

American Legion
Post 1758
Newsletter



July 2020

Est 1949

This newsletter will be a little different than most.

First of all, I hope this finds you and your loved ones all doing well.

Legion actives have been at a stand still for the past 4 months as have many other organizations. I'm not sure when we will resume having meetings, hopefully in August. We'll continue to follow the COVID-19 news and restrictions and I'm happy that things appear to be much better in New York State than they were two months ago. I pray that trend continues.

The Old Town Hall is unavailable for meetings as the Police Department has temporarily turned it into their locker room while the police station is being renovated. I'll put a couple of photos of how it looks today later on in this newsletter.

The East Fishkill town hall remains closed except for appointments and the Community Center is also closed except for the Dutchess County Meal deliveries.

We were able to complete some duties during the pandemic and you are probably aware of them through emails I sent. So, some of this may be redundant but I think it's important that we were able to honor our deceased comrades, our flag and Memorial Day,

On May 4th post members Jim Reynolds, John Call, Caroline Pogge, Bill Meyer, Tom Masch and Bill Kriebel helped others honor WWII veteran Carlo Joseph Cantarella, 93 of Wappingers Falls by lining the street as his casket was transported from the Delehanty Funeral Home to the cemetery.

May 16th found us at the St. Denis and Hopewell Cemeteries placing flags on veteran's graves. Carolyn Pogge, Norm Dauerer, Tom Masch, Don Burns, Bill Meyer, John Lyons, Kevin Hines, Lance Ashworth, Jim Broughton, Bill Kriebel, Dan Briscoe, Jeff Boes, John Call and Jim Reynolds participated. Also participating were members of our EF community: Sue Gartner, Cathy Reynolds, Olivia Parker, Grace Sestito and Jacob Call.

On Memorial Day, May 25th, we held a private Memorial Day Service at the East Fishkill Veteran's Memorial on Rte. 82. You can watch a video of our service here <https://youtu.be/dVgPIU6QCQI> Many thanks again to Caleb Verdue who played taps for us and post members John Polasko, John Call, Jim Reynolds, Lance Ashworth, Jim Broughton, Jeff Boes, Bill Meyer, Don Burns, Kevin Hines, Bruce Coneeny, Bill Kriebel, and Dan Briscoe.

May 30th found us back out at the cemeteries retrieving the flags.

June 14th, we held a modified Flag Day Service. The service was private and the post had a good turnout. Bill Kriebel, John Polasko, John Call, Jim Reynolds, Lance Ashworth, Ralph Schwartz, Jeff Boes, Bill Meyer, Don Burns, Kevin Hines, Norm Dauerer, Dan Briscoe, Don Muller, and Mark Graser all showed up to help retire flags.

Then on June 18th Bill Meyer, Norm Dauerer, John Call and Jim Reynolds held a memorial service at McHoul's for past member John Pizzuti.

All these activities took place following COVID-19 restrictions including face masks and social distancing.

As I was typing this, I realized we weren't completely inactive the last four months...we did the things we had to do! And I thank the members who help make these things a success.

The Post also missed its primary fund raiser for the year...Poppy distribution and coin drop over Memorial Day weekend. Maybe some of that can be made up at Veterans Day but we never know what the future brings.

On the other hand, Boy's and Girl's State were both canceled for 2020. These youngsters missed out on a great opportunity that they will never have again. Another sad note as to the affect of COVID-19.

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.

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart. [Helen Keller](#)

Post Elections

We still have to have our official elections once we resume our meetings. Until we have the elections the current officers maintain their positions.

All the current officers plan on serving another term so unless someone else wishes to run for one of the positions the elections should be quick.

Sick Call

Tom Dolan is at Golden Hill Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Kingston.

Joe Ryan had a little surgery on June 26th to have a screw removed from his foot that was the result of a previous operation. He's a little tender but thinks he'll be fine in a couple of days.

Jeff Boes had hip replacement surgery in early June and at last report is doing well.

