

American Legion

**Post 1758**

**Newsletter**



**May 2024**

Est 1949

**In this issue:**

1. Next meeting
2. Upcoming Activities
2. New Officers
3. Funeral Detail
4. Donations to Castle Point
5. Vietnam Marine POW
7. Veterans Picnic
8. POW/MIA Update
10. Arlington High Memorial Day Service

**Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, June 11th, 2024 at 7:00PM**, at the East Fishkill **Community Center** on Rte. 82.

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

“The dictionary is the only place that success comes before work. work is the key to success, and hard work can help you accomplish anything.”

— Vince Lombardi—

**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:**

**William Goss’** name was drawn for the Pot O’ Gold at our May 14th meeting. William was not in attendance and the pot is now \$56.00.



## Upcoming Activities

**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – 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 19<sup>th</sup>)

**Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Memorial Day Service** at John Jay High School starts with breakfast at 7:30

**Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – at 8:00AM - Poppy/Coin Drops -**

**Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – 9:15 AM - East Fishkill Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.** Meet at the Community Center. **Time change**

**Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – 11:00 AM Retrieve flags from cemeteries**, sort and store

**Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM -** Post monthly meeting at the East Fishkill Community Center

**Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM – Flag Retirement Ceremony –** Behind East Fishkill Library

**Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 AM - 75th anniversary celebration** of Post at the East Fishkill Community Center

**Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM –** Dedication of new cemetery monument for Revolutionary soldier Henry Charlock – 129 East Hook Road, Wicoppee

## Officers Swearing in at June Meeting

2024/25 Officers please wear your uniform shirt for photo's at the June meeting.

Officers for the coming year:

- Commander – Jim Reynolds
- Adjutant – Jeff Miedowski
- Finance – John Call
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr – Bill Meyer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr – John Polasko
- Chaplain – Ed Morrison
- Sgt Arms – Jeff Boes
- Judge Advocate – Jay Livermore
- Membership Chair – Kevin Hines
- Historian – Bill Kriebel

**Thanks to Don Burns for his years of service as Adjutant.**

## Funeral Service for Theodore L. Morris

Theodore was in the ARMY. Active Military Service from 02/20/1953 - 02/28/1955 serving during the Korean War. Theodore also worked for the Pentagon and was a very proud Veteran. He died in 2014, was cremated at the time and the family had Military Honors at his service in the funeral home.

Since he already had Military Honors at the service back in 2014, the family asked if our post could provide an honor guard, rifle salute, a live bugler and fold the flag for them at his burial on May 10<sup>th</sup>. We had a detail for the occasion consisting of Tom Masch, John Call, Bill Meyer, Dan Oberhauser, Jeff Miedowski, Jim Reynolds, and Ed Morrison.

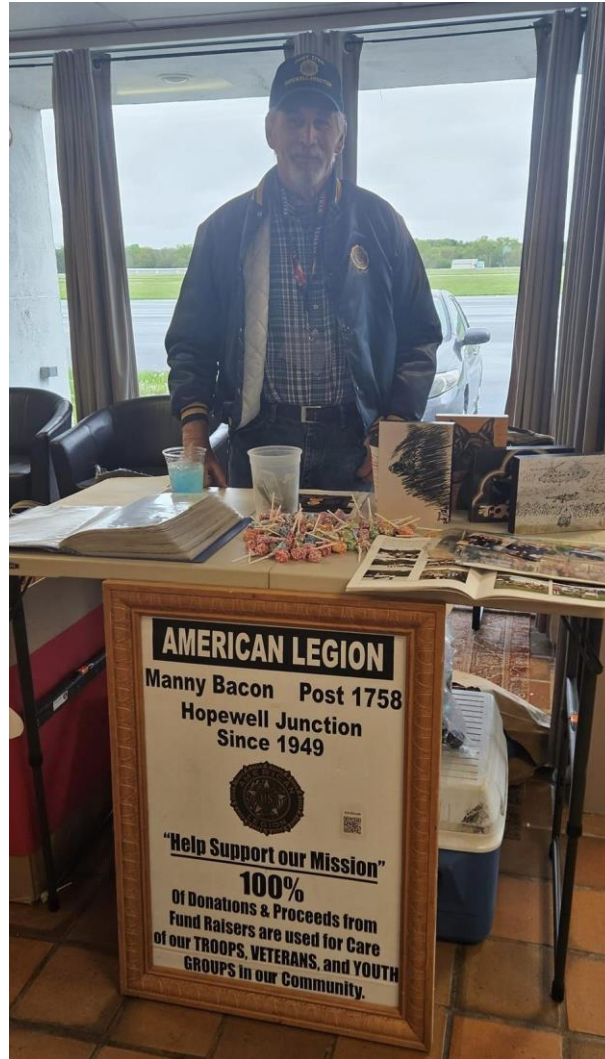
The family gave us a "Thank You" card with this inscription "Dear Sirs, Thank you for all you do. Thank you for your service, thank you for making me and my family proud and thank you for honoring my father's last wishes. I know he is here now and he thanks you! Sincerely Peter & Diane Morris (enclosed in the card was \$140.00).



