

American Legion

**Post 1758**

**Newsletter**



**November 2023**

Est 1949

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**Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 9th, 2024 at 7:00PM**, at the **East Fishkill Community Center** on Rte. 82.

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

“Successful people don't have fewer problems. They have determined that nothing will stop them from going forward.”

— Ben Carson, [Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story](#)

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

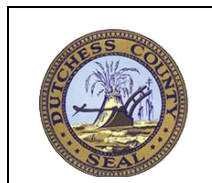
**988 and press “1”**

or this toll-free number

**1-800-273-8255**

available 24/7, and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential.

**Juan Alfonso's** name was pulled at our November meeting but he was not in attendance. The pot is now \$148.00



Paid for in part by  
Dutchess County

## Upcoming Activities

**Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 PM** Post Holiday Party at 18 North Grill Fishkill

**Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM** Post meeting East Fishkill Community Center

**Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM** Post meeting East Fishkill Community Center

**Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM** Post hosts **Dutchess County Meeting** East Fishkill Community Center

## Welcome

At our November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting we welcomed two new members: **Andrew Bellantone** and **Dominick Splendorio**. Drew is a Coast Guard Veteran and new to the American Legion. Dom is an Army Veteran and is transferring from NY0001.

Welcome aboard gentlemen.

**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](mailto:Historian@al-ny1758.org) or 845-226-6895.

## Membership

Since renewal notices have gone out in early July, we have had 82 (75%) members renew their membership for 2024. That means about 25% have not yet paid their dues. If you haven't received a notice, please let Commander Reynolds know.

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

If you have a hardship paying your dues this year please contact the commander.

# **Southern Dutchess News**

Vol. 72, # 45 75 cents

Fishkill, East Fishkill, Wappingers Falls, Town of Wappinger, Town and City of Poughkeepsie

November 8-14, 2023

## **New Veterans Memorial Park coming to East Fishkill**

**By Kristine Coulter**

Coming to the town of East Fishkill is the new Veterans Memorial Park. The park is located off Route 376, near the East Fishkill Town Hall. The park will include a Memorial Garden, Flag Ceremony Plaza, Memorial Plaza, Donor Walk, Gold Star Plaza, and a water feature.

“We started a Veterans Memorial Committee with our Veterans Council. The (East Fishkill) Town Board allocated funds to hire an architect to design a new park. This has been adopted by the board,” said East Fishkill Supervisor Nick D’Alessandro.

“The surveying of the property and drawing up some of the initial plans is the first stage of construction. Hopefully the highway department will do some of the grading. Stated D’Alessandro.

The supervisor said groundbreaking at this time is expected to occur in Spring 2024 with town officials “looking to do as much work in-house as possible.

Fundraising is being done, said D’Alessandro. Town officials recently sent a brochure about the park to corporations such as Pepsi Co and Amazon, which have facilities in East Fishkill seeking donations said D’Alessandro. A \$150,000 check from a corporation will be used towards the five-acre park, he explained.

“We have a very small Veterans Memorial Park at Beekman Road and Route 82. It’s a tough configuration there and a bit dangerous when we hold our Memorial Day Ceremony there” stated the supervisor. “We want something truly befitting of our veterans“.

“American Legion Post 1758 and all East Fishkill veterans and their families are looking forward to the new East Fishkill Veterans Park. The existing small park at the intersection of Route 82 and Beekman Road was established decades ago when East Fishkill was a rural farming community with little traffic along those roads. The current Memorial Park is small and it’s difficult to have a memorial service or a quiet place to honor and remember our veterans due to the volume of passing traffic,” said Jim Reynolds, Manny Bacon Post 1758 Commander.

As for the feedback town officials have received from the town residents and veterans, D’Alessandro said, “We have received tremendously positive words of feedback from the community. They’re so happy and engaged.” He noted town officials have received so many emails and calls praising the project.

“They’re proud that we’re doing this” he said.

