



The American Legion – Patchogue Post 269
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Patchogue Post 269
Corner of Baker Street & South Ocean Avenue (631) 475-3822

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Commanders Corner

Comrades

It has turned out to be a very busy summer. We had an excellent turnout for the July 4th parade, and the Veterans Appreciation BBQ in August was a success. Now we are busy working on several events for Veterans Day and the upcoming holidays.

I have been having a lot of conversations and discussions for new ideas of how to increase our out-reach to Veterans and the community. I think it is very important to improve and enhance our standing in the community, and with all Veterans. We are continuing our work with the Joseph Dwyer Peer-Peer Support project and thinking of ways to make it more effective.

Members of the Post have been very involved with the Missing In America Project for the interment of abandoned Veterans. We have attended five events for this in the last three months. Members have also started attending the NOA (No One in Attendance) ceremony held monthly at Calverton National Cemetery. The NOA ceremony is done by Calverton and the Patriot Guard Riders.

We are continuing to work with the Student Veterans of America group at St. Joseph's College. This is also an important out-reach for us to do.

It is time for the Post to do a fund raiser. I am thinking of having a large fund raiser in the late February-early March time frame. Let's get ideas and get a group together to make it happen. It takes all of us to make things a true success.

One new project that has been started is the formation of a Color Guard group. I know that several years ago the Post had a Color Guard, but in conversations we had not done any of it for several

years. I am pleased to announce that we are again forming a Color Guard and will be holding practice sessions. We are also looking for ways to get more members to participate in the various activities and events. We will continue to post all the information on Facebook and our web site, and we will start a new bulletin board in the Dugout so we can post the flyers and information that comes in. Many times we get information about events that will occur before the next membership meeting, so we encourage everyone to drop down to the Dugout and check the new board for event information.

I encourage everyone to join us in the Veterans Day events as well as the Patchogue Christmas Parade. The more of us who can make these events shows the community (and other Veterans) that our Post is active and involved.

We are doing very well on membership, but if you haven't yet paid your 2017 dues, I really would like to ask you to renew as soon as you can. Your support is vital to this Post and the work we are doing.

Election Day is November 8th. Although the Legion is non-partisan, it is the duty and civic responsibility of each of us to exercise our rights and vote.

For God and Country

Jon Ralph

Commander – Patchogue Post 269

1st Vice Commander Corner

A reminder to all American Legion Patchogue Post 269 members that you will be receiving renewal notices from our National Headquarters if you have not yet paid your 2017 dues. Membership dues are now \$43. Please send dues payments directly to the Post, Attention: Membership Officer John Matuszak. So remember to pay your dues

on time in order to keep your membership active.

At this time, I am requesting that all members please update your home address, phone number, and E-Mail address if it has changed in the past year. This information is needed in case the Post needs to contact you. Thank you.

For God and Country
Jose J. Bou
1st Vice Commander

Membership Corner

I would like to thank everyone who has paid their 2017 membership dues. We still have 68 members who haven't paid yet. I know that people will say that they have paid in March, April, May, or June. Remember that membership starts on July 1st for the following year. We are now collecting for 2017. I would like to complete renewal by December 15th of this year. It will make my job easier and county will not be bothering us.

Again, I would like to say thank you to those who have paid.

For God and Country
PC John Matuszak
Membership Officer

Historian Corner

Did you know that on:

August 9, 1921 The American Legion's efforts result in the creation of

the U.S. Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration. Today the American Legion continues to lobby for adequate funding to cover medical, disability, education, and other benefits for veterans.

May 4, 1950 The American Legion votes to contribute fund to the field of mental health, thereby playing a key role in launching the National Association for Mental Health.

August 26, 1982 The American Legion presents a One Million dollar check to the Vietnam Veterans Foundation for construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington D.C., becoming the largest single contributor to the project.

October 1, 1995 The American Legion forms the Persian Gulf Task Force to enhance service for the newest generation of wartime veterans, thousands of whom suffer from illnesses linked to their service in the region.

Dates to remember:

October 10 – Columbus Day
October 23, 1983 – Beirut Bombing
October 25, 1983 – Grenada Invasion
November 8 – Election Day
November 24 – Thanksgiving Day
December 7, 1941 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 15 – Bill of Rights Day
December 20, 1989 – Panama “Operation Just Cause”
December 25 – Christmas Day

For God and Country
Jose J. Bou
Post Historian

Auxiliary Corner

Auxiliary News

So far we've had a busy start to our new year. We've attended our flag retirement ceremony and went to the Fall Conference which was held in Broad Channel. Department President Debbie Kryczkowski and her staff discussed her project for this year which is The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). TAPS offers compassionate care to all those grieving the death of a loved one serving in our Armed Forces. Since 1994, TAPS has provided comfort and hope 24 hours a day, seven days a week through a national peer support network and connection to grief resources, all at no cost to surviving families and loved ones.

