



# Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #58

April / May June 2018

## Memorial Day Parade

Our Post's attendance at this year's Memorial Day Parade really was record-breaking! We understand that many Post Legionnaires are unable to march with our Post due to injuries, age, or commitments to other organizations, but we saw you all there honoring those who fell throughout our country's history. We thank: Dan Greco, Frank Troia, Lee DeFrancesco, Bill Lewis, Carmine D'Alessio, Tom Brady, Bill Goss, Cmdr. John Giacomini, Vincent Faggella, Larry Qualter, Larry Armstrong, Pat McDonough, Rocco Salierno, George, Hansen, Terry Deveau, Al Laughlin PPC, Tom Einwich, Rich Calbo, Steve Rice, Dave Moskowitz, Carl DiLiberto, Ken Blish PPC, John Gunn, and John McQuillan for marching with us. Several Legionnaires stayed back at the Post building to set-up and man the Post hall and Lion's hot dog stand - thank you to Gerry Knapp PPC, Tom Einwich, and Larry Iuso. Several of our Post members are key members of other organizations and marched that day with these groups - Carl DiLiberto with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Neil Gross with the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Rich DeSilva with the Knights of Columbus. Still others met us at the end of the parade to attend the ceremonies at the gazebo - Gil Kaufmann, John Scavarda, and Joseph Pettit.

We also had our new Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion marching with us consisting of SAL Cmdr. James Calbo, Matthew Essell, Paul Martin, Craig Armstrong, Larry Armstrong, Billy Goss, Bill Goss, Ed Lachterman, Gary Raniolo, Ilan Gilbert, Kevin McDonough, and Bill Gerhardt. Several of the Sons members were doing 'double duty' that day like Matthew Essell, who marched half the parade with the Sons and then dropped back to march with his Cub Scout Pack too! Members of the Sons' like Ilan Gilbert, Ed Lachterman, and Gary Raniolo marched with the elected Town officials and rejoined the Sons Squadron later in the day. All told we had 41 Post members come out and take part in the parade that day! Many thanks to all of you for making the parade the success it was!

**Special Occasion or Event?**

**Our Hall is Available for Rent**

## Veterans Commemorative Bricks Dedication

Following the Memorial Day Parade ceremonies our Post conducted its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Commemorative Brick Dedication Ceremony in our Post Hall. Cmdr Giacomini opened the ceremony and Town Supervisor, and new Sons member, Ilan Gilbert addressed the crowd about the importance of remembering those who served and never came home. Due to series of circumstances this year our Post was able to only sell 8 Commemorative Bricks since last Memorial Day. Brick Chairman John Gunn told those assembled that we are renewing our commitment to this program to enable people to honor their veterans and help other veterans at the same time. Checks from the proceeds of the brick sales were presented by John and the Post to support the Montrose VA Food Pantry with a \$1,000 donation; a check for \$500 was presented to James Rathschmidt and Kevin Byrnes of 'United for the Troops' to help them continue sending their 'care packages' to US military members deployed overseas boosting their morale while they are away from their families. A final check for \$500 was presented to Paula Miritello and Kenny Beck of 'My Brother Vinny' who that morning had literally helped their 600<sup>th</sup> veteran move into an apartment and provided furnishings for it. Honoring a veteran with a brick, and helping other veterans at the same time... that is the essence of this program.



James Rathschmidt & Kevin Byrnes of 'United for the Troops' accept \$500 donation from our Brick program.

## A Busy Week...

Memorial Day is a busy one for our Post and its members with the Parade and Brick Dedication ceremonies. The week before Memorial Day has also become a very busy one for us with our Post invited to other events in our area:

### Thursday, 5/24, Somers MS Living History Day -

Cmdr Giacomini, Al Laughlin PPC, and Tom Einwich took part in this educational and historical program for the students and staff at the school.

### Friday, 5/25, JV Village Memorial Day Ceremony

Cmdr Giacomini was invited to speak there and our own Rocco Salierno is now head of the JV Veterans Club there in the Village. The Post was represented by 8 Legionnaires and 3 SAL members in attendance that day.

### Saturday, 5/26, Poppy Fundraiser at local supermarkets

Our Post's annual fundraiser was expanded to a fourth location this year with the help of our new SAL squadron members. Our members handed out poppies, information, and sold US flags while raising funds for our Post and SAL programs. Thank you to : Carl DiLiberto, Larry Armstrong, Craig Armstrong(SAL), Lee DeFrancesco, James Calbo(SAL) Vincent Faggella, Sam Schatz, Frank Troia, Billy Goss(SAL), John Giacomini, Dan Greco, Dave Moskowitz, Bill Goss, Rocco Salierno, Rich DeSilva, Tom Einwich, Al Laughlin PPC, Ken Blish PPC, Rich Calbo, Larry Qualter, Terry Deveau, John McQuillan, & Pat McDonough for making this event the success it was!



