! Brian McElroy of the Venture Crew joined us, as did Althea Richards of the Hudson Valley Council Band. Vinny remarked on his 46 years service to the American Legion, and we will be recognizing that at the Christmas Party. Congratulations, Vinny !



## Pot of Gold



As mentioned above, Don Burns won the Pot Of Gold, and returned it to the treasury. The Pot now stands at \$0, as prior amount is deposited in the bank, as is the tradition.

## Facebook Pages



Go to facebook.com (or just fb.com) and type in Post 1758. Presto, you're there. It's much easier if you have a Facebook id & password, but not required...

Leave a LIKE, a SHARE, and a COMMENT! Anyone can post photos to share! We can use a fresh set of eyes on our media accounts. I started the Facebook account myself, and I'm sure a boatload of improvements are able to be made by a guru out there. Let me know, please!

## Newspaper Articles



This month, Kevin will send a number of articles to the three news publications. I've received many photos from our various exposures, so we have a lot to say, publicly. As County Commander, Kevin went to Hyde Park to help dedicate a wreath donated by Hannah Black, Will Truitt and Carl Walter...all from the north Dutchess area. It was placed at the the Memorial on Veterans Memorial Hwy.

(formerly St Andrew's Road), at 9G. I've included a photo or two of that, and will send these to the news outlets as well. Just an FYI to keep you informed. More on these later.



## **Our Post Programs**



### **Oratorical Competition**

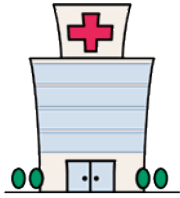
The time is now! **WE CAN USE EXTRA HELP ON THE ORATORICAL COMPETITION. LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP THE POST.** We're due to hit the high schools in search for Oratorical candidates.

This competition is open to anyone from 14 to 20, enrolled in organized education. I say that because home schooled kids make great candidates. The National Oratorical committee, each year, searches the U.S. Constitution Bill of Rights and Civil Rights for specific clauses from 4 different Amendments. Contestants speak, initially, for 8 to 10 minutes, on the clause of their choice. They speak at the post level, where the speaker with the highest score is modestly rewarded. All contestants from the post level then proceed to the county, district and zone levels within a state. The highest scored contestants then proceed to their state capital, where one contestant is rewarded, as well as sent to Indianapolis to the National competition. There are a number of prizes, in the form of college scholarships, range from \$10,000 to \$18,000.



### **Boys State & Empire Girls State**

**WE CAN ALSO USE HELP ON BOYS STATE. FREE TRAINING, GOOD TIMES!!**



## **Illness in the Post**

Sharon Ryan is recovering, Catherine Munning is in hospice care. Dan Briscoe had a cataract procedure. Heal fast!! Ed Khuns is suffering from a long term illness. Prayers for all.

## **Advertising our Post**

We will be discussing mid-winter convention advertising at our next post meeting, next year. We can advertise what we're doing! And what we've done!

### ***Veterans Day Activity***

We planned on four coin drops in the area:  
Acme Supermarket, Rte 82, Hopewell Village, Stewart's @ Rte 82,  
Convenient Deli Mart, Flory's North, Rte 82 at Taconic.

We did extremely well at the four locations, and the extra income is needed to keep the post running.

Kevin served the cause at various Veterans Day salutes and ceremonies, so he wasn't be able to help. He went to Castle Point to visit patients in the Veterans Village ward. Jacquemae Perrotta arranged canteen books for the veterans of \$2 each, as well as a small flag in a weighted base. There were many conversations, and a lot of joy. Most are from WW2 and Korea, and were happy to share.

That evening, Kevin went to Woodside Manor on Academy Street to a Veterans Day ceremony for about 25 residents there, most of whom were veterans. We sang and saluted and sang some more. Then there was cake and coffee. Everyone was happy and grateful for the remembrance. Another FYI, just to keep you current.

## Field of Flags, Hopewell Junction style



*Post 1758's "Field of Flags", in front of McHoul's Funeral Home in Hopewell Jct., NY. Listing a veteran's name and Branch of Service on the flag plaque was \$5.00. Many folks stopped by to look and take photos. The 70 flags we placed for Veterans Day, and are to be removed before Thanksgiving.*



## *John Jay High School*

On 10 November, Veterans Day, a group of us met at John Jay at 6:45AM. A number of students, around 6AM, put out hundreds of small flags. All over the sidewalks, the driveway, and along Rte 52 in front of the school. We had an Honor Guard, no rifles, and marched to the flagpole. We faced and were surrounded by many, many students. A student played taps, another two sang "God Bless America" and the "National Anthem"; Kevin gave a short speech. There was a lot of applause. Following the ceremony (staged by Mr. Ambron and his classes), there was a continental breakfast in the teachers' lounge. Everyone was very impressed. As of now, next time is expected to be Memorial Day to do it again. Good advert ! Three classes of Mr. Ambron met us in the teachers' lounge, asking questions, thanking us and shaking hands.



