



# Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

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## Our Post Receives Prestigious Award

On Saturday, June 3, 2017 the Westchester County American Legion Convention was held at Mt Kisco Post #136. Attending as our Post Delegates to the Convention were Post Cmdr John Giacomini, Al Laughlin PPC, Ken Blish PPC, and Richard Calbo. When the awards for 100% membership were being presented our Delegates were pleased to hear our Post recognized for achieving over 100% membership for the 2017 membership year. Out of 46 Post's in the County our Post is only one of 8 Posts whose rosters has over 100 members. It is a big deal when we can get all 116 Legionnaires to renew their memberships each year and to replace those who are unable to. We have a great Membership Chairman, Carl DiLiberto, and he works his butt off to achieve this mark, or get close to it every year! Great Job, Carl!

The final award presented each year is the Westchester County Commander's Trophy for 'Most Outstanding Post'. This award recognizes everything a Post has done in the past year. Our Commander and delegates were quite surprised to hear this award was being presented to our Yorktown Post #1009! This award is recognition of all our Post has accomplished this past year - taking part in 38 community events, 7 veterans funerals, 1,277 hours of community service, 2 boys sponsored to Boys State, our successful Four Chaplains and Honor Flag programs, sponsorship of Scouting units, and flag retirement ceremonies. Top that off with 100% membership for the year and we had an extremely successful year! Cmdr Giacomini stepped up to receive the award and in his comments to everyone there he said this was due to a great group of Legionnaires who run and coordinate all the events and programs at our Post. Congratulations go out to everyone in our Post who came out and took part in all our events this year. You made us the success we are today!

## Poppy Fundraiser

On the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend our Post Legionnaires set-up tables at the Shrub

Oak and Yorktown ACME supermarkets and the Turco's Supermarket in Yorktown. The purpose was to collect donations for our Post programs and hand-out red poppies to remind everyone of the true reason for Memorial Day. For four hours from 9 AM to 1 PM we had 19 Legionnaires and two motivated helpers, Samantha Armstrong, a middle school student, and Kevin McDonough, a high school student, interact with the residents of Yorktown and collecting funds. Interacting is a key word here... people come up and make a donation and relate that they remember fondly when they were younger their father, or grandfather, doing this with the poppies. One lady told us the story of her grandfather who was a Navy pilot in WWII and was killed in the Battle of the Coral Sea. Eleanore Roosevelt spearheaded an effort to name a Navy ship after him and succeeded. The USS Mason was commissioned and manned by a predominately African-American crew in an effort to desegregate the Navy, similar to the Tuskegee airman in the Air Force. The ship was decommissioned in 1947 and it wasn't until 1995 that the crew of the USS Mason were awarded their long overdue medals - also similar to the Tuskegee air men. All this came out in a few minutes of conversation. The stories we hear are amazing and the people telling them are so proud of their family veterans involvement in history.

Thank you to :Tom Einwich, John Giacomini, Al Laughlin, John Gunn, Bill Lewis, Rich DeSilva, Rocco Salierno, Mike Laughlin, Carl DiLiberto, Larry Armstrong, Frank Troia, Sam Schatz, Rod Leone, Lee DeFrancesco, Patrick McDonough, Rich Calbo, Terry Deveau, Tom Connolly, and Ken Blish for helping our Post and making this event the success it was. In four short hours our Post collected \$3,215 in donations.

## Memorial Day Parade

Right off the top... 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr Bill Goss spent months organizing this year's Memorial Day Parade - it was his first parade - and he did a simply outstanding job with it! After months of planning the weather became a huge factor on the morning of Memorial Day 2017. After last year's cancellation of the parade due to the weather...

no one wanted to cancel two in a row or that could possibly be the end of the parade! Cmdr Giacomini met with Parade Chairman Bill and others that morning and the decision was made despite the rain to perform the wreath laying ceremonies at Town Hall and have the parade but to move the ceremonies from the gazebo into our Post Hall. The phone in our Post rang all morning and we passed the word the best we could through a mass e-mail, and an announcement on our Post website. (Note - we had 719 hits on our website that weekend... up from an average of 15!)

