

American Legion
Post 1758
Newsletter



October 2020

Est 1949

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Our next meeting will be **Tuesday November 10th** at 7:00PM. The Old Town Hall is located at 2468 Rte. 52, next to the East Fishkill Police Station.

Life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. –Charles Swindoll

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.

Fred Snowman Funeral

On October 8th five members of our post provided a color guard for Navy Korean Era Veteran Fred Snowman' funeral. Thanks to Bill Kriebel, Don Burns, Bill Meyer, and Bob Spinillo for helping Commander Reynolds honor Mr. Snowman. McHoul's requested our presence as Mr. Snowman's family couldn't locate his military records and thus the Navy wasn't going to provide personnel for the service. That was rectified on the 7th so the Navy was on hand to present the flag to the family.



Good of the Legion:

John DelBene's name was drawn at our October 13th meeting and unfortunately, he was not in attendance. \$30.00 has been added to the pot.

Welcome

I want to welcome two more transferees from NY01:

Rocco Nicoletti is a Vietnam era Army veteran.

and

Margaret Ranalli a Marine also from the Vietnam era.

Welcome to Post 1758

Post Luncheon

Fifteen members of the post had a great outdoor luncheon on Sunday, September 20th. We gathered about 3:00pm under the pavilion outside of East Fishkill Provisions on Old Hopewell Road.

Each member was given a ticket and sent inside to order a sandwich of their choice and then returned outside to enjoy our meal together. In attendance were Dan Brisco, Jim Broughton, Don Burns, Norm Dauerer, Joe Ryan, George Dickman, Joe Guarino, Len Hart, Bill Kriebel, Jay Livermore, John Lyons, Tom Masch, Bill Meyer, John Polasko, and Jim Reynolds. We had some great food and nice conversations. I'm sorry more members couldn't attend.

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>

-Sick Call

Danny Oberhauser injured his shoulder and needs surgery.

Mark Graser needs knee surgery.

John Jackson is spending some additional time at the Lutheran Care Center rehabilitating his hip and leg which he broke in a fall in early September.

Please keep these gentlemen and any others you know in ill health in your thoughts and prayers.

MOH

Rank: Signalman 1st Class

Organization: U.S. Coast
Guard

Division: 8th Air Force

Born: 11 October 1919,
Vancouver, Canada

Date of Action: 9/27/1942

Place: Point Cruz, Guadalcanal,
Solomon Islands



DOUGLAS A. MUNRO

CITATION

For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty as petty officer in charge of a group of 24 Higgins boats, engaged in the evacuation of a battalion of marines trapped by enemy Japanese forces at Point Cruz, Guadalcanal on 27 September 1942. After making preliminary plans for the evacuation of nearly 500 beleaguered marines, Munro, under constant strafing by enemy machine guns on the island, and at great risk of his life, daringly led five of his small craft toward the shore. As he closed the beach, he signaled the others to land, and then in order to draw the enemy's fire and protect the heavily loaded boats, he valiantly placed his craft with its two small guns as a shield between the beachhead and the Japanese. When the perilous task of evacuation was nearly completed, Munro was instantly killed by enemy fire, but his crew, two of whom were wounded, carried on until the last boat had loaded and cleared the beach. By his outstanding leadership, expert planning, and dauntless devotion to duty, he and his courageous comrades undoubtedly saved the lives of many who otherwise would have perished. He gallantly gave his life for his country.



While we cannot have a sit-down breakfast this year, we continue to pay tribute and honor our Veterans through a Complimentary Drive Through Breakfast, that continues to include a receipt of a Certificate of Appreciation, a hot boxed breakfast and gift bag.

Reservations are required

Please RSVP to Sophia Sciacca by October 23, 2020
845-240-7545 or sciacca@hvhospice.org or mail form below

Veterans and their guests may park at/or walk on grounds of NPS, FDR, Valkill or Vanderbilt and enjoy breakfast.

(Due to Covid restrictions, NO building entry is allowed)

Hudson Valley Hospice is a proud supporter of the We Honor Veterans Program



A very special thank you to the National Park Service—Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites

Please reserve # _____ Breakfast Boxes for the DRIVE THRU Veteran's Breakfast. Allergies _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Military Branch: _____ email: _____

Member of VFW Post # and/or American Legion Post #: _____

Mail: Hudson Valley Hospice-Veterans Breakfast, 80 Washington St. #204; Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

Veterans Day Activities

We'll be placing flags along route 82 in the Hopewell Hamlet starting at 7:00AM



Followed by coin drops/poppy distribution at Flory's, the Convenient Mart and Stewart's.

The **Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019** gave VA an opportunity to consider new and previously submitted Blue Water Navy claims. Now, thanks to collaboration with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), VA and NARA are helping to determine ship locations and to digitize more than 1,800 vessels' deck logs.

The data contained in these ships' deck logs is critical in determining qualifying ship locations in accordance with the law. For the first time, VA will have each of these ships mapped with precision, providing a comprehensive view of their locations.

VA estimates that there are between 420,000 and 560,000 Vietnam-era Veterans who may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans. The law also extends benefits to survivors and dependents of those Veterans with confirmed service and whose claims would have been granted as a result of the new law.

