

American Legion

Post 1758

Newsletter



August 2023

Est 1949

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Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 12th, 2023 at 7:00PM**, at the East Fishkill Community Center on Rte. 82.

Meeting details will be confirmed via a call out message.

“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.”

— Edmund Burke

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.

Conrad Gagnon's name was drawn at our August 8th meeting but Conrad (who rarely misses a meeting) was not in attendance and the pot is now at \$646.00!!!!



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Upcoming Activities

Monday, September 11th – East Fishkill 9-11 Ceremony- Details not yet determined

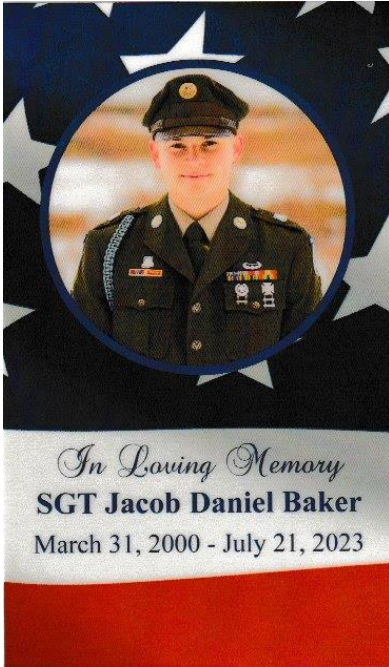
Tuesday, September 12th – 7:00 PM Monthly membership meeting at the East Fishkill Community Center

Saturday September 23rd – 2:00 PM East Fishkill Community Day

Castle Point Donation

On July 18th John Call, who volunteers at the Castle Point Food Pantry, reported that the Veterans Clothing store was in dire need of underwear. Commander Reynolds reached out to the Post Executive Board and obtained their agreement to spend \$500 on underwear which he ordered from Amazon. Jim delivered the 225 pairs of briefs to Castle Point on July 25th. Good job 1758!





On August 8th eight members of our post paid our last respects to Sgt Jacob Daniel Baker at the Straub, Catalano and Halvey Funeral Home in Wappingers Falls. Sgt. Baker was our post's candidate at Boy's State in 2017. He died in a motorcycle accident at the age of 23. Attending was John Polasko, John Call, Bill Meyer, Bill Kriebel, Tom Masch, Don Burns, Norm Dauerer and Jim Reynolds.

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.

POST PICNIC

On the next page you'll find photos from this year's picnic. We had about 54 people attend including Town Supervisor Nick D'Alessandro and town board members Tom Franco, and Marianne Flores. First up is a group shot, then pictures of Tom Masch, Bill Meyer, and John Polasko receiving awards.

There are many more picnic photos on the post web site at:

<https://al-ny1758.org/gallery.php?2023;08;Post%20Picnic>



Can we win \$10,000?????

At our July meeting the post bought a raffle ticket from the Whortlekill Rod and Gun Club. The ticket includes admission to a picnic and dinner on September 9th. We held a drawing at our August meeting to see who would win access to the festivities. If our ticket wins the drawing the **\$10,000 belongs to the post** but drawing winner **Jim Broughton** gets to attend the picnic and roast beef dinner. Congratulations Jim!

Boy's State



Our candidate to this years Boy's State Ethan Greenwood stopped by our August meeting to share his experience. A nice young man comfortable speaking in front of adults. He thoroughly enjoyed his time at Boy's State, made many friends, and learned a lot about the way our form of government is supposed to operate.

The picture on the right is Ethan and his Grandfather Dona Greenwood.

Membership

Since renewal notices have gone out in early July we have had 61 members renew their membership for 2024. Thank You!!!! If you haven't received a notice please let Commander Reynolds know.

You can always renew on line at: <https://www.legion.org/renew>

HOW YOU CAN BE THE ONE

What: The American Legion's Be the One initiative encourages American Legion Family members, veterans, servicemembers and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide.

Why: To reduce the alarming number of veteran suicides.

How: Our goal is to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be the One.

Who:

Veterans

- Talk with fellow veterans about how you are feeling.
- Ask for help when you think you need it.
- Know there are millions of people ready to help you.
- Remember your family and friends care.

Non-veterans

- Ask veterans in your life how they are doing.
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- Reach out when a veteran is struggling.

