



Est. 1949

American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

February 2019

American Legion Post 1758,
<https://al-ny1758.org/>

PO Box 92,

Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
email: Commander@al-ny1758.org

HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Our next meeting will be Tuesday **March 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM** at the **Old East Fishkill Town Hall**, Rte. 52, next to the Police Station. Please try to attend.

Nest week we will be hosting the Dutchess County American Legion meeting on February 20th. The meeting will be at the East Fishkill Community Center with dinner starting at 6:30. Come, have a meal and show your support.

"I can't give you a sure-fire formula for success, but I can give you a formula for failure: try to please everybody all the time."
– Herbert Bayard Swope

Don't forget to check out our Post web site at <https://al-ny1758.org/>. There is a wealth of information there.

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.

Membership: Our Post has over 90% of the membership renewed for 2019. Remember you have an option of renewing your membership online. You can do so by clicking here: [Online Renewal](#)

You can also become a PUFL by clicking on this link: [PUFL application](#)

Rates are based on your age and they are currently running a \$100 Off promotion. Payment may be spread over 12 months if you wish.

Please submit your renewal ASAP! Thank you

Saturday, January 12th our Post, along with the East Fishkill Veterans Committee hosted Craig Marshall, Town of Clinton Historian. Craig presented; **“Vietnam: A Seabee’s Different Experience.”** His personal account of his experiences as a USN Seabee stationed in Da Nang, Vietnam. As battalion Vietnamese interpreter he worked in the villages and city as part of the Civic Action Program to help local families. He spoke about photos showing his varied projects, including teaching English in grammar schools, collecting and distributing donated clothing from the States, and a scholarship program to allow children of poor families to attend school. Craig’s experience was very different and positive compared to most others serving in the war and he shared his thoughts and views on what he saw and learned.

Commander Reynolds was very pleased at the turnout of Post members as well as the public. Over 60 people attended and Craig's presentation was well received by all. Below is a picture of Craig and other Seabee's that attended the event.



Five Seabees



Welcome

George Sohn transferred from NY Post 001 to our Post in January. George is a resident of Hopewell Junction and a Marine Corps Veteran. Welcome George.



On February 3rd several Post members joined with about 150 other folks to support the DC 10-13 Foundation. They along with Mill Creek Caterers pulled off a super Super Bowl Party. Don Burns, Tom Masch, Bill Meyer, Jim Reynolds, and of course DC 10-13 President Bruce Coneeny all enjoyed the festivities.

The DC 10-13's mission is to help any member of law enforcement, or their families, who have suffered financial hardship due to illness, injury - whether suffered on the job or otherwise - or other unfortunate circumstance.



Good of the Legion:

Len Hart's name was drawn to our January 8th meeting. Unfortunately Len wasn't in attendance so \$24.00 was added to the Pot Of Gold.

Honor

The evening of January 16th Commander Reynolds was contacted by McHoul's Funeral Home in Hopewell Junction for the availability of an Honor Guard at noon the next day. 93 year old, WWII Coast Guard Veteran Bill Fianza had passed away. McHoul's had not gotten a response from the Coast Guard but wanted to make sure that Bill was honored properly. Jim was able to reach out and have members John Call, Norm Dauerer, and Dan Oberhauser assist him. As it were the Coast Guard did show to play taps and fold the flag. Post members stayed for the service to honor Bill.

MOH



Dr. Mary Edwards Walker is the [first and only](#) female recipient of the Medal of Honor in US history. She was an abolitionist and medical doctor who tried to join the Union Army as a surgeon but was unable to because she was a woman.

She declined to work as a nurse and instead accepted an unpaid volunteer position at military hospitals on the front line.

In 1863 she was finally allowed to work as a "Contract Acting Assistant Surgeon," and wore a modified uniform of her own design that looked like a man's.

During her service she "devoted herself with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded, both in the field and hospitals." She was captured by the Confederates but released in a prisoner exchange.

Major Generals William T. Sherman and George H. Thomas both commended her for her service and President Andrew Johnson awarded her the Medal of Honor in 1865.

Her award was temporarily rescinded in 1917 after it was determined that it was "unwarranted" because of her status as a civilian. She refused to give her medal back and wore it every day until her death in 1919.

President Jimmy Carter reinstated Walker's medal in 1977.

On March 2nd our Post will again be participating in the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Day Parade in Wappinger Falls. Lineup is at noon with the parade stepping off at 1:00PM. We will be in the First Division and line up for us is on **North Street**. We'll have a couple of vehicles available for those that cannot march. We might follow that up with a beer at Handshakes for those interested.



The **American Legion Commander's Dinner** will be held March 29th at Antuns in Queens Village, NY. Cost is \$65.00 per person. Address is 96-43 Springfield Blvd. Dress code suit and tie. Payment is expected at the County meeting which our Post will host on February 20th.

**The New York Department Convention
will be held July 17-20, 2019 at the Hyatt in Buffalo.**

Oratorical Contest

The Zone Oratorical Competition was held last weekend in Haverstraw. Our competitors came in 4th and 5th place. Congratulations to Katelyn and Bryce Albert. They had a good run, successfully winning our Post, Dutchess County and the 9th District competitions.

Castle Point

We have ordered 343 pieces of underwear at the cost of \$600.00 for the Castle Point Clothing store. We should have them within two weeks and will deliver them ASAP.



FRUIT OF THE LOOM.

Boys/Girls State

We currently have two boys from John Jay High and three girls from Roy C Ketcham interested in attending Boys and Girls State. Committee members Don Burns and Lance Ashworth are vetting the candidates in order to select one for each class.



Dutchess County Historical Society

DCHS Oral Histories Project

This year of 2018 has been declared "Year of the Veteran" by Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, Director of D.C. Veterans Services Marc Coviello, and Executive Director of the D.C. Historical Society Bill Jeffway. Many events and projects are planned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI and the contributions of all veterans. One principal project, "Oral Histories", will document the military experiences of veterans of all wars in an on-line DCHS repository that is recorded by town, village, and city. These oral histories will be accessible to the general public to provide insight and understanding of these experiences for current and future generations. These histories could also be included as family history for those who volunteer to be interviewed. Details of the interview process, including training, scripts, and equipment are being finalized so that oral history interviews can begin soon.

We are asking those veterans who might like to be interviewed, or would like more information about the project, to fill out the form below and send it to the listed address. Someone will contact you in the near future as part of the planning process. **Filling out the form does not commit you to be interviewed.** We are attempting to identify the extent of possible participation so that we can plan an efficient and effective program.

Families and friends of veterans are encouraged to give this form to them for their awareness and their consideration to participate.

Thank you,

Bill Jeffway, Executive Director DCHS (845) 471-1630

I am interested in learning more about the Oral History Project for Year of the Veteran.
Please contact me.

Name: _____

Street Address/P.O. Box: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Mail to:
DCHS
P. O. Box 88
Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12602