

American Legion

Post 1758

Newsletter



August 2022

Est 1949

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Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 13th, 2022 at 7:00PM**, at the East Fishkill Community Center.

Meeting details will be confirmed via a call out message.

“Be grateful for what you already have while you pursue your goals.

If you aren't grateful for what you already have, what makes you think you would be happy with more.”

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

Special Notice: If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call

988 and press “1”

or 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:

Jay Livermore's name was drawn at our August 9th meeting but Jay was not in attendance so the pot continues to grow.—Now at \$148.00



Upcoming Activities

Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 PM - Post monthly meeting at the East Fishkill Community Center.

Saturday, September 17th East Fishkill Community Day

Saturday, September 24th Post 1466 Car Show 50 Legion Rd Poughkeepsie 10:00AM

Tuesday, October 11th at 7:00 PM - Post monthly meeting at the East Fishkill Community Center

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 or 845-226-6895.



If you **want one of these shirts** you can contact The Supply Captain at 845-236-1110.

He made about 25 of these a couple of years ago. I don't recall the price but I think they were about \$25 each.

I think he will take your order, build the shirt and you can pick it up when it's ready.

Address is: 26 Western Ave, Marlboro, NY 12542

Please order black or navy blue to match others within the post.

Post Picnic

Our Post Picnic on August 6th was a great success, at least in my opinion. Thirty-eight post members and family attended. In addition we had several guests: Jennie Angel who provided entertainment, Town council persons Anil Beephan and Manny Marinaro, Gina Grippo (town supervisors secretary), Dutchess County legislator Joe Cavaccini, Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati and Virgil Capollari who is working on a Veteran's committee for the Town of Fishkill.

As usual there was more than enough food and many went home with "doggie bags"

Thanks to Bill Meyer and John Polasko for organizing the picnic including picking up the needed supplies.



Jennie Angel



Tom Masch, Anil Beephan, Bill Meyer and Virgil Capollari

Many more pictures on the post web site: <https://al-ny1758.org/gallery.php?2022;08;Post%20Picnic>

Renew your American Legion membership online

When your membership becomes eligible for renewal, a “Renew Now” button appears at the top right-hand page of your MyLegion.org account. Click on “Renew Now” and the amount due is displayed in “My Order Balance.”

Select “Pay Now” or “Renew Now” to proceed. American Legion members can renew online with a credit card.

You can save your credit card on file for auto renewal. Credit cards will be charged by the second week of July annually for the Legion’s membership year, which runs July 1-June 30.

RENEW ON LEGION.ORG

Members can go to www.legion.org/renew and click “Renew Now” to safely and conveniently pay their dues. Once a member enters the information requested, he or she can set the account for automatic annual renewal, as well as select the option to receive email renewal notices instead of notices through the mail. If the membership is current, he or she may still choose to sign up for automatic annual renewal and/or to receive renewal notices by email only. Automatic renewal can also be set up by calling the toll-free American Legion customer service line at (800) 433-3318.

MYLEGION ACCOUNT

Don’t have a MyLegion.org account? Sign up now to manage your American Legion membership profile and benefits. To register, visit www.mylegion.org. It is important to know that all MyLegion.org accounts are registered with the email on your membership record that National Headquarters has on file.

2023 membership card

In June 1923, the Americanism Commission called the first National Flag Conference in Washington, D.C., where more than 60 patriotic, fraternal, civic and military organizations gathered to create a standard set of guidelines relating to the flag – the U.S. Flag Code. The 2023 American Legion membership card celebrates the 100th anniversary of the first Flag Code drafted, which Congress adopted in 1942.



Ceremonial Bugle

The Ceremonial Bugle we ordered last May arrived on August 3rd. It includes an electronic insert that will allow us to play “Taps” and other military calls when we cannot have a real bugler attend a service.

