



The American Legion – Patchogue Post 269
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Patchogue, New York 11772-0457

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The American Legion

Patchogue Post 269

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News Letter

2014
September - November



For God and Country





Patchogue Post 269

Corner of Baker Street & South Ocean Avenue (631) 475-3822

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Commanders Corner

Comrades

Comrades, now that the 1st edition is out of the way and the program is set up we can move on.

I have some sad news to report. Comrades Eddie Adams and Fred Striers passed away and services were held. Also Legion Auxiliary member Pat Gallagher also passed away. She will surely be missed. She was a big help when something was going on. Her only answer would be “We can make it happen”.

We had a successful Arts and Craft show including music provided by the BOBCATS free of charge. It was well received.

Due to his eyesight getting worse, P/C Harry Hanson is giving up administration of the 100 club. Comrade Jose Bou has taken over the task. Please give him your support. This has always been a good fundraiser.

The Military Resource Center has now closed. The Director, Sharon, has moved upstate to pursue new endeavors. We wish her luck and our doors are always open.

If anyone needs to reach me, you can send E-Mail at alpost269@aol.com or call the Post at 631-475-3822 and leave a message.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
JOHN MATUSZAK
COMMANDER – POST 269

Chaplain's Corner

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in Unity!

PSALM 133-1

The American Legion Post 269 is a good example of this scripture verse. When our brothers come together in camaraderie, we share in the fellowship of unity as we help other veterans and their families in our community.

Rev. Robert Hansen, Chaplain Post 269

Auxiliary Corner

Auxiliary News

Summer has ended and with the beginning of the Fall and Winter seasons, comes the start of all our Legion and Auxiliary programs. Ladies, did you know that Patchogue American Legion Post has a Facebook page? General information, events, and anything of interest will be posted there. The new and improved Facebook page is www.facebook.com/American.Legion.Post.269

Auxiliary Unit #269 is planning a fund raiser which will be held at the Patchogue American Legion Post on Sunday, November 2, 2014 at 3:00 PM. It will be a "Jamboree of baskets" (Chinese Auction) featuring approximately 25 baskets. Help is needed to shop and assemble the baskets as well as any new items you might wish to donate. All profits will be used to support our Veterans and Community Service programs. Each year, we donate funds to two local food pantries and the Lighthouse Mission. Our Unit shops for and donates Christmas gifts for hospitalized children, the Veterans at the Homeless Shelter in Yaphank, and the Veterans that attend the

satellite clinic in Patchogue.

Membership Chairman Carole Bruggermann is collecting 2015 Auxiliary dues (\$20). Your continued support enables Unit #269 to provide assistance to our Veterans and the Children & Youth of our Community. The Marines have a motto "Gun Ho". Translated, this means "Pull Together". This is necessary for us to have another successful year. Your dedication and support to our projects is needed. We must all "pull together!". We may be small in numbers, but we are big in heart!

Our Unit has lost the hard working and loving hands of Auxiliary Member Pat Gallagher. Pat was a Past Unit President who had worked on most every committee within the Unit. As a result of her efforts, this Unit received a donation which has enabled us to send a girl to the Empire Girls State Program for the last six years. On the County level, Pat was Sgt. at Arms for eight years. She served as 3rd Vice President (Children & Youth) and 2nd Vice President (Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation). Pat would have been Suffolk County Auxiliary President in 2015. The Unit Charter has been draped in memory of our departed member.

For God & Country
Pat Bergin, Auxiliary #269 President

Echoes From The Heart

We all know that Election Day is very close. There are constant reminders on television, radio, mail telephone, and every other possible form of communication. For myself, I change the TV channel, rip up the mail, turn off the radio, and hang up the phone. There is no doubt that all of us are experiencing feelings of frustration over the constant barrage of negative campaigning. Every candidate is accusing their opponent of being a thief, a liar, a criminal, or a con man. Nothing I have heard has been positive.

We as an organization cannot support a candidate. As individuals, we can discuss the merits of the person running for an office. As a group, we may also discuss our pros and cons, but the American Legion cannot “endorse” a candidate. One way to make up our mind is to try to determine which candidate will do the most for the Veterans.

In our beloved United States, the power and authority rests with the people. It is our right to vote for whom we choose in an election for the representative of the people. The key word here is for the people and not the vested interest of a few! We have the right, but along with this, we have a duty. We must use our right to vote as intelligently as possible. Before we go to the polling place, we must consider the social issues. We must tolerate the views of others that do not agree with our views. Sometimes, this is difficult. I, for one, will vote for someone who will respect the opinions of the people. If any candidate tells me that he does not promise me this or that and he will work for what we the people ask, then I would vote for him.

Unfortunately, not one candidate has addressed the issues. They are spending time and money in bashing each other. Ladies and Gentlemen, good luck with your decision and may God help us to choose the best!

For God and Country,
Tom Bergin, 2nd Vice Commander

Open Letter

From Harry T. Hanson to all members of Post 269

As of January 1, 2015 I will be passing the chairmanship of the 100 Club over to Jose Bou. Because of my deteriorating eye sight, I find that I cannot do many of the things that I have in the past, and this disturbs me very much.

