

American Legion
Post 1758
Newsletter



May 2023

Est 1949

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Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, June 13th, 2023 at 7:00PM,**
at the East Fishkill **Community Center** on Rte. 82.

Meeting details will be confirmed via a call out message.

“Shoot for the moon, because even if you miss you miss,
you'll land in the stars.”

— Les Brown

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.

Ed Kantrowitz's name was drawn at our May 9th
meeting but Ed was not in attendance so the pot is now
at \$518.00!!!!



Paid for in part by
Dutchess County



Upcoming Activities

Saturday, May 20th – 10:00 AM Install Flags at cemeteries. **Breakfast at Falls Diner at 8:00 AM, Start at St Denis at 10:00** Legion cap, (rain date Sunday 5/21 2:00 PM)

Friday May 26th – 7:00 AM Memorial Day Service at John Jay. Uniform: L/S Shirt, cap, dark trousers, gold braid and scarf, black shoes. Meet at Gym/Cafeteria entrance, not the main entrance

Saturday, May 27th – 8:00 AM Poppy/Coin Drops - Legion Cap

Monday, May 29th -10:30 AM Memorial Day Parade Lineup at the East Fishkill Community Center.

Saturday, June 3rd – 12:00N Tentative Graduating Enlistees luncheon - Uniform: L/S Shirt, cap, dark trousers, gold braid and scarf, black shoes

Saturday, June 10th – 11:00 AM Retrieve flags from cemeteries, starting at St. Denis

Tuesday, June 13th – 7:00 PM Post Monthly meeting EF Community Center

Wednesday, June 14th – 7:00 PM Flag Day ceremony at the fire pit behind the EF Library - Uniform: L/S Shirt, cap, dark trousers, black shoes



Danny Oberhauser and Conrad Gagnon providing information to John Jay Seniors about our Graduating Enlistees Luncheon

Welcome New Members

To our post

Doug Dellipaoli a Marine Desert Storm Veteran.

And

Francis DeVitto an Army Vietnam Veteran.

Pizza Party

Plan on having dinner with us at our June meeting.....pizza, soda, water!



Dates to keep in mind

August 5th – **Post Picnic** Hopewell Recreation Park – Rte 376

December 9th – **Post Holiday Party** at the 18 North Grill, Fishkill

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.

Women Veterans Day June 12th

Women Veterans Day, also referred to as Women Veterans Recognition Day and Women Veterans Appreciation Day, is the anniversary of the day the Women's Armed Services Integration Act was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman on June 12, 1948. Prior to then, only women nurses could serve in the regular and reserve forces during peacetime.

Women have served in America's wars and conflicts throughout America's history and performed many jobs, playing vital roles in the Revolution, serving as soldiers, raising morale, and spying on the enemy. More than 400 women fought in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. During World War I, about 35,000 women officially served as nurses and support staff, such as [the Hello Girls](#), formally known as the Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators Unit. In World War II, 140,000 women served in the Women's Army Corps (WACs) performing critical jobs, such as military intelligence, cryptography and parachute rigging. In August 1943, the WAFS and WFTD merged into a single unit for all women pilots and formed the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs), who flew more than 60,000 miles in two years. During this time, the [6888th](#) Battalion was formed as the first and only all Black Female Women Army Corps (WAC) unit to be deployed overseas during WWII. Their nickname was "Six-Triple Eight" and their motto was "No Mail, Low Morale."

Today there are still many women Veteran history lessons to be taught. The first Women Veterans Day was celebrated on June 12, 2018, and is currently a state-recognized commemoration in California, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin.

There are currently almost two-million women Veterans in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Territories/Foreign, according to [VA](#). We're working hard to ensure that women Veterans are treated with the respect and dignity they have earned and deserve. To help achieve that goal, VA Secretary Dennis McDonough has made it clear since assuming his new role that all VA staff, patients, families, caregivers, survivors, visitors and advocates must feel safe in a workplace free of harassment and discrimination.

The [Center for Women Veterans](#) was established by Congress in November 1994 by [Public Law \(P.L.\) 103-446](#) to monitor and coordinate VA's administration of health care, benefits and services, and programs for women Veterans. CWV serves as an advocate for a cultural transformation (both within VA and in the general public) in recognizing the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military, and to raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect. The Center is promoting cultural transformation to #BringWomenVeteransHome2VA with initiatives such as: [I AM NOT INVISIBLE \(IANI\)](#), [2021 Women Veteran Trailblazers](#), naming of VA Spaces after women Veterans, and partnerships with many internal and external partners.

Women Veterans Day is not a separate day for women Veterans, it is a tribute to a groundbreaking day when women were acknowledged as essential to the war efforts and could serve in the regular armed forces.

Missina Schallus is a Navy Veteran and the communications manager for VA's Center for Women Veterans.

Who counts as a veteran? Not the latest Texas shooter

Mauricio Garcia, the gunman who killed eight people at a Texas Mall on Saturday, [spent three months in Army basic training](#) in an attempt to become an infantry soldier in 2008. But military leaders on Tuesday bristled at the suggestion that he deserves the title of “veteran.”