DoD All Volunteer Force Survey Raises Serious Questions

about Its Future The results of a new survey of military and veterans and spouses — including details on financial difficulties — raise concerns about the future of the military, said the executive director of the organization that conducted the survey. Fewer military, veterans and spouses are likely to recommend military service, according to the findings, and the reasons are related to their own well-being, said Shannon Rzasadin, president and executive director of the Military Family Advisory Network. “At the end of the day, families are having a hard time making ends meet, and 4 that’s affecting their overall well-being,” she said. “We see the connection between well-being and loneliness, well-being and housing, well-being and food security. When you layer that on top of the fact that fewer people are likely to recommend military service, it paints a very clear picture of concern related to the future of the all-volunteer force.”

This is the fourth survey fielded by the organization, generally every two years. This time, the biggest surprise, said Rzasadin, was the drop in the percentage of survey respondents who said they would recommend military life – from 74.5% in 2019 to 62.9% in 2021. The online Military Family Support Programming Survey was fielded from Oct. 4 to Dec. 15, 2021, with 8,638 participating. The largest group of respondents was spouses of active duty members, at 44%, followed by active duty members, at 14%. Nearly 60% of the respondents overall were between the ages of 25 and 39. “This was troubling for us,” Rzasadin said. “It was really the fact that families do not feel like military life lines up with family life.”

Based on their answers, the reasons were related to frequent separations, and the fact that military life is not conducive to family life, she added, noting that the fact that the survey was conducted on the heels of the U.S. military’s exit from Afghanistan in 2021 didn’t show up in the findings, however. In general, over the years, a number of military children have followed in their parents’ footsteps, but there are indications those trends were waning, with other surveys finding that military parents are increasingly unlikely to recommend service to their children. But a recent survey of military teens found that 65 percent still want to serve in the military.

The MFAN report also pointed to a root cause of many problems that military families have understood for years: the military move. In 2021, those who had recently experienced a permanent change of station reported negative or very negative experiences with the reimbursement of moving costs, at 40%; effects on spouse employment, at 38%; and change in cost of living, at 56%. In the future, the organization will further look at these negative experiences, researchers stated.

Burden of housing costs The survey provided more data on the impact of rising housing costs. Nearly half, 45%, of currently serving families experienced a severe housing burden, spending more than 50% of the household income on housing costs, such as mortgage or rent and utilities. That compares to 20% of veteran and retiree families. During an MFAN panel discussion of the results, Marine Corps wife Hana Romer said she and her husband are making rent and mortgage payments now, in order to secure housing when they move from Monterey, California, to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. They’re set to PCS in December, and were being outbid by cash offers while house hunting in North Carolina. So they made the decision to build a house — and to lock in their interest rate in March.

Meanwhile, in Monterey, some families who arrived in June were still living in hotels by mid-July, waiting for housing, she said. The survey found that the situation of the local housing market ranked among the top five reasons for living on base in 2021, but wasn’t noted in previous 5 years’ surveys. In 2021, and continuing into 2022, military families have been affected by skyrocketing housing prices. For those who

lived off base, the poor condition of military housing has been the top reason in the surveys since 2019, but the lack of available military housing has also consistently been among the top reasons.

There was a bright spot regarding privatized military housing, Razsadin said. Residents are seeing better responsiveness on repair issues from their housing companies. But the results show issues with the military commands' responsiveness to military privatized housing issues. Legislation enacted in the last two years has aimed to require better response from housing companies, and improve the conditions, as well as improve oversight of this housing by the military. Most of those who lived in privatized housing, 64%, said the condition of their housing is unchanged. But 28% said conditions have gotten better; 8% said they have gotten worse.

Financial stress The survey this year asked about total household income. Of the currently serving military families who participated, 44% have a combined household income of between \$25,000 and \$75,000, before taxes. That includes Basic Allowance for Housing. Hunger and food insecurity are more common in families that experience high stress due to finances, according to the findings. In 2021, one in six, or 16.6%, of military and veteran families were experiencing food insecurity or hunger, compared to about 15% in 2017. The highest frequency of those experiencing food insecurity was among currently serving, including Guard and Reserve families, at 18.4%, Razsadin said. In addition, 9.6% of the population were experiencing very low food security or hunger, she said.