When we arrived at Town Hall in the steady rain to form up we found the rain couldn't deter the Yorktown Fire Department, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #8328, the Korean War Veterans Assoc., our new addition to the parade this year, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 49, and Ms Emily Kluga and two buglers from the Yorktown HS band who were waiting there. All told close to 80 people were present for the wreath laying.

The crowds were thin along the parade route but we had some Girl and Boys Scout units, the Yorktown Grange, Hilltop Farms, Yorktown Elks, Yorktown Lions, every local Yorktown politician, the Yorktown Fire Department and the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps march in that day in the rain. At the end of the parade everyone made a right turn into our Post Hall and joined us for hot dogs and the Memorial Day ceremonies inside. Gold Star Mother Vivian Allen gave the keynote speech and Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace addressed the standing room only crowd of close to 200 in our Hall. Everyone in the audience was in an upbeat and positive mood despite the bad weather, and many thanked us for going on with the parade because it was the right thing to do!

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## Brick Dedication

Our Post's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Commemorative Brick Dedication Ceremony was conducted after the Memorial Day Ceremonies in our Post Hall with still over 100 people in attendance. Brick Chairman John Gunn informed everyone that this year's donations from the brick sales to local veterans-related charities would be \$2,500 today. These donations bring our cumulative donations in the 5 years the program has existed to over \$20,000!

This year our Post presented checks to: the Montrose VA Food Pantry for \$1,000; to 'My

Brother Vinny' - the organization that has helped set-up over 400 veterans released from the Montrose VA into their own apartments received \$500; 'United for the Troops' which sends care packages to active duty troops stationed overseas to boost their morale received \$500; and the final \$500 donation will be in underwear, socks and similar clothing to the Montrose VA clothing shop.

Following the ceremony our brick donors went out in the rain to find their loved one's bricks in our park. You could see the pride they had in seeing these bricks in the ground among their fellow veterans. They really loved hearing that the day's donations were made from their brick money so 'they' helped these charities by purchasing their bricks! Pass the word to those you know about this worthwhile Post program. It helps us to help veterans!

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## Flags In...

At Arlington National Cemetery several hundred soldiers decorate the graves of over 80,000 deceased veterans buried there prior to Memorial Day. The term 'Flags In' refers to this time honored event. For countless years our Yorktown Post has guided local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in placing flags on the graves of local veterans buried in Yorktown. When we say 'our Post' that means John McQuillan. John has made it his mission to document and arrange for this annual tribute to our local veterans who have passed away. This past Memorial Day weekend John guided Scouts in placing almost 580 US flags on local veterans' graves. Great job, John!



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## Post Elections

Our Yorktown Post held its annual election of Post Officers during our May meeting. 30

Legionnaires attended this meeting and with their votes elected: John Giacomini as Post Commander; William Goss as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr; Carl DiLiberto as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr; John McQuillan as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr; Lawrence Armstrong as our Financial Officer; with Gerald Knapp PPC, Al Laughlin PPC, Ken Blish PPC, Patrick McDonough, and Michael Marx filling the five Executive Committee positions for the 2017-2018 business year.

Our newly elected Post Officers were installed at our June 8, 2017 meeting by Department Master-at-Arms Richard Calbo. We wish each of them well as they guide our Post for the coming year.

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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; Larry Iuso has been in Montrose VA Bldg 6, but we hear he should be returning home before July! Welcome home, Larry!

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## Post Infrastructure Upgrades

During the past five years our Post Executive Committee has kept our Post's infrastructure upgrades and repairs as an important part of our day-to-day business plan. We had established a 'wish' list of both needs and wants for the Post building and grounds in an effort to bring things into good shape and to help reduce our Post expenses.

