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# American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

June 2019

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

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## HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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2. John Jay Memorial Day
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6. John Shea
7. Poppy distributions
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Our next meeting will be **Tuesday July 9th, 2019 at 7:00 PM** at the **East Fishkill Old Town Hall**, Rte. 52, next to the Police Station. Please try to attend.

“The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy.”

— Kalu Ndukwe Kalu

**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.

## Funeral

At 11:00AM on Wednesday, May 29th Commander Reynolds received an email from McHoul's Funeral Home in Fishkill requesting help with a service at 6:30 that evening.. The Navy was unable to provide anyone at the funeral for Dana Townsend an 86 year old Korean War Vet that passed away on May 24th. Reynolds, who was at Castle Point at the time, emailed Post members for assistance. **Bill Kriebel and Dan Oberhauser answered the call.**

The trio met at McHoul's and provided a brief service concluding with Bill and Dan folding the flag and Jim presenting it to Mr. Townsend's son.

Many thanks to Dan and Bill for responding to this emergency call.

## WELCOME

To **Ed Morrison**, a new transferee from Post 0001 who served in both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army and resides in Fishkill.

We had 8 dedicated members show up for breakfast on May 18th ready to honor deceased veterans by placing flags on the cemeteries at St. Denis and the Hopewell Reformed Churches. Thanks to **Bill Kriebel, Don Burns, John Call, Jeff Boes, Jim Broughton, Bruce Coneeny, Len Hart, who joined Commander Jim Reynolds** in this endeavor. The following day Jim finished the job at the 3 smaller rural cemeteries in East Fishkill. It's a busy time of year and for the first time in quite a while we had no scout help. But we did have a young veteran stop while we were at St. Denis and asked if we needed help. We took him up on the offer although we only had about 20 graves left to do. His family sat in their car waiting while he helped us place the flags. He lives in Stormville and we may end up with a new member from this encounter.



**Wednesday, May 22nd found us at John Jay for their Memorial Day Service. Thanks to John Call, Jim Broughton, and Bill Kriebel for helping out.**



**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.

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

### Joint Light Tactical Vehicle



The **Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV)** is a United States military (specifically U.S. Army, USSOCOM, and U.S. Marine Corps) program to part-replace the Humvee<sup>[3]</sup> with a family of more survivable vehicles with greater payload. JLTV has evolved throughout various development phases and milestones but variants are capable of performing armament carrier, utility, command and control (shelter), ambulance, reconnaissance and a variety of other tactical and logistic support roles.

\$433,539

70 mph

6.6-liter diesel

Oshkosh Defense Corp

# MOH



**BACON, NICKY DANIEL**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. S/Sgt. Bacon distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with the 1st Platoon, Company B, during an operation west of Tam Ky. When Company B came under fire from an enemy bunker line to the front, S/Sgt. Bacon quickly organized his men and led them forward in an assault. He advanced on a hostile bunker and destroyed it with grenades. As he did so, several fellow soldiers including the 1st Platoon leader, were struck by machine gun fire and fell wounded in an exposed position forward of the rest of the platoon. S/Sgt. Bacon immediately assumed command of the platoon and assaulted the hostile gun position, finally killing the enemy gun crew in a single-handed effort. When the 3d Platoon moved to S/Sgt. Bacon's location, its leader was also wounded. Without hesitation S/Sgt. Bacon took charge of the additional platoon and continued the fight. In the ensuing action he personally killed 4 more enemy soldiers and silenced an antitank weapon. Under his leadership and example, the members of both platoons accepted his authority without question. Continuing to ignore the intense hostile fire, he climbed up on the exposed deck of a tank and directed fire into the enemy position while several wounded men were evacuated. As a result of S/Sgt. Bacon's extraordinary efforts, his company was able to move forward, eliminate the enemy positions, and rescue the men trapped to the front. S/Sgt. Bacon's bravery at the risk of his life was in the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.



## Good of the Legion:

**William DeMatte's** name was drawn at our June 11th meeting but unfortunately he was not in attendance. \$48 was added to Pot Of Gold.

On Saturday, June 1st, seven Post members retrieved and sorted the flags from the cemeteries. Thanks go to Joe Ryan, John Call, Jeff Boes, Bill Meyer, Bill Kriebel, John Polasko and Jim Reynolds. Then Call, Polasko and Reynolds returned the flags to storage.



**From the New York Times....**

On July 1, 1942, the U.S.S. Wasp, an aircraft carrier holding 71 planes, 2,247 sailors and a journalist, sailed from San Diego to the western Pacific to join the battle against the Japanese. On board was a naval officer named Lt. Cmdr. John Joseph Shea. Two days before he left San Diego, Shea wrote his 5-year-old son a letter.