Larry Armstrong and Craig Armstrong brought the whole family to help with our Poppy Fundraiser!

### Monday, 5/28, Memorial Day 50/50 Raffle

Each year we run a 50/50 Raffle to help defray the costs we incur for Memorial Day. Thank you to all who took part by buying a book. Special thanks to SAL member Ed Lachterman who sold almost 30 books to support the SAL unit

programs. This year's prize was the highest in anyone's memory at \$647 and the winner was our new SAL Cmdr James Calbo. Congrats James and thank you to all for your help!

### Friday/Saturday 5/25& 5/26, Flags In

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr John McQuillan orders over 600 US flags and enlists the help of local Scout Troops to decorate every veteran's grave in Yorktown. On Friday evening they decorated the Amawalk Cemetery. On Saturday morning they decorated the Shrub Oak Methodist Cemeteries, Yorktown Presbyterian Cemetery, and the East Yard Cemetery. In all over 580 flags are replaced with fresh ones. The old ones are returned to the Post for our flag retirement ceremony. Great job and huge thanks to John and all our Scouts!

## Flag Retirement Ceremony

On Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, our Post once again teamed up with the Yorktown Fire Department and local Scouts to conduct our annual Flag Retirement Ceremony. It was held at 9 AM at the YFD Carnival Grounds where we could safely retire the almost 700 worn and torn US flags by fire that had been collected during the past year. Our Post's flag drop box is always busy now as people pull up to it day and night to drop off worn flags. We were pleased to have several Scouts and other guests attend and witness this short ceremony. Thank you to: Frank Troia, Lee DeFrancesco, Tom Einwich, Don Roberts, Al Laughlin PPC, John McQuillan, Roger Thompson, Steve Rice, Bob Raphael, Vincent Faggella, Carl DiLiberto, Cmdr. John Giacomini, George Hansen, Terry Deveau, Larry Armstrong, Craig Armstrong (SAL), Rocco Salierno, and Pat McDonough for helping to make this another great success.



Our Post Legionnaires with some of the nearly 700 US flags retired during our Flag Retirement Ceremony.

## Thank You and Farewell!

For the past few years our Hall rentals have been one of the best successes of our Post's revitalization. Past Post Cmdr. Gerry Knapp reinvented the way we handle rentals with a more customer-friendly and service-oriented style. Post member Sam Schatz, our Hall Reservations Manager, continued to build on that success and we've gone from 14 rentals a year to over 50 rentals last year with Sam's help.

Sam alerted the Post that he has plans to move out to Arizona soon. At our June meeting the Post's membership presented Sam with a plaque and thanked him for his hard work and efforts for our Post. Stepping up for Sam with our Hall reservations are two new Post members - Vincent Faggella and Robert Raphael. We wish them both great success in their new position with our Post and please remember that everyone is here to support you in any way we can.

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## Membership News...

The American Legion's first membership renewal mailing went out to everyone on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our Post's first renewals came in the very next day through our mail slot from John Scavarda and Ray Barry! Special thanks to them for their immediate and dedicated support of our Post!

Carl DiLiberto, our Post Membership Chairman, asked if an article could be added to this issue to help clarify how the American Legion's Membership renewal process works each year - as it gets confusing to many. Your American Legion membership is based on the calendar year of January to December. The National American Legion HQ's counts on all 1.2 million members' dues for their annual budget so they really push for everyone to renew before year's end to enjoy uninterrupted benefits. Renewal notices are mailed out in July, September, November, and even in January, if needed, to accomplish this. Why explain all this to everyone? We ask all Post members to renew your Post membership upon receipt of your first renewal notice in July, September, or November. This saves our Post and Legion the effort, manpower, and expense of reaching out to everyone 5 or 6 times to renew your memberships. This will also free up our Membership Chairman and Adjutant for their other Post duties. We were fortunate to achieve 100% of our membership goal of 118 members this year - but our last renewal came in the week of Memorial Day - a full 10

months after we mailed out our first renewal request.

Our Yorktown Post #1009 is one of the most active American Legion Posts of the 46 Posts in Westchester County and that is a great source of pride for us. We hope that all members will continue your membership and support of our Post and programs and enjoy the pride of our Post and its accomplishments. Please renew your membership today.