I am very proud that I have helped the Post for so many years. At age 92, I have been a member of the Post 73 years. I joined the Post in 1933 as a drummer in the Sons Of The Legion in their Drum and Fife Band. I worked my way up to the position of S.A.L. Commander in 1941. I left the S.A.L. in 1942 to join the military. I joined the American Legion and this post in March 1942.

I have had the great privilege of being Commander of the Post 4 times. During my times as commander, I was able to get the water fountain replaced with the large flag pole, and worked with the Village of Patchogue to rename “Patchogue Memorial Park” to “Veterans Memorial Park” to honor all of our veterans.

As General Douglas McArthur said, “It is time for old soldiers to fade away”. After 22 years in the military during WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, I guess he was right.

Please support Jose in his work as new chairman of the 100 Club. And please continue to help this Post and your fellow veterans.

Respectfully,
Harry T. Hanson

Recent Events

The Post hosted another Crafts Fair on September 6th. The weather did not co-operate as well this time, so there were not as many vendors present. It also had an impact on the community attendance. On the plus side, there were a lot of different vendors from the Summer Fair and a lot of variety. There was even a bouncy house for the kids. The band “Bobcats” even volunteered to provide musical entertainment. The more of these events we do, the better it will be as we learn what works and what to improve on.

Community Activities

On October 11th, we planned a Flag Retirement ceremony at Shorefront Park in Patchogue. This event was being done in conjunction with the United Veterans Organization and the Boy Scouts. This ceremony allows for the dignified retirement of old flags that are no longer serviceable. Unfortunately, the weather did not co-operate so we had to cancel it. It will be re-scheduled at a later date.

Upcoming Events

Veterans Day will be on Tuesday, November 11th. Originally known as Armistice Day, it was created to honor the end of World War 1. The armistice ending that war occurred at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The original intent of this holiday was to honor the veterans of World War 1. It was recognized by the United States Congress in 1926, and became a National Holiday by Congressional order in 1938. With the end of World War II and the Korean Conflict, it was recognized that a change in meaning was needed. In 1954, the holiday was changed to be known officially as “Veterans Day” in order to honor American Veterans of all wars. Between 1971 and 1978, the holiday was observed on a floating day to provide for three day weekends, but due to public response it was returned back to the

November 11th date of every year. The focus of Veterans Day is to pay honor and thanks to all veterans who served during time of war. Unlike Memorial Day which is devoted to honoring those who died in the service of their country, Veterans Day is more focused on honoring and paying thank you to the living veterans for their service and sacrifices. Although originally intended for veterans who served during wartime, it now honors all veterans of the Armed Forces whether they served during wartime or peacetime. It should remind all of us of the fact that all those who have served, not only those who died, have sacrificed and done their duty to our country.

General Information

The Del-Satins, a musical group from the 1960's, performed at the Patchogue Theater on September 28th at 3:00 PM. A portion of the ticket sales will be donated to the American Legion. Although our Post is not sponsoring it, we did have an information table set up at the theater.

On November 9th at 3:00 PM, there will be a performance at the Patchogue Theater featuring the music of John Philip Sousa. It will celebrate Veterans Day with “A Sousa Salute to Our Veterans”. There is no association with the American Legion, but if you like military and patriotic march music, it might be a nice time.

Response to our newsletter has been very gratifying. It's a pleasure to see that it has helped our Post and gotten information out to all of the members. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or any other thing that you think might help improve it please let us know. All ideas and suggestions will be greatly appreciated. Remember, this isn't my newsletter, its YOURS!!!!, so if there is something you would like to see included, tell us.

Election Day is Tuesday November 4th. Don't forget to vote. After all, this country belongs to the citizens.

Post Membership Meetings

Membership meetings are held at the Post on the second Monday of the month at 8 PM.

The next three monthly meetings are: September 8th, October 13th, and November 10th.

Auxiliary meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month.

The Dugout at the Post

The Dugout is open Fridays from 7-11 PM and Sundays 3-6 PM. Drop in and hang out for a while for some drinks, conversation, and friendship. Don't forget, it really is YOUR POST, so come in and visit with friends.

Newsletter and Social Media Contact

We are continuing to post events, information, photos, and other information online to our Facebook page. The URL for our page is: <https://www.facebook.com/American.Legion.Post.269>

We are posting any late breaking information as well as other general information there. You can get photos of the Post and pictures from various events by looking in the Photos section of the page. The page is public, so you do not need a Facebook account to view it.

The newsletter and Facebook page are produced by Jon Ralph. Call 631-654-5735, 631-235-7537, or email jralph@optonline.net with any comments, questions, or suggestions.

The American Legion Patchogue Post 269

WANTS YOU



To Join Us Now

**Ask your: Father, Father-in-Law, Brother-in-Law
A Friend or Associate**

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ D.O.B. _____

Annual Membership Dues is \$40, Signature _____

Fill out the Application and Mail it along with your Dues and a copy of your DD-214 form to The American Legion, Patchogue Post 269, P.O. Box 457 Patchogue, New York 11772-0457, Attn: Don Anderson