

American Legion

Post 1758

Newsletter



July 2024

Est 1949

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Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, August 13th, 2024 at 7:00PM,**
at the East Fishkill **Community Center** on Rte. 82.

Meeting details will be confirmed via a call out message.

“Remember that the happiest people are not those
getting more, but those giving more.”

— H. Jackson Brown Jr.

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:

Richard Briggs' name was drawn for the Pot O' Gold at our
July 9th meeting. Richard was not in attendance and the pot is
now \$155.00.



Upcoming Activities

Saturday, August 3rd – 12:00 PM Post Picnic at Whortlekill Rod and Gun

Tuesday, August 13th – 7:00 PM Post Monthly Meeting at East Fishkill Community Center

Tuesday, September 10th – 7:00 PM Post Monthly Meeting at East Fishkill Community Center

Saturday, September 21st – 2:00 PM East Fishkill Community Day Parade

Mark Baaden's Retirement

Mark retired after 34 years in the United States Army Reserves. The ceremony took place at Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island and included a cannon salute, imagine getting that in New York in 2024. For those of you that weren't inside at our Memorial Day Service Colonel Baaden was deployed five times, two tours to Iraq, one emergency deployment to New Orleans for rescue operations resulting from Hurricane Katrina, one tour to Afghanistan and one tour to Somalia. He has received four Bronze Star Medals, a Distinguished Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Medals and an Army Commendation for Valor. He is also a Purple Heart recipient for wounds received when a suicide bomber attacked his base. His story is on display locally at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Museum and Education Center located in New Windsor, NY. But topping all that is...Mark just became a grandfather! Congratulations to Mark and Selena.



Post 75th Anniversary Celebration



American Legion Post 1758
Al-ny1758.org/

PO Box 92

Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
email: Commander@al-ny1758.org



I think our 75th Anniversary was enjoyed by those who attended. They seemed to be surprised and pleased with all we do. However, I was disappointed in the number of people who attended, especially after the months of work I put into the event. It was publicized on a couple of radio stations and in the Southern Dutchess News and we had our 5 ft x 12ft banner displayed for 2 weeks at various locations. I appreciate members of the town board, Senator Rolison and Adam Roche (representing county executive Sue Serino) for their participation and the proclamations. Also thanks to Texas Roadhouse for providing cases of peanuts and free appetizer coupons.

Thanks also to John Polasko who brought the cake, chips and water for the celebration. Bill Meyer did an outstanding job doling out the cake and keeping the water and chips refilled on the tables.

Jeff Miedowski did a great job on the POW/MIA table.

Thanks to the Post members in attendance: Drew Ballantone, Fred Beck, Jeff Boes, Dan Briscoe, Jim Broughton, Don Burns, John Call, Bruce Coneeny, Charles Hertel, Kevin Hines, Bill Kriebel, Tom Masch, Doug McHoul, Bill Meyer, Jeff Miedowski, John Polasko, Commander Jim Reynolds, Vinnie Richards and Dom Splendoria.

July 4th Cemetery Monument Dedication

We had a good turnout for our ceremony replacing the damaged cemetery monument for Revolutionary soldier Henry Charlock.

Post members in attendance: Fred Beck, Jeff Boes, Dan Briscoe, Jim Broughton, John Call, Len Hart, Kevin Hines, Bill Kriebel, Tom Masch, Bill Meyer, Jeff Miedowski, Ed Morrison, Mike Miller, Alan Nalbandian, Dan Oberhauser, John Polasko, Commmander Jim Reynolds. Special thanks to Kevin Hines for coordinating transportation provided by the Fire District. Parking space was very limited so attendees parked nearby at Fishkill Farms' parking lot and were transported to the cemetery by the fire district's van.



Replacing Revolutionary soldiers cemetery monument





Party!

Post Picnic August 3rd

Whortlekill Rod & Gun

12:00 PM

Your Participation

The post will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, condiments, water and soda. Each member is asked to bring a dish to share....something along the lines of potato, macaroni, pasta or green salad, baked beans, deviled eggs, fruit platter, chips, ribs, chicken wings, cookies, brownies, pretty much anything you want to contribute. Don't go overboard on the quantity as we usually have plenty of food. This is for our legion family so bring your significant other and the children.

