

American Legion
Post 1758
Newsletter



February 2024

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Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7:00PM,**
at the East Fishkill **Community Center** on Rte. 82.

Meeting details will be confirmed via a call out message.

“When things do not go your way, remember that every challenge — every adversity — contains within it the seeds of opportunity and growth.”

— Roy T. Bennett

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:

Doug DelliPaoli's name was drawn for the Pot O' Gold at our February 14th meeting but he was not in attendance. The pot starts anew with Fred Becks winning last month which he donated to the post. Pot is now \$35.00.



Upcoming Activities

Saturday, March 2nd at 12:00N – Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Wappinger Falls

Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 PM - Post monthly meeting at the East Fishkill Community Center

Wednesday, March 20th at 6:30 PM – Dutchess County monthly meeting at the Post 203 in Beacon, 413 Main Street. This is Post everlasting ceremony for departed members.

Please renew your membership

Fifteen members of our post have not yet renewed their membership for 2024!

If you have extenuating circumstances and need help with your dues please reach out to Commander Reynolds



Dan Oberhauser was at John Jay trying to recruit young men for this year’s Boy’s State program. It looks like we have one candidate who is the son of a post member and maybe we’ll come up with another from John Jay.

We have also committed to help our auxiliary unit send a girl to Girl’s State if they find a candidate.

Danny receives an award for all his work on our Oratorical and Boy’s State programs.

John Jay Basketball Honors

We wrapped up our 2024 John Jay Basketball Veteran Honors with Norm, Jim, and Kevin. Also honored was local veteran Ray Bravo

Norm Dauerer



Jim Broughton



Ray Bravo



Kevin Hines



Daddy O's Fundraiser

Sunday evening January 28th East Fishkill Officials were celebrity bartenders at Daddy'O's Restaurant with 10% of the proceeds being donated to our Legion Post. This resulted in a \$250.00 donation! The weather was terrible that evening with lots of hard rain but Daddy O's bar was hopping! Tom Masch and I were the only post members to venture out but we had a good time and met some nice East Fishkill residents.

Here is a photo of the mixologist for the night: Town Clerk Peter Cassidy, Town Supervisor Nick D'Alessandro, Highway Superintendent Kenny Williams, and Assemblyman AJ Beephan. Councilman Tom Franco is not in the picture, he was waiting on customers at the other end of the bar.



New Post Accounting Procedure

We are establishing some new accounting procedures within the Post.

While working on a New York State Veterans Grant we became aware of some shortcomings in the old procedure.

Effective February 13, 2024 there will be two members of the Finance Committee; the **Financial Secretary** who will receive all bills and vouchers, and the **Treasurer** (who chairs the committee) will pay the bills.

The Financial Secretary will be Jeff Miedowski and the Treasurer will be John Call.

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All bills, accompanied by a signed voucher, will be submitted to the Financial Secretary prior to the monthly Executive Board Meeting which is first Tuesday of the month. A blank Post Voucher can be downloaded from the post website.

At Executive Board Meeting the Financial Secretary will present the bills to the Board for approval. The Executive Board will accept a motion and second to pay the bill. After discussion (if any) the Executive Board votes on whether or not to pay the voucher/bill.

Once approval has been given the Treasurer will prepare the checks for distribution at the monthly meeting, the second Tuesday of each month.

At the Post monthly meeting after the Treasurer reads the Financial Report the Commander will ask for any vouchers/bills.

The treasurer reads the approved vouchers/bills to the membership and the Commander will ask "any comments or questions?"

No checks will be written during the general membership meeting. Vouchers/Bills may be submitted to the Financial Secretary but approval will not be addressed until the next Executive Board Meeting.

This procedure was discussed, voted on, and passed at the February 14, 2024 meeting.

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.

MIA Update:

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four 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:

- **Marine Corps Sgt. Harold Hammett, 24**, of Avery, Mississippi, was a member of L Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force. He was among 1,000 marines and sailors killed in action at the Battle of Tarawa, and reportedly died on Nov. 20, 1943. He was buried in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on Feb. 16, 2024.
- **Army Tech. 4th Grade Elmo F. Hartwick, 38**, of Onaga, Kansas, was assigned to Company C, 149th Engineer Combat Battalion. He was killed in action enroute to Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. He will be buried in his hometown on a date to be determined.
- **Army Air Force Staff Sgt. Jack W. Coy, 20**, of Toledo, Ohio, was assigned to the 703rd Bombardment Squadron, 445th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force. He was killed in action on Feb. 24, 1944. He will be buried in Oregon, Ohio, on a date to be determined.
- **Army Cpl. Charles R. Patten, 24**, of Lebanon, Missouri, was a member of Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He went missing in action on July 20, 1950, and the Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953. He will be buried in Lawson, Missouri, on a date to be determined.

Dues Increase for 2025.

The American Legion's last national per-capita dues will increase from \$18.50 to \$23.50 for the 2025 membership year. The \$5 increase will go into effect July 1, 2024.

American Legion posts are encouraged to complete a post data report in MyLegion.org as quickly as possible to increase your post dues rate, if needed. An early submission will ensure enough time for processing.

And posts should check with their respective department about their per capita dues as well.

