

American Legion
Post 1758
Newsletter



September 2020

Est 1949

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Our next meeting will be **Tuesday October 13th** at 7:00PM. The Old Town Hall is located at 2468 Rte. 52, next to the East Fishkill police Station.

“Attitude is a choice. Happiness is a choice. Optimism is a choice. Kindness is a choice. Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice. Whatever choice you make makes you. Choose wisely.”

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

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.

Another great turnout at our September meeting. Looks like 25 were in attendance. That’s a great crowd even with 3 regular attendees missing. **Joe Ryan** was having foot surgery, **Danny Oberhauser** was a little under the weather and I think **Caroline Pogge** was at the VFW meeting (their meeting is the same day/time ours is and Caroline alternates between the two meetings)



Good of the Legion:

William Muller's name was drawn at our September 8th meeting and unfortunately he was not in attendance. \$46.00 has been added to the pot. William's number was also picked last month, two in a row but no winner!

Welcome

Last week we have added two more members to our post both Vietnam Era Veterans.

Charles Embry – Navy Veteran

Lewis Keehner – Army Veteran

Tommy Masch brought a potential member to our September meeting. **Joseph J. Guarino** is a Navy Veteran of the Korean Era. We're looking forward to seeing Joseph again

Welcome Gentlemen!!!

Let's Do Lunch!

The Post is having a lunch get together on Sunday September 20th at 3:00PM. The luncheon will take place in the pavilion outside of East Fishkill Provisions on Old Hopewell Road (cty rte. 28).

We're doing this rather than having a picnic. **Members only!**

Wealth of Information



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

- *Meeting and executive board minutes
- *Newsletters
- Programs
- Photos
- 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 August meeting minutes can be found here (requires login) <https://al-ny1758.org/docs>

Fund Raising Committee

We had a fairly lengthy discussion at the September meeting about fundraising. Basically we “blue lined” ideas. Several good suggestions were put forth from gift basket drawings, solicitation letters to EF residents and businesses, and meal tickets such as Outback Steakhouse and Buffalo Wild Wings have. Bill Kriebel is leading the committee but needs assistance. It would be great if the committee could decide on one fundraising idea and present it in detail to the membership.

If you can help please let Bill know. You can contact him at Historian@AL-ny1758.org or 845-226-6895.

MOH

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

Organization: U.S. Army Air Corps

Division: 8th Air Force

Born: 1 January 1907 Chicago II

Date of Action: 8/1/1943

Place: Ploesti, Rumania



Addison E. Baker

CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy on 1 August 1943. On this date he led his command, the 93d Heavy Bombardment Group, on a daring low-level attack against enemy oil refineries and installations at Ploesti, Rumania. Approaching the target, his aircraft was hit by a large-caliber antiaircraft shell, seriously damaged, and set on fire. Ignoring the fact, he was flying over terrain suitable for safe landing, he refused to jeopardize the mission by breaking up the lead formation and continued unswervingly to lead his group to the target upon which he dropped his bombs with devastating effect. Only then did he leave formation, but his valiant attempts to gain sufficient altitude for the crew to escape by parachute were unavailing and his aircraft crashed in flames after his successful efforts to avoid other planes in formation. By extraordinary flying skill, gallant leadership, and intrepidity, Lt. Col. Baker rendered outstanding, distinguished, and valorous service to our nation.

Meet new Dutchess County Veterans Service Director Adam Roche

The Marine Corps League Det 861 will host a special meeting with Adam Roche as our guest speaker on Thurs Sept 17 at 1900 in the Memorial Building. 413 Main Street Beacon. Adam is the new Director of Veterans Services in Dutchess County and served in the Marine Corps. All American Legion and VFW Posts are cordially invited to attend. Food and beverages will be available at the conclusion of the meeting.

Sick Call

John Jackson fell and broke his hip and femur which required 2 rods inserted and connected together. He is currently rehabbing at the Lutheran Care Center in Poughkeepsie. Jim Reynolds spoke to him on September 5th and he sounded good and is in good spirits. If you were not aware, John and Marty Nolan were very good friends and losing Marty while being laid up I'm sure was doubly hard on John.

If you would like to support our friends at Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club, have a good time, and some great food you can join them for a Vintage Car Show on October 11, 2020.

Lineup at 9:00am; event starts at 11:00am.



Post Photo Shoot

As mentioned by Jim Reynolds at the September meeting Post 1758 will be the featured article in the November issue of East Fishkill Living Magazine. Photos were previously taken of officers John Call, Lance Ashworth, and Jim Reynolds along with member Norm Dauerer with his jeep. John, Lance and Jim were also interviewed together by the magazine editors.

