

American Legion

Post 1758

Newsletter



June 2025

Est 1949

In this issue:

1. Next meeting
2. VA News
3. Announcements
4. Upcoming Events
5. Month in military history

Special Notice: If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call this toll-free number:

1-800-273-8255

It is available 24/7 and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential.

Next Meeting

Our next will be **August 12, 2025, 7:00PM** at the East Fishkill Town Hall. **[No Post Meeting in July!]**
Meeting details will be confirmed via a call out message.

"We have met the enemy and they are ours."

Oliver Hazard Perry

Good of the Legion:

Joe Valdina's name was drawn at our June Post meeting and he was not in attendance. The "pot" is now at \$58.



Veterans' News

VA gets OPM assistance to carry out mass layoffs

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs is calling on the Office of Personnel Management for assistance to carry out widespread layoffs, according to an internal document. The VA, as part of an interagency agreement its human resources office recently signed, will pay OPM more than \$726,000 for its services to manage a massive reduction in force (RIF), with the goal of cutting more than 80,000 positions. According to the interagency agreement, obtained by Federal News Network, VA is seeking OPM's assistance because the VA "has never undertaken such a large restructuring, and does not have the capabilities, expertise or the internal resources to fulfill the requirement."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Emblem Sales Order: Please contact Commander Ashworth (845-475-5834, laashworth@optimum.net) if you wish to purchase American Legion items (patches, stickers, etc.) as part of a future “Flag & Emblem” group purchase order to be placed by the Post.
- Honor Guard / Color Guard: The Post is seeking to establish a permanent Honor Guard / Color Guard Guard to undergo basic manual of arms training and staff annual parades (St. Patrick’s Day, Memorial Day, Community Day) and events (9/11) requiring the same. Please contact the Post Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Hines (845-234-7505; kehi508@aol.com).
- All Post members are encouraged to review the draft Post Yearbook (2024-2025) and provide feedback to Post Historian Bill Kriebel (845-226-6895; kriebelw@optonline.net). The Post Yearbook may be found at the following: <https://al-ny1758.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/Yearbook.pdf#page=3>

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Recruiting new members is critical to post operations both present and future. In addition to providing steady revenue for the post (via the annual dues kick-back and additional Pot O’ Gold contributions), the recruitment of new members increases the number of potential volunteers for staffing post events and activities and expands awareness of the American Legion to additional local veterans. As such, I am implementing an annual membership drive as follows.

To expand membership, increase volunteer potential, and add revenue, Post 1758 will participate in a competition to recruit new members to occur now through December 31, 2025. At each of the monthly meetings held during those months,

the Commander will ask post members to submit the application forms and payments of any new members they have recruited. [DD-214s will be verified by the Membership Officer going forward.]

For each individual that a member recruits, s/he will earn one additional ticket to be added to the Pot O' Gold drawing in their name. At the January 2026 meeting, the member with the highest number of newly-recruited Legionnaires will be automatically awarded the Pot O' Gold money. The runner-up will be reimbursed for the cost of attending the Christmas Dinner (member and spouse ticket cost) and the 3rd place member will earn 1 additional Pot O' Gold ticket. In case of a tie, the member who has recruited the youngest new Legionnaire will be considered the overall winner.

Please contact the Commander if you need "new member application forms" or have any questions. Good luck!

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Saturday, June 14, 2025, 5:30pm: Flag dedication at Unity Plaza (Acme shopping center). AL Post 1758 members are encouraged to attend (wearing Legion cap, short-sleeve Legion shirt, and dark trousers) and support the East Fishkill Rotary Club (sponsoring agency). Our post presently has no formal role in the ceremony.
2. Saturday, June 14, 2025, 7:00pm: Annual Flag Day retirement of unserviceable flags. Location is the flag burn pit located behind the East Fishkill Library; uniform is Legion cap, short-sleeve Legion shirt, and dark trousers.
3. Saturday, June 21, 2025, Noon: Rifle cleaning at Norm Dauerer's house, 38 Frances Drive in Hopewell Jct. Contact Norm by phone (845-226-5128) or e-mail (dauerern@aol.com) with questions. Uniform is work clothes.

4. Tuesday, July 1, 2025, 7:00pm: Executive Board Meeting at EF Community Center.
5. Tuesday, July 8, 2025, Noon: Former Commander's Luncheon at Daddy O's. Uniform is casual dress. Invited are: Jim Reynolds, Don Burns, John Lyons, Danny Oberhauser, Dan Briscoe, and Joe Ryan.
6. Saturday, August 2, 2025, Noon – 5:00pm: Annual Post Picnic at the East Fishkill Recreation Park Pavilion. Uniform is casual. Each member is asked to bring a side dish or dessert and coordinate the same with Bill Meyer (845-724-4035; w.meyerjr@att.net) or John Polasko (845-464-7681; sgtjohnpolasko@gmail.com).

This Month in Military History

June 18, 1812

U.S. President James Madison declares war on Great Britain

Fought between the United States and Great Britain from 1812 to 1815, the War of 1812 was a conflict stemming from maritime issues, trade disputes, and disagreements over western expansion and Native American policy. The war resulted in a stalemate, ending with the Treaty of Ghent and a return to the status quo ante bellum. Combat occurred throughout the U.S. including on the Great Lakes, at New Orleans, and in the nation's capital of Washington D.C. The war is often referred to as the "Second War of Independence."



USS Constitution sets sail for war