



# Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Volume No. 3

Issue No.18

May / June 2016

## Congratulations to our New Post Officers

Our Post Officers and Executive Committee members for the 2016-2017 year were elected at our Post's May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and installed at our June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. We have several new faces and some long-term members in the mix of our Post's leadership for the coming year.

Our new Post Commander is John D. Giacomini; Bill Goss is our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr; Carl DiLiberto continues as our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr; Craig Keitel is our 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr; with Gerald Knapp PPC, Al Laughlin PPC, Ken Blish PPC, John Gunn, and Patrick McDonough filling out the Executive Committee. Two of our Vice Commanders are in their first year in the Post but with 3 Past Post Commanders in our Executive Committee we have a great combination of new ideas and enthusiasm tempered with a field of Legion experience to draw from.

We wish our new Post leadership all the best as they take over the reins of our very active Post. Congratulations and good luck to everyone!

was a graduate of Yorktown HS and grew up on Baldwin Rd near the bridge.

13 members of our Post including our Color Guard were joined by Legionnaires from Ossining Post #506, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Yorktown Fire Department and Yorktown residents as we marched across the bridge and held a brief ceremony uncovering the sign naming the bridge.



## Poppy Fund-raiser a Success...

Thank you to the 23 Post members and one prospective member who came out on Saturday, May 28 from 9 AM to 1 PM to help us with our poppy fund-raising event at the ACME Supermarkets in Shrub Oak and Yorktown, and at Turco's in Yorktown. During this annual fund-raiser our Post sets-up tables to hand out the traditional red poppies and collect donations for our Post's programs. Though the weather was very warm we had three teams of motivated Legionnaires explaining to residents what our Post does with our various programs and what we do with the funds that we raise through out the year.

In just four hours our Post members collected over \$2,900 in donations! We owe special thanks to: Al Laughlin, Tom Einwich, John Gunn, Bill Lewis, Rocco Salierno, Rich DeSilva, John Giacomini, Dave Moskowitz, Tom Brady, Bill Goss, Frank Troia, Joe Larsen, Roger Thompson, Gerry Knapp, Ed Augustine, Steve Rice, Rich Calbo, Ken Blish, Larry Qualter, Terry DeVeau, Anne Samoyla, Pat McDonough, Lee DeFrancesco, and prospective Post member Tom Connolly! Great job everyone and thank you!



Rich Calbo, Dept of NY Master-at-Arms swears in Post #1009 Officers at June 12 meeting.

## Bridge Dedicated to Yorktown Soldier...

On Saturday, May 21, 2016 NYS Senator Terrence Murphy dedicated a bridge on Rt 129 in Yorktown in honor of Army Specialist David Fahey Jr., who was killed in Afghanistan in 2011. David

## Post #1009 Bar Business Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday.....Closed  
Tuesday (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Only).....4:00 – 9 PM  
Friday.....4:00 – 10 PM  
Saturday & Sunday.....Parties Only

## A Memorial Day to Remember

The weather forecast was for heavy soaking rains on Memorial Day morning right when our Yorktown Parade would have been kicking off. The Yorktown VFW, our Post, and town officials discussed the possibilities and the final decision was made to cancel this year's Yorktown Memorial Day Parade. It wasn't an easy decision to make... and trust me we heard gripes from many people who choose to complain - but never to organize or help run these events. And then what happened?! The rain stopped an hour before our parade would have started... that really hurt!

Here is where the story gets good. Our Post was all set up and decorated for the parade crowds. The Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Park gazebo was all decorated for the ceremonies - and all events were cancelled. Several Post members started arriving at the Post knowing without being told that there was work to be done putting everything away. Quietly a discussion ensued and a phone call was made and the VFW and American Legion decided that they would meet at town hall and conduct a wreath laying ceremony at 10:30 AM to honor our country's fallen heroes. 15 veterans from the VFW and Post #1009 conducted a joint ceremony at town hall while Councilman Vishnu Patel and other veterans looked on. It was simple non-political event, much like the first Memorial Day ceremonies probably were like. Following the ceremony our Legionnaires conducted a simple wreath laying ceremony at our Post's plaza while raising our flag from half-staff and then walked over and raised the flag at Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Park with a quick ceremony.

Yes, it would have been better with the parades and ceremonies - but everyone who participated in rendering honors without the limelight, the politicians, and all those who come without ever really understanding the true reason for Memorial Day felt a quiet peace from conducting these simple ceremonies. Thank you to Gerry Knapp, Al Laughlin, Terry DeVeau, Carmine D'Alessio, John McQuillan, Tom Brady, Pat McDonough, and Frank Troia.

## Westchester County Convention...

Al Laughlin PPC, Ken Blish PPC, and Richard Calbo represented our Yorktown Post at the 2016 Westchester County American Legion Convention on Saturday, June 4 at Ossining Post #506. During the Convention our Post was recognized with the "John F. Walsh Memorial Award for Ourstanding Membership"! That award is in recognition of our Post Legionnaires participating in 35 community events, donating \$10,700 to veterans charities since last Memorial Day, and 1,206 hours of service in our community! Outstanding job everyone!!

