

American Legion
Post 1758
Newsletter



July 2019

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Our next meeting will be **Tuesday August 13th, 2019** at 7:00PM in the East Fishkill Old Town Hall, Rte 52, next to the East Fishkill police Station.

Welcome

To new member **Don Muller**, who served in the U.S. Navy off the coast of Vietnam. And to James Tipping who served in Vietnam with the Army.

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.

There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing. –**Aristotle**

Post Picnic Sunday, July 28th, Noon until 3:00

Hopewell Recreation Park Pavilion, Rte 376.

The Post will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and buns. Bring a dish to share. Contact John Polasko at 845-226-7721(H) or 845-656-6268(C) with what your contribution will be and the number of attendees. So far we have plasticware, table cloths, soda, water, chicken wings, a pasta salad, veggie plate, tomato salad, cake, and the fore mentioned hot dogs, burgers and buns.






Good of the Legion:

Danny Oberhauser's name was drawn at our July 9th meeting unfortunately, he was not in attendance. \$30.00 more was added to Pot Of Gold.

American Legion Manny Bacon Post, Hopewell Junction, NY



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Remember to visit our Post web site. There are many more pictures and other information there than could ever be included in the newsletter.

You can also find out a lot about the history of our post by browsing the site. See some of the things we've been involved with the past 60 years.



We anticipate attending another **West Point Football** game this Fall. Currently we are looking at the **October 5th** game against Tulane. We had 10 members and 15 guests sign up at our May meeting. The cost is \$40 pp with a dollar of each going toward tailgating. Those signed up are: Call, Burns, Broughton, Ryan, Meyer, Livermore, Ashworth, Graser, and Kriebel. More details such as tailgating are forthcoming. **Please bring your payment to the August meeting.**

DUES

Renewal forms are hitting mailboxes now so be on the lookout. Some members have already renewed and their 2020 membership card will be mailed to them shortly. You can also renew online by logging in at Legion.org and selecting "renew".

Seven hardy(?) souls showed up for the brush cleanup at Colin and Sharon Williams home on June 19th. Thanks to Tom Masch, Jim Reynolds, Norm Dauerer, Bill Meyer, Bruce Coneeny, John Call and Len Hart (not pictured).



MOH



Staff Sergeant David G. Bellavia distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty on November 10, 2004, while serving as squad leader in support of Operation Phantom Fury in Fallujah, Iraq. While clearing a house, a squad from Staff Sergeant Bellavia's platoon became trapped within a room by intense enemy fire coming from a fortified position under the stairs leading to the second floor. Recognizing the immediate severity of the situation, and with disregard for his own safety, Staff Sergeant Bellavia retrieved an automatic weapon and entered the doorway of the house to engage the insurgents. With enemy rounds impacting around him, Staff Sergeant Bellavia fired at the enemy position at a cyclic rate, providing covering fire that allowed the squad to break contact and exit the house. A Bradley Fighting Vehicle was brought forward to suppress the enemy; however, due to high walls surrounding the house, it could not fire directly at the enemy position. Staff Sergeant Bellavia then re-entered the house and again came under intense enemy fire. He observed an enemy insurgent preparing to launch a rocket-propelled grenade at his platoon. Recognizing the grave danger the grenade posed to his fellow soldiers, Staff Sergeant Bellavia assaulted the enemy position, killing one insurgent and wounding another who ran to a different part of the house. Staff Sergeant Bellavia, realizing he had an un-cleared, darkened room to his back, moved to clear it. As he entered, an insurgent came down the stairs firing at him. Simultaneously, the previously wounded insurgent reemerged and engaged Staff Sergeant Bellavia. Staff Sergeant Bellavia, entering further into the darkened room, returned fire and eliminated both insurgents. Staff Sergeant Bellavia then received enemy fire from another insurgent emerging from a closet in the darkened room. Exchanging gunfire, Staff Sergeant Bellavia pursued the enemy up the stairs and eliminated him. Now on the second floor, Staff Sergeant Bellavia moved to a door that opened onto the roof. At this point, a fifth insurgent leapt from the third floor roof onto the second floor roof. Staff Sergeant Bellavia engaged the insurgent through a window, wounding him in the back and legs, and caused him to fall off the roof. Acting on instinct to save the members of his platoon from an imminent threat, Staff Sergeant Bellavia ultimately cleared an entire enemy-filled house, destroyed four insurgents, and badly wounded a fifth. Staff Sergeant Bellavia's bravery, complete disregard for his own safety, and unselfish and courageous actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.



Our new marching flags carrying case. Time to replace the ancient brown one that was broken and in bad shape.

If you are interested in attending this Fish Fry hosted by **Post 437** call **Kevin Hathorn** at (845) 297-5452.

AMERICAN LEGION
Lafayette Post 37 COMMUNITY **FISH FRY**

CASH BAR
GREEN BEANS
BAKE BEANS
COLD SLAW
Fried Whiting Fish
HUSK PUPPIES
POTATO SALAD
DESSERT

DATE: SAT. AUG 24, 2019
TIME: 1 o'clock to 5:00pm
PLACE: VFW POST 170-PAVILION
1 VIOLET AVE. POUGHKEEPSIE, NY
DONATION \$15.00 PER DINNER
FOR TICKETS CALL [REDACTED]
*PLEASE PURCHASE TICKETS BY AUG. 20TH 2019

THANK YOU
ENJOY!!!!!!!!!!!!



Don Burns discovered that there is one name on the Vietnam Memorial Wall from **Hopewell Junction**. **Richard Robert Smith** was killed on August 16th, 1967.

Commander Reynolds did some follow up research and was able to locate Richard's remaining family, a brother William, who still lives in the family home in the Wiccopee area.

Jim met with Bill and obtained this photo of Richard and a little background. Richard and Bill were the only children in the family, Richard being the oldest born October 19, 1946. According to Bill, Richard was always interested in the military. He graduated from Roy C Ketcham High School in 1964 (John Jay didn't exist yet) and shortly thereafter joined the Marine Corp.

Richard served with Company C, 3rd Tank Battalion, 3rd Marine Division. He reached the rank of Lance Corporal and died through hostile action with multiple fragmentation wounds in Thua Thein Province on August 16, 1967. The province was known as an area of heavy fighting during the Vietnam War, as it was the second-most northerly province of South Vietnam, close to the North Vietnamese border (DMZ) at the 17th parallel. More U.S. soldiers died in this province than in any other province in Vietnam (2,893). Huế is the capital of the province and was location of some of the bloodiest fighting during the Tet Offensive in 1968.

Technically the Smith's do not live in East Fishkill but in Fishkill. The border between the two towns runs down their street. But the mailing address is Hopewell Junction which is what Richard used as his "Home of Record" when he enlisted.

Bill remembers the day the military knocked on their door to notify the family of Richard's death.. He recalls running upstairs to his room in tears. Bill said his mother was devastated by Richards death and wore black most of her remaining days and usually had her Gold Star pin on whatever outfit she wore.

Bill Kriebel compiled a very nice yearbook for our post. Those in attendance at the July meeting had an opportunity to view it and six folks bought copies. More are available for \$15 each. We'll try to remember to bring a few copies to the picnic.

American Legion
Department of New York
Manny Bacon Post 1758
Hopewell Junction, NY



2018-2019

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream

We are working on an **American Legion Ice Cream Day** for the 250 children that are in the East Fishkill Summer Camp. Jim Reynolds has cleared it with the town and can order the ice cream locally. We are just trying to plan around the weather. Chocolate and vanilla ice cream with various toppings will be available for the children (no nuts and ice pops will be available for lactose intolerant). Details to follow.