Another magazine photo shoot has been scheduled for **all post members** that are available on Saturday September 19th at 6:00PM. The shoot will take place in the empty lot next to the Convenient Mart on Rte. 52 (near the intersection of Rte. 82). The photographer plans on using the wooded area and creek as a background. Uniform will be cap, white shirt, dark trousers. No gold scarf or braids.

This article is a great way to publicize our post and our activities which could lead to more members and financial support.

Your participation would be greatly appreciated.



Retired Navy Capt. Kathy Bruyere, a pioneer for women's equality in the Navy, died Sept. 3 in San Diego following a battle with cancer, according to her family.

Bruyere, 76, grew up in an Army family and joined the Navy in 1966 after graduating from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. Two years later, she married her first husband, then Navy Lt. Kellie Byerly, and the two later became the first officer couple to attend the Naval War College in Rhode Island.

She also served as a recruiter during the Vietnam War and at the Bureau for Naval Personnel, which was then in Washington, among other assignments.

In January 1976, she gained a measure of fame as one of 12 women featured on the cover of Time magazine for a "Women of the Year" (1975) issue — which was done in lieu of the annual "Person of the Year" issue. At the time, she was a lieutenant commander, and in 1975 had become the first woman tapped as a flag secretary and aide to an admiral, according to Time magazine. Female sailors had worked on the staffs of admirals, the Time story noted, "but had far less authority than Byerly. She heads the admiral's staff and handles all liaison between his headquarters and the nine Pacific training commands."

In the issue, she acknowledged that she was not thrilled about the potential for combat but said she "would not like to deny any woman the opportunity to do anything she is capable of doing, including firing a gun."

A year later, she and five other female sailors helped clear the path for women to serve on ships and aircraft engaged in combat — assignments previously barred to them under the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948.

The sailors, who claimed their careers and potential promotions were negatively impacted by the policy, filed a class-action lawsuit against the secretary of defense and secretary of the Navy in 1977, and U.S. District Judge John Sirica, of Watergate fame, determined the law was unconstitutional in 1978.

"Some people thought it was treason — 'How dare I try to challenge the system?' " Bruyere told the Orlando Sentinel in a 1991 interview. "But others kept saying, " 'Good for you, good for you.' "

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She went on to serve as special assistant to the chief of naval operations for women's policy, where she was involved in a 1987 study examining career opportunities for women in the Navy and sexism across the service.

A year later, as the first female executive officer of the Navy's New York Recruiting District, she and Byerly divorced and she later met and married her second husband, Thomas Bruyere, also a Navy officer.

In June 1991, Bruyere, by then a captain with 25 years of service, took charge of the Navy's only boot camp that included women, according to the report in the Sentinel, which described her as "arguably one of the Pentagon's top experts on women in the Navy."

The Orlando Naval Training Center, which processed 30,000 enlistees a year, one third of them female, had been severely criticized the year before for its handling of rape and sexual harassment cases. It was also slated for closure.

Bruyere remained undaunted.

She viewed the command as an opportunity to create coeducational training and study programs, fostering teamwork and mutual respect in the hope of reducing abuse and assault incidents, she told the Sentinel.

"This is where you plant the seeds, giving recruits the opportunity to solve problems as professionals, to respect each other's talents," she told the newspaper.

Bruyere retired in 1994. Looking back on her naval career, Bruyere she was most proud of the work she did "to make a difference and help to open equal opportunities for all," she told the San Diego Veterans Magazine in March 2020.

When asked about the groundbreaking lawsuit, Bruyere told the magazine, "I just believe we should all have the same opportunities."

"There is nothing today's women cannot do — we need them to keep charging ahead," she said.

In retirement, Bruyere continued to serve her community, her family said. She was on the boards for the local chapters of the San Diego Parkinson's Association, the San Diego Alzheimer's Association, the George G. Glenner Center for Memory Care and Caregiver Support, and the San Diego chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. She also volunteered as a volunteer for 11 years at the Miramar National Cemetery, where her husband is interred.

The couple was together for more than 20 years before Thomas, also a retired captain, died in 2009 after a 15-year battle with Parkinson's disease.

Bruyere, who died at Paradise Valley Hospital in San Diego, is survived by four brothers, one sister, three stepsons and 10 grandchildren. According to her family, she will be buried with full military honors at Miramar.

"Kathy was always so positive and selflessly concerned for the betterment of institutions and others professionally and personally," said her stepson, retired Army Lt. Col. Trent Bruyere. "Frankly, she left this world a better place and will be missed."