

American Legion

**Post 1758**

**Newsletter**



**July 2023**

Est 1949

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**Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, August 8th, 2023 at 7:00PM,**  
at the East Fishkill **Community Center** on Rte. 82.

*Meeting details will be confirmed via a call out message.*

“The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen  
or touched, they are felt with the heart.”

— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, [The Little Prince](#)

**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.

**Don Greenwood’s** name was drawn at our June 13th  
meeting but Don (who rarely misses a meeting) was not  
in attendance and the pot is now at \$606.00!!!!



Paid for in part by

Dutchess County

## Upcoming Activities

**Saturday, August 5th - 12:00 noon** – Post annual Picnic in the Pavilion at the Hopewell Recreation Park

**Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM** Monthly membership meeting at the East Fishkill Community Center

**Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM** Monthly membership meeting at the East Fishkill Community Center

**Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 2:00 PM** East Fishkill Community Day

## Color Guard Activities

On June 17<sup>th</sup> members Bill Meyer, Jim Reynolds, John Polasko, and Dan Oberhauser provided an honor guard at the Knights of Columbus Backyard Olympics fund raiser. Over \$22,000 was raised to purchase hundreds of wheelchairs through the Knights of Columbus Wheelchair Initiative. These wheelchairs are distributed locally to individuals, to organizations such as Castle Point VAMC and the Hudson Valley Honor Flight, and to churches and schools. This year they were also able to make donations to the DC 10-13 Foundation, Hudson Valley Honor Flight, Special Olympics, Coats for Kids, CCD Programs, and the East Fishkill Fire District.



On Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> an honor guard consisting of Bill Meyer, John Polasko, Jim Reynolds, and John Lyons presented the colors at Sheriff Kirk Imperati's golf tournament, After the ceremony our post members were chased down and presented with a \$240 donation from the tournament. John Polasko missed out on the photo op....I think he was at the breakfast bar! 😊



**Don't forget that our Post web site ([al-ny1758.org](http://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](mailto:Historian@al-ny1758.org) or 845-226-6895.

### **Post Property Status**

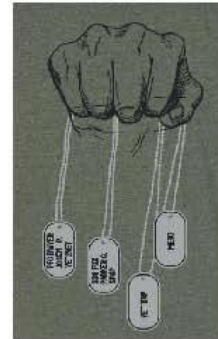
Property Chairman Bill Kriebel was approached by a new realtor and the post voted to give the gentleman an opportunity to market our properties on Prout Lane. Commander Reynolds signed the contract with Thomas Santore of Coldwell Bankers of Yorktown Heights on July 12th.

Mrs. Pogge has done a good job and spent a lot of time over the last couple of years working with us but we decided to give this guy a chance and see what he can do. The property is what it is, private unmaintained road, rocky terrain, some wet land protected!

## *Veteran & Family Sunset Picnic*



**Friday July 21, 2023  
Bowdoin Park  
Pavilion #5  
4:00pm ~ 8:00pm**



*Come enjoy an evening of  
great food, fun,  
and most importantly,  
great camaraderie with other  
Dutchess County Veterans.*

*This event is free for all Dutchess County Veterans and a plus one.  
Come hungry and leave happy!*

Please RSVP to Sylvia at 845-473-2500 x 1367 by Monday July 17<sup>th</sup>





# VETERAN'S APPRECIATION DAY

— ★ — ★ — ★ — ★ — ★ —  
**SATURDAY, 8/26/23**



**SCAN THE ABOVE QR CODE TO RESERVE  
YOUR FREE VETERAN & VETERAN FAMILY  
TICKETS OR CALL THE RENEGADES AT  
845-838-0094 TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS**

**TO ALL VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES**

**TICKET INCLUDES:  
PRE-GAME FOOD & BEVERAGE**

**PRE-GAME CEREMONY HONORING VETERANS AT 5PM**

**VETERAN RESOURCES & VENDORS WILL BE LOCATED  
THROUGHOUT THE BALLPARK'S CONCOURSE!**

**HV RENEGADES VS - ABERDEEN IRONBIRDS**

**GATES OPEN AT 3PM**

**FIRST PITCH AT 6:05PM &  
POST-GAME FIREWORKS**

**HERITAGE FINANCIAL PARK (1500 ROUTE 9D,  
WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY 12590)**



# POST PICNIC

## SATURDAY, AUG 5<sup>TH</sup>

### 12:00N

**Pavilion at the Hopewell Recreation Park**

Hamburgers, hot dogs,  
soda, water, potato,  
macaroni, pasta, and  
green salads,  
empanadas, stuffed  
cabbage, cookies, cake,  
watermelon and more!

