

American Legion

Post 1758

Newsletter



March 2024

Est 1949

In this issue:

1. Next meeting
2. Upcoming Activities
3. Buddy Checks
4. Statues and plaques for Veterans Park
5. Work begins on the new East Fishkill Veterans Park
6. St Patrick's Day Parade
7. VA Reducing employees
8. Medical Foster Home Program
9. POW/MIA Update

Next Meeting

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

Meeting details will be confirmed via a call out message.

“Treat everyone with politeness and kindness, not because they are nice, but because you are.”

— Roy T. Bennett, [The Light in the Heart](#)

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:

Joe Green's name was drawn for the Pot O' Gold at our March 12th meeting but and he was not in attendance. The pot is now \$86.00.



Upcoming Activities

Saturday, March 23rd - Hudson Valley Hospice Vietnam Veterans Recognition event the Wallace Center on the Roosevelt Estate at 2:00PM

Monday, March 25th - Wappinger School Lacrosse game honoring Veterans at RCK high, 4:00PM.

March 29th - at 1:00PM - Post Vietnam Veterans get together for lunch at Daddy O's (Dutch Treat)

Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00 PM - Post monthly meeting at the East Fishkill Community Center

Tuesday, May 14th at 7:00 PM - Post monthly meeting at the East Fishkill Community Center **Post Elections**

Saturday, May 18th - Place flags on cemeteries, breakfast at 8:30AM at the Falls Diner, 235 Myers Corners Rd, flag placement starts at 10:00AM at St. Denis (rain date May 19th)

Wednesday, May 22nd - Memorial Day Service at John Jay High School starts with breakfast at 7:30

Saturday, May 25th - at 8:00AM - Poppy/Coin Drops -

Monday, May 27th - 10:30 - East Fishkill Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. Meet at the Community Center. **Time may change to 9:30**

Saturday, June 1st - 11:00AM Retrieve flags from cemeteries, sort and store

Tuesday, June 11th at 7:00 PM - Post monthly meeting at the East Fishkill Community Center

Saturday, June 29th - 11:00AM - 75th anniversary celebration of Post at the East Fishkill Community Center

Please renew your membership

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

95% have renewed, how about you?

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

Buddy Checks

Several members have not returned their Buddy Checks results. If you have not please get them to Jim Reynolds at your earliest convenience! You're late!

Ed Kantrowitz Funeral

On February 26th eleven members joined together to pay our last respects to post member Ed Kantrowitz. The post was well represented by John Polasko, Conrad Gagnon, John Call, Jeff Miedowski, Bill Meyer, Don Burns, Bill Kriebel, Bob Spinnilio, Fred Beck, Mike Miller, and commander Reynolds.

Good job.

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.

So Long

Conrad Gagnon who transferred to our post a couple of years ago is moving back to Millbrook and will be transferring back to the Millbrook Legion Post. Conrad has spent considerable time with Dan Oberhauser working the Oratorical and Boy's State information tables at John Jay.



This plaque will be on our new building in the East Fishkill Veterans Park. Commander Reynolds has applied to legion headquarters for permission for the manufacturer to use the legion emblem on the plaque. As mentioned previously the EF Veterans Committee has ordered two statues for the park. One is a “Battle Field Cross” and the other is a bald eagle. This plaque will come with the statues.



Finally

Work has begun clearing land for the new Veteran's Park thanks to the Town Highway Department.



They had a couple of skid steers, excavators, bucket truck, a chipper and several workers on hand when I stopped by. It's great to see some movement on the park. We've got a long way to go.

If you like to see more you can click on this link <https://youtu.be/hJ3toVoJGeU>

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John Polasko won \$40.00 in the District 7 Lotto raffle. Members of our post bought 15 tickets but John was the only one with a winning number.



**Dutchess County 2024
St. Patrick's Day Parade
participants.** Tom Masch,
Dan Oberhauser, Mike Miller,
John Polasko, Don Burns,
Fred Beck and Conrad
Gagnon



WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs is proposing a \$369.3 billion spending plan for fiscal 2025 that is about 12% higher than last year and includes nearly \$25 billion for a toxic exposures fund that compensates veterans diagnosed with medical conditions from contact with burn pits, radiation and other environmental hazards. The 2025 budget provides “robust funding” for VA Secretary Denis McDonough’s top priorities, the VA said when it released the blueprint Monday afternoon. The overall budget is \$33 billion more than the current year’s spending plan and prioritizes increased funding and resources for health care, disability compensation and upkeep at VA facilities, McDonough said. The VA spending plan anticipates a reduction in VA staff in 2025. **The administration’s request is for 448,170 full-time employees, which is 10,000 fewer workers than 2024 estimates. Most of the staffing decreases are expected to be in the Veterans Health Administration.** The spending plan identified decreases in areas that include medical services, medical support and medical facilities, among others. The VA did not provide estimates on how salaries and wages will be affected by the decrease in staffing levels. But it is projecting that its total cost to deliver medical care in 2025 will be \$138.6 billion, down from the 2024 estimated cost of \$142.5 billion. The projected cost includes mandatory and discretionary spending, the VA said. The budget also requests \$2.8 billion for updating and improving VA health care facilities, including some hospitals that are more than 50 years old. Two-thirds of the VA’s \$369 billion budget is for mandatory funding, which is government spending required by law.

For the VA, mandatory funding spans health care, disability compensation payouts and pensions, housing and insurance programs, as well as medical facility leases for a total of \$210 billion. The toxic exposures fund adds another \$25 billion — or \$5 billion more than the 2024 request — for delivering health care services and payouts to affected veterans, as mandated by the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, or PACT Act, which became law in August 2022. “VHA is working to treat more veterans affected by military environmental exposure, conduct additional research on military environmental exposures, and implement the authorities included in the act to ensure VA hires and retains the best staff possible to treat affected veterans,” McDonough said in his statement on the budget. Mandatory funding is expected to total more than \$235 billion in 2025, a 21% increase from the \$182 billion requested in 2024. The VA expects to provide disability compensation benefits to 7 million veterans and their survivors in 2025. It also will administer pension benefits to more than 224,000 veterans and their survivors. The budget includes \$3.2 billion for various programs to end homelessness among veterans — up by \$42 million from 2024. The request includes a voucher program under a partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development that provides veterans with rental assistance vouchers, along with case management and clinical services. Services for aging and disabled veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness will also be increased. Approximately \$17 billion is proposed for mental health care, \$13.7 billion for female veterans’ health services, and \$583 million for suicide prevention program that includes funding the 24-hour veterans crisis hotline. The VA described suicide as its top clinical priority. Prevention efforts span \$583 million in outreach programs, up by \$11.6 million from 2024.

Hudson Valley Health Care System

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Medical Foster Home Fact Sheet

- The **Medical Foster Home Program (MFH)** is a specialized housing program available for Veterans with specific health needs who are no longer able to live independently but might not be ready for nursing home level of care.
- A MFH is a private home in which a caregiver provides full time care to Veterans that live in their home. Sponsor/Caretaker provides meals, assists with medications, transportation to appointments, and serves as the connection to the VA. Current homes are in Dutchess, Orange and Westchester counties.
- Veterans in this setting are connected to a Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) team which consists of: a nurse practitioner, RN, rehab/physical therapist, social worker and psychologist who visit the Vet in the home.

Who is Eligible:

- At the time of referral to MFH, the Veteran is receiving VA medical services on an outpatient basis; in a VA medical center, domiciliary, or nursing home care; or has received such care or services within the preceding 12 months.
- Although Veteran might meet nursing home level of care, they still are able to do things relatively independently such as walking, feeding self and/or taking own medications with prompts and/or assistance. In addition, the Veteran's family is not able to provide needed monitoring, supervision, and personal assistance.
- Psychiatrically Stable/ Free of substances.
- Veteran/Family also has to be willing to live in someone's home and work with MFH and HBPC team.

How does it get paid for:

- Payment for the costs related to the MFH is the responsibility of the Veteran and their family; and not of the VA. These costs shall be reflected in the MFH Agreement, which is to be co-signed by the Veteran and the MFC caregiver and approved by the MFH Coordinator

How to refer:

- Alerting MFH Coordinator of potential Veteran. Chart will be reviewed to assess for needs, challenges the Vet has been exhibiting and types of supports currently in Veteran's life. HBPC is also consulted.

- HBPC staff must be involved in the assessment of Veteran as Veteran needs to meet criteria for HBPC home care programs in order to participate in MFH program.

For Additional Information contact MFH Coordinator:

Lydia Estrada LCSW
845-831-2000 ext. 215033

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. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Navy Fire Controlman 2nd Class Lawrence J. Overley, 21**, of Los Angeles, California, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. He was among 429 crewmen killed that day. He will be buried on March 27, 2024, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Honolulu, Hawaii.

-- **Army Pvt. James B. McCartney, 22**, of Ridgeway, Colorado, was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division. He was killed in action on March 1, 1945. He will be buried on March 30, 2024, in Bakersfield, California.