What Veterans need to know

NARA's and VA's collaboration has already assisted in granting more than 22,524 claims since Jan. 1, 2020. The effort digitized more than 29 million images from U.S. Navy and Coast Guard deck logs. It has also provided data, such as ship name, date and coordinates to feed an internal claims-related technical processing system that identifies the vessels that may have traveled within the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam. This proactive approach ensures that Rating Veterans Service Representatives have the evidence needed to render a decision the first time a case is reviewed.

This effort has resulted in faster service for Veterans and reduced the need for physical handling of archival records which preserves our nation's historical documents. NARA is in the process of redacting the images to make them publicly accessible on the [National Archive's website](https://www.archives.gov).

If Veterans, survivors or dependents have previously filed and were denied a claim, they can file a supplemental claim. VA encourages Veterans to work with an approved claims representative or [VSO](#) to determine if they qualify.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/blue-water-navy.asp>.

How to file a claim

VA works with [Veteran Service Organizations \(VSO\)](#) and other partners to ensure Veterans and survivors are aware of the changes and know how to determine *eligibility for disability compensation or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)* when filing a claim.

If Veterans, survivors or dependents have previously filed and were denied a claim, they can file a supplemental claim. VA encourages Veterans to work with an approved claims representative or [VSO](#) to determine if they qualify.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/blue-water-navy.asp>.

92-year-old Marine uncle serves as bride's 'something blue'



Alison Ferrell's "something blue" at her May 13 wedding in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, was her 92-year-old uncle, Bill Lee Eblen, who wore his Marine dress blues.

"From the moment I got engaged I knew I wanted to include my uncle Bill in a special way," Ferrell, 30, [told ABC News](#). "I come from a family where we were taught to have the utmost respect and admiration for the armed services and honoring him as the 'something blue' just seemed like the natural choice."

National Museum of the United States Army to open Veterans Day 2020

By U.S. Army October 13, 2020

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Army plans to open the National Museum of the United States Army on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020.

The National Museum of the U.S. Army, located on a publicly accessible area of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, will be the first and only museum to tell the entire history of the U.S. Army since its establishment in 1775.

“The U.S. Army and the American Soldier forged the birth of our nation,” said Secretary of the Army, Ryan D. McCarthy. “The National Army Museum will be a place for members of the total Army family to gather and share their stories, while also creating an opportunity for visitors to connect with our nation’s history through the eyes and voices of individual Soldiers.”

The museum’s Experiential Learning Center will provide visitors of all ages a unique opportunity to participate in hands-on, educational and team-building activities in the areas of geography, science, technology, engineering and math.

“The museum is stunning, and it is an honor to present this history in a way that shows the connection between the American Soldier, the U.S. Army and the nation,” said the museum’s director, Ms. Tammy E. Call.

The museum will open with enhanced health and safety measures for visitors. Free, timed-entry tickets are required to manage visitor capacity and provide an optimal experience to visitors.

“We have worked hard to ensure the safety of our staff and visitors, and we are excited to open the doors of this long-awaited national museum,” added Call.

The museum is a joint effort between the U.S. Army and the Army Historical Foundation, a non-profit organization. The AHF constructed the building through private funds, and the U.S. Army provided the infrastructure, roads, utilities and exhibit work that transformed the building into a museum. The Army owns and operates the museum, and the AHF manages retail, catering and special events.

“The Army is people. They are our greatest strength and our most important weapon system,” said the Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. James C. McConville. “The National Museum of the United States Army is designed to tell the compelling and heroic stories of our people and take visitors on an exciting journey through the history of the U.S. Army as told through the American Soldiers’ point of view.”

The opening will be preceded by a small ceremony that will be livestreamed to encourage people around the world to participate in this historic moment. A link to the livestream will be posted on the museum’s website and social channels as soon as it’s available. For more information, please visit <http://www.theNMUSA.org>.

To view a video of the National Museum of the U.S. Army, please visit https://youtu.be/3MLNA_bf2EE for a three-minute video.

For inquiries on the National Army Museum, its holdings, site, tours and tickets, please contact the National Museum of the U.S. Army Public Affairs, Ms. Susan Smullen, susan.l.fazakerley-smullen.civ@mail.mil, (202) 246-1610.

Do you know another Veteran????

Nope...this is not a legion solicitation.

Most of us in the Legion know where our copy of our military records (DD-214, etc.) are located. However, we sometimes run into veterans who don’t have their records and may think they are not important. We have participated in a couple of Veteran’s funerals like Mr. Snowman’s where the appropriate service would not provide an honor guard because the family couldn’t find his records. Luckily in Fred’s case his grandson found them in time to get the Navy color guard involved.

The importance of military records isn’t just for a funeral. The veteran may someday want VA assistance to get a VA loan, obtain tax breaks or discounts from retailers.

I encourage you all to remind your veteran friends and family members to obtain their records if they don’t have them. Wherever they reside they should take their records to their local county seat and have them recorded. They should let family members know where their records are. Obtaining the records from the National Archives can take several months, often too late for immediate action.

The National Archives website: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans>