

American Legion

Post 1758

Newsletter



May 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 **June 9, 2026, 7:00pm** at the East Fishkill Community Center.

Meeting details will be confirmed via a call out message.

"Free people will never remain free if they are not willing to fight"

[U.S. Sec State John Foster Dulles, May 1954](#)

Good of the Legion:

Tim Bila's name was chosen during the May meeting. The pot remains at \$223.



Veterans' News

VA Benefits: Millions of Veterans Would See Increased Payments Under Bill

May 12, 2026 - A bipartisan bill introduced in the U.S. Senate would increase base monthly disability compensation paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs, potentially raising benefits for millions of veterans and surviving family members beginning in late 2026. The proposal arrives as rising living costs renew pressure on Congress to go beyond routine cost-of-living adjustments for VA benefits.

If enacted, the bill would lift existing disability and survivor payment rates across all eligibility levels, affecting nearly every veteran currently receiving VA compensation.

<https://www.newsweek.com/va-benefits-millions-of-veterans-would-see-increased-payments-under-bill-11943658>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thanks to the following post members for conducting this past April's Buddy Check which has led to four (4) new members joining the post: Don Burns, Mark Graser, Steve Larsen, Tom Masch, Bill Meyer, Al Nalbandian, and Jim Reynolds.
- On Thursday, May 14, 2026, the current and past post commanders and post finance officer presented \$1500 worth of Shop Rite gift cards to VA Castle Point in direct support of the veterans' food pantry operation. Pictured with Ashworth, Reynolds, and Call are Nicole Embry (Chief, Center for Development & Civic Engagement), Alan Rios (Assistant Program Support, CDCE) and Julius (Clothing and Food Pantry Volunteer).



UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **May 16, 2026: VETERAN FLAG EMBLACEMENT @St. Denis & Hopewell Cemeteries.** Meet at the Falls Diner at 8:30am (for breakfast). Flag emplacement begins at 10am at St Denis Cemetery. We will be assisted by members of the Sheet Metal Workers Union and 4-H Club. Uniform = Legion cap or ballcap.
2. **May 21, 2026: MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE @John Jay High School.** Breakfast to be served at 7:30am in the library. Formal service begins at 8:15am outside. Norm/Tom to bring vehicles. Uniform = Legion cap, white short-sleeve shirt, dark trousers. [Shoulder cord, gloves, bib/ascot for Color Guard members.]
3. **May 23, 2026: COIN DROPS @ Stewart's (Lake Walton Rd.), Flory's (Rte. 82/Taconic), Convenient Mart (Rtes. 52/82), Red Line Diner, 84 Diner, and Acme.*** 8am-3pm. *Acme coin drop begins at 10am. Uniform = Legion cap.
4. **May 25, 2026: MEMORIAL DAY PARADE/CEREMONY in Hopewell Jct.** Meet at Community Center at 9:15am. Parade (step-off) begins at 9:45am. Uniform = Legion cap, white short-sleeve shirt, dark trousers. [Shoulder cord, gloves, bib/ascot for Color Guard members.]

5. **May 30, 2026:** Flag Retrievals at St. Denis and Hopewell Reformed cemeteries.
11:00am. No uniform is necessary.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1758 News...

Unit 1758 reached a 100% membership level for this Legion year.
Congratulations on achieving full retention!

Update on iGive Fundraising Program

During May, we break out our sunglasses and sandals and soak up the sun! Here are some iGive participants you may wish to consider in terms of making purchases and earning Post 1758 some donations:



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

Dad Joke of the Month...

I'm reading a book on anti-gravity.

It's impossible to put down.



Marine Corps League

Richard Buck

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If you need assistance...



Commander
VFW Post 5913
8 School Street
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
(845) 297-9813



11 April 2026

To the Commander of the American Legion Post 1758 – Hopewell Junction, NY

We would be honored to have you attend the 80th Anniversary Celebration of our Wappingers 'Victor L. Bracone' Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5913. The VFW Post 5913 was established on 18 February 1946, and has an accomplished, storied history of service to our fellow Veterans, our military, and our Community. We are an Organization, comprised of Members who have served in foreign conflicts. VFW Post 5913 serves to promote patriotism, camaraderie among Veterans, support for our nation's military and community service.

Date / Time Saturday, 13 June 2026 / 2pm to 3:30pm

As part of our year-long 80th Anniversary Celebrations, we would like to kick off the commemoration of our Post's founding with a ceremony that honors our Founders, Past Commanders, Officers and Members, who shaped our history. Our ceremony will include honored speakers, Post Members and Public Representatives and will honor our historic legacy. This event will include an Official changing of our Post's Charter Flag, which was dedicated 80 years ago. It will conclude with the Sounding of TAPS by our official Post Buglar. We invite you to come out, witness and partake in this special celebration, and help ensure this new Charter Flag serves veterans, the Post and the Community over the next 80 years.

