



# Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

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## Four Chaplains Ceremony

On Sunday, February 5<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 our Post Hall was filled with clergy, veterans, students, parents and distinguished guests, almost 85 people total, for our annual Four Chaplains Ceremony. We conduct this ceremony every year to tell the wonderful story of these four US Army Chaplains and educate Americans about their faith, bravery, and American spirit.

We were honored once again to have four prominent local members of the clergy stand in for our Four Chaplains - Rabbi Robert Weiner of Temple Beth Am, Pastor Susan Nagle of Grace Lutheran Church, Pastor Dan O'Brien of Calvary Bible Church, and Rev. Robert Quarato of St. Elizabeth Seton Church.

It was a cold winter's night on board the USAT Dorchester as it crossed the icy North Atlantic with 902 soldiers filling every available space. At 1 AM there was an explosion and confusion as a German torpedo struck the Dorchester and started it on its trip to the bottom of the cold, dark sea. Four US Army Chaplains on board, Lt George Fox who was Methodist, Lt Alexander Goode who was Jewish, Lt John Washington who was Catholic, and Lt Clark Poling who was Dutch Reformed, jumped into action, calming their shipmates as they handed out life-vests. When the supply of vests ran out these chaplains took off their own vests and handed them out to save four more souls - knowing full well what that meant for them. Of the 902 men aboard the troopship only 230 survived the sinking. Those that survived told stories of seeing

these four men of faith linked arm-in-arm with those still onboard leading them in prayer as the ship slipped beneath the waves. That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington became enduring examples of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.

## Post Everlasting Ceremony

Our Yorktown Post conducted a short moving 'Post Everlasting' ceremony immediately following our Four Chaplains Ceremony on February 5<sup>th</sup>. We do it following the Chaplains Ceremony because we believe the public should know and remember these veterans and their service to our country as well as their fellow veterans. While the Post Everlasting ceremony is for retiring the membership cards of Legionnaires by burning them, for the past few years we have asked if anyone present at the ceremony wished to honor a veteran they knew who passed in 2016. Everyone was touched by the family members coming up to retire their loved ones cards in our World War II helmet.

Our ceremony honored Post Legionnaires Patrick Cavuoto PPC, William Lenzi, Anthony Marzo, Salvatore Pugliese, Vincent Faughnan, Henry Whitaker, Winfred Lollar and we also honored Larry DeScisciolo, Nick Argieto, Thomas Foody, Brendan Hynes, Joseph O'Brien, Arthur Herzog, Phil Pillicci, Steve Piscilli, and Frank Cassidy. This ceremony has become a way for other veterans organizations to join us to honor their lost members each year. We were joined by members of the VFW, KWV, and VVA as we honored these veterans one final time.

## Yorktown Chamber of Commerce

The Yorktown Chamber of Commerce has over 400 members/companies and runs several events promoting the town and its businesses like the The JV Mall Expo, the Yorktown Street Fair, and the New Year's Eve Ball Drop. Our Post has been a faithful dues paying member of the Chamber for almost 20 years but we never attended any of their meetings. In fact several

years ago we donated our hall for their Free Senior Luncheon held during the Street Fair when the YCC was under renovation but we did that for the community benefit not as a Chamber member. In recent years Gerry Knapp PPC and Roger Thompson began attending their meetings to learn more about the organization. On Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, our Post hosted their monthly networking meeting of the Chamber in our Hall. It was an opportunity to highlight our Post and organization to the members of the Chamber of Commerce. We had Gerry, Roger, with Carl DiLiberto, Sam Schatz, and Pat McDonough explain our hall rentals, our Commemorative Brick program, our Honor Flag program, membership and answer questions. It was a nice bit of exposure for the Post and now everyone knows more about our Post's mission in Yorktown.