Bring the whole family....significant  
other, children, grandchildren!

**Great conversation**



### From CBS news

**OTTER TAIL COUNTY, Minn.** – For many veterans, the memories of war can be difficult, even painful. But a Vietnam War veteran in Otter Tail County is learning that fellow soldiers will follow through, half a century after their mission is over.

"I signed a huge contract for \$13,000 with the Atlanta Falcons," said John Nordgaard. Nordgaard's path to Vietnam actually began on the football field. A stand-out quarterback at the University of Minnesota-Morris, he had a tryout with the Falcons.

For him, making the team meant playing in the NFL. Getting cut meant going to war.

"When [coach] Norm Van Brocklin called me in to cut me, he said, 'Swede, what do you think you're gonna do now?' And I said, 'I'm afraid I'm gonna be going to Vietnam.' Shortly after that, I did," said John.

He became a medic who spent 13 months and seven days in Vietnam. And like many soldiers, John saw things he'd rather not remember.

"It was very tough on me. But I think it would have been very tough had I not had Eleanor," said John. "Very proud of him. He was one of the older guys in his unit, and he took care of a lot of other people," said Eleanor Nordgaard, John's wife.

And he was recognized for it. Local newspapers even wrote about his time in combat and how he saved lives. When the day finally came to go home in the spring of 1971, John packed up his medals and memories and mailed them back to the U.S. The problem is, they never made it home.

"Most of this stuff didn't matter until all of a sudden you get older and older and say, 'Geez, you know, that would be neat,'" said John.

Years went by with no sign of John's Vietnam box. But a couple states over, in Michigan, Peter LundBorg and his wife Joan were trying to solve a decades-long mystery.

"I'm amazed at it. First of all, I can't believe it's been in our basement all this time," said Joan.

Peter was the postal clerk for John's company and responsible for the mail during the war, though the men never met. All Peter knew was that for 52 years a soldier's box had been sitting in his basement with no address on it. "I had a name, and that's about all there was," said Peter. "When you have to go back 50 years, you just couldn't find where people were."

Peter thinks John's address may have been torn off when soldiers were going through the mail during inspections. Not knowing where to send it, he took it home, but it never completely left his mind. "I had to get the mail through, you know, deliver that mail," said Peter.

So a few years ago, Peter's son did research on the name John Nordgaard and sent an email to someone he thought was a relative. Turns out it was John's daughter.

That email got stuck in her spam folder. Four years after it was sent, she finally saw the message and responded, confirming that John was her dad and the box belonged to him.

"It's kind of hard to put into words that finally, you know, it really, actually happened," said Peter.

The two veterans began sending letters to each other, and just before Memorial Day, it was agreed that Peter would drive to John and deliver his mail in person.

"You've heard the term 'snail mail.' I thought this is really slow but at least I have it. But when he brought the box, still I didn't know what was in it," said John.

That's where things got really interesting, with the LundBorgs and Eleanor watching. John pulled out random memory after random memory from his time at war.

"Tapes of the football games after the year we both graduated," said John.

But the further down he got, the more sentimental things became. A Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and then at the very bottom of the box – the Medal of Valor, earned while under enemy fire.

"If any of them are gonna bring tears to my eyes, this is the one that means the most because I lost some soldiers on that evening when I earned this," said John.

The two families talked for hours that day. For Peter, it was mission accomplished, after half a century.

"Tears. He had tears. I had tears and Eleanor had tears," said Joan.

"It's just about carrying through with things in your life. Finally, we got that one to check off," said Peter.

Funny how an age-old mystery can lead to a new friendship.

"It was fun, exciting, and oh my God, it's the real thing. I'm almost getting goosebumps right now thinking about it," said John.

The families plan to visit each other again later this month. While the LundBorgs live in Michigan, the Nordgaards live on Otter Tail Lake during the summer, and return to Milwaukee during the winter months. That's where Peter delivered John his box of memories.