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## Our Post Recognized...



Cmdr. John Giacomini accepts the 'Outstanding Post Membership' award for our Post at the Westchester County Convention in Scarsdale.

At the Westchester County American Legion Convention held at Scarsdale Post #979 on Saturday, June 2, 2018 our Post was presented the 'Outstanding Post Membership' award. Our annual report recapping what our Post has accomplished over the past year is the reason for receiving this award. Cmdr Giacomini and our Post's Officers have led our Post to quite a list of accomplishments during the past year, from 1,040 hrs of community service to taking part in 29 community events. We had 2 high school students attend Boys State last summer and another one attended this past June. Even with all the Post repairs and upgrades we still managed to donate \$2,000 to our veteran-related charities on Memorial Day and collect \$700 in cash and 15 shopping carts of food for the Montrose VA Food pantry. When you add to that this our Post also reaching 100% in our membership renewal efforts, any outsider can see we have something special going on here with our membership! Take a bow everyone and enjoy your summer because we start again in late August and we'd love to have your help again!

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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 who is doing well and would appreciate a visitor or two at the NYS Home at Montrose. Mike Laughlin is out sick and we wish him well. Dennis Frasene is recuperating and doing better we hear. Louise Giacomini is doing much better after her recent hospitalization and we wish her a speedy recovery. Vincent Faggella just went on the sick list and we wish him well!

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## Our Engraved Brick Program

Many new Post members are unfamiliar with some of our programs and we will take the time in each issue to educate all members about the great programs we have at our Post. One program is our Commemorative Brick program. This engraved brick program allows everyone to honor the military service of themselves, or a veteran loved one, by ordering an engraved brick with your veteran's name, branch of US military service, and years or era of service on it. We install these Commemorative Bricks in the park adjacent to our Post building honoring these veteran's service to our country. The funds raised from these engraved bricks is donated by the Post to local veterans-related charities. Order a brick to honor one veteran and help other veterans at the same time. These beautifully engraved bricks can be ordered any time of the year for only \$100 each (Post members enjoy \$10 off their own brick). On Memorial Day each year a dedication ceremony is held for the new bricks installed during the past year. Through this amazing program our Post has been able to make over \$22,200 in charitable donations in the past 6 years alone. Our Post would never have been able to provide this level of charitable support this program.

Brick order forms are available around Yorktown or in our Post lobby display. You can also download the form from our website at: [www.nylegion1009.org](http://www.nylegion1009.org).

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## Sad to Report...

We regret to inform everyone of the recent passing of two Post members during the month of May - Robert J. Miller, Past Post Commander from 1993-1994, and Joseph Larsen, an active Post member right up to his passing. In both instances

our Post was informed of their passing with time enough to organize our members to perform a 'Rendering of Honors' ceremony at the funeral homes for these Legionnaires. Both families were touched deeply by the 16-18 Post members rendering a final salute to their loved ones. Our prayers and best wishes go out to both families.

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## Post Summer BBQ

Save the date and pass the word... our Post's Summer BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, August 19, 2018 at 1 PM at our Post. The BBQ will be catered once again so that all our members can sit and enjoy the event. The price is only \$10 per person for a wonderful meal and great company! It is open to all our Post and SAL members and their families. We ask that all attendees bring a small treat for the dessert bar. This can be anything and everyone gets a kick out of trying all the different treats. RSVP back to Pat McDonough(914-953-6807) by August 12th PLEASE.

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## Happy 230<sup>th</sup> Birthday Yorktown!

Yorktown Council members Alica Roker and Tom Diana with the support of the Town Board are planning a celebration for Yorktown's 230<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday, August 26, 2018. On July 12<sup>th</sup> our Post and a host of other town organizations were invited to a planning session at Town Hall. Right now - plans are for a parade starting at 2 PM on 8/26 from Lakeland HS proceeding along E. Main St. past the Hart Library to Old Yorktown Rd. Tours of local farms and historic homes will be available that day highlighting Yorktown's 230 year history. A Jazz Concert will be held in front of the Hart Library that day (time to be announced) and the Yorktown Lions Club is sponsoring a full-day of music at Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Track & Field from 3 PM to 9 PM culminated by a fireworks display to end the day. Our Post has committed to marching in the parade so everyone save the date and come have some fun!