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## Breakfast with Easter Bunny

On Sunday, 3/26, our Post will once again join with the Yorktown Lions, Yorktown Leos, and the Association for Safe Kids (ASK) to hold the very popular Breakfast with the Easter Bunny fundraiser breakfast. The Breakfast has three seating's for close to 100 people each at 8 AM, 10 AM and 12 noon and reservations are required IN ADVANCE. This is because we usually sell out for all three seating's. The cost is still only \$10 for adults to 13 yrs; \$8 for children 2 to 12 years; and \$2 for children under 2 years. During the Breakfast there are visits from several costumed characters to the enjoyment of the little children. Pass the word to help keep this a successful event to benefit the Lions and our Post. Reservations can be made at: #914-488-4185 or by e-mailing 'yorktownlionsevent@gmail.com'.

This event takes a lot of work from set-up to clean up and we ask everyone who can to respond to our requests for help with the set-up on Saturday and especially for the breakdown on Sunday afternoon after most of us there have been working since 7 AM.

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## Post Bar Updates

We realize our Post bar is only open on Friday evenings but we have been experimenting with different things to get our members in to have drink and enjoy a little socializing. Two years ago we started our Happy Hour and then we added free food during the Happy Hour which has brought a nice crowd in on recent Fridays. Now

listening to the requests of our members the bar has added Guinness on tap for the month of March. You can stop in any Friday during the month to hoist yourself a glass of the 'black and tan'. Theresa, our Bar Manager, has also arranged for corned beef & cabbage for St Patrick's Day's Happy Hour so try to stop in and get reacquainted with your Post! Other plans for after this month are to add other specialty tap beers for a month at a time to allow our members to experience them at Post prices.

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## Post Apparel

If anyone is interested in purchasing a Post sweatshirt or a Post jacket please contact Adjutant Pat McDonough immediately as we are preparing to order these items shortly after our Post meeting on Thursday 3/09. Sweatshirts are \$30 each and the jackets are \$54 to \$58 each usually depending on the sizes. We maintain a supply of Post baseball caps(\$15) and Post shirts(\$25) in the office if anyone desires one of these.

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## Sons of the American Legion

Our Post held an informational meeting on Wednesday, 2/15, for males who are interested in forming a Sons of the American Legion Squadron in our Post. This unit would be formed by males who have a father or grandfather who were *eligible* to join the American Legion, regardless of whether they joined or not. This unit would help our Post with our mission in our community and hold events of their own as well. Our Yorktown Post is one of the most active Posts in Westchester County and we accomplish this every year without the assistance of other Legion Family units like a Ladies Auxiliary or a S.A.L. unit. While that is something to be proud of, we are looking towards the future with this program. Younger veterans are not joining the American Legion immediately after separating from the service because they are striving to afford living in their communities and are busy starting young families. This S.A.L. unit would bring younger members into our Post and broaden our appeal to these younger veterans. Any member who has any sons or grandsons that might be interested in joining this new unit at our Post should contact Paul Martin or Gerry Knapp PPC to get further information.

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## Groveville Methodist Cemetery

Last summer we were contacted by Yorktown resident Robert Burke to assist with the rehabilitation of this long abandoned cemetery along Croton Avenue in Cortlandt Manor. One weekend a month last summer our members and others worked together to cut and remove 70+ years of overgrowth and fallen trees to clear and expose the graves hidden there. Under Bob's direction much was accomplished in the heat of those months. Bob hasn't rested over the winter and has worked hard to secure needed donations to add updates to the cemetery this Spring. A new identifying sign has been designed and will be installed when the weather permits to catch the eye of those passing on the road and tell them a bit of the story to this cemetery and those interred in it. Mr. Burke has already started plans to straighten the tilted headstones and restand those that have fallen once the ground thaws in late March. Anyone wishing to help with this work should look on the 'Leave No Veteran Unremembered' Facebook page to see when Bob is planning work parties at the cemetery. Remember, there are 9 Civil War veterans interred in this cemetery and that is the principal reason our Post became involved in this project.

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## Welcome Aboard!

We would like to send a warm welcome aboard to new Post #1009 members Brice Fleck, Carmine Furci, Louis Saraceno, and Albino Paccioretti. We hope that you'll stop in at an event or meeting to get to know your fellow Legionnaires. When you stop by maybe you'll find an activity or program in the Post that you'd like to be a part of.

