

American Legion
Post 1758
Newsletter



January 2020

Est 1949

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Our next meeting will be **Tuesday February 11th, 2020** at 7:00PM in the East Fishkill Old Town Hall, Rte 52, next to the East Fishkill police Station.

“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

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.

Sick Call

Please continue your good thoughts and prayers for **Vinny Richards** who is awaiting additional abdominal surgery.

It was good to see both **Jim Broughton** and **Danny Oberhauser** at this month's meeting. Both are doing well now and Danny is getting around with a cane which hopefully will be gone shortly.

Danny's wife, Marlene, is still recovering from her broken ankle surgery and we wish her a speedy recovery.



Good of the Legion:

We had a winner!!!! Don Muller's name was drawn at our January 14th meeting and fortunately, he was in attendance. His share of the The Pot Of Gold was \$116.00. Congratulations Don.

Welcome

To **Clifton Chapman and Irving Jacobson**, our newest members who transferred to our post in response to letters sent to them by Commander Reynolds.

Clifton is an Army veteran (Vietnam era) fairly new to the American Legion and Irving is an Air Force veteran (Persian Gulf era) who has been in the Legion for 11 years.

Welcome gentlemen!

BUDDY CHECKS

As American Legion members, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans.

Some of you do not attend meetings or other Post activities. **That is okay, you do as much as you want and are able to do.**

Adjutant Lance Ashworth suggested at our January meeting that we perform some "Buddy Checks" on members who we have not interacted with for a period of time.

So sometime in the next 6 weeks or so you may get a call from a post member checking in with you. These calls are **not** to entice you to be more involved or annoy you but simply to make sure you are okay and offer our help if you need it.

There are a few members for which we do not have phone numbers and we'll try to connect with them another way.

Post Christmas Party

We had another great get together at Charlie Brown's. I think the headcount ended up being 35 and we were sorry to hear Len Hart and his wife were under the weather and had to cancel their plans to attend.

Another good job by Lance in coordinating everything and coming up with some raffle gifts. Thanks again Lance.

Milestone awards were given out to the following members:

Ashworth – 5 years

Broughton – 10 years

Burns – 10 years

Hart – 10 years

Briscoe – 20 years

Oberhauser – 25 years





MOH



JAMES ALLEN

Rank and organization: Private, Company F, [16th New York Infantry](#).

Place and date: At [South Mountain, Maryland](#), September 14, 1862.

Entered service at: [Potsdam, New York](#)

Born: May 6, 1843, [Ireland](#).

Date of issue: September 11, 1890.

Citation:

Single-handed and slightly wounded he accosted a squad of 14 Confederate soldiers bearing the colors of the [16th Georgia Infantry](#) (C.S.A.). By an imaginary ruse he secured their surrender and kept them at bay when the regimental commander discovered him and rode away for assistance.

Jim,

I cannot thank you and your team ENOUGH for not only attending our Hudson Valley Hospice Veterans Breakfast but providing the Color Guard!

I genuinely appreciate your service to our country. Also, I appreciate your “Yes” and “Can Do” response when I called you needing a Color Guard for our Veterans Breakfast. I have attached a few photos share with Norm Dauerer, John Call and William Meyer. Thank you!

Please keep me in mind if you have any questions about hospice or would like a short presentation to your post members in the new year. I am happy to help drop off some of our information to help educate and answer any questions. Have a wonderful holiday and safe new year 2020!

Most Sincerely,

Sophia

Sophia Kozlowski Sciacca - Provider Relations Representative



A letter from a Vietnam Veteran's widow.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #333
New York, NY 10956
Attention: President Jim Hennessy
For all the members of VVA #333

I spent much of 2019 obsessing about my trip to Vietnam. I kept telling people I'm going back to Vietnam. Eventually, I realized I had never been, why did it feel like I had? I only had the images of Vietnam I saw on TV in 1968. I wondered if perhaps I was re-experiencing my husband's anxiety as he prepared to go in 1968 leaving a pregnant wife behind. Added to the mix of anxiety, on Sunday, October 27, just a few days before my departure on October 31, I was ordered to evacuate my condo. Since our big fire in October 2017, wild-fires are an increasing problem in my area. I was able to get back home and get my passport before my departure date. My condo was not damaged.

The trip was challenging: physically, emotionally and spiritually. Every time I wanted to quit and hide out in my room for a day, I imagined what my husband went through when he was in Vietnam. Just the thought of that kept me going. Howard Goldin had suggested I take notes and process events after I returned home, which I've been doing for the last week.

So many memorable moments occurred on the trip. I'll just mention a few: On our visit to the Rose School, the first school built by STEP, I could not stop crying when I saw the children meeting us and greeting us with smiles, laughter, performances - treating us like we were rock stars. What STEP has done in Vietnam through 2 men (Howard Goldin and Ed Frank) who have the courage and the strength to make a big difference in the lives of small children is remarkable. Never underestimate the power of 2 men with a mission. With every school and orphanage, we visited, I thought, "Maybe this is what my husband died for?"

My daughter told me before I left that she was having a lot of issues come up about her father and she thought it was related to my trip to Vietnam. After a few days in Vietnam, I received a text from my daughter saying she had decided to go public with her story. She works in the wine industry in Northern CA and someone who publishes a blog had asked her to share her story. So, there I was 9,000 miles from home in the country where her father died reading for the first time her story about growing up without a father and the impact of having a war widow as her mother.

A significant part of the trip was "the pearl necklace." The only jewelry I had from my husband was a single pearl on a gold chain given to me when we were dating in 1966. I decided to wear the necklace while I was in Vietnam. Please ask Howard and Ed to tell you that story. It is obvious to me that my husband's spirit was with me on this trip. I think it always has been, though I'm often am not aware of it. The pearl story is undeniably mystical and magical.

