

July – September 2017 News Letter



**The American Legion – Patchogue Post 269
Post Office Box 457
Patchogue, New York 11772-0457**

**Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit #45
Patchogue, N.Y. 11772**

Front Cover



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

POST BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

Chris Conlon	PC Tom Bergin	PC John Matuszak
Cmdr Jonathon Ralph	1 st Vice Jose Bou	2 nd Vice Richard Poelker
Tres. Craig Munn		Adjutant Pauline V. King

POST OFFICERS 2017-2018

Commander	Jonathon Ralph
1 st Vice Commander	Jose J. Bou
2 nd Vice Commander	Richard Poelker
Adjutant	Pauline V. King
Finance Officer	Craig Munn
Chaplain	David Mann
Sergeant at Arms	Joseph Meiselbach
Judge Advocate	Harold Jantz
Historian	Jose J. Bou
Membership	John Matuszak
Service Officer	George Egan
Public Relations	Tom Hall
House Chairman	Craig Munn
Bar Chairman	Joseph Gallagher
Bar Manager	John Matuszak

AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2017-2018

President	Cathy Beer
1 st Vice President	Carole Bruggemann
2 nd Vice President	Beverly Matuszak
Secretary	Peggy Dolcimascolo
Treasurer	Pat Bergin
Chaplain	Christina Mohr
Sergeant at Arms	Veronica Bergin

SAL OFFICERS 2017-2018

Commander	Bob Rogers
1 st Vice Commander	Bill Dolcimascolo
2 nd Vice Commander	Tim Mullally
Adjutant	Joseph Gallagher
Finance Officer	Craig Munn
Chaplain	Joe Murch
Sergeant at Arms	Paul Plesh

Commanders Corner

Comrades

First, congratulations to the Officers for the 2017-2018 term. It will be a busy year. In addition to our normal events and activities, we are looking at several new community involvement projects. We will also be starting the initial groundwork for the 100th year anniversary of the Post that will happen in August of 2019. Most of the centennial planning will happen during the 2018-2019 term, but some of the plans will be starting to take shape this term.

We are also starting the annual Membership renewal this month. You will be getting renewal notices from National. The sooner we can finish the membership push the better off we will be. We had a very good year last term and we continued to grow in members. This is the second year in a row that we have ended the membership drive with an increase of members. That's a great sign that the Post is active and involved. If you know other veterans who are eligible, let them know about us and encourage them to come down and join.

Although the Memorial Day Parade was cancelled due to the weather, the actual Memorial Day Ceremony came off very well. We had the Ceremony inside the Post, and had great support from the Village and the community.

The Flag Retirement Ceremony also was canceled due to the weather, but we will be working on re-scheduling it for some time late summer or early fall.

We are continuing to be active with other organizations such as Missing in America Project, Joseph Dwyer Veteran Peer Support group, Student Veterans of America, Patriot Guard Riders, and others. As I have said many times, and firmly believe, our best results will be achieved when we work together with other organizations and form solid partnerships where it makes sense.

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.

Both of the M1902 Field Guns have been sent down to Cannons Online in Maryland and are being restored. We are working hard to raise our share of the cost for this project. Right now we have raised over \$3,000 and have commitments for another \$5,700 which brings us to over \$8,700 of the \$14,500 that we need. Help spread the word and see if we can get more businesses to support us in this effort. The Village has already paid their share of \$14,500 for this work.

We have also been doing some general work around the Post. Both the kitchen and women's bathroom have been painted. Touchups around the main hall have been done, including painting the columns, baseboards, and doors.

I want to extend a big Thank You to Pat Forte. He was able to get the main air conditioning system back up and running again. Pat also managed to get an entirely new air conditioning system donated to the Post. It will be installed in September. That is a great accomplishment. THANK YOU!

I encourage all of you to come join in and help. It's a great way to get some personal satisfaction and have some fun at the same time.