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## Sick Call

Please keep the following Post family members who are on the mend in your thoughts and prayers: Margaret Gunn recovering from surgery; Pat and Al Laughlin recovering from illness; Larry Iuso is in Montrose VA Bldg 6, 1<sup>st</sup> flr.

## Valentine's Day Cheer

Just prior to Valentines Day our Post was contacted by the Goddard School just around the corner and asked if we could accept a bunch of hand-made Valentines Day cards made by their 4 and 5 year old students. We said 'yes' and planned to pick them up and deliver them down to cheer up the veterans in the Montrose VA Hospital. We arranged to have a few Legionnaires stop in and speak with the students and thank them personally for their lovely cards. Unfortunately, every date we planned on picking them up - it snowed, cancelling the visits! Finally, Adjutant Pat McDonough stopped in and popped into their classes to thank them and flew down to the VA Hospital to get them delivered in time for Valentines Day!

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## Protecting Our Memorials

*"To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars"* This line from our Preamble to the American Legion Constitution and By-Laws has stirred a movement to restore the crumbling monuments built to honor the veterans of World War I across the country. In line with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Legion there is now a movement to record the locations and information regarding ALL MEMORIALS honoring our country's military men and women. The National American Legion website now has the ability to have photos added of every memorial with a location, description, and history of every memorial sent in by local American Legion Posts. These memorials will then be visible to everyone with a computer all around the world. It also safeguards the original intent of the local people who raised them - to honor those who served. If any natural or unnatural event damages or destroys them. Their story can still be safely recorded online. The first step is to identify every memorial in our Yorktown community built to honor those who have served throughout the history of our country. Many of us know the obvious ones in front of town hall and the Honor Roll monument by the Hart Library. We need everyone's help documenting the ones that are less obvious and harder to find. If you know of any monuments, large or small, please drop us a note or e-mail with the location and any info you know about it. Someone from our Post will go out and photograph it and document its accurate location. Maybe if we have a few amateur researchers in our organization we can get the

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story that goes with the monument. Who raised it? Who does it honor locally or generally? Who cares for it know? With everyone's help we can preserve these monuments for ages to come.

## 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.

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

Robert Burke	\$350	07/26/16
Robert Burke	\$275	08/25/16
Enzo Iannozzi	\$ 30	09/09/16
Ed Lachterman	\$200	09/16/16
Crum & Forster (LNVU)	\$175	09/26/16
Robert Burke	\$100	10/06/16
Crum & Forster (LNVU)	\$4,200	10/31/16
Learning Garden Day Care	\$200	11/14/16
Linda & John Hanley	\$ 25	12/06/16
Naomi & Charles Klatzko	\$ 20	12/12/16
Crum & Forster (LNVU)	\$100	12/12/16
Mary & Rich DeSilva	\$100	12/14/16
John Gould	\$100	12/19/16
Juanita & Mario Maltese	\$ 50	12/19/16
Francis & Lou Mendez	\$100	12/31/16
Sandra & Fred Ingerman	\$ 25	01/13/17
Vincent Stack	\$ 30	01/18/17
Gladys Duval	\$ 25	01/18/17
Diana & David Mabey	\$ 50	01/19/17
John Giacomini	\$ 30	02/23/17
Janet Hecken (LNVU)	\$500	03/05/17

*\*\*\*LNVU marked donations are specific donations to our cemetery rehab project and not to the Post.*

**Additional photos from our Four Chaplains Ceremony**



## Post #1009 Upcoming Events

- Tue Mar 7 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM
- Thu Mar 9 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM
- Sun Mar 26 Breakfast with Easter Bunny  
Seatings at 8 am, 10 am,  
And 12 noon.**
- Tue Apr 4 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM
- Thu Apr 13 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM  
Officer Nominations from Floor
- Tue May 2 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM
- Mon May 7 Post Spring Brunch**
- Thu May 11 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM  
Election of Post Officers

## Yorktown Post #1009

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



Cmdr Giacomini conducted the ceremony(above) and we once again enjoyed a nice crowd for the event(below).



Students from Mildred Strang Middle School with their teacher Chris DiPasquale presented the Colors(left).