Please contact Bill Meyer w.meyerjr@att.net 845-724-4035 OR John Polasko sgtjohnpolasko@gmail.com (845) 226-7721 with your contribution. We most likely will have some duplicates so maybe have a second option in mind.





POW/MIA Update

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced identifications 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 Air Forces 2nd Lt. Stanley J. Samoski, 22**, of Manchester, New Hampshire, served with the 334th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. He was killed in action on Aug. 1, 1943. He will be buried on a date to be determined at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

-- **Army Pvt. 1st Class Joseph R. Travers** was a member of Dog Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on April 22, 1951, and died while a prisoner of war in December 1951. Interment services are pending.

-- **Army Master Sgt. Wallace Simmons Jr.** was a member of Headquarters Battery, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on Dec. 6, 1950. Interment services are pending.

Sick Call

Mark Graser is going through pre-op procedures for possible bypass surgery.

Joe Ryan had a fall and spent some time in the hospital but is home now. His wife is ailing also.

John Lyons is waiting for his heart surgery.

Mike Millers daughter is having serious health issues.

Many of us have various ailments and health issues. Please keep everyone in your thoughts and prayers.

Do you need a shirt?



Some members have asked about the “golf” shirts with the legion emblem and our post information on them that many of us have. If you are interested in obtaining one, we can place an order. The last order cost us \$25.00 per shirt and I expect additional ones will be about the same. You can get them in black or navy blue and either long sleeve or short.

I’ve only received one order for a shirt. **IF YOU WANT ONE SEND ME AN EMAIL WITH SIZE, COLOR AND WHETHER LONG SLEEVE OR SHORT SLEEVE. I will be ordering them on August 1st!**

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.

**10TH ANNIVERSARY
VETERAN'S
APPRECIATION DAY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH**



***FREE TICKETS FOR
VETERANS & FAMILY***

TICKET INCLUDES:

- Pre-game food & beverage
- Pre-game ceremony honoring veterans at 1PM
- Veteran resources & vendors will be located throughout the ballpark!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS



**RENEGADES VS. WILMINGTON BLUE ROCKS
GATES OPEN FOR VETERANS AT 11:30AM
FIRST PITCH AT 2:05PM**

Heritage Financial Park, 1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
Questions? Contact the Renegades front office at 845.838.0094

80th Birthday of the G.I. Bill

Many of VA's benefits or services can be traced back to June 22, 1944. That's when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (SRA) of 1944, otherwise known as the G.I. Bill of Rights.

"This generation," said Roosevelt, "has a rendezvous with destiny." More than [16 million](#) Americans served in World War II. Nearly [300,000](#) died in battle. Many were returning home to uncertain futures.

But these Veterans had determined allies.

Harry Colmery was a World War I Veteran, a former national commander of the American Legion and a former Republican National Chairman. He and the committee of legionnaires he led had a plan: a law that would assist new Veterans in their transition from military service.

Colmery wrote the original language of the bill that would eventually be sponsored by U.S. Representative Edith Nourse-Rogers (R-Mass.), who eventually chaired the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The SRA provided WWII Veterans funds for college, unemployment insurance and housing benefits. By the end of the World War II-era in 1956, roughly 8 million out of 16 million WWII Veterans had used their G.I. Bill benefit for some kind of training.

"With the signing of this bill a well-rounded program of special Veterans' benefits is nearly completed," Roosevelt said. "It gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American people do not intend to let them down."

The G.I. Bill put tools and resources into the hands of young Americans looking to create a better life for themselves and their families, helping to create and strengthen the American middle class.

The G.I. Bill also had important social impact. It played a role in the promotion of the American Dream—owning a home, getting a good education and achieving upward mobility.

Upon its passage 80 years ago, not all Veterans benefitted equally. Racial and gender disparities made it difficult for all Veterans to access and use the benefits they earned. While VA cannot tell this story without including this truth, today, equity and access have become part of VA's top priorities. VA remains committed to supporting America's Veterans of every generation as they strive to realize their own American Dreams.