

American Legion

**Post 1758**

Newsletter



**January 2026**

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 post meeting will be held **February 10, 2026, 7:00pm** at the East Fishkill Community Center.

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

*"Now you must be the thunder and lightning of Desert Storm."*

**[GEN Norman Schwarzkopf](#)**

**Good of the Legion:**

Top recruiter for 2025 Bill Kriebel was awarded \$143 in prize money.



**Veterans' News**

**State expands veteran status to Space Force**

Mid Hudson News — On December 14, 2025, Senator James Skoufis (D-Orange County) and Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-Dutchess/Columbia) announced this week that their bill to make all military uniformed service members and veterans equally represented in the state has been signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul.

The legislation ensures members of the United States Space Force, the nation's newest service branch, are included in the definition of veterans and uniformed services under state law.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On December 10<sup>th</sup>, AL 1758 members Bill Meyer, John Polasko, Dan Oberhauser and Jim Reynolds visited and delivered Goody Bags to 60 veterans who are residents of the Taconic Rehabilitation and Nursing Home in Fishkill; Fishkill Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing in Beacon; and, the Pines and Lutheran Care both in Poughkeepsie. Well done!



- Post members celebrated the recent promotion of AL 1758's Caroline Pogge to U.S. Army Brigadier General over drinks at Sloop Brewing on Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>.



- On Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, John Jay H.S. Junior class member Callie Castilla, the winner of Oratorical competitions held at the Post 1758 and Dutchess County levels, participated in the District 9 level competition held at the Beacon Elks' Lodge. While Callie placed 5<sup>th</sup> among 5 competitors, she delivered a first-rate oration and a short speech on the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Callie intends to compete in the post Oratorical next year and is interested in applying to this summer's Girls' State event. Congratulations to Callie!
- East Fishkill Rotary President Suzanne DeCosta and several other Rotarians visited the January 2026 post meeting to brief the post on the "Vials of Life" program as well as hand-out both vials and gift coupons for coffee at Dunkin' Donuts.



- Also at the January 2026 post meeting, several recently-joined members (Eli Cohen, Ryan Batkay, and Tim Bila (left-to-right)) participated in the post's annual initiation ceremony. Also pictured is sergeant-at-arms Kevin Hines (wearing the legion cap).



# UPCOMING EVENTS

1. January 17, 2026 from 10:00am – Noon: Recruitment Drive envelope stuffing. Meet at the East Fishkill Library's Cross Meeting room.
2. February 10, 2026 at 7:00pm: Post Meeting
3. February 18, 2026: AL Post 1758 hosts the County-level meeting. Dinner to begin at 6:00pm and the meeting at 7pm. To be discussed at February post meeting.

## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1758 News...

Manny Bacon Unit 1758 would like to welcome its newest member, Demi Alvarez of Hopewell Junction, to the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA). Congratulations to the unit for achieving 100% membership as of January 10, 2026.

Interested in joining? Eligibility is for spouses, daughters, granddaughters, sisters, mothers, grandmothers of veterans as well as female veterans who honorably served in the armed forces since WWI to the current Global War on Terror. Please contact unit president Lynn Koester at 347-247-7280 or [lynnmg@aol.com](mailto:lynnmg@aol.com) for more information. The American Legion Auxiliary supports American Legion, our military, their families, and our community.

## Did you know?

Thanks to your efforts, a **\$36.52 payment** has been issued to AL Post 1758 for purchases made using iGive through December 2025! Like a hot cup of coffee, let's keep the donations flowing by purchasing these (and other) brands of coffee through the iGive fundraising program:



For more on how to sign-up and benefit AL Post 1758, see <https://www.igive.com/>.



DUTCHESS COUNTY OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

# OPERATION: MOBILE OUTREACH

Our Veterans Services Officer is visiting local communities to help every veteran, especially those recently discharged, as well as family members and caregivers, navigate the extensive, and often overwhelming process of applying for benefits from the VA, State and Dutchess County.

## Come to a Mobile Outreach Event to:

- Learn about & register for benefits
- Find out about emergency funding & transportation assistance
- Have your questions answered
- Get help with health care, disability, education & training, housing assistance, & MORE!

## SCHEDULE



**THURSDAY**  
**JAN. 8**  
5-7 PM

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 429**  
6361 Mill St, Rhinebeck

**THURSDAY**  
**JAN. 15**  
5-7 PM

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE POST 861**  
413 Main St, Beacon

**SATURDAY**  
**JAN. 24**  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**VETERANS TOWN HALL WITH VA HUDSON VALLEY  
& MHA DUTCHESS VETERANS PROGRAMS**  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 1302**  
55 Overlook Rd, Poughkeepsie

**FRIDAY**  
**JAN. 30**  
10 AM - 3 PM

**VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING**  
413 Main St, Beacon

**DUTCHESSNY.GOV/VETERANS**

*East Fishkill GOP  
Winter Wonderland Brunch  
Recognizing*

*Dutchess County Court Judge  
The Honorable Ned McLoughlin*

*&*

*Vincent and Althea Richards  
Hudson Valley Council Band*

**With the Barbara Z. Community Service Award**

Sunday, January 25, 2026

11:00 AM

MILL CREEK CATERERS

17 Route 376

Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

**Ticket Cost: \$75/Person    \$65/Committee Member**

*Sponsorships:*

**Snowflake \$150    Snowball \$350    Snowglobe \$750**

— ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ —  
RSVP: Bonnie Wiegard at 845-453-9475

or Ann Goldsmith at 845-641-9174

Please make checks payable to EFGOP  
PO BOX 524 - HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY 12533

## This Month in Military History

### January 1991 U.S. Invasion of Iraq “Operation Desert Storm”

On January 17, 1991, the U.S. led coalition forces began aerial and naval bombardment of Iraq and Kuwait, which continued for five weeks. Iraq fired missiles at Israel and at Saudi Arabia, but failed to provoke the Israeli military response it hoped would split Muslim-majority countries from the coalition. On February 24, 1991, the coalition launched a decisive ground assault liberating Kuwait and promptly advancing into Iraqi territory. The coalition halted its ground advance after one hundred hours, and declared a ceasefire.