American Legion posts

- Educate members, other veterans and civilians on the campaign.
- Display resources at your post or in your community.
- Share events or success stories at legiontown.org.

RESOURCES

American Legion support: Stories, videos and promotional items related to this initiative are available for posts, members and others. Visit betheone.org

For urgent help: Veterans experiencing a crisis can call **988** and press **1** for mental health assistance. Counselors are available 24/7. They may also text **838255** or visit the VA crisis line website veteranscrisisline.net



We can all Be the One

Here's how veterans and civilians can help reduce the rate of veteran suicide.



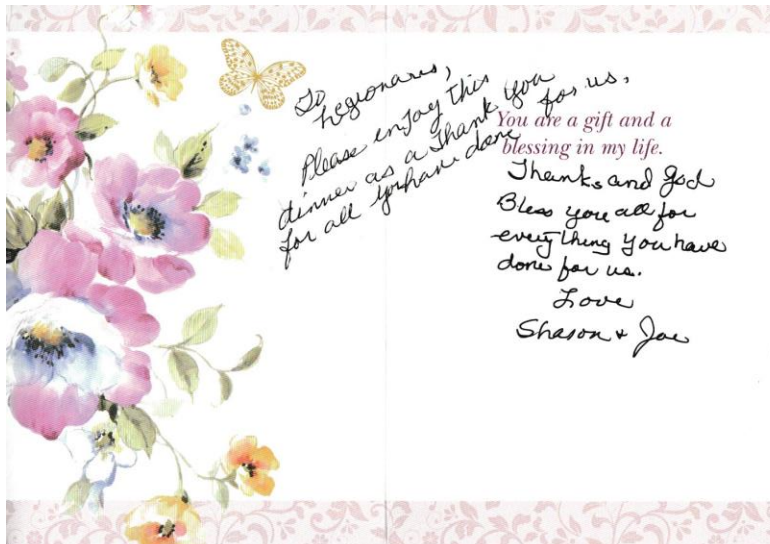
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
1-800-433-3318

legion.org



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Artwork# 89MAG0922 - Local



Joe Ryan and his wife Sharon sent us a nice "thank you" for all the help we had given them over the past year. They also provided the delicious "hero" we devoured at the August meeting.



Why the Army's 1950s hovercraft platform failed

Soldiers suspended in the air in moon boots and sniping unsuspecting targets on the ground might sound like a battle tactic from a future war, but such a concept for an Army hovercraft actually traces its roots to the 1950s.

That's when a rotor-propelled standing platform was picked up by Office of Naval Research, which based its design on National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics engineer Charles Zimmerman's invention known as the "Flying Shoes."

The result was a "one-man, twin-engine, flying platform with two counter-rotating rotors turning on vertical axis inside ducted fan," according to the [National Air and Space Museum](#).

In essence, the platform resembled a flying disk with a guardrail to prevent those riding from falling out.

One piece of promotional material provided to Military Times by the U.S. Army Transportation Museum reads, "It Flies! The Navy Comes Up with A Real 'Flying Saucer.'"

In 1956, ONR came up with a series of prototype models. Ultimately its 1031-A-1 flew, but the Army wanted a larger version with more thrust. The craft eventually evolved into the Hiller VZ-1 Pawnee before the project was scrapped.

"The extra engines required for redundancy if the primary failed made the platform so heavy that it was impossible for the pilot to control the craft kinesthetically (by leaning), defeating the purpose of the design," [according to the Smithsonian](#).

As a result, the Army's interest in the platform waned, and the Hiller hovercraft's dreams came crashing down.

(from ArmyTimes)

WWII paratrooper famous for bringing beer to wounded troops dies at 98

Vincent Speranza, the American paratrooper who became known as the soldier who doled out beer to his wounded comrades during the Battle of the Bulge, died Wednesday at the age of 98, the [18th Airborne Corps announced on Twitter](#).

The New York native was drafted out of high school in 1943 to Company H, 501st Parachutist Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, and slotted in as an incredibly green replacement in November 1944 as the unit regrouped following the failure of Operation Market Garden earlier that fall.

Within weeks, Speranza found himself among 600,000 GIs engaged in the bitter, nearly six-week campaign against approximately 500,000 Nazis.

On the second day of the fierce fighting, Company H found itself surrounded, its supplies waning rapidly.

“The Germans had slipped around and they had surrounded the town and we had no place to put the wounded,” Speranza told the 101st Airborne Museum in Bastogne in 2012.

