

American Legion

Post 1758

Newsletter



March 2026

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 post meeting will be held **April 14, 2026, 7:00pm** at the East Fishkill Community Center.

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

"We will not be defeated. We will not grow tired. We will not withdraw either openly or under the cloak of a meaningless agreement."

[President Lyndon B. Johnson](#)

**Good of the Legion:**

Drew Bellantone's name was chosen during the March meeting and he donated the \$57 prize money back to Post 1758!



**Veterans' News**

**VA plans to scan a million veterans claims for signs of fraud**

WASHINGTON — March 9, 2026: The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to launch an automated fraud-detection tool to scan more than a million disability benefits questionnaires for evidence of fabrication or other problems that could force a new medical exam and impact compensation, according to a VA official. James W. Smith, a deputy executive director at the Veterans Benefits Administration, told lawmakers that the tool will have the capability to quickly review submitted questionnaires — known as DBQs — that document medical evidence to determine a disability rating and monthly compensation.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- AL 1758 members Mike Miller, Tom Masch, Don Burns, Nelson Heddle, Joe Paterno, Jim Reynolds, Bill Meyer, John Call, Bill Kriebel, and Lance Ashworth marched on behalf of the Dutchess County American Legion in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in the Village of Wappingers Falls which was held Saturday, March 7, 2026.



- Please remember the following in your thoughts and prayers:
  - John Polasko who continues to recover from last month's car accident

## Welcome to New Members

Please join me in welcoming the following new members to Post 1758: Nelson Heddle, Barry Jaquinto, Steve Larsen, Glenn Marchi, Luis Mercado, and Charles "Chic" Schuler!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

1. March 28, 2026 (8:30am – 11:00am): EF Cleanup Day (please wear Legion apparel)
2. April 18, 2026 (10:00am – 12:00pm): Buddy Check Operation
3. May 21, 2026 (7:30am – 9:15am): Memorial Day commemoration at JJHS
4. May 23: National Baseball Hall of Fame event (see flyer down below)
5. May 24, 2026 (8:00am – 3:00pm): Coin Drops at local businesses
6. May 25, 2026: Memorial Day Parade

## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1758 News...

In February 2026, AL Post 1758 and ALA Unit 1758 collaborated on a Warrior Family Assistance (WFA) program grant for local veteran whose family lost its home during a fire last August. The awarded grant resulted in the payment of a \$1500 utility bill that was approaching collection status for the veteran. Thank you Barbara Corker and Lynn Koester for your efforts!

## Update on iGive Fundraising Program

At the end of this month, we expect another quarterly check to be issued to Post 1758 as a result of our increased program participation! Stay tuned and remember to always consult the iGive list of participating vendors before making a purchase.

For those considering clothing purchases, here are some brands that participate in iGive:



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

## Dad Joke of the Month...

**Why are there no knock-knock jokes about the American military?**

Because freedom rings!



# CLEAN UP DAY

Make a positive impact! Volunteer for Clean-Up Day  
and keep East Fishkill a Beautiful Place to Live.

MARCH 28, 2026

8:00AM REGISTRATION  
CLEAN-UP 8:30AM - 11:00AM





## THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

★ ★ ★

**MILITARY CLASSIC**

★ ★ ★

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026

DOUBLEDAY FIELD | COOPERSTOWN, NY

**FEATURING HALL OF FAMERS AND  
RECENTLY-RETIRED MAJOR LEAGUE STARS**

WADE BOGGS ★ ROLLIE FINGERS ★ TODD HELTON ★ FERGIE JENKINS

TONY LA RUSSA ★ SCOTT ROLEN ★ JOE TORRE

NICK AHMED ★ JONNY GOMES ★ DANNY GRAVES ★ IAN KENNEDY ★ JONATHAN LUCROY

RICK MONDAY ★ JOSH REDDICK ★ TODD ZEILE ★ BRAD ZIEGLER ★ AND MANY OTHERS

**JOINED BY MEMBERS OF THE LOUISVILLE SLUGGER WARRIORS**

### TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT:

1-888-325-0470 | Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET.

[baseballhall.org/hofclassic](http://baseballhall.org/hofclassic)

Veterans who purchase tickets to the game will receive FREE Museum tickets,  
valid on Saturday, May 23. Enter code BHOF250 when ordering online  
or mention the offer when calling.



## This Month in Military History

# March 2, 1965 Vietnam War Operation Rolling Thunder

Operation Rolling Thunder was a gradual and sustained aerial bombardment campaign conducted by the United States (U.S.) 2nd Air Division (later Seventh Air Force), U.S. Navy, and Republic of Vietnam Air Force (RVNAF) against North Vietnam that began March 1965 and lasted until November 1968.

The objectives of the operation (which evolved over time) were to boost the morale of South Vietnam; to force North Vietnam to stop sending soldiers and materiel into South Vietnam to fight in the communist insurgency; and to destroy North Vietnam's transportation system, industrial base, and air defenses. Attainment of these objectives was made difficult by both the restraints imposed upon the U.S. and its allies by Cold War exigencies, and the military aid and assistance received by North Vietnam from its communist allies, the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and North Korea.

The operation became the most intense air/ground battle waged during the Cold War period; it was the most difficult such campaign fought by the United States since the aerial bombardment of Germany during World War II. Supported by its communist allies, North Vietnam fielded a potent mixture of MiG fighter-interceptor jets and sophisticated air-to-air and surface-to-air weapons that created one of the most effective air defenses ever faced by American military aviators. The limited effectiveness of the operation and the pursuit of peace talks led to the scaling back of the operation in March 1968 and its cancellation in November 1968. U.S. Marines invaded Iwo Jima, a strategic air base located between the Mariana Islands and Japan, on February 19, 1945, after months of naval and air bombardment. Planners expected a brief campaign. But for over five weeks, Japanese forces mounted a fierce defense, turning the small volcanic island into a death trap for invading marines.



Four U.S. Air Force Republic F-105D Thunderchief aircraft of the 34th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, drop bombs over Vietnam during "Operation Rolling Thunder."