

American Legion

Post 1758

Newsletter



May 2021

Est 1949

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Next Meeting

Our next will be **Tuesday, June 8th, 2021 at 7:00PM**, place to be determined.

Meeting details will be confirmed via a call out message.

Smart people learn from everything and everyone, average people from their experiences, stupid people already have all the answers." – Socrates

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.

Good of the Legion:

Tom Masch's name was drawn at our May 11th meeting but unfortunately, he was not in attendance. The "pot" is now up to \$309.00.



Post Elections

Post elections were held at our May 11 meeting. The following officers will be sworn in at the June meeting.

- Commander Lance Ashworth
- Adjutant John Polasko
- Finance John Call
- Chaplin Jeff Miedowski
- 1st Vice Jim Reynolds
- 2nd Vice Don Burns
- Membership Kevin Hines
- Historian Bill Kriebel
- Sgt Arms Jeff Boes
- Judge Adv Jay Livermore

- **Executive Board**
 - Lance Ashworth
 - John Polasko
 - John Call
 - Jeff Miedowski
 - Jim Reynolds
 - Don Burns
 - Kevin Hines
 - Bill Kriebel

Post Donation

Stop & Shop Community Bag Program

For the month of May 2021, American Legion Manny Bacon Post 1758 will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Stop & Shop store located at 1328 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction NY.



Stop by the Beekman Stop & Shop and buy a bag! Our Post gets a donation.

MOH

**Rank: SIGNAMAN FIRST
CLASS**

**Organization: U.S. COAST
GUARD**

Conflict: WORLD WAR II

Division:

**Date of Action: SEPTEMBER
27, 1942**

**Place: 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.

Area-codeless local calls will largely go away in October — but for a good reason

Most people will soon have to dial 10 digits, instead of seven

In many places, you can call up a neighbor or local pizza parlor just by dialing seven numbers, as long as you have the same area code — but that ability will soon be going away, in order to make the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline easier to reach. If you live in one of the areas where the change is taking place, you'll soon have to dial 10 numbers whether you're making a local call or not. Area code 845 will be affected.

Starting October 24, 2021, anyone trying to call a local number using only seven digits will be met with a recording telling them to hang up and try again with the full area code. The change will apply to landlines, cell phones, and VoIP systems.





Commander Reynolds was contacted by a member of the Honor Flight team about a Vietnam Veteran who was in ill health and mentioned that he was no longer able to put up and untangle his American Flag. Reynolds reached out to the veteran and asked if he would allow our post to install a new “tangle free” pole and flag. Arrangements were made to purchase a flag kit and on April 24th **John Call** and Jim Reynolds installed it for the veteran. He was very appreciative of our endeavors.

Don't forget that our Post web site (al-ny1758.org) has a wealth of information:

- *Meeting and executive board minutes
- *Newsletters
- Programs
- Photos

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

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



Lawrence "Yogi" Berra is well-known for his long and successful playing career with the New York Yankees, his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame and his roller-coaster post-player career as a coach and manager. Not as well-known was his service as a Navy gunner during World War II. Born Lorenzo Pietro Berra in May 1925, Berra grew up in St. Louis. He dropped out of school in the eighth grade to help his family financially. Berra played baseball as a teenager in American Legion Baseball, which was when he was given the nickname, "Yogi." A friend thought Berra resembled a Hindu yogi because of the way he folded his arms and legs when waiting to bat. During his teenage years, Berra tried out for the St. Louis Cardinals. They offered Berra a contract and signing bonus of \$250. But that was half the \$500 bonus they offered his friend, Joe Garagiola. He turned down the Cardinals and went back to his job at a shoe factory. The next year, he tried out for the Yankees. In November 1942, the team offered Berra a contract and a \$500 signing bonus to play with the Norfolk Tars, a Yankees affiliate. He accepted. In May 1943, just as Berra turned 18, he got word from Uncle Sam to take a pre-induction physical. He passed the physical and was allowed a deferment to finish the baseball season. Berra initially opted for the Army but was persuaded to join the Navy in hopes to be on a naval baseball team. Although Berra joined the Navy, his deployment prevented him from playing on the team. Berra was sent to Bainbridge, Maryland, for basic training in 1943. In January 1944, he attended amphibious training in Norfolk, Virginia. Upon completion, Berra deployed to Europe, where he began training for the coming landings in Normandy, France. He was assigned as a gunner's mate to USS Bayfield, an attack transport.

During the D-Day landings, Berra was stationed on a rocket boat. He then departed from the Bayfield to help protect the waves of infantry by providing suppressive fire. Berra fired machine guns and rocket launchers, pounding hostile German bunkers.