*On the left is Post 1758's Color Guard; Jim Reynolds, John Call, Jim Broughton, Dan Oberhauser, Kevin Hathorn and Don Burns.*



*On the right, the large crowd takes part in the Pledge of Allegiance to start the ceremony in front of John Jay High School, Hopewell Jct., NY on 10 November 2016.*



## Veterans in the Classroom

At John Jay, every Tuesday, Kevin lectures at two study halls about the American Legion. You wouldn't believe how many people—children AND adults---ask him, "What IS the American Legion?" Kevin usually spend 15 to 20 minutes talking to the kids (all high school ages) about the Legion: when it began, by whom, where, and why. We discuss WW1 thru Vietnam, and how the vets have returned from wars and how they still do. We discuss the four pillars, and from class to class, we talk about different parts of each. More than that, we talk about why these programs are necessary.

Kevin always finishes a talk to applause. He has the attention of most of the kids, and finishes up by telling them to talk to the vets in their family. That it's good to talk, and it's good to listen, to learn.

Funny thing, after doing it last year, Bonnie King, the principal, asked him to come in to plan another year.

Kevin has resumed a dialog with Darlene Seckler, Principal's secretary at Roy C. Ketcham High School, to lecture study halls on Thursdays. Stay tuned.

***Anyone can do this. We can use some help.*** You'd like it, and you can tell the kids your experiences. You have them under your spell. And it warms your heart.



**Land for Sale, looking for a Post home**

We own 3 lots on Prout Lane, off Route 52 in eastern East Fishkill. We seem to have all our documentation in order, even if it's old. Land

values are not good. We all voted to shelve the idea, in hopes of an increase in the value of the 3 lots. One of the lots is pretty much DEC protected, so it was a good move. We will continue to investigate the improvement process.



**Membership (REPRINT)**

We secured a listing of Post 0001 members living in the East Fishkill area, as Department said it was a good way to boost membership. Then, it was decided that the "transmittal" form had to have a member's signature to show he was willing to transfer to a local post. A separate letter, signed by the transferring member, was deemed good enough to pass the willingness test. But, Department decided, not right now. At least not in batches. So, from 28 or so letters sent out to prospective transferees, 11 or 12 came back showing interest. The names, signatures and transmittal forms were sent to Albany, and were rejected for being in batch form. Maybe we'll submit these another way. Currently, the post is above 65% of the members having renewed for 2017. Brian McElroy of the Venture crew is eligible to join the post...WELCOME ABOARD !

**Everyone:**

**Renew your membership as DUES ARE DUE NOW !**

**Renew as soon as you can. Please!**



Boy Scouts and Venture Crew

Norm and Dan discussed new equipment for the .22s from the NRA, as well as financing for this equipment. This will bring the rifles up to spec. Modifications will be made by a gunsmith. A young fellow by the name of Campbell joined the Crew. Girl Scouts tried shooting.



Dan Briscoe and Brian McElroy (potential member) worked with Venture Crew to sell popcorn to raise money after the post meeting. It seemed as though they did well.

Both groups are included in study hall discussions with students at John Jay.



### **Post 1758 Holiday Party**

This year's Post Holiday Party will be at the Blue Fountain again. We all had a good time last year, and that's the main point. It's going to be 11 December 2016, from 4PM to 8PM. For the members, it's \$35, and for the member's guest, it's \$15 more, for a total of \$50. Make the check out to "Manny Bacon Post 1758", and mail it to our PO Box 92, Hopewell Jct., NY 12533. Gratuity is included in your payment. It will be a buffet. There will be Baked Ziti, Beef Bourguignon, Chicken Marsala, stuffed filet of sole and salad. There will be a cash bar, but included are soda, coffee, water and cake for dessert.

**WE NEED YOUR MONEY AND NAME(S) ASAP** so the Proprietor can judge how much to cook for us.

**WE NEED MORE PARTICIPATION! COME ON...JOIN US !!**

### **Miscellany**



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...what next?

There's a lot more to put in here. From the County Commander:  
The Department Commander's Dinner, at the Dutchess Manor on Route 9D in Beacon on 12 November was a success!!! I've been to all of the area dinners and ours, jointly by Orange and Dutchess was the finest and largest! As County Commander, one responsibility is to staff our Committees...if you're interested, let me know...

Also, The Department (STATE) Commander visits each and every county in the state every year. And his position is only for one year. His name is John Sampson. Nice guy. Very funny. From a small town, 60 miles south of Buffalo, near Ohio.

05 November 2016 was Veterans Appreciation Day up in Hyde Park. On the grounds of the FDR estate is the Wallace Center. There were hundreds there! We donated \$100 to the National Emergency Fund, a Legion Pillar program. The idea was floated in September.

We dissected the Budget, and will continue to study it and streamline it. Poppy expenses are a separate line item.

We discussed Corporate donations, and will begin looking around.

More FYI:

As County Commander, I attend each of the Dinners in the Mid-Hudson region. Pretty good food. But, it kills my evenings. John Sampson's Pet Project is the NEF, the National Emergency Fund. We already donated to it.