Also PLEASE trying PAYING your Membership dues ASAP.

We are also proud to be part the J Dwyer PTSD project where meetings are held in the Post with the Legion and Auxiliary members in order to help Veterans and their families.

We are going to purchase pocket flags to be folded by Boy Scouts and given to those in the military who are to be deployed.

In November we will be attending our annual Veterans Day ceremony. There is so much more we are doing so be assured that your membership helps others. I'd like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a very Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year. Together we can do anything!!! Thank ALL of you.

For God and Country
Cathy Beer
President - Auxiliary Unit 269

Echoes From The Heart

There are times when life seems overwhelming and we look for a place for a self-imposed "time out". A place of peace and quiet where you can think more clearly.

I bring this up because a few days following Labor Day, I went to Smith Point Beach before the sun came up. It was about 5:15 in the morning when I went to the water's edge and set up my chair to watch the sun rise. At first there was complete darkness with the twinkle of what seemed to be a million stars. After some time, the sky seemed to brighten ever so slowly in the distance. I watched as the sun rose over the distant horizon. It inched up and finally rose to its full beauty. The darkness gave way to a new beautiful day.

At the same time, because it was so early, I found myself in complete isolation. I was the only person sitting on that beach. This gave me the opportunity to close my eyes for a few minutes and concentrate on the sound of nature around me. I began to hear the crashing of the waves against the shore line. I also heard the cry or calling of a single seagull and the sound of the wind. In my mind, I put together these thoughts: the miracle each day as the sun rises, the magnitude of the ocean before me, the taste of salt, the sounds of the water, and the flight of a bird.

On my way back to my car, I had a few more thoughts. The scientists are inaccurate and the "Big Bang Theory" is dubious. The world no longer seems overwhelming and best of all life and nature are beautiful gifts to mankind. Where they came from can only be answered from inside you by a third gift. This one is called "Faith".

For God and Country,
Tom Bergin – Past Commander
Executive Board Member

Community Activities

We had a very good turnout for the July 4th parade. It was great to see so many there. This was the most we have had in the last couple of years, and we hope this is a trend that will continue. Having many members in events like this really helps to show the community and other veterans that our Post is active and involved. Not only did we have the flag line and marchers, we needed three separate vehicles to handle those of us who are not able to physically march that far any more.



After the parade, about 25 of us gathered together at the Post for some hamburgers and hot dogs. We want to thank everyone for pitching in and helping with the cooking and setup. The entire day went off very well.

On August 13th we held the second Annual Veterans Appreciation BBQ. Unfortunately, the weather did not co-operate and it was over 100 degrees with high humidity. The high heat kept many from attending. But we still managed to have a bit over 50 people in attendance. Given the heat, we thought that was pretty good.



We had plenty of salads, chips, hamburgers, hot dogs, and cake. We must thank Bob Rogers and Rich Poelker for doing a lot of the cooking, along with many others who helped setting up and making this event a success.

We are continuing to have the monthly coffee hour at the Post in coordination with the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Project. This is one of those projects that will be very hard to gauge if it is a success. Sometimes just knowing that there is a group available can be a great help to a veteran. So we will continue to have our monthly coffee hour and see what else we can do to help our fellow veterans who suffer from PTSD and TBI. It really is important to be available.

Recent Events

We continue to attend the Missing In America Project events. The

Missing In America Project is devoted to the identification and interment of the unclaimed remains of Veterans. Since these veterans have been abandoned and no one has come forward to claim the remains, we stand together as their family. Although it is sad that no one claimed these veterans, it is an honor to be able to step forward and pay respect and honor to them.



On July 14th members attended the interment for one abandoned veteran. On September 15th, members again participated in the ceremony for one abandoned veteran. On September 27th, there was a ceremony for 27 abandoned veterans, including one dating back to the Spanish-American war. On October 6th and October 13th, ceremonies were conducted for two more abandoned veterans.

Members of the Post are also attending the monthly No One in Attendance (NOA) ceremony at Calverton National Cemetery. This ceremony is done jointly by the staff at Calverton and the Patriot Guard Riders. During the month, there are many veterans interred at Calverton with no one attending the ceremony. So once a month, Calverton and the PGR hold the NOA ceremony and read the names of all those interred with no one present. In this way we can give honor

to our fellow veterans.