Of those who had problems with food insecurity, 96% used federal assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and 70% of those said they found those programs helpful. Overall, veteran and currently-serving military families have trouble saving money. In veteran families, 38% have less than \$500 in emergency savings. In currently serving military families, 22 percent have less than \$500 in emergency savings. For military retiree families, 17% have less than \$500 in emergency savings. Enlisted families were most likely to have low or no emergency funds.

At the other end of the spectrum, 29% of currently serving families; 34% of military retiree families; and 21% of veteran families reported having \$10,000 or more in emergency savings funds. The most significant hurdle reported in saving money was income, but respondents also cited increased cost of living and inflation. "This survey was fielded when some of the COVID protections were still in place, before this massive inflation," Razsadin said. "It's a really big concern of ours. We're hearing from families, especially families overseas right now, about major problems making ends meet, with issues of gas prices and COLA changes, and things like that."

Recommendations

- Increase the availability of health care and mental health appointments. "Addressing this issue requires a close look at the reimbursement rates to ensure that community-based providers are appropriately compensated for their time, in a way that is commensurate with the civilian community," they wrote.

- Increase the availability of child care.
- Right-size Basic Allowance for Housing to decrease the housing cost burden on military families.
- Review the pay structure. With the challenges of frequent moves, military spouse unemployment and child care, many military families must make ends meet on the service member's pay alone. "These data show that relying on a single income to sustain the household is problematic for many," the researchers stated.

In a recently released report detailing plans to address food insecurity in the military and longer-term economic security, Defense officials outlined some steps such as increasing child care options, working to increase employment opportunities for spouses, and reviewing the housing allowance and other allowances. In addition, DoD is working with the White House to initiate the 14th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC) later this year. [Source: MilitaryTimes | Karen Jowers | July 18, 2022 ++]

How an American POW Ended Up Fighting Alongside the Soviets

In 1994, President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin held a ceremony at the White House to celebrate the 50th anniversary of D-Day. Among the attendees were several American and Soviet WWII veterans, but unique among them was the sole veteran who donned medals from both nations. Born in Muskegon, Michigan in 1923, Joseph Beyrle was the third of seven children, two of whom would later join the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression and another who would die of Scarlet Fever. Beyrle himself would stand in government food lines with his father to feed his family during this time. After Pearl Harbor, Beyrle turned down a baseball scholarship to Notre Dame to join the U.S. Army. He then volunteered for the U.S. Army 50 Airborne, before being sent to Camp Toccoa, Georgia for Basic Airborne Infantry Training. Upon completion a year later, he was assigned to the fabled 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment and was on his way to England.

As the Allies prepared for D-Day, Beyrle conducted two covert parachute drops into occupied France to deliver gold to the French Resistance. On June 6, 1944, his C-47 took heavy fire forcing him to jump early. Once on the ground, he was alone and separated from his comrades in enemy territory. Using his demolition expertise, he immediately began conducting solo sabotage missions against the Germans, including blowing up a power station. Beyrle later crossed a hedgerow right into a German machine gun nest and was taken prisoner. Beyrle and his captors were strafed by Allied planes, giving him a chance to escape despite being wounded in the attack. A few hours later he was captured again, this time by a German who took his dog tags. The German soldier would be killed a few months later still in possession of Beyrle's identification, forcing the Army to notify his family that he had been killed in action.

Beyrle was transported to Eastern Germany where he would be transferred between seven different prison camps. He attempted further escapes, the second of which nearly succeeded as he and two comrades managed to board a train they hoped was heading East where they could meet the Soviets. Unfortunately, the train circled back to Berlin where train station workers turned the men over to the Gestapo. The men were

beaten and tortured to the point that their arms were twisted out of their sockets. The German military intervened, claiming the Gestapo was interfering with military jurisdiction. Free from the Gestapo, Beyrle was sent to Stalag III-C in Poland, but he and two others attempted another escape in January of 1945. "We took off and ran through the scrub pines and then the guard opened up and the two guys who escaped with me were killed and I made it to the stream and I went downstream because they turned the dogs loose at that time," he said in an interview in 2004. Beyrle soon encountered a column of T-34 tanks before pulling out a pack of Lucky Strike cigarettes and shouting the only Russian he knew "Amerikansky tovarishch (American friend)." Luckily for Beyrle the Soviet political officer spoke some English, but despite his persistence, the officer was hesitant to allow Beyrle to fight alongside them. A female tank commander intervened and allowed Beyrle to tag along. He was given a Soviet uniform and a PPSH-41 submachine gun. The female tank commander is thought to be Alexandra Samusenko, the only known female Soviet tank commander. She joined the military to avenge the death of her family at the hands of the Germans. She later became a tank officer and destroyed three Tiger tanks at the Battle of Kursk.