In July 1944, Berra participated in Operation Dragoon, the invasion of Southern France. Berra and his comrades were sweeping the beaches with intense fire. Their gunning was directed at a former beach resort the Germans were using as a machine gun bunker. While shooting at this emplacement, Berra was struck in the left hand by an enemy bullet. He did not report the injury, as he was afraid his mother would worry if she found out. However, upon his return home, he reported his injury and was awarded a Purple Heart. Berra was stationed in Tunisia after his participation in Operation Dragoon. In January 1945, he was sent back to the United States and stationed at the Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut. Berra was placed on Welfare and Recreation and subsequently played baseball for the Navy. He was discharged in May 1946 as a seaman second class.

Berra went on to have a legendary career with the Yankees. In his 19 years as a pro player, Berra won 10 World Series championships, the most ever for a single player, made 18 All-Star appearances and was American League Most Valuable Player (MVP) three times. When Berra retired as a player, he became the manager for the Yankees in 1964. He led the team to the World Series that year but was fired when they lost. The next season, he became a coach for the Mets and then manager in 1972, until he was fired three years later. He then went back to the Yankees as a coach and, in 1984, he was manager again, only to be fired the next year. Berra became famous for his malapropisms, which was when he would misuse a word or phrase. These were also known as "Yogi-isms," with one of them being, "We're lost, but we're making good time." Berra was an astute businessman and a popular product spokesman. Berra died in September 2015. He was 90. Two months later, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. We honor his service. [Source: Vantage Point | Michael Veronda | April 1, 2021 ++]

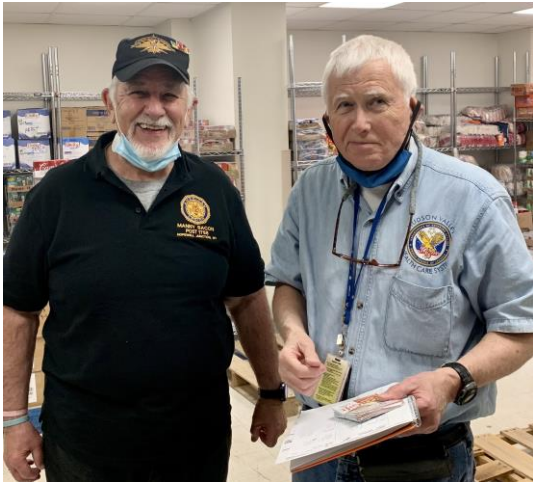
Preparing for Memorial Day 2021

Post activities scheduled for Memorial Day are:

- **Saturday May 22nd** – Place flags on cemeteries starting at 10:00AM at St. Denis. Breakfast at the Falls Diner (Meyers Corner Rd) at **8:30**.
- **Saturday May 29th** - Coin Drops and Poppy distributions at Stewarts, Flory's and Convenient Mart from 8:00AM - 2:00PM. Uniform cap.
- **Monday May 31st** – Memorial Day parade and service at the Memorial Park at the intersection of Rte. 82 and Beekman Road. Please be at the Community Center by **10:15**. Uniform cap, white shirt, dark slacks and shoes. **Honor guard** also wear gold braid and scarf.
- **Saturday June 5th** – Retrieve flags from the cemeteries starting at 11:00AM at St. Denis.

Memorial Day at John Jay High School

We **may** be returning to John Jay for a Memorial Day Service. The school administrators are trying to work out the details. I don't expect an answer until Wednesday, May 19th and will let you know via email and voice broadcast. -jdr



On May 11th Post Commander Jim Reynolds stopped by the Castle Point Food Pantry with \$500.00 in ShopRite gift cards donated by the post. Jim Mullens states the Food Pantry is very appreciative of the gift cards. The cards are used to purchase supplies to supplement donated food items.

Flag Day June 14th

We will be celebrating Flag Day and retiring worn unserviceable flags on Flag Day, June 14th. The ceremony will start at 7:00PM at our burn pit behind the East Fishkill Library. Uniform will be legion cap, white shirt, dark slacks and shoes.

Spread the word, the public is invited.



Nonperishable food is being collected by The Kiwanis of Southern Dutchess County at an Arts and Music Festival on June 5th. The food collected is in the name of **Manny Bacon Post 1758** and will be donated to the Castle Point Food Pantry.

Paula's Runway Cafe &
Kiwanis of Southern Dutchess County
present...

Fly Away Arts & Music Festival

Sat. June 5, 2021
(rain date 6/6/2021)
10:00 am- 5:00 pm

Hudson Valley Regional Airport
263 New Hackensack rd
Wappingers Falls , NY

proudly sponsored by