This Newsletter is FREE to anyone interested in receiving it via e-mail. This saves the Post the expense of printing and postage. Your e-mail address will only be used for OFFICIAL POST BUSINESS. Sign up at: [Post1009@nylegion1009.org](mailto:Post1009@nylegion1009.org)

# Westchester County Legion Meeting

Each year in August our Yorktown Post hosts the Westchester County American Legion's August monthly meeting in our Post. This lets the County Legion see the pride we have in our Post and facilities, and it also allows our members see what the County-level of the Legion is planning for the year. The County will be meeting at our Post at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 and all Legionnaires are welcome to attend.

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## 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the American Legion

All of you have undoubtedly seen all the advertisements and articles leading up to the American Legion's year-long 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration beginning September 16, 2018. Our Adjutant Pat McDonough has added our Post to the Legion's Celebration website with a short historical biography of our Post. Pat is always looking for old records/photos from the early years of our Yorktown Post to copy and computerize for posterity sake - so if you have any items like that please let him know. Pat will copy them and return them safely to you quickly.

Our Yorktown Post didn't have its start in 1919 like some Post's can claim. Our Post had a temporary charter issued on November 22, 1928 and our permanent charter was approved on May 5, 1931. While we aren't 100 years old - this does mean that this fall our Post is celebrating its 90th year of service to our veterans and our community! Happy Birthday Legionnaires of Post #1009!

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## Are You Prepared?

Getting married? People plan every detail for months and years for an event like this. Getting divorced? You undoubtedly will talk with several people about all the intricacies and details to be better prepared for it. Have you discussed or planned for your final passing? When we are young we don't think about this event. When we're older we just don't want to face our mortality. Ignoring it doesn't help anyone. Are you and your family prepared in case something unexpected happens to you or your spouse, or both of you? Here are some helpful tips and

suggestions based on a career dealing with families experiencing unexpected deaths.

**A Will** - everyone over 18 needs one even if you only have a car and bank account to disperse. You need to keep it updated with new children, new spouses, and spouse changes. If you have young children, YOU, and not the courts, should appoint who will be their guardians should you and your spouse pass together unexpectedly. Appoint an Executor and a Guardian and TELL THEM, better yet give them a copy of it so they know their responsibilities should the unexpected happen.

### **Health Care Proxy and Power of Attorney**

- These documents are linked together here because they are similarly important. What happens when you get in a serious accident but don't die. Who makes the medical decisions for you if you're incapacitated? Your spouse? Children? Who ever it is. They need the Health Care Proxy to show that they speak for you in health matters. What happens if you are incapacitated for months? Who pays your mortgage, insurance, or bills? The Power of Attorney gives a trusted individual the power to take care of your fiscal and legal affairs for you. If you pass on both of these authorizations stop and your Executor of your Will takes over from there.

### **Bank Accounts/ Safety Deposit Boxes/ Insurance Policies**

- Bank accounts and safety deposit boxes should have two names on them even if you are single. This way if you pass away the second person can access them to plan and pay for your final wishes. If you are the only one on them, they are sealed by the banks when you die until your estate is settled by Surrogate Court, which will take weeks. Insurance policies should be reviewed regularly for beneficiary updating. Parents have received policy payouts when a wife and children ought to have, and ex-spouses have been paid when a new spouse should have - understand? Also, let people know about the companies your policies are with so they can collect what you have set up. Many policies go uncollected because no one knew they existed - so tell someone.

**Final Plan** - Leave a written copy of your final plans and wishes for your family to be guided by in their grief. If you pass on without telling anyone your final wishes, then others will make decisions they prefer about your final goodbye and resting place.

## Additional Photos...



Our Post members took part in the Jefferson Village Memorial Day Ceremony. (Above)



Our annual Flag Retirement Ceremony was well attended by Scouts and Legionnaires. (above and below)



Our SAL members posed for a picture after their first Memorial Day Parade. (Above)

### Post #1009 Upcoming Events

- Tue Aug 7 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**
- Wed Aug 8 County Legion Meeting at Post #1009 at 7:30 PM**
- Sun Aug 19 Post Summer BBQ at 1 PM. RSVP by 8/12 to Pat McDonough (914-953-6807)**
- Sun Aug 26 Yorktown's 230<sup>th</sup> Birthday Parade. Form-up at 1:40 PM at Lakeland HS**
- Tue Sep 4 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**
- Thu Sep 6 Sons of A.L. Mtg 7:30 PM**
- Fri Sep 7 Grange Fair flag-raising ceremony 5 PM**
- Thu Sep 13 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM**
- Sat Sep 22 Field Home Fall Festival 11 AM to 4 PM.**
- Sat Sep 29 Montrose VA Food Pantry Collection from 9 AM to 1 PM.**

### **Yorktown Post #1009**

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