“The park will be a tribute to the men and women who have served and those continuing to serve in the United States military. It will be a place set aside to honor, remember, and reflect on those who have served. Within the park will be a memorial garden with benches where friends and family can spend quiet moments remembering those veterans who we have lost. It’s important to remember our past and a teaching “walking path” with reminders of past conflicts will provide that history. Ample parking will be available, something we do not have currently. Personalized pavers will lead to the American Flag and service flags which will be the focal point of the park. Hometown hero banners will be on display year around,” said Reynolds

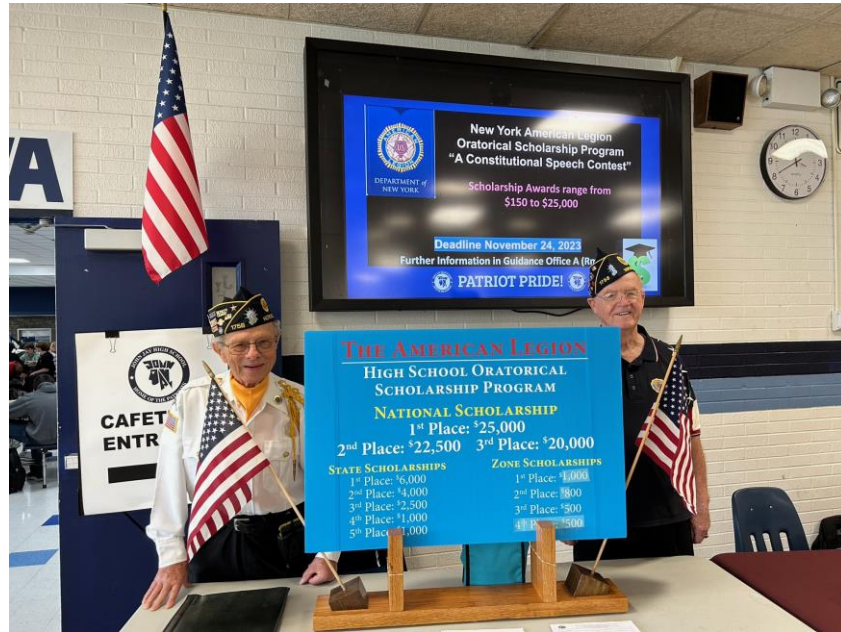
In 2022, a Dutchess County microgrant for \$15,000 was given for “building a war monument that will complement the town’s new Veterans Memorial Park and will help represent the commitment and sacrifices performed by servicemembers.”

Reynolds remarked, “The park will serve as a place of solemn point repose for veterans, their families, and loved ones to honor fallen brethren and members. It’s time that we really honor Charles “Manny” Bacon, William Wright, Raynard Hansen, Eugene Gamba, and all the other veterans of East Fishkill who have served throughout the years.”

On YouTube, once may see a 3D conceptualization of the park by Saratoga Associates. “Join us as we reshape East Fishkill’s Veterans Memorial Park into a vibrant community space that honors our veterans and brings people together,” it states on the page. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4n1YzhN6vX4>







**Danny Oberhauser and Conrad Gagnon** at John Jay trying to recruit Oratorical contestants



#### **MIA Update:**

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

--**Army Cpl. R. V. Leo Short, 19**, of Seminole, Oklahoma, was a member of George Company, 2nd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Eighth U.S. Army. He died while a prisoner of war in March 1951. He will be buried in his hometown on Dec. 9, 2023.

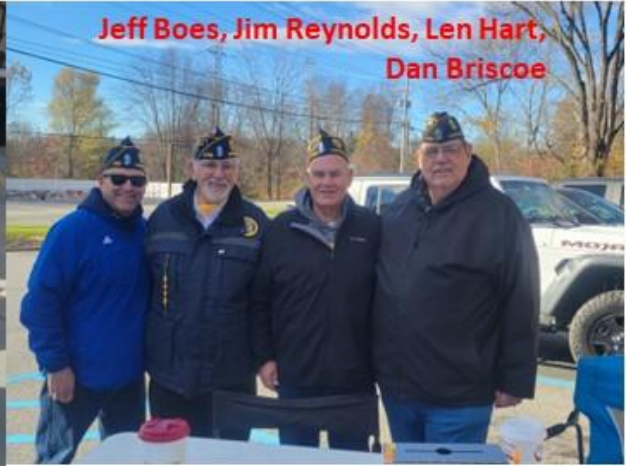
-- **Army Air Force Sergeant White S. Goings Jr., 22**, of Auburn, Nebraska, was a member of the 93rd Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group. He died while a prisoner of war on July 19, 1942. He will be buried in his hometown in June 2024.