Attached to her battalion, Beyrle rode on the back of a lend-leased Sherman tank where he witnessed the carnage of the Eastern Front. His new comrades once killed a German couple before feeding their bodies to pigs, only to consume the pigs later. Shortly after liberating Stalag III-C, Beyrle was wounded in a German dive bomber attack and was sent to a Soviet hospital in Poland. Possessing no paperwork Beyrle saw little chance of returning home until he was visited in the hospital by the famous Soviet Marshal Georgi Zhukov. "Marshal Zhukov visited the hospital and he came to my bed and through an interpreter wanted to know my name and how I got there. And the last thing he said, 'Is there anything I can do for you?'" After informing Zhukov of his predicament, he received a letter emboldened with five stars and Russian writing. Zhukov's assistant informed Beyrle that it was his passport back to American forces. Once rested and recuperated, he caught a train to Moscow, hoping he would be home soon. Once there, Beyrle approached the American embassy, but suspicious staff informed him that he had been reported killed in action and his family had even held a funeral service for him back home. After being placed under house arrest, Beyrle managed to prove his identity through fingerprinting and was repatriated home as the war in Europe ended.

In 1946 he married his then-girlfriend JoAnne in the very same church his own funeral had been held at two years earlier. Together they had a daughter named Julie, and a son, John, who later became the U.S. ambassador to Russia. Historian Thomas Taylor later wrote Beyrle's story in *The Simple Sounds of Freedom: The True Story of the Only Soldier to Fight for Both America and the Soviet Union in World War II*. In 2004, the designer of the AK-47, Lt. Gen. Mikhail Kalashnikov, presented Beyrle with a rifle at a Moscow Victory Day celebration. Later that year, Joseph Beyrle died of heart failure while visiting Camp Toccoa and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, the only known American with both U.S. and Soviet medals. [Source: Task & Purpose Allen Frazier |

FREE!

**TO ALL
VETERANS and
their FAMILY
MEMBERS**

HUDSON VALLEY

August 27th, 2022

VETERAN APPRECIATION DAY

Gates Open at 3:00 pm

Patriotic Pregame Ceremony Honoring

Local Veterans at 5:00 pm

Game Starts at 6:05 pm!

HV Renegades vs Hickory Crawdads

Post Game Fireworks!

Veteran Resources & Vendors will be located inside the stadium!

*For Information
& Tickets:*

Orange County: 845-291-2470

Sullivan County: 845-794-4228

Ulster County: 845-481-4004

Dutchess County: 845-473-2500 x1307 or x1365

Clear Path for Veterans: 845-220-8398



NORTHERN DUTCHESS ROD & GUN CLUB VETERANS SPORTSMAN'S DAY 2022



PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO DISABLED/WOUNDED VETERAN'S**EVENT LIMITED TO 25

WHEN: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

WHERE: NDRGC, 140 ENTERPRISE ROAD, RHINEBECK, NY, 12572

TIME: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**EVENTS: ARCHERY, FISHING, TRAP SHOOTING, .22 WOODS WALK
TRADITIONAL RANGE, BLACK POWDER RIFLES**

- CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND COMPLIMENTARY BARBEQUE LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED
- NO ALCOHOL PERMITTED

CONTACT: DANNY LOVELAND TO PRE-REGISTER (845)332-0788

EMAIL: ndrgcvetevent@gmail.com

TO OBTAIN REGISTRATION FORMS: www.ndrgc.com

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND EVENT

RAIN OR SHINE!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!