On the last page of this newsletter we've attached the synopsis of what your Yorktown Post #1009 did since Memorial Day 2015 until Memorial Day 2016. Look at the variety of events we took part in. The majority required no large financial outlays just our Legionnaires giving a few hours of their time.

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## Post Spring Brunch

Our Post's Spring Brunch was held on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 11 AM at the Post. We had 63 people attend the Brunch and everyone enjoyed the catered meal from Theresa Capizola and her staff. It was a nice relaxing afternoon of catching up with everyone after the long winter months. A lot of work went into making it a success this time around especially from Cmdr Gerry Knapp. Gerry called just about everyone on our roster because very few people responded back that they were coming by the RSVP deadline. It would have been unfortunate if we had to turn people away that morning because they had NOT RSVP'd in time to purchase food for them. RSVP's are a necessity for our Post to run a successful event with food. Please remember to RSVP to our events.

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## Flag Retirement Ceremony

On Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM members of the Yorktown Fire Department, local Scouts, and 15 Post Legionnaires conducted a US Flag Retirement ceremony at the Yorktown Fire Department's carnival grounds. During this year's ceremony our Post retired over 800 worn and torn US flags!

These flags came from Yorktown's cemeteries where Scouts placed a new flag at

each veteran's grave for Memorial Day and removed last year's faded and dirty ones. Some flags came from our Honor Flag program where they are flown at Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Park to honor a veteran and at the conclusion of this we accept them for retirement. Most of the flags came to us through our new flag drop-box outside of the Post's front door. Now day or night people can stop and place their worn and torn flags into this drop-box for honorable retirement. We recognize the special efforts of Al Laughlin who folded several hundred of these flags by himself while working down at the Post. Thank you, Al! Thanks to Gerry Knapp, Mike Laughlin, Lee Defrancesco, Al Laughlin, Pat McDonough, John Giacomini, Terry DeVeau, Rocco Salierno, Tom Einwich, Tom Brady, Rich Calbo, John Gunn, Don Roberts, and Roger Thompson for helping make the ceremony a success. We have retired over 2,500 flags since reviving this ceremony 4 years ago!

address the membership at our Summer BBQ and tell what they thought of the program.

Bill, who has stepped up as our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr, has plans to start the program earlier in the year and to reach out for girls who might be interested in attending the Girls State program through the NY American Legion Auxiliary organization. Wonderful job, Bill!

## Welcome Aboard!

We would like to extend a warm Welcome Aboard to Post #1009's newest members; Craig Keitel and Joseph Klausz. Many of you may know Craig who has been one of our Post bartenders and has been elected to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr position. Joseph, we hope that you'll come down to a few events and get to know your fellow Legionnaires better. The better you know us... the better you'll feel about being a Post #1009 member!

## Donations to Our Post

Each year our Post receives donations of various amounts from community members, organizations, and even our own Post members. We will now list all donations in our newsletter as a way of saying 'Thanks'. Our Post is an IRS authorized 501 C19 tax exempt organization and all donations are tax deductible.



## Boys State program

This is the second year that our Post has sponsored boys who are high school juniors to attend the NY Boys State program at SUNY Morrisville. A new Post member, Bill Goss, took over the program in February and was able to get the info out to the four local high schools; Yorktown, Walter Panas, Lakeland, and Kennedy Catholic in time for students to apply for the program through our Post. Bill conducted the interview process with Tom Einwich and John Gunn in April and two boys were selected for sponsorship by the Post. Alexander Piedra from Lakeland HS and Matthew Sillicocks from Walter Panas HS will leave for the week-long program on 6/26. We are hoping to have the boys come and

### We gratefully acknowledge the below donations to our Post and its continuing work.

Robert Gorsuch (Boys State)	\$500	01/28/16
Robert Gorsuch (Girls State)	\$500	01/28/16
Patricia & Joseph Larsen	\$100	02/06/16
Loriann & Lawrence Perrault	\$ 50	03/01/16
Bill Goss	\$ 72	03/12/16
Carmel HS FBLA Club	\$1,000	03/12/16
Pamela Guerra	\$ 50	03/16/16
Joseph & Donata DiBart	\$ 50	04/13/16
Angela M. DiBart	\$100	04/16/16
Judith & Michael Maida	\$ 25	04/16/16
Dawn & Robert Pilato	\$ 25	04/16/16
Enzo Iannozzi	\$ 23	05/13/16
Al Laughlin	\$346	05/31/16
Marco DiBernardo	\$ 50	06/09/16

## Commemorative Brick Dedication Rescheduled...

The rain on Memorial Day forced the cancellation of our Brick Dedication Ceremony as well. Our Post has rescheduled the Commemorative Brick Dedication to Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 1 PM. During this ceremony our Post will dedicate those 60+ engraved veterans' bricks which have been purchased and installed in the Commemorative Park since last Memorial Day. We ask every Post member to attend, if possible, because we normally have the large crowds from the Memorial Day Parade in attendance and they will be missing that day. Please help us show these donors that we appreciate their support of our Post's veterans-related charities.