Please keep these gentlemen and all others that are having health issues in your thoughts and prayers.

I've touched base with some of you through email or phone calls and several others have been present at our functions I mentioned above.

When I spoke to **Cosimo Napolitano** the other day he commented that he celebrated his 92nd birthday on June 13. He has finished his chemo treatments and is taking things one day at a time. So far, so good. He asked to pass on his "best wishes" to everyone.

Fundraising

A few months ago, before COVID-19, Bill Kriebel volunteered to head up a Fundraising committee. Bill is looking for other members to join him on the committee.

Please contact Bill if you are interested in helping out. "If we're ever going to have a post of our own, it's going to take a lot of time and a lot of serious fundraising. We also need to make up for what we've lost due to the "pandemic" restrictions." Bill K.

Bill can be reached at 845-226-6895 or via email kriebelw@optonline.net

MOH

Rank: Sergeant Major
Organization: U.S. Marine Corps
Company: Company A, 1st Battalion
Division: 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division
Entered Service At: Little Rock, Ar.
Place / Date: Hue City, Vietnam, 6 February 1968



John Canley

Citation

The President of the United States, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor to Gunnery Sergeant John L. Canley, United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy while serving as Company Gunnery Sergeant, Alpha Company, First Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division, from 31 January to 6 February 1968, in the Republic of Vietnam. Alpha Company fought off multiple vicious attacks as it rapidly moved along the highway toward Hue City to relieve friendly forces that were surrounded by enemy. Despite being wounded in these engagements, Gunnery Sergeant Canley repeatedly rushed across fire-swept terrain to carry his wounded Marines to safety. After his commanding officer was severely wounded, Gunnery Sergeant Canley took command and led the company into Hue City. At Hue City, caught in deadly crossfire from enemy machine gun positions, he set up a base of fire and maneuvered with a platoon in a flanking attack that eliminated several enemy positions. Retaining command of the company for three days, he led attacks against multiple enemy fortified positions while routinely braving enemy fire to carry wounded Marines to safety. On 4 February, he led a group of Marines into an enemy-occupied building in Hue City. He moved into the open to draw fire, located the enemy, eliminated the threat, and expanded the company's hold on the building room by room. Gunnery Sergeant Canley then gained position above the enemy strongpoint and dropped in a large satchel charge that forced the enemy to withdraw. On 6 February, during a fierce firefight at a hospital compound, Gunnery Sergeant Canley twice scaled a wall in full view of the enemy to carry wounded Marines to safety. By his undaunted courage, selfless sacrifice, and unwavering devotion to duty, Gunnery Sergeant Canley reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

WASHINGTON -- The Senate approved a bill Monday to grant all veterans with service-connected disabilities free lifetime entry to America's 419 national park sites.

The Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, which now goes to the House for consideration, amends the current eligibility standards for national park passes. The bill would grant the passes to millions more U.S. veterans.

Now, veterans must have a 100% permanent disability to receive free lifetime entry. If approved by the House, the bill would grant a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass to any veteran with a disability rating through the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#).

According to a recent report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 4.7 million veterans, or 25% of the total vets in the U.S., had a service-connected disability in 2019. About 2.09 million had a disability rating of 60% or higher, the report shows. It did not specify how many veterans were 100% disabled.

For years, veterans and experts have praised experiences in nature as therapy for those suffering from symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Now if we can get it through the House of Representatives!

Wealth of Information

Our Post web site (al-ny1758.org) has a wealth of information:

- *Meeting and executive board minutes
- *Newsletters
- Programs
- Photo's
- Post History
- Important Links
- And much more

* For "members only" pages you need a logon which you can obtain from web master Bill Kriebel at Historian@al-ny1758.org

The March meeting minutes can be found here (requires login) <https://al-ny1758.org/docs>.

Old Town Hall



Flag Day under COVID



WWII Veteran Cantarello Funeral



**Cemetery
Flags
installation**