### Coin Drops on Veterans Day

Members were out in force raising funds for our veteran programs at Tractor Supply, Stewarts, 84 Diner, Red Line Diner, the Convenient Mart, and Flory's.



Frank Beck, Tom Masch, Don Burns



Jeff Boes, Jim Reynolds, Len Hart, Dan Briscoe



Jim Broughton, Ed Morrison, Conrad Gagnon



Karl Sokol, George Dickman, Norm Daurer



John Call, Rich Gardiero, Dan Oberhauser



Bill Meyer, Mike Miller, Bill Kriebel, John Polasko, Claude Wuytack



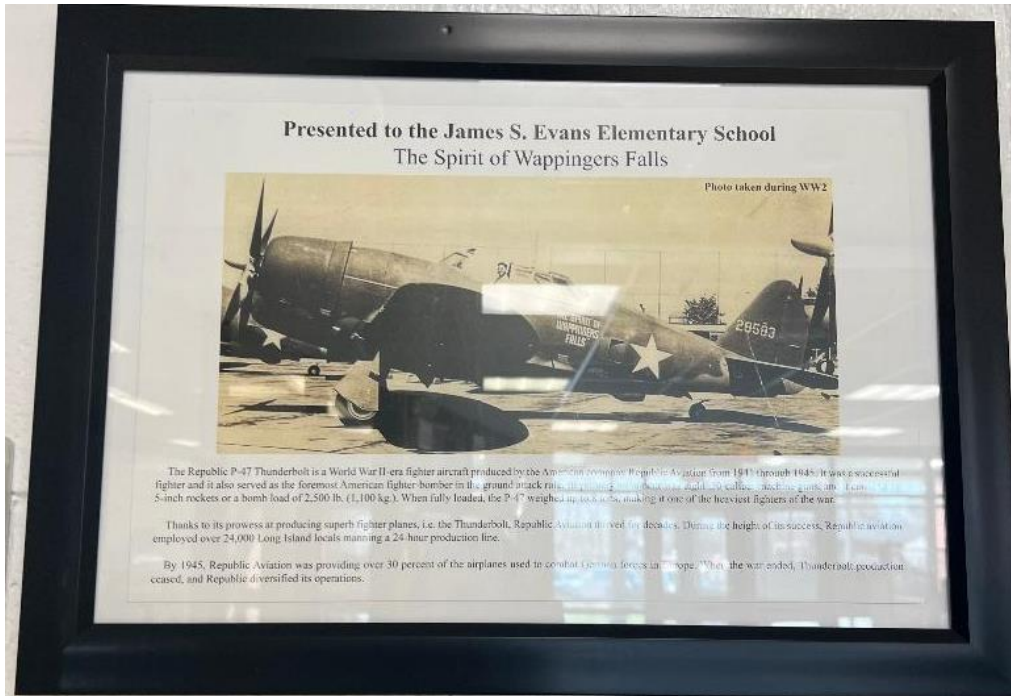
## Veterans Day Breakfast

On Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> twenty-five or so members enjoyed a wonderful Veterans breakfast at the Whortlekill Rod and Gun Club.



## The Spirit of Wappingers Falls

A similar photo to the one below had been on display at James S. Evans Elementary School for many years. During renovations at the school it was lost. **Tom Masch** found this picture at an estate sale, purchased it and presented it to the school where it is on display. Details of why the plane was named after Wappinger Falls are unknown.





### Veterans Day Service at John Jay High School.

It's always nice spending time with the students and staff at JJ. Post members participating were Jim Broughton, John Call, Conrad Gagnon, Len Hart, Bill Kriebel, John Lyons, Bill Meyer, Dan Oberhauser, John Polasko and Commander Jim Reynolds. The commander led the ceremony, attended by a large contingent of students, with a talk about the importance of the day. Post members assembled in the parking lot along with the Hudson Valley Bagpipers. Norm Dauerer and Tom Masch provided their Jeeps for the procession. Earlier a nice breakfast was provided to the veterans by the John Jay PTSA.









# Annual Holiday Party!

**December 8th, 2023**

**5pm-8pm**

**Mahoney's Irish Pub**  
35 Main Street, Poughkeepsie

**RSVP by December 1st**

**Call Sylvia at 845-473-2500 x1367 or  
email [sastrologo@mhadutchess.org](mailto:sastrologo@mhadutchess.org)**