## Food Collection for Castle Point

On Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> members had a table set up at the Kiwanis Craft Fair held at the Hudson Valley Regional Airport. John Polasko, Bill Meyer and Don Burns manned the location inside the airport terminal. Additional members who stopped by for a while were Mark Graser, Karl Sokol, Bob Spinillo, and Jim Reynolds. They collected 6 large bags of food for Castle Point and \$120 in donations for the post.

Good job Gentlemen.





### **Marine Corps' longest-held Vietnam War POW, Harlan Chapman, dies at 89**

By the summer of 1965, just months after the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at Da Nang, the intensity of the Vietnam War was surging. Ramping up, too, were the rules of engagement.

President Lyndon B. Johnson was reportedly quoted as saying American pilots could not bomb an outhouse without his approval. Frustrated pilots found themselves “flying into heavily defended areas on predictable flight paths that exposed them to great risk while yielding often token results,” Stuart I. Rochester wrote in “[The Battle Behind Bars](#).”

It was in this environment that then-Capt. Harlan Page Chapman and his fellow Marines of Fighter Squadron 212 found themselves during the opening months of the war. More than 30 American aviators had already been killed or presumed missing in action, while more than a dozen were captured.

After six frustrating and challenging months, Chapman was soon to discover that Johnson’s outhouse quip was, in reality, all too real.

Born in 1934 in Elyria, Ohio, Chapman commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Marine Corps through the Navy ROTC program at Miami University in June 1956, serving for over a decade before he’d find himself peering down into North Vietnam’s dense jungles from the cockpit of his Vought F8 Crusader.

During a mission on Nov 5, 1965, Chapman’s strike group was tasked with pounding a heavily defended railroad and highway bridge deep within enemy territory of Hai Duong. Hitting the target required a perilous high-speed, low-level approach, according to Chapman’s Distinguished Flying Cross citation.

“As pilot of the last aircraft of a major strike group of 32 strike aircraft on target, he bravely and skillfully maneuvered his aircraft, in spite of the intense and lethal anti-aircraft fire, dived on the target, and delivered his bombs on the bridge,” his citation reads.

Strafed by anti-aircraft fire, Chapman was forced to eject, dislocating his shoulder in the process.

With that, Chapman became the first Marine aviator shot down in North Vietnam.

“There was Vietnamese all around me,” Chapman later recalled in a 2015 interview with [The Chronicle](#). “I was conscious after a very soft landing, and I’m over my knees in mud — I wasn’t going anywhere. The local militia got me and paraded me around, and I ended up in the [Heartbreak section of] Hanoi Hilton that night.”

With his legs shackled and arms tied tightly behind his back, Chapman began to endure the first of many interrogations.

“[They] Pulled out a gun,” he told [The Stockdale Center](#). “Threatened to shoot me ... and after a while the pain got so bad that I knew I had to do something ... so I gave them names like Clark Kent ... just all sorts of false names.