The men found a bombed-out church and used it as a makeshift field hospital. Amid the chaos and carnage, Speranza heard his friend Joe Willis — who was wounded with shrapnel in both legs — begging for water.

His own canteen empty, Speranza checked a devastated tavern close by and found, to his delight, a working beer tap. Filling his helmet, which also served as his foxhole toilet, Speranza returned to the field hospital and gave Willis and other wounded soldiers the cold brew.

“I was like an old cow you know, feeding everybody with the beer,” Speranza cheekily recounted.

The helmet soon ran dry, so Speranza made another run but soon found his exit blocked by the regimental surgeon.

“What the hell are you doing, soldier?” groused the major.

”Giving aid and comfort to the wounded,” came Speranza’s insolent reply.

“He goes, ‘You stupid bastard, don’t you know I have chest cases and stomach cases in there? You give them beer you’ll kill them.’”

Speranza quickly placed the helmet back on his head, the vestiges of beer leaking down his cheeks as he ran back to his foxhole. Speranza went on to survive Bastogne and the war, but upon returning home the former paratrooper largely attempted avoiding the memories of his service, becoming a history teacher and a father in the years that followed.

Unbeknownst to him, however, the private’s act of kindness on December 17, 1944,

became the stuff of legend in the town of Bastogne. Brasserie Lamborelle, a brewery in Bastogne, even created Airborne Beer that was served in helmet-shaped ceramic bowls to commemorate the paratrooper's beer-carrying mission, Speranza's VA biography said.

Incredibly, Speranza did not become aware of his fame until 2009, when he returned to the once-besieged town for the first time since the war.

"After being a machine gunner at the Battle of the Bulge, winning a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star and (spending) two decades as a public school teacher, Airborne Beer is what I'm famous for," Speranza told Stars and Stripes.

In subsequent years, Speranza traveled across the U.S. and Europe, recounting his wartime stories to soldiers and veterans alike — even going viral in 2016 for his rendition of "Blood on the Risers" at the Frederick Army Air Field in Oklahoma.

This past March, the 98-year-old veteran skydived as part of a ceremony commemorating WWII paratroopers.

"Jumping is the most fantastic thing in the world," he told Staten Island Live. "The last jump I made was in 1945, and when I reached about age 80, I started training for another jump. I said, 'I'm going to be gone soon, and I gotta just do it one more time.'"

MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced six burial updates for service members who have been missing and unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

- Army Sgt. Bernard J. Sweeney Jr., 22**, of Waterbury, Connecticut, was assigned to Company I, 330th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 16, 1944. He will be buried in Wading River, New York, on Oct. 10, 2023.
- Army Air Forces Sgt. Willard S. Kendall, 23**, of Chicago, Illinois, was assigned to the 32d Bombardment Squadron, 301st Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force. He was reported killed in action on Feb. 25, 1944. He will be buried in Forest Park, Illinois, on a date to be determined. [↓](#)
- Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Alfred W. Pezzella, 27**, of Newton, Massachusetts, was assigned to the 328th Bombardment Squadron, 93d Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. He went missing in action on Aug. 1, 1943. He will be buried in Bourne, Massachusetts, on a date to be determined.
- Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Walter B. Miklosh, 21**, of Chicago, Illinois, was assigned to the 678th Bombardment Squadron, 444th Bombardment Group, 58th Bombardment Wing, Twentieth Bomber Command. He was killed in action on June 26, 1944. He will be buried in Sierra Vista, Arizona, on a date to be determined.
- Army Cpl. Francis James Jury, 23**, of Clearfield, Pennsylvania, was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950. He will be buried in Annville, Pennsylvania, on a date to be determined.
- Marine Corps Capt. Ralph J. Chipman**, was assigned to Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 533, Marine Attack Group 12, 1st Marine Air Wing. He went missing in action on Dec. 27, 1972, and was reported killed in action in July 1974. His burial date and location are to be determined.



Dutchess County Weekend for Warriors is back.

September 7-10, 2023

Are you a Dutchess County Combat Veteran?

or

Do you know a Dutchess County Combat Veteran?

**Contact us at 845-473-2500 x1306 to nominate yourself
or a friend for this event**

This event will be held at 13 Hands Equine Rescue in Clinton Corners, NY with support from various local organizations and businesses. If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact us.