

American Legion

Post 1758

Newsletter



December 2025

Est 1949

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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 **January 13, 2026, 7:00pm** at the East Fishkill Community Center.

Meeting details will be confirmed via a call out message.

"The junior non-commissioned officer and the younger officers who had been to JUST CAUSE... integrated their experiences into the training programs very, very nicely for the younger soldiers that were coming in."

MAJ GEN Matz, Commanding Officer

Good of the Legion:

Since there was no post meeting this December, the "pot" remains at \$286.



Veterans' News

Trump signs Medal of Honor Act to raise pensions for America's military heroes

WASHINGTON — On December 2, 2025, President Donald Trump signed into law the Medal of Honor Act, which directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to "increase the rate of the special monthly pension payable to living Medal of Honor recipients," the White House said. The move "ensures Medal of Honor recipients are rightfully compensated with an increase to their pension after their military service is over," according to the White House. "Medal of Honor recipients truly embody the best of our nation," Rep. Troy Nehls, R-Texas, who sponsored the legislation, said Monday after Trump signed it. Sixty-three (63) living recipients will see annual payments jump from \$16,880 to around \$67,500VA Secretary Collins focused on upgrades to veterans' health care

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In commemoration of Veterans' Day 2025, AL Post 1758 members were honored at both James J. Evans Elementary School (in Wappingers Falls) and John Jay H.S. (in East Fishkill).



- AL Post 1758 honored all veterans by emplacing flags along Rt 82 with the help of 4-H



- Operation Coin Drop, which was conducted at five (5) area businesses on Veterans' Day, netted AL Post 1758 just over \$3000 in donations.





- Also on Veterans' Day, post members attended the dedication of a flag retirement box installed outside McHoul's Funeral Home in Fishkill



- On Saturday, November 15th, AL Post 1758 members supported the JJHS Football team as it departed for its sectional round match in Mahopac, NY.



- On Saturday evening, December 6, 2025, fifty guests representing AL Post 1758, ALA Unit 1758, and their families participated in the annual Post Christmas dinner. The wife of new member Ryan Batkay won the 50/50 raffle but donated the proceeds back to the post! Congratulations to 1st Vice Commander Bill Meyer for being named AL Post’s “Unsung Hero of the Year” for 2025.





MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Post 1758's membership continues through December 31, 2025. 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 winner.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. December 13, 2025: Wreaths Across America ceremony at St. Denis RC Church cemetery. Start time 10:00am. Five (5) wreaths purchased by Post will be displayed.
2. December 13, 2025: Army beats Navy and wins the Commander-in-Chief's trophy!
3. December 20, 2025: County-level Oratorical competition at Post 137 in Poughkeepsie. Our post-level winner Callie Castilla will compete to move onto the next round!

4. December 27, 2025: Celebrate Caroline Pogge’s promotion to Brigadier General by joining her & post members at Sloop Brewing (at the iPark campus on Rt 52) at 2pm.

2026 Calendar of Events – AL Post 1758

The East Fishkill Community Center meeting space has been reserved for the following post events occurring throughout the year. Please mark your calendars!

Tuesday, January 6th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Exec Meeting]
Tuesday, January 13th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Post Meeting]
Tuesday, February 3rd, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Exec Meeting]
Tuesday, February 10th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Post Meeting]
Wednesday, February 18th, 5:30pm – 9:00pm	[County meeting]
Tuesday, March 3rd, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Exec Meeting]
Tuesday, March 10th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Post Meeting]
Tuesday, April 7th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Exec Meeting]
Tuesday, April 14th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Post Meeting]
Saturday, April 18th, 10:am – 2:00pm	[Buddy Check Operation]
Tuesday, May 5th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Exec Meeting]
Tuesday, May 12th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Post Meeting]
Saturday, May 23rd, 11:30am – 2:00pm	[Send-off for military enlistees]
Tuesday, June 2nd, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Exec Meeting]
Tuesday, June 9th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Post Meeting]
Tuesday, July 7th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Exec Meeting]
Tuesday, August 4th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Exec Meeting]
Saturday, August 8th, 12:00pm – 5:00pm	[Post Picnic at EF Rec Park]
Tuesday, August 11th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Post Meeting]
Tuesday, September 1st, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Exec Meeting]
Tuesday, September 8th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Post Meeting]
Tuesday, October 6th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Exec Meeting]
Tuesday, October 13th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Post Meeting]
Tuesday, November 3rd, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Exec Meeting]
Saturday, November 7th, 12:00pm – 2:00pm	[Oratorical Competition]
Tuesday, November 10th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Post Meeting]
Saturday, November 21st, 10:00am – 2:00pm	[Buddy Check Operation]
Tuesday, December 1st, 7:00pm – 9:00pm	[Exec Meeting]

This Month in Military History

December 1989 U.S. Invasion of Panama “Operation Just Cause”

The United States invaded Panama on December 20, 1989 during the presidency of George H. W. Bush. The purpose of the invasion was to depose the de facto ruler of Panama, General Manuel Noriega, who was wanted by U.S. authorities for racketeering and drug trafficking. The operation, codenamed Operation Just Cause, concluded in late January 1990 with the surrender of Noriega. The Panama Defense Forces (PDF) were dissolved, and President-elect Guillermo Endara was sworn into office.