On August 4th, an interment ceremony was conducted at Calverton National Cemetery. This ceremony was for a Korean War Veteran who has been MIA since the war. His remains were finally recovered and identified.



Upcoming Events

November will be a very busy month with all of the events surrounding Veterans Day. We will be conducting the annual Veterans Day Ceremony from 10:30 to 11 AM on Friday, November 11th at the Four Corners in Patchogue. As I am sure you know, the Four Corners is the intersection of Main Street and Ocean Avenue. The Fire Department will have their large flag there, and AmVets Post 111 and VFW Post 2913 will join in.

On Sunday November 6th we have been invited to attend a Veterans Celebration held by St. Joseph's College Lacrosse sports team.

Several members attended last year and it was a great time. During the ceremony, all veterans will be recognized, and there is a meal afterwards. If you want to attend, please let one of the officers know so we can get the information over to the coach. The event starts at 10:30 and the actual ceremony is at 11:30. The event takes place at the St Joseph's College Sports Center on Sunrise Highway in East Patchogue.

Also, St. Josephs College is holding their Veterans Day Ceremony at 1 PM in the McGann Conference Center at the college campus. Again, if you want to attend, just let one of the officers know so we can get the information over to the college.

We have been asked to participate in a Veterans Ceremony at Sayville Middle school on November 10th. There will be a breakfast at 7:30, a short assembly from 8 to 8:30 AM, and then we will be visiting various classrooms and taking questions from the students. We really could use some volunteers to take part in this. It will give us the chance to visit with the kids and let them know what it means to serve our country.

During the summer, the Blue Ridge Condo complex in Medford asked us if we could perform a Flag Day ceremony for them. That event went very well, and they have again contacted us to see if we could do a Veterans Day function for them. This will take place on November 12th at 5 PM. We will assemble a Color Guard and present the colors. After that we will do a short speech and then turn it over to the condo association who has arranged a singing group. If anyone is interested in participating in the ceremony, please let us know.

And we have again been invited to participate in the Patchogue Christmas Parade that will be held on November 26th. It will start at 6 PM so we should plan on meeting at the Post around 5 PM. Yes it might be cold so dress for the weather. But we really hope that a lot of you can join in the parade. It would be terrific if we had enough for

the flag line, a marching group, and two or three vehicles. The more we are seen, the more support we get from the community.

Although we have not yet selected a date, we will be holding our annual "Salute to Departed Comrades" on a Friday evening in December. As we have done in the past, we will hold the ceremony in front of the fireplace and conclude with a champagne toast to those who have passed before us.

General Information

We have completed the installation of the solar electric at the Post. Now we are waiting on all the bills to stabilize to understand what savings it will give us.

We are trying to find out about a program from PSE&G to replace all of the florescent lighting with LED. That would also give us more savings not only in energy but in replacement costs since LED lasts much longer.

We have been making a few changes at the Post. One of the hardest things is to get flyers posted where we can all see them. Often we find out about events and ceremonies without enough time to get the information out at a regular meeting. We can post it on Facebook and our web site, but many people don't keep updated via Social Media. So we have a new bulletin board in the Dugout where we will be posting all the flyers and current events. The Dugout is a great social area, so please come down and visit. And you can keep up to date on what we have going on.

And yes, American Legion Patchogue Post 269 is again forming a Color Guard unit. We have not had one for several years, so it is time to start one again. Having a Color Guard will allow us to be involved in even more events. This is another step forward in getting all the members involved. We will be scheduling practice shortly, so sign up and get involved!

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: October 10th, November 14th, and December 12th. The Board and Officers meetings are held at the Post on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Members are welcome to come and listen. 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 3-7 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.

Public Relations and Social Media

We are continuing to post events, information, photos, and other information online to our Facebook page. We are also posting important announcements and events on our Web Site. You can get photos of the Post and pictures from all of our various events by looking in the Photos section of the Facebook page. Photos for the new officers have been published on the web site, and we have a resources page with phone numbers and links to many Veteran support groups as well as links to several crisis hotlines. We also added a Blog section to the site so that we have a place for commentary.

The URL's for our Facebook and Web sites are:

<https://www.facebook.com/American.Legion.Post.269>

<http://alpost269patchogue.wix.com/patchogue-alpost269>

<https://www.facebook.com/American.Legion.Auxiliary.Patchogue.269>

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, call Tom Hall or Jon Ralph. Remember, this isn't my newsletter, it's YOURS!!!!, so if there is something you would like to see included, tell us.

The American Legion

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News Letter

2016

October - December



For God and Country