Some photos for your viewing pleasure...



Hyde Park American Legion on Veterans Day...Mike Athanas and Ralph Osterhoudt



Two wreaths at the Hyde Park Veterans Memorial. The one on the right is from the County to the Veterans of the County and town of Hyde Park.



At the Dutchess Manor Department Commander Visitation: from left, Frank Gilner OCAL Commander, Tommy Farrell Post 203 SAL Commander, Kevin Hathorn, John Sampson, Department Commander.



*Our American Flag is on display on a beach in Somalia...*

A message from Post 1758 member Mark Baaden now deployed to Somalia.....Jim Reynolds

All,

I'm enjoying the great weather here in Mogadishu today. Too bad it's a work day for us and a holy day for the locals except "Kissy" for Kismayo because that's where we got her. She has feasted on roasted lamb courtesy of our team all day. In turn, after her food coma nap, we need her to bark loudly tonight as a warning while we relax with some duty free purchases courtesy of our Brit friends. It is Remembrance Day for them and we were invited to share in a beautiful ceremony at 1100 today with them since it is more like a somber Memorial Day in their tradition. Bagpipes, prayers, bugles and they sang "God save

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the Queen" while we respectfully stood at attention. We were the only foreign forces assigned here invited to their ceremony. It was a real honor and great show of friendship and respect. However, it's also Friday and that means the locals that heard westerners playing bugles and bagpipes to honor their fallen on their holy day of the week are likely pissed so it could get interesting which is why we "showed the colors" as the photos depict in order to remind them that they can try to bring it but it will cost them. It's a great way to spend Vet's day frankly for me. It's what it's all about. Be not afraid of those that hate freedom. That's an Army/Navy team in the photo holding our colors. I tease Dave all of the time because they actually fit that giant man in a submarine for months at a time when he started his Navy career for months at a time. I think I had easier jumping from planes.

Jim was invited by Dutchess County RSVP to attend the 2016 Veteran's Day program at Castle Point this afternoon. The guest speaker was former Korean War POW Raymond B Mellin. This guy is as humble and low key as they get. Not the usual "professional" speaker that we get at many events. He worked without notes and apologized several times for his "lack of finesse" as speaking in front of a group was a new experience for him.

He was sent to Japan in mid-June 1950 as a lab technician. Ten days later the Korean War broke out and he was immediately transferred to Korea and made a medic with no training. On July 5th, just a couple of days later he was captured and spent 38 months as a prisoner of war. He spoke about the POW's treatment, lack of food and forced marches where some were shot for stepping out of formation to relieve themselves. At one time there were several hundred prisoners being marched together and they were broken into groups of 50 with an American officer in charge of each group. The officers would be punished if men fell out of the marching formation. One was shot in the head because he had more men collapse than the others. When they finally got to a POW camp after a 120 mile march there was not room for all of them inside the buildings so they took turns sleeping outside. It was not unusual to have 15-20 freeze to death overnight. Ray got emotional several times as he spoke about the men who were lost either shot, frozen or died of malnutrition. Many in the audience had tears as he told the story.

I had a chance to speak to him for a couple of minutes and encouraged him to put his experience down on paper for historical purposes. He said he had started to do that. Hopefully someday you'll all be able to read his story. This is a link with basic information about his ordeal.

#### More from Jim: "Field of Flags"

I would like to thank the following members for their help this Veterans Day.

The following guys showed up at 7:15 AM to place the 70 plaques and flags along Rte. 82 in front of McHouls:

- Len Hart
- Joe Ryan
- Don Burns
- John Polasko
- Carl Eyler
- Jim

Then we moved on to collection points (Stewarts, Convenient Mart, Flory's North and then ACME on Saturday) to raise money for the post.

Thanks to:

- Len Hart
- Joe Ryan

- Don Burns
- John Polasko
- Jim
- Dan Briscoe
- Lance Ashworth
- John Pizutti
- Jim Broughton
- Dan Oberhauser
- John Call
- Bruce Coneeny
- Norm Dauerer
- Carl Eyler
- Bill Harmonay

It was a great day for the post with a good group of members getting to know each other, sharing stories and soliciting funds for the post.

Thanks again for the help. I apologize if I've left anyone out.

Jim Reynolds  
Finance Officer

About our mass phone service: This was sent out 27 September.

*In the next couple of weeks our Post will start using a broadcast voice mail system. This will allow us to send a recorded voice message to members without dialing each person individually. The caller id for these messages will display our Post Telephone number - 845-309-2149. We anticipate that this service will be used only once or twice a month. Examples would be: meeting reminders, special events like funeral coverage, or Cemetery Flag placement and retrieval.*

*If you are an inactive member who does not want to receive these calls please let Jim Reynolds know at email [jim7273@aol.com](mailto:jim7273@aol.com) or 845-221-7273 and he will remove your number from the call list.*

*We realize that we all get too many marketing, survey and election calls and we certainly do not want to add to your discomfort. But it's imperative that we streamline our communications to insure that timely messages get to our members.*

**REMEMBER THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.**