A few years ago we switched all lighting with an energy efficiency grant which saved us \$800 a year in electric costs. We replaced 3 antiquated window a/c's in the bar with one efficient a/c+heating unit to save electricity and oil. Our two new 5 ton a/c+heating units and upgraded heating vents in our Hall save electricity and oil. We've just finished insulating and wallboarding our backroom and basement stairway to increase heating efficiency further. This is all boring stuff that's not too interesting to our membership, right!? How about this... four years ago we used 1,599 gallons of heating oil from July 2013 to June 2014 costing us \$6,287 (remember \$4.59 a gallon?). Last year (July 2015-June 2016) we used 650 gallons costing us \$1,229. That is a savings of 949 gals of oil and approximately \$1,800 PER YEAR (at present oil prices!)! Our electrical costs were \$3,450 in 2013 and in 2016 they were \$2,734 for a savings of \$716 per year. Keep in

mind in 2013 we only rented our Hall 14 times and in 2016 we did it 41 times. Our expenses went down while using our hall and facilities 200% more! That's the boring stuff that keeps your Executive Committee on its toes!!!

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## Waterview Hills Makes Donation to Our Post

On Thursday, June 8, 2017, Sue Orce and Scott Urgola the Directors of Recreation and Volunteers at Waterview Hills Rehabilitation & Healthcare in Purdys stopped by our Post's June meeting. Mr Urgola addressed the 25 Legionnaires present to explain that Waterview Hills had done some fundraising in May during their National Nursing Home Month activities. The purpose of their fundraising was to allow them to make donations to local groups who they had working relationships with in recent years. This year they had selected our Yorktown Post to receive a donation in thanks for the Yorktown Post members coming to Waterview two of the three past Veterans Days to conduct ceremonies for the veterans in residence there. Scott and Sue announced to everyone at the meeting that they wanted to thank the American Legion for its help in the past and to present them with a donation check of \$500 for the Post to use in support of its programs. Cmdr John Giacomini accepted the donation on behalf of the Post and promised it would be put to excellent use in their programs.



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## Post Summer BBQ

Save the date and pass the word... our Post's Summer BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, August 20, 2017 at 1 PM at our Post. The BBQ will

be catered so that all our members can sit and enjoy the event. The price is still only \$7 per person... which can't be beat! It is open to all our Post 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 13<sup>th</sup> PLEASE.

## 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.**

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
Tom Brady	\$ 55	03/13/17
Robert Burke (LNVU)	\$100	03/17/17
Pamela Guerra	\$ 50	04/07/17
Tom Connolly	\$ 78	05/15/17
Waterview Hill Rehab Ctr	\$500	06/09/17
Linda/Jeffrey Gold	\$ 25	06/21/17

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

## Don't Forget Craft Beer Festival

Our Post still has a bunch of tickets to the Yorktown Rotary Club's 'The Best and The Worst' craft beer and food festival on September 9, 2017. While the ticket price may seem steep at \$45 each for drinkers and \$15 for non-drinkers - half of each ticket sold is donated back to our Yorktown Post! That means you are helping our Post with a \$22.50 donation and can enjoy all the food, beer, and

entertainment at the craft beer festival for \$22.50, or for only \$7.50 for non-drinkers. Every little bit helps an organization like ours survive and we hope that everyone will pass the word about this deal and buy their tickets through us to help support our mission. You can even go to our website ([www.nylegion1009.org](http://www.nylegion1009.org)) to order your tickets online(an additional fee occurs). See or contact Adjutant Pat McDonough (914-953-6807) for your tickets. Anyone can purchase these tickets, not just Post members, so pass the word about this wonderful festival to family and friends and help the Yorktown Rotary and our Post at the same time!

### Post #1009 Upcoming Events

**Tue Aug 1 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**

**Wed Aug 9 Westchester County Meets at Yorktown Post #1009. Food at 7 PM & meeting at 7:30 PM.**

**Sun Aug 20 Post Summer BBQ at 1 PM. Only \$7 per person. RSVP by 8/13.**

**Tue Sep 5 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**

**Fri Sep 8 Grange Fair flag-raising ceremony at 4:15 PM.**

**Thu Sep 14 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM**

**Sat Sep 23 Field Home Fall Festival - 11 AM to 4 PM. Volunteers needed.**

**Sat Sep 30 VA Food Pantry Collection at both ACME Supermarkets from 9 AM to 1 PM. Volunteers needed!**

**Tue Oct 3 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**

**Thu Oct 12 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM**

### Yorktown Post #1009

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