The due increase comes at a time when the need for American Legion advocacy, expertise, influence, services and programs are needed in every corner of our nation and because of the current membership standings and economy. This is a time to continue supporting The American Legion's ability to serve veterans, members of the U.S. armed forces and young people. A national \$5 per-capita dues increase can prevent National Headquarters from having to cut programs and services. The American Legion's ability to succeed over the next decade depends on positive cash flow and the ability to invest in the future.

Therefore Post 1758's dues will rise to \$50.00 per year starting in 2025. You will see the increase on your renewal notices starting this July.

VA Plans to Expand Agent Orange Disability Benefits to Cover Exposure in a Dozen New States

The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) plans to expand eligibility for Agent Orange disability benefits to Vietnam-era veterans who served at 129 locations [in the U.S. during specific time frames, as well as parts of Canada and India](#), officials announced Friday.

Ahead of [a notice published Monday in the Federal Register](#), VA officials also said they plan to widen eligibility for veterans who were sickened by herbicides used after World War II in the Demilitarized Zone in Korea in the 1950s and in areas off the shores of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

VA Secretary Denis McDonough said the move will make it easier for veterans who were exposed to the toxic defoliant to get benefits and care for service-connected conditions.

"Our goal is to provide every veteran -- of every era -- with the VA health care and benefits they deserve, and this is another step in the right direction," McDonough said in a statement released February 9th.

The proposal would allow the VA to automatically extend presumptive status to veterans who develop an Agent Orange-related health condition from assignment to a location named on the Defense Department's list of areas where tactical herbicides were tested, used or stored within specific dates.

It adds locations in 12 states within the U.S., as well as Kumbla, India, in 1945 and 1946, and Gagetown, New Brunswick, in Canada, in June 1966 and June 1967. It also creates broader timelines for other locations that include Cambodia, Thailand, Guam and Laos, based on the DoD's 2019 list, which was published by the VA in 2020.

The states include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, New York, Tennessee, Texas and Utah, and dates that range from 1945 to 1977, depending on state and location.

The full list of the states and specific locations and times [is available on the VA website](#), as is the [list of overseas locations](#).

A presumption of exposure means that the VA automatically accepts a condition as tied to military service, lowering the requirement for the veteran to prove that their illness or injury is military related and allowing for a more streamlined course to receive benefits.

"The purpose of this regulatory change is to ensure consistency across VA adjudications, in accord with the most up-to-date information garnered by DoD," VA officials wrote in the release.

The new rule codifies and defines some of the requirements on presumptive conditions listed in the Blue Water Navy Act and the [PACT Act](#), both of which expanded benefits to veterans sickened by exposure to contaminants while deployed to combat operations.

It expands the territorial waters off Vietnam and other locations to include an island, Phu Quoc, that previously was omitted as automatically qualifying for benefits. It also would expand the dates of eligibility for veterans who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone from April 1, 1968, to Aug. 31, 1971, to Sept. 1, 1967, through Aug. 31, 1971.

And it clarifies conditions that fall under the umbrella term of Parkinsonism, a health condition related to herbicide exposure, to include progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple system atrophy, corticobasal degeneration, vascular Parkinsonism and dementia with Lewy bodies.

According to the VA, the clarification is needed because claims processors may not understand that these conditions fall under the Parkinsonism condition.

As part of the Federal Register process, veterans, advocates and the general public have 60 days to comment on the proposal. VA officials said in the announcement that they welcome all input and all comments will be considered.

They acknowledged that they previously have received questions as to why the VA does not extend presumptive status to veterans who say that Agent Orange and other herbicides were used in locations not listed by the Defense Department, such as Panama and Okinawa.

But ultimately, VA officials said the department decided it was the best "course of action" to restrict their presumptive conditions status to the DoD list, which they described as a "living document and therefore may evolve."

The Defense Department bases its list on criteria that includes the existence of official records such as government reports, forms, unit histories, shipping logs, contracts, scientific reports or photographs. The location must have been a DoD installation; land under control by the DoD; or a non-DoD location where service members were present during testing, application, transportation or storage.

"VA nevertheless welcomes all comments on this approach, or comments on

Panama and Okinawa specifically, during the comment period for this rulemaking," officials wrote.

Veterans interested in filing an initial claim for a herbicide-related disability can visit the [VA's website](#), or use [VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits](#). They also are encouraged to contact a veterans service organization, such as the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, the VFW or others for help with the application process or contact their state or local veterans affairs offices.

Bill Kriebel sent me this link about our modern submarines and their capability. I thought you might like to read it also.

https://www.vanityfair.com/news/life-aboard-a-nuclear-submarine#intcid=vanity-fair-verso-hp-trending_f6899b65-50db-42c2-a7bb-4786a72fb980_popular4-1

Our post was well represented at the February Dutchess County American Legion meeting which we hosted at the East Fishkill Community Center. Thanks to Bill Meyer and John Call for setting up the refreshment tables with 2 - 3 foot heroes, potato salad, coleslaw, macaroni salad, bags of chips, soda, water, and cookies. Also thanks to Jeff Miedowski and John Polasko for help setting up the tables and chairs before guests arrived and to all our members present for help cleaning up at the end of the loooooong meeting. Besides those mentioned above other members in attendance were Don Burns, Dan Briscoe, Bill Kriebel, John Lyons, Tom Masch, Dan Oberhauser, Bob Spinillo, and Jim Reynolds.