This event will be open to the public. We cordially invite all friends, families, fellow Veterans and supporters to attend. Light food and refreshments will be provided by our Post at no cost.

This is a milestone event for our organization and our community. We hope to see you here.

To another 80 years,

Michael J. Rahilly
Commander
VFW Post 5913

Virgil Capollano
Senior Vice Commander
VFW Post 5913

See flyer, next page

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY, HONORING OUR FUTURE

80th ANNIVERSARY

of the Establishment of the
WAPPINGERS VFW POST 5913



**FORMAL CHANGING
OF THE POST CHARTER FLAG**

**FORMER SOLDIERS
COMING TOGETHER
18 FEB 1946**



CURRENT VETERANS CONTINUING THE MISSION 18 FEB 2026

EVENT INCLUDES: formal CHANGING of the POST CHARTER FLAG

WHEN: JUNE 13th, at 2pm

**ESTABLISHED:
18 FEB 1946**

**WHERE: 8 School St
(Drake School)**

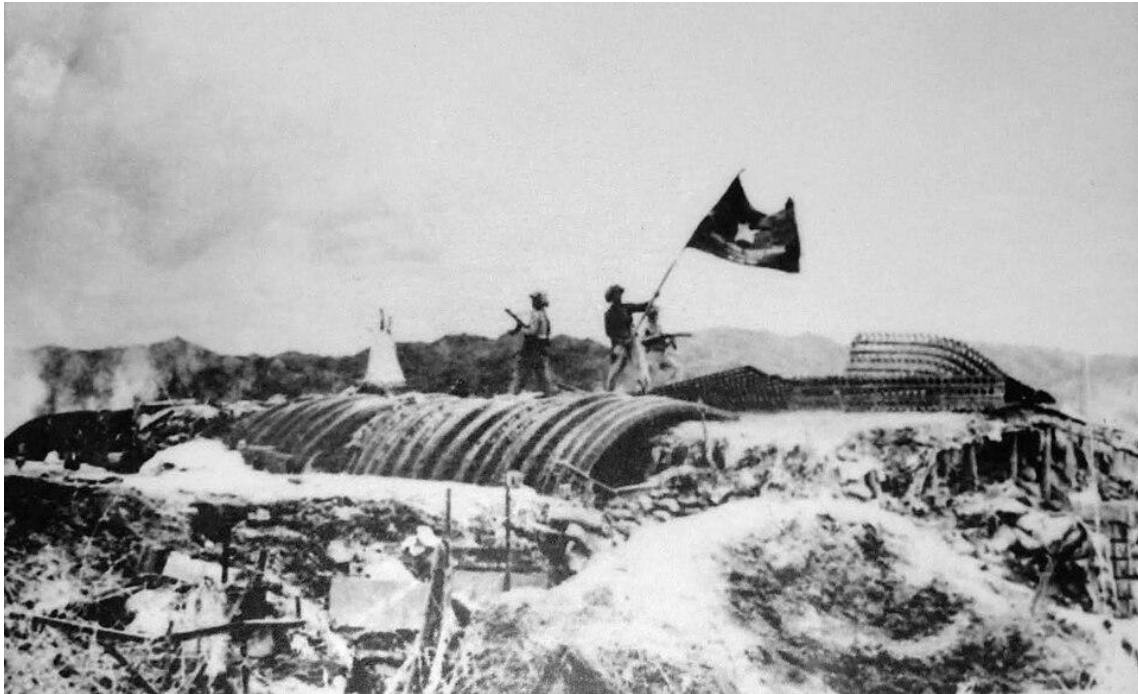
**CELEBRATING:
18 FEB 2026**



This Month in Military History

May 7, 1954 French War - Indochina Battle of Dien Bien Phu

Following a two-month siege, the French garrison in Indochina was overrun on May 7, 1954 with the surviving French forces forced to surrender. Although it did not significantly alter the strategic situation in Indochina, the defeat at Dien Bien Phu brought a profound psychological shock to France and led to a gradual withdrawal of French forces from all of Indochina (with the exception of Laos). This was agreed in the 1954 Geneva Accords signed ten weeks after the battle. Accordingly, Vietnam was also temporarily divided at the 17th parallel, with the North assigned to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam under Ho Chi Minh, and the South to the State of Vietnam under Bao Dai and Ngo Dinh Diem...serving as prequel to later U.S. involvement in Vietnam.



Viet Minh troops planting their flag over the captured French HQ at Dien Bien Phu, 1954.