*Dear Jackie,*

*This is the first letter I have ever written directly to my little son and I am thrilled to know that you can read it all by yourself. If you miss some of the words, I am sure it will be because I do not write very plainly. Mother will help you in that case I am sure.*

*I was certainly glad to hear your voice over the long-distance telephone. It sounded as though I were right in the living room with you. You sounded as though you missed your daddy very much. I miss you too, more than anyone will ever know. It is too bad this war could not have been delayed a few more years so that I could grow up again with you and do with you all the things I planned to do when you were old enough to go to school.*

*I thought how nice it would be for me to come home early in the afternoon and play ball with you, and go mountain-climbing and see the trees, and brooks, and learn all about woodcraft, hunting, fishing, swimming and things like that. I suppose we must be brave and put these things off for a little while.*

*When you are a little bigger you will know why your daddy is not home so much anymore. You know we have a big country and we have ideals as to how people should live and enjoy the riches of it and how each is born with equal rights to life, freedom and the pursuit of happiness. Unfortunately, there are some countries in the world where they don't have these ideals, where a boy cannot grow up to be what he wants to be with no limits on his opportunities to be a great man, such as a great priest, statesman, doctor, soldier, business man etc.*

*Because there are people and countries who want to change our nation, its ideals, forms of government and way of life, we must leave our homes and families to fight. Fighting for the defense of our country, ideals, homes and honor is an honor and a duty which your daddy has to do before he can come home to settle down with you and Mother. When it is done, he is coming home to be with you always and forever. So wait just a little while longer. I am afraid it will be more than the two weeks you told me on the phone.*

*In the meantime, take good care of Mother. Be a good boy and grow up to be a good young man. Study hard when you go to school. Be a leader in everything good in life. Be a good Catholic, and you can't help being a good American. Play fair always. Strive to win but if you must lose, lose like a gentleman and a good sportsman. Don't ever be a quitter either in sports or in your business or profession when you grow up. Get all the education you can. Stay close to Mother and follow her advice. Obey her in everything, no matter how you may at times disagree. She knows what is best and will never let you down or lead you away from the right and honorable things in life. If I don't get back, you will have to be Mother's protector because you will be the only one she has. You must grow up to take my place as well as your own in her life and heart. Don't let her brood over me nor waste herself on anyone not worthy of her or you.*

*Love your grandmother and granddad as long as they live. They, too, will never let you down. Love your aunts and see them as often as you can. Last of all, don't ever forget your daddy. Pray for him to come back and if it is God's will that he does not, be the kind of a boy and man your daddy wants you to be.*

*Thanks for the nice sweater and handkerchiefs and particularly for the note and card. Write me very often and tell me everything. Kiss Mother for me every night. Goodbye for now.*

*With all my love and devotion for Mother and you,*

*Your daddy*

On the afternoon of Sept. 15, the Wasp was in the Coral Sea, escorting a convoy of United States Marines bound for Guadalcanal, in the Solomon Islands, when it was hit by torpedoes fired at close range by a Japanese submarine. Explosions immediately rocked the ship. Many men were killed instantly. The ship's magazines and fuel stores detonated like bombs. The hangar deck, where most of the planes were stored, was soon entirely ablaze. At the same time, water rushed into the breaches in the ship's hull, and the Wasp lurched 15 degrees to its starboard side, like a boxer buckling at the knee after a body shot.

The commanding officer of the Wasp, Capt. Forrest P. Sherman, swung the ship around, so that the flames and smoke blew toward the ocean rather than across the deck, but it made no difference. More than 300 feet of his ship, from the bow to the central "island" containing the bridge, was subsumed by an uncontrollable inferno. Within minutes, the Wasp had become a vision of hell.

Half an hour after the strikes, Sherman realized the situation was hopeless. He made the order to abandon ship. The worst-injured were loaded onto rafts. Many other survivors simply jumped into the flaming waters around the ship with only life preservers, flotsam or mattresses to keep them afloat.

Five hours after the Wasp was hit, it was irreparably damaged but still drifting with the current. The U.S.S. Lansdowne was ordered to scuttle the carrier with a volley of torpedoes. The Wasp slipped below the surface at 2100 — 9 p.m. — then sank through more than two and a half miles of water to the bottom, where it has remained ever since, a giant carcass surrounded by miles of desert, in the permanent midnight of the deep ocean floor. In total, 194 men on the Wasp were deemed "killed or missing" on Sept. 15, 1942. One of them was John Shea.

May 25<sup>th</sup> found us out soliciting funds and distributing poppy's.

Thanks to Cosimo Napolitano, Dan Oberhauser, Mark Graser, John Call, and Jim Broughton (not pictured) for handling the Convenient Mart.



John Polasko, Bill Meyer and Bill Kriebel for covering Flory's.



At Stewarts we had Jeff Boes, Jim Reynolds, Len Hart, Bob Logan and Dan Briscoe.

Good job by all! It was probably the best "Weather Day" distributing poppys we've had in 10 years



## Honoring Enlistees

On Saturday, June 15th, the post honored four young men that have joined the military service upon graduation from John Jay High School. They are Brandon McGimpsey who is enlisting in the Marine Corps and Cameron Burris, Declan Ryan, and Liam VanBuren who are all joining the Navy. We invited them along with their families to a luncheon at the East Fishkill Community Center. Along with members of the Semper Fi Parents of the Hudson Valley we provided them with lunch and a few gifts. Thanks to Lance Ashworth who did all the cooking.



Declan Ryan, Brandon McGimpsey, Commander Reynolds, Liam VanBuren, Cameron Burris





**Flag Day**  
On June 14<sup>th</sup> we retired Flags with the help of local scouts and Hopewell Hose