The people of Vietnam are humble and grateful to be able to work long days for little money to have a chance at the American Dream. Tano, our guide, is an example of that. His love for the American veterans is demonstrated by his daily tasks of keeping track of all of us, our luggage and handling all the mishaps that occurred on the trip. He was patient, forgiving and kind and went to great lengths to find the Y Bridge.

When our tour bus reached the Y Bridge, the veterans, and the two VA psychologists, Helaine and Barbara, Tano and myself departed the bus and wandered along the narrow streets to the "scene of the crime". Tano had brought flowers and incense. There was a Chinese temple for lost souls nearby. After I read my favorite poem for Howard and ex-pressed my sentiments. Bob Finne, a veteran, said, "Your husband is free of the pain of that war, but I carry it every day"

I thanked him for carrying the pain of that war. That pain doesn't go away; you just learn to endure it with the help of fellow survivors who help you bear the burden. Ed Frank asked me to go inside the temple and say the Catholic prayer for the deceased. Each person left a rose and incense on the altar. I was held and supported by all the people on the trip, the veterans, their wives, the 2 VA psychologists and the generous kind Rotarians who do such amazing humanitarian work. I am interested in joining a Rotary group in my town.

The communist propaganda was hard to bear when we watched a film at the Cu Chi Tunnels. Another difficult day was the visit to the Hanoi Hilton Prison. Seeing how the American war prisoner was treated was almost too much to bear.

Several nights we danced to live music at the restaurants where we had dinner. I could go on forever but I'll close by saying thank you again for a life-changing trip. I promise to have it make a difference in my life and to write about it in my current book, and to continue to give back what I have been given by your generous support. During the holidays, I'll be hosting gatherings at my condo to share my journey with friends and family. I've already been asked to speak to a professional group about my experience of visiting Vietnam.

Thank you for your service in Vietnam and how you contribute to change the meaning and impact of our war. When I was stuck while writing my first book, a generous Vietnam veteran paid for my daughter and me to travel to the Vietnam Veterans Wall in DC. It made all the difference in the world. I was able to finish my first book. On the 50th Anniversary of Howard's death, another veteran, raised funds to send daughter, my grown granddaughters and me to The Wall for Father's Day. Now, this trip to Vietnam will be the final chapter of my book about reconciliation. Thank you for making the trip possible for me. I better get busy working on that book.

If any of you are interested in reading my first book which details my loss and how I recovered from the loss, please visit my website at www.griefdenied.com or www.grief-coaching.com
I'm so grateful for all who supported me in publishing my first book. Doing so opened my world up to veterans of that war who have helped me heal the wounds of our war.
I'm forever grateful.

Pauline Laurent

Oraratorical

The Dutchess County American Legion Oratorical competition was held at Post 37 in Poughkeepsie on December 14th. Our representative Isebailla Hewitt came in second place. That qualified her for the District 9 competition (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Westchester, Bronx, and Rockland Counties) where she came in 2nd also. Congratulations Bella!



In Memoriam

Bob Logan



You should all be aware of Bob's passing. He is the 5th member the Post lost in 2019. Unlike the others Bob was very much involved in the post. He was a terrific guy, as shown by the attendance at his Memorial Service, and will be missed. Len Hart, John Call, Don Burns, John Polasko, Bill Kriebel, and Joe Ryan joined me at the service for Bob. Some nice stories on how Bob affected so many lives.

I always enjoyed chatting with Bob. He could always be counted on to help out the Legion with our fund-raising efforts, usually at the Stewart's shop on Lake Walton Road. During our Memorial Day and East Fishkill Community Day parades you could always find him directing traffic with the Fire Police, one of his other volunteer jobs. Bob was an interesting character and always willing to help out with his multi tool and flashlight that he always had with him. In addition to those handy tools he usually had his diet Pepsi in a holster on his hip. We often met each other in a "gun slinger's" stance.....ready for a quick-draw. May he rest in peace. JDR

If anyone else has memories or anecdotes about Bob they'd like to share please send them to Bill Kriebel and he will put them on the Post web site. kriebelw@optonline.net

FUNDRAISING VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE

All Proceeds to Benefit the Hudson Valley Crusader's Veterans Wheelchair Athletes

Saturday, February 8, 2020

7:00 pm - 11pm

SPONSORED BY

4th Degree Knights of Columbus
St. John Paul II Assembly #2917

To Be Held at

The 4065 Club Hall

339 Route 82 Hopewell Junction, NY
(Located Between the Handshake Grill and All Angel's Hill Road)

Reservations Required

\$35.00 Per Person

Ticket Price Includes:

Roast Beef Dinner, Dessert, Coffee/Tea, Soda, Dancing

*** Cash Bar Available ***

Music Provided By

Elite Gold DJ Service



Enjoy an evening of Food, Fun and Dancing as we support our local Wheelchair Veterans!

*** 50/50 Raffle *** Gift Basket Raffles *** Door Prizes ***

All Proceeds to Benefit the Hudson Valley Crusader's Veterans Wheelchair Athletes to send them to the 40th Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Portland, OR



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

DONATIONS TOWARDS RAFFLES ACCEPTED AND GREATLY APPRECIATED!

For More Information and Reservations Please Contact

RESERVATIONS: Nick Longo - (914) 475-8596 - nplongo@nkls83.com
INFORMATION: Al Ronda - (845) 293-2820 - The4065Club@hotmail.com
RAFFLE DONATIONS: Bill Hunt - (845) 896-6187 - whunt6@optonline.net

If paying by Check - Please Make Checks payable to:
St. John Paul II Assembly #2917

Visit our website for the latest updates for
news, yearly calendar, events and external links.

www.stmarys4065.org