“That went on for too long. I felt like hell that I didn’t stick to name, rank, and service number. You felt like you’ve really failed, you know if I was tough enough...”

Chapman was then placed adjacent to several other aviators in a cell block, where communication between prisoners was strictly forbidden.

Men were thrown into solitary, locked in irons, strung up by ropes and beaten when they were caught trying to communicate, [according to historian Geoffrey Norman](#).

Still, it was worth the risk for many. Using a method known as the “tap code,” prisoners were able to communicate and establish an organization.

“They’re in the same deep shit you’re in,” he told The Stockdale Center, recalling the budding camaraderie within the cell blocks.

Still, he conceded, he had never felt more alone.

The Marine would endure over seven years in the infamous prisoner of war camp, spending 2,657 days in captivity before becoming the first Marine Corps POW of the Vietnam War to be released during [Operation Homecoming](#) on Feb. 12, 1973.

“It would be difficult, if not impossible, to relate the treatment of over seven years of captivity in the space allotted,” Chapman recalled to the Columbus Federal Voice. “However, I can sum up my opinion of the treatment by saying it was basically cruel. While in captivity, I was tortured many times, using ropes, cuffs, isolation and beatings.”

Despite his suffering, Chapman harbored no animosity toward the Vietnamese people, his wife, Frances “Fran” Chapman said.

“He was not a public prisoner of war,” she told The Chronicle. “Harlan was very quiet about it. He thought it was much more important that people know who he is now and his character. ... He didn’t tout being a prisoner.”

“He was very private about it,” Darold Hessel, Chapman’s stepson and a military veteran, told Military Times. “Except maybe when we’re young, he nagged us and said, ‘You know, at least in prison we had toothbrushes. Make sure you brush your teeth every day.’”

“He came into the family when I was nine and he seemed like a superhero. He just was physically fit and morally strong and just so impressive to be around. ... He’s an American hero.”

Despite leading a quiet life removed from the public eye, Chapman’s story may have caught the eye of the wardrobe department from the 2021 blockbuster “Top Gun: Maverick.”

According to the [U.S. Naval Institute](#), the vintage G-1 leather flight jacket Tom Cruise’s character wore to perfection in the 1986 “Top Gun” had been altered for the sequel.

“The jacket supposedly belonged to Maverick’s father, who flew Vietnam-era F-4 fighters,” but eagle-eyed viewers noted that the USS Oriskany and 3rd Marine Air Wing patches on the front of Maverick’s jacket may have been an homage Chapman, who was shot down the same day Maverick’s fictional father was said to have been downed.

Upon his release, Chapman took command of Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 314 in El Toro, California, where he served from July 1974 until his retirement two years later.

Chapman was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and early-stage dementia in 2017. He died on Monday, May 6, 2024, his family confirmed with Military Times.

Lt. Col. Harlan Page Chapman was 89 years old.

# *Veteran & Family Sunset Picnic*



**Friday,  
July 26, 2024  
Bowdoin Park, Pavilion #5  
5:00pm to 7:00pm**

**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 Sylvia  
845-473-2500  
ext 1367  
By Monday July 22**





-- **Navy Fireman 1st Class Everett C. Titterington**, 21, of Milford, Iowa, 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 Sept. 5, 2024, in Bloomington, California.

-- **Army Pvt. 1st Class Lemuel Dent Jr.** was assigned to the Company L, 3rd Battalion, 366th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division. He was killed in action on Feb. 8, 1945. Interment services are pending.

-- **Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Allan W. Knepper**, 27, of Nez Perce County, Idaho, was with the 49th Fighter Squadron, 14th Fighter Group. On July 10, 1943, his airplane crashed during heavy anti-aircraft fire, and he was subsequently declared missing in action. Interment services are pending.

-- **Navy Coxswain Harley E. Alexander** was assigned to the destroyer USS Glennon. He went missing in action on June 10, 1944, and was deemed non-recoverable on May 4, 1949. Interment services are pending.