For God and Country
Jon Ralph
Commander

1st Vice Commander Corner

The American Legion National Headquarters will begin to mail out membership renewal notices in July to all our current members. Membership dues are \$43. Please send your dues payment directly to the Post, attention Membership Officer John Matuszak. So pay your dues on time in order to keep your membership active.

All members are reminded to update your home address, phone number and E-Mail address if it has changed in the past year. We are still requesting E-Mail addresses of those members that have a computer. 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 finished the year with 203 members. Again this year, we have increased in membership over the prior year.

The renewal notices for the 2018 membership year have been sent out from National. I want to ask all of you to please send your renewal as soon as you can. Help us build on the success from the last two years and make the 2018 membership year even better. It really is important to the Post that we get all the members renewed.

For God and Country
John Matuszak – Past Commander
Membership Officer

Historian Corner

Did you know that on:

- 1) July 2016: The Legacy Scholarship is expanded to children of post 9/11 veterans who have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.
- 2) August 2011: The America Legion Baseball World Series is held for the first time in the tournament's new permanent home, Shelby, N.C. Prior to this, the tournament had rotated to different cities.
- 3) August 28-30, 2001: The American Legion passes resolution to rekindle Blue Star Service Banner Program.
- 4) August 2005: Delegates at the 87th National Convention in Honolulu unanimously voice their support for the global war on terrorism with Resolution 169.
- 5) September 5, 2000: The American Legion presents the first "Spirit of Service" Awards to active duty service members for their off-duty volunteer activities.
- 6) September 11, 2002: The American Legion takes lead in conducting "A Day To Remember" events to mark the Anniversary of the terror attacks on the nation.
- 7) September 19, 2004: The American Legion launches a national program, the Blue Star Salute, where posts across the country hold public events to recognize troops, their families and local businesses on Armed Forces Day.

Dates to remember:

- 1) July 4, 2017: Independence Day
- 2) July 27, 1953: End of the Korean War
- 3) August 2, 1990: Invasion of Kuwait – Operation Desert Storm
- 4) August 7, 2017: Purple Heart Day
- 5) August 14, 1945: V-J Day
- 6) September 2, 1945: Japan signs surrender
- 7) September 4, 2017: Labor Day
- 8) September 11, 2017: Patriot Day
- 9) September 15, 2017: POW-MIA Recognition Day
- 10) September 17, 2017: Citizen Day

For God and Country
Jose J. Bou - Post Historian

Auxiliary Corner

Auxiliary News

Hello to all our members and Happy Summer!

Our Post, Auxiliary and Sons were installed again this year during our annual Installation Ceremony in June. All of us had a wonderful time and we're off to new beginnings.

Our Memorial Day Ceremony included UVO (United Veterans Organization) of Patchogue, The American Legion Post 269, AMVETS and VFW. The American Legion Auxiliary of Post 269. It was a great turn out, even though the weather wasn't the best. We held it inside our Post.

June found most of our members attending a Flag Day Ceremony at the Blue Ridge Condominiums in Medford where we were once again invited to do this year. It was our honor and pleasure to do so.

Our Annual 4th of July Parade was a great success as usual.

We had our Dwyer Peer to Peer meeting which deals with PTSD again in July. We pride ourselves being involved with this Organization for the health and wellbeing of our Veterans. We've taken a course and we take updated seminars to keep ourselves up to date.

The Sons and Auxiliary are going to be planning a Fundraiser together. It's going to be GREAT. I'll let you know what and how it turned out.

PLEASE MEMBERS OUR NEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES IS DUE. PLEASE SEND IT IN ASAP.

Upon ending this article, I pray all of you are well, and for those who are going through hardships, I pray God sees you through it.

For God and Country
Cathy Beer
President - Auxiliary Unit 269

Echoes From The Heart

For most of my life, I enjoyed good health. However, in the last two years, things seem to have changed. Recently, after a mini stroke, I sat down and tried to think about what I did right in the past and what may be affecting me now...besides getting older.

One of my first thoughts is that you are looking for trouble if you neglect the simple things that make for good health. Yet we are all prone to do that and regret it later.

