



# Post 1758 Newsletter

May 2025

Est. 1949

**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.

**Next Meeting: June 10, 2025** at the East Fishkill Community Center

**"A woman is like a tea bag;  
you never know how strong  
it is until it's in hot water."  
— Eleanor Roosevelt**

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## Upcoming Activities

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM** Flags on cemeteries (Breakfast 8:30 at the Falls Diner, Myers Corners Road) - Legion Cap ....rain date Sunday 5/18 at 2:00PM

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 PM** Dutchess County American Legion County Convention at Post 37 Poughkeepsie

**Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> - 7:00AM** Memorial Day Service at John Jay - Full uniform

**Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 AM** Poppy/Coin Drops – Legion Cap

**Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 AM** Memorial Day Parade East Fishkill Community Center - Full uniform

**Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 PM** MOH Charlie Johnson Awards Ceremony Arlington High School – Cap uniform shirt

**Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10:30 AM** Funeral for Rodney Chase at St. Denis Cemetery - Full uniform

**Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 AM** Retrieve flags from cemeteries, starting at St. Denis

**Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM** Post monthly meeting at East Fishkill Community Center -**Installation of Officers** - Full uniform for officers

**Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> – 5:00PM** Dedication of Rotary Flag – Full uniform need 4 or 5 members

**Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM** Flag retirement ceremony at the burn pit behind East Fishkill Library - Full uniform

## Good of the Legion:

**Jeff Miedowski's** name was drawn for the Pot O' Gold at our May 13th meeting. The pot had grown to \$584.00 and Jeff who was in attendance accepted \$200 rather than the half (\$292) he was entitled to. Congratulations Jeff and thanks!



**Don't forget to check out our Post web site at [al-ny1758.org](http://al-ny1758.org) where you will find a wealth of information.**

Some pages are for members only and can be viewed only by signing on to the site. If you need a logon id and password please contact post historian Bill Kriebel at [Historian@al-ny1758.org](mailto:Historian@al-ny1758.org) or by calling 845-226-6895.



Post 1758 recently made a donation to the Castle Point VA for their Veterans Garden Program which provides veterans with gardening supplies and instructs them how to grow and prepare healthy foods and improve their well-being. John Call and Jim Reynolds presented a check for \$300 to Deborah T. Loughran, Voluntary Service Specialist CDCE at Castle Point VA Hospital.

## From VA News

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced a three-pronged approach to eliminate barriers and streamline the process for how eligible survivors and dependents of deceased Veterans and servicemembers apply for and receive VA benefits and services.

Specific improvements include:

- Starting this month, VA's **Office of Survivors Assistance** will be moved from the Veterans Benefits Administration to the Office of the VA Secretary, reversing a Biden-era decision that buried OSA under layers of bureaucracy.
- Starting this month, VA will create a “white-glove” survivor outreach team to guide and assist eligible survivors throughout their **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)** claims process.
- Starting immediately, VA will begin work to identify areas where automation can be used to make the DIC claims process easier to navigate for survivors.

“The last thing survivors need in their time of grief is frustrating red tape and bureaucracy. That’s why we are creating a better system to more quickly and effectively provide survivors the services, support and compassion they’ve earned,” said VA Secretary Doug Collins.

Background information on the changes VA announced today is below.

### Relocating OSA

In 2021, the Biden administration moved OSA from the Office of the VA Secretary to the Veterans Benefits Administration, creating a siloed system at odds with the intent of the **Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2008**. Starting this month, VA will reverse this decision and move OSA to the Office of the VA Secretary, where a staff of five full-time employees will advise the Secretary on all matters related to the policies, programs and legislative issues affecting survivors and dependents.

### “White-Glove” Survivor Outreach Team

Under previous administrations, there were gaps in the survivor claims system and no defined outreach process for VA employees to gather information from survivors navigating the benefit process. VA’s “White-Glove” Survivor Outreach Team will begin operations in May 2025 and consist of experts based out of the Philadelphia VA Regional Benefit Office. These experts will receive specialized training and guide and assist eligible survivors throughout every step of the DIC claims process with the goal of getting to “yes” on DIC claims decisions for eligible survivors.

VA now automates more than 1,000 DIC claims payments or adjustments per day and is in the process of ongoing enhancements to increase automation that will expedite survivors’ claims and improve their experience. VA will also be identifying additional areas where automation can be used to make all benefits delivery processes easier to navigate for eligible surviving dependents.



# VETERANS & FAMILY

**FRI.  
JULY 18,  
2025**



**5PM  
TO  
7PM**

# SUNSET PICNIC

**BOWDOIN PARK, PAVILION #5  
FREE FOR ALL DUTCHESS COUNTY  
VETERANS AND A PLUS ONE!**

**ENJOY AN EVENING OF GREAT FOOD, FUN, AND  
CAMARADERIE WITH OTHER DUTCHESS COUNTY  
VETERANS.**

**PLEASE RSVP AT 845-473-2500 EXT. 1367**



of Dutchess County



VETERANS PROGRAMS



# *Pancake Breakfast*

Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes and beverages

**Free for Veterans and a guest!**

**Saturday,  
June 14th,  
2025**

**9am - 11:30am**

Knights of Columbus  
20 Dr. Fink Road, Pleasant Valley, NY

**Must RSVP to 845-473-2500 x1367 by 6/10**

## Boy's State

We will be sponsoring two boys to Boy's State this year. Justin Brancamp from our post and Maxwell Goldstein from the Hyde Park Post who doesn't have the funds available to cover both boys they have. The cost is \$550 per boy.



The poster is framed by a blue border with white stars at the top and a red border with white stripes at the bottom. The central white area contains the following text and graphics:

**MHA**  
of Dutchess County  
VETERANS PROGRAMS

**VETERANS APPRECIATION  
RESOURCE FAIR  
BBQ**

Two American flags are positioned on either side of a large, closed, dome-shaped grill. Below the grill is a smaller, open, kettle-style grill on a stand.

Catered by Tavern 23

**FRIDAY,  
AUGUST  
1ST**

**11AM  
-  
2PM**

**FREE FOOD, FUN, AND RESOURCES TO  
HELP OUR VETERANS!**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 1302,  
55 OVERLOOK RD POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12603**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT (845)473-2500 X1346 OR  
JHORESKEY@MHADUTCHESS.ORG