



Est. 1949

American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

April 2019

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

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Our next meeting will be **Tuesday May 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM** at the **East Fishkill Old Town Hall, Rte. 52**, next to the Police Station. Please try to attend.

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

"Most of us must learn to love people and use things rather than loving things and using people."

– Roy T. Bennett, [The Light in the Heart](#)

Dues Increase

The department of New York has raised their portion of the due's for 2020 by \$2.00.

To cover that increase the our executive board agreed to raise our dues from \$40.00 to \$42.00 for the coming year. The post absorbed the last increase and kept out dues steady at \$40.00 so it's been several years since we have had to increase our dues.

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 **96%** 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](#)

Please submit your renewal ASAP! Thank you

Memorial Day Activities

As usual May is probably our busiest month.

Our Post will be placing flags on local cemeteries on **Saturday May 18th**. We will meet for breakfast at the Falls Diner at 8:30AM then move on to St Denis at 10:00 to start placing flags. Don't forget your screwdriver or other tool to make a pilot hole for the flag.



On Friday **May 24th** we will be at **John Jay High School** at 7:00AM for their Memorial Day Service. On this somber day we do have a good time when we get to interact with the students after the ceremony.



The next day, **Saturday, May 25th**, we will be distributing poppy's and collecting donations at Stewarts on Lake Walton Road, Flory's North on Route 82, and The Convenient Mart at the intersection of Routes 52 and 82. Hours are 8:00AM until 3:00PM



On **Monday, May 27th** we will be hosting the East Fishkill Memorial Day Parade and ceremony. Please be at the Community Center on Route 82 by 10:30. Our Color Guard may be a little rusty and we'll run through a couple of drills.



We anticipate attending another West Point Football game this Fall. Currently we are looking at the **November 9th** game against the University of Massachusetts which is a military appreciation game that has reduced ticket prices. We need a headcount at the May meeting in order to get the best rate and best seats. Last year we were in the nose bleed section but want something lower this year.

Lance is doing more research that may include a tailgating option where we pay one price and attend a party at a specific location within the academy.

More details forthcoming.

Boys'/Girls' State

Paper work and checks have been submitted for our two candidates. Representing our Post at Girls State will be Kaitlin Albert from Roy C. Ketcham. And Patrick Cullen from John Jay will represent us at Boys State.



Good of the Legion:

Dan Tanaka's name was drawn at our April 9th meeting. Unfortunately Dan wasn't in attendance so \$34.00 was added to the Pot Of Gold.

Welcome

To **Tom Budington** who transferred to our Post at the April meeting. Tom had a good night joining us. He also won 2 tickets to a comedy show at Mahoney's Irish Pub donated by Don Burns.

MOH



**Travis W. Atkins
Staff Sergeant
Operation IRAQI FREEDOM**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty: Staff Sergeant Travis W. Atkins distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty on 1 June 2007, while serving in the position of Squad Leader with Company D, 2d Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. While manning a static observation post in the town of Abu Samak, Iraq, Staff Sergeant Atkins was notified that four suspicious individuals, walking in two pairs, were crossing an intersection not far from his position. Staff Sergeant Atkins immediately moved his squad to interdict the individuals. One of the individuals began behaving erratically, prompting Staff Sergeant Atkins to disembark from his patrol vehicle and approach to conduct a search. Both individuals responded belligerently toward Staff Sergeant Atkins, who then engaged the individual he had intended to search in hand-to-hand combat. Staff Sergeant Atkins tried to wrestle the insurgent's arms behind his back. When he noticed the insurgent was reaching for something under his clothes, Staff Sergeant Atkins immediately wrapped him in a bear hug and threw him to the ground, away from his fellow soldiers. Staff Sergeant Atkins maintained his hold on the insurgent, placing his body on top of him, further sheltering his patrol. With Staff Sergeant Atkins on top of him, the insurgent detonated a bomb strapped to his body, killing Staff Sergeant Atkins. Staff Sergeant Atkins acted with complete disregard for his own safety. In this critical and selfless act of valor, Staff Sergeant Atkins saved the lives of the three other soldiers who were with him and gallantly gave his life for his country. Staff Sergeant Atkins' undaunted courage, warrior spirit, and steadfast devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 2d Brigade Combat Team, and the United States Army.

Post Elections

We will be holding Post elections for the upcoming year at our May meeting. Please attend and let your voice be heard.

On **May 15, 1942** a bill creating the Woman's Auxiliary Army Corp (WAACs) was signed into law, granting women official military status. Its purpose was to allow women to aid the American war effort directly and individually while helping the army make the most efficient use of available labor. Thousands of women enlisted in light of this new legislation, with over 150,000 American women serving during World War II. They served in nearly every theater of engagement and performed jobs ranging from electricians to radio operators and air traffic controllers.



Condolences

Bill Meyer lost his sister earlier this week. Our condolences to Bill, Cathy and their entire family.



Do you need something from the American Legion Catalog???

On April 23rd Jim Reynolds will be placing an order from for supplies the American Legion Catalog. If you want something from Emblem sales let Jim know and you can "piggyback" on the Posts order and save on shipping.

Here is the link to the on line catalog. Please make sure you have the item number to give Jim so he orders exactly what you want.

<https://emblem.legion.org/American-Legion/departments/1/>

At our April 9th meeting we had a drawing for \$50.00 worth of Texas Roadhouse gift cards. **Jeff Boes** was the lucky winner. Congratulations Jeff!



Veterans History Project

The town of East Fishkill, John Jay High School, and the East Fishkill Historical Society are interested in interviewing veterans of all ages.

The Veterans History Project collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of local veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans about their experiences in the Armed Forces.

Students from John Jay, under the direction of two of their teachers, will be conducting the interviews which will be videotaped.

I encourage all of you to participate and share your experiences. The only criteria is that you are a veteran. Whether you served in combat, stayed stateside, or traveled the World you all did your part and future generations need to know what it was like to serve in the 1940's through to 2019.

The first interviews will be held on Saturday May 4th at the East Fishkill Town Hall (not the Old Town Hall) at 1:00PM.

Please contact Jim Reynolds if you are interested in participating.



Honoring Enlistees

We would like to honor the students graduating from John Jay High School who are going into the military service after graduation. Details are still being worked out but we have set aside Saturday, June 15, 1:00PM to have lunch and meet these young men and women.

Due to privacy issues the school cannot provide the names to us. But we have made contact with the John Jay administration and they will send a letter to all students giving them Jim Reynolds' contact information. It will be up to the students to notify us.

This is our first attempt at doing this and we're not sure how many students will be involved. But we'd like to have the students and their parents join us for lunch. We will present the parents with a blue star banner and hopefully some gifts for the enlistees as they prepare for their new adventure.

The Town of East Fishkill and Semper Fi Parents of the Hudson Valley will be participating in the event with us.

If you have any suggestions for the event please contact Jim via email or at 845-221-7273.