## Summer Events to Remember...

### Brick Pamphlet Hand-out -

Our Post will be at St Patrick's Church in Yorktown on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> for the 5:15 PM mass and on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> for the 7:45, 9:15, 11, 12:30 & 5 pm masses. We need several members to help out with this as there are several entrances for us to hand out our brick brochures. Please let Pat McDonough or John Gunn know if you can help out. Remember the money from every brick sold is what we give away on Memorial Day to veteran's related charities. To date that is \$17,200 in 4 years!

### Post Summer BBQ -

Our Post's Summer BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. The cost will be \$7 per person and we need to have RSVP's back to Pat McDonough by 8/05. We ask everyone attending to bring a small dessert for the dessert bar that everyone can sample.

## Post Everlasting

We regret to inform everyone of the loss of two of our Post Legionnaires to Post Everlasting during May - Anthony Marzo and Salvatore Pugliese. Our Post last saw Anthony at our Veterans Day presentation at the Country House. That was the same day that he turned 102 years of age! Salvatore Pugliese was the senior-most member of our Post with 70 years of continuous

membership in The American Legion. We will miss both of them greatly and wish their families peace in their losses.

## Post Attire

With several new Post members asking to order Post apparel we are planning to make an order for Post jackets by the end of June. Post jackets cost \$54 to \$58 each depending on the size. Post uniform caps can also be ordered now, they cost \$50 and take 6 - 8 weeks for delivery. You need to know your hat size to order these. We have various sizes of our Post shirts in stock in the Post's office for anyone wishing to pick one up. Please get the orders in to Adjutant Pat McDonough as soon as you can.

### Post #1009 Upcoming Events

- Sat Jul 23** Hand out brick pamphlets at St Patrick's Church for 5:15 PM Mass.
- Sun Jul 24** Hand out brick pamphlets at St Patrick's Church for 7:45, 9:15, 11 & 5 pm Masses.
- Tue Aug 2** Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM
- Wed Aug 10** Westchester County Legion meeting at Post #1009 at 7 PM.
- Sun Aug 14** Post Summer BBQ at 1 PM at Post. RSVP's by 8/05.
- Tue Sep 6** Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM
- Thu Sep 8** Post General Mtg 7:30 PM
- Fri Sep 9** Yorktown Grange Fair flag-raising ceremony at 11 AM.
- Sun Sep 11** Commemorative Park Dedication at 1 PM at our Post.
- Sat Sep 24** Field Home Fall Festival from 11 AM to 4 PM.
- Sat Oct 1** VA Food Pantry Collection at both ACME Supermarkets from 9 AM to 1 PM.

### Yorktown Post #1009

235 Veterans Road, Yorktown Hts, NY 10598  
(914) 962-2843 [www.nylegion1009.org](http://www.nylegion1009.org)

## Yorktown Post #1009 Activity Recap (2015-2016)

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Members Attended</u>
Spring Brunch	3-May	*(67)
Wake - David White	11-May	15
Yorktown HS Visit	20-May	5
Poppy Fund-raiser	23-May	22
Memorial Day Parade	25-May	24
Brick Dedication	25-May	24
Flag Retirement Ceremony	13-Jun	15
Blood Drive	11-Jul	12
Town Board Meeting	11-Jul	8
County meeting at Post	12-Aug	13
Wake - Albert Lewis	14-Aug	10
Post Summer BBQ	16-Aug	*(59)
Honor Flag - Dobrowolski	8-Aug	10
Honor Flag - Whalen	22-Aug	6
School Board meeting	20-Aug	10
Honor Flag - Knapp	5-Sep	8
Grange Fair Flag-raising	11-Sep	11
Honor Flag	5-Sep	10
Field Home Fall Festival	19-Sep	7
Montrose Food Pantry Collection	26-Sep	16
Honor Flag - White	3-Oct	13
Wake - Edwin Ahr	27-Oct	12
Lakeland Public Hearing Vet tax Exemption	15-Oct	14
Honor Flag - Pasqual	17-Oct	9
Honor Flag	31-Oct	10
Veterans Day Parade	8-Nov	17
Veterans Day Ceremony	11-Nov	15
T. Jefferson Vets Day program	9-Nov	5
Country House Visit Vet Day Cere	11-Nov	4
Breakfast w/ Santa	6-Dec	9
Post Holiday Party	14-Dec	*(56)
Wake - Frank Mastro	28-Dec	14
New Year's Eve Party	31-Dec	5
Four Chaplains Ceremony	7-Feb	17
Post Everlasting	7-Feb	17
Goddard School Visit	8-Feb	1
MESMS Visit Vet Hall of Fame	3-Mar	5
Cub Scout Bake off Judging	4-Mar	3
Breakfast w/ Easter Bunny	13-Mar	6
New chair detail	18-Feb	10
Wake - William Lenzi	3-Apr	10
Honor Flag - Cornell	16-Apr	7
Spring Brunch	1-May	*(63)
Honor Flag - Ostling	7-May	11