-- **Army Corporal John A. Spruell**, 19, of Cortez, Colorado, was a member of Battery B, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. Following his unit's engagement in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, he was declared missing in action on Dec. 6, 1950. He will be buried in his hometown on a date to be determined. .

-- **Army Corporal Richard Selover**, 17, of Whiteside, Illinois, was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He went missing in action on Sept. 6, 1950, and the Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953. He will be buried in Rock Falls, Illinois, on a date to be determined.

**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.

**Bill Kriebel** created a website offering our land for sale...see next page.

You can visit the web site at <https://al-ny1758.org/Land4Sale.html>



### Land for Sale

American Legion Post 1758 (NY) is in possession of three parcels of land which we would like to sell. They are located in the town of East Fishkill in Dutchess County on NY Route 52 about midway between Fishkill and Carmel. The land is unimproved and entirely wooded and mostly on the side of a mountain, as you can see from the terrain map below. One of the lots (997844) is mostly wetlands and therefore building on it would be problematic or impossible. None of the parcels are Board of Health Approved (BOHA). Two of the lots have frontage on Prout Lane which is a right-of-way not maintained by town, county or state. East Fishkill is located about 60 miles north of New York City. It is accessible from NYC via the Taconic State Parkway or I-684 to I-84 West.

Some close-by attractions are:

1. White pond multi-use area (6 minutes away): Fishing, hunting, boating (electric motors only), hiking, paddling and trapping. You might have a Bald Eagle fishing close to you.
2. Trump National Golf Club Hudson Valley (8 minutes away): An exclusive, family oriented golf club located in Dutchess County. Members enjoy a fair and playable 18-hole course and the areas only private club with pool and fitness center amenities.
3. Stormville Airport Antique Show and Flea Market (11 minutes away).
4. Dutchess Rail Trail Parking (16 minutes away).
5. New Hamburg Metro-North train station (30 minutes away).
6. The Links at Union Vale Golf course (24 minutes away).
7. Stewart International Airport (34 minutes away).
8. Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum (44 minutes away).
9. West Point Military Academy (53 minutes away).
10. Yankee Stadium (77 minutes away by car, also accessible by train).

East Fishkill is one of the best places to live in New York. from [niche.com](http://niche.com): "East Fishkill is a with a population of 29,727. East Fishkill is in Dutchess County and is one of the best places to live in New York. Living in East Fishkill offers residents a rural feel and most residents own their homes. Many families live in East Fishkill and residents tend to lean conservative. The public schools in East Fishkill are highly rated."

This could be the "diamond-in-the-rough" you are looking for. With a total of 5 ½ acres, some creative landscape architecture could turn this into the summer or year-round home of your dreams.

If you are interested in purchasing any or all of these properties (we would prefer to sell them as a single parcel), you can contact us by visiting our website: <http://al-ny1758.org/contact>. Send email to "webmaster". All offers will be considered.

p.s. Any money from the sale of the property will be going to a very worthy cause.

*Arlington High School Invites You to Attend a*  
***Memorial Day Remembrance***

*Wednesday, May 29, 2024*

*6:00 pm*

*Arlington High School*

*William J. Sweeney Performance Hall*

*1157 Route 55, LaGrangeville, NY 12540*



The Evening's Program will include:

- ◆ Presentation of the Colors
- ◆ Ceremonial reading of the names of AHS alumni who lost their lives during military service and whose names appear on the Wall of Remembrance
- ◆ Keynote Speaker: Ricky R. Davis, Command Sergeant Major, Retired
- ◆ Presentation of Arlington High School Charlie Johnson Awards
- ◆ Musical Selections, Arlington High School Concert Choir under the direction of Ms. Lynne Czajka, and the AHS Symphonic Band under the direction of Mr. Darrell Keech

**Attendees are invited to  
visit the Wall of Remembrance following the program.**

**We will have seats reserved for veterans and family members of our alumni who are memorialized on the Wall of Remembrance near the front of the auditorium.**