“He is not a veteran,” [Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder](#) flatly stated to reporters at a department press conference. “According to federal regulations, this individual, in terms of the time of service, would not qualify as a veteran.”

The term was used in several news reports (including Military Times) to describe Garcia, who was killed by police responding to the deadly attack. The confusion over exactly who can call themselves a veteran underscores the varying definitions used by the public, federal and local government officials and even within the [military and veterans community](#), whose numbers have dwindled steadily over the last three decades.

When it comes to issues of veterans benefits and services, the rules are straightforward. [Federal code classifies a veteran](#) as “a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.”

VA officials said that most individuals must serve two years on active-duty to qualify for things like veterans home loans and education benefits, although some troops injured early in their military careers or even in basic training can qualify for assistance.

Garcia didn’t fall into either of those categories. According to Army officials, he was dismissed from the service before completing his training because of an “uncharacterized” mental health condition. That discharge is not the same as an injury separation.

Service officials have not released details of Garcia’s dismissal. Since the shooting, outside groups have identified racist online postings by the 33-year-old as a possible motivation for his attack. It is not known if he held those views during his brief military stint.

Rules regarding local veterans benefits vary from state to state, and usually cover things like lower local tax rates and waived fees for state services. Those differences do not impact veterans’ federal eligibility.

Veterans who qualify for benefits can also have their federal payouts reduced or revoked if they are convicted of a felony, although VA officials still categorize imprisoned individuals with military experience as “veterans.”

The question of who the public sees as a veteran is trickier. For years, veterans groups have pushed forward messaging emphasizing that individuals who never saw combat or did not spend time in hazardous overseas locations still should be honored for their service and sacrifices.

They’ve also advocated for (and successfully moved along) legislation to better clarify what benefits reservists and National Guard troops qualify for, and to recognize them as veterans in good-standing.

But those efforts almost always focus on individuals who spend some time in active-duty service, not simply in military training.

“There has to be some element of actual service, and that wasn’t there with [Garcia],” said Patrick Murray, director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ National Legislative Service. “Just because you got on a bus with the intent to serve doesn’t mean you became a veteran.”

In 2017, the issue of defining who counts as a veteran made similar headlines when then [Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin](#) said another mass-murderer with prior Air Force service did not “deserve to have the same title as the men and women who served this country honorably.”

In that case, the shooter — Devin Patrick Kelley, who served four years before a court martial and bad conduct discharge for domestic violence — killed 26 people at a church in an attack that appeared connected to the same domestic violence issues. Kelly was found dead a few miles away from the scene.

VA officials have made several outreach efforts to individuals with other-than-honorable discharges — including expanded mental health care options — in an effort to ensure all military service is properly recognized. But Murray said that doesn’t mean that anyone with any connection to the military gets to claim veteran status.

“If you were drummed out of the service for wrongdoing or before you even really served, that’s not a veteran,” he said. “Absolutely not.”...From Military Times..About [Leo Shane III](#)

Leo covers Congress, Veterans Affairs and the White House for Military Times. He has covered Washington, D.C. since 2004, focusing on military personnel and veterans policies. His work has earned numerous honors, including a 2009 Polk award, a 2010 National Headliner Award, the IAVA Leadership in Journalism award and the VFW News Media award.

Please renew your membership

There are 17 members who have not yet renewed their 2023 membership. We appreciate your military service and membership in our post and hope to retain your membership.

If you have a hardship and are unable to pay this year's dues, please reach out to me and we'll make arrangements to assist you.

For those of you who wish to pay online you can do so at [Legion.org/renew](https://legion.org/renew).

Check your wallet, if you don't have a 2023 membership card you have not renewed for this year and will be dropped from the Legion rolls.

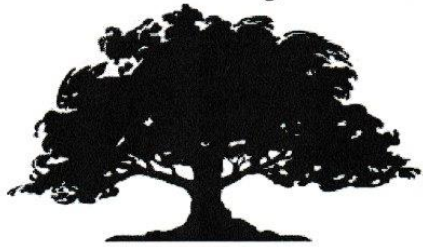
*Arlington High School Invites You to Attend a
Memorial Day Remembrance*

Wednesday, May 31

6:00 pm

*Arlington
High School*

*William J. Sweeney Performance Hall
1157 Route 55, LaGrangeville, NY 12540*



The Evening's Program will include:

- Presentation of the Colors
- Ceremonial reading of the names of AHS alumni who lost their lives during military service and whose names appear on the Wall of Remembrance
- Keynote Speaker: Ricky R. Davis, Command Sergeant Major, Retired
- Presentation of Arlington High School Charlie Johnson Awards
- Musical Selections, Arlington High School Concert Band under the direction of Mr. Evan R zodkiewicz.

**Attendees are invited to
visit the Wall of Remembrance following the program.**

**We will have seats reserved for veterans and family members of our alumni who are memorialized on
the Wall of Remembrance in the front of the auditorium.**