My most important consideration was moderation in all things and immediate attention to danger signals. The loss of good health is a serious handicap for attaining a good life.

Another thought is to teach yourself to like people and to like whatever work you produce. Take every job seriously and follow the advice your doctor gives you.

Try to cultivate a sense of humor. Learn how to laugh. To stay young, play and have fun. Make your job and life a game of life and play the game to win. Learn to get entertainment out of work and contact with people. Be a good loser but never quit. Read as much as you can, but keep an open mind. Stiff joints mark an aging body; so fixed ideas should have some flexibility.

Occasionally question your own opinions and invite new ideas. You will never be old as long as you can stay truthful. The only thing I know for sure is that there are many things I do not know but are prepared to learn.

This column started with health. Remember the one thing which will not lie to you is your own body. Pay attention to what it tells you. A healthy body and a clear mind will make life more enjoyable. Unfortunately, space restrictions does not permit discussion of additional items such as alcohol, drug, smoking, diet and a few other dangers. Hopefully, I may finish this in our next newsletter.

For God and Country
Tom Bergin
Past Post Commander

Community Activities

On April 15th, the Patchogue-Medford High School and the Pat-Med Booster Club held a Veterans Recognition Day at the start of the baseball game between Pat-Med and Brentwood. This was the first of what will be an annual event for the school. About ten members of the Post attended so we were well represented. It turned out to be fun with both Jose Bou and Pauline King participating in the “Opening Pitch” ceremonies.

On April 30th and again on June 11th, members of the Post attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor and presented certificates to the two scouts who attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

On May 12th, members of the Post attended the Patchogue-Medford Air Force Junior ROTC awards dinner. We presented certificates to two cadets to honor their scholastic and military accomplishments. On May 18th, Tom Bergin represented the Post at the “Our Community Salutes” award dinner to honor those students who are graduating from Patchogue-Medford High School and joining the military.

As is customary at the end of the school year, we presented certificates and small trophies to two students from each of the three elementary schools (Medford Elementary, River Elementary, and Bay Elementary) and the two middle schools (Saxon Middle School and South Ocean Middle School).

On the Saturday before Memorial Day, we continued the tradition of “Flags In” that was started at Arlington National Cemetery in 1948. We joined with the VFW Post 2913 and AmVets Post 111 to place an America Flag at the headstone of every Veteran buried in our local cemeteries. This tradition dates back to 1948 when it was started at Arlington National Cemetery.

The weather did not cooperate with us for the Memorial Day Parade, but we were able to hold the ceremony inside the Post. The ceremony was well attended and the main hall was standing room only. It was great to see all the support from the community. After the ceremony, we lit up the grill and had hamburgers and hot dogs. There are pictures from this event posted on our Facebook page in the Photos section.

We attempted to hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony, but Mother Nature had other plans for the day and it had to be cancelled. We will be working on selecting another date in late summer or early fall to hold this

ceremony. Not only is it important to retire the old and unserviceable flags in an honorable manner, it creates a problem for the Post in storing all of the flags dropped off for disposal. So watch our Facebook and Website for more information. Or better yet, drop down to the Dugout or a membership meeting and hear a lot more about it.

Again this year, the Blue Ridge Condo Homeowners Association reached out to us to perform a Flag Day Ceremony at their complex. Along with about 10 members from our Post, about 5 members of the Auxiliary Unit 269 were there and two members of American Legion John R. Caccioppo Post 1848 in Medford attended. The ceremony opened with the singing of the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a prayer by our Chaplain David Mann. Commander Jon Ralph gave a short speech, and the ceremony concluded with the closing prayer. About 40 people from the condo complex were there for the ceremony which makes it a great event to be able to do.

And finally, we again were in the lead for the annual Independence Day Parade that was held on July 4th. The weather finally cooperated for a change and the day was warm and clear. After the parade, we got together at the Post for some food and conversation. Thanks to all the members who turned out to make this a success and show our involvement to the community.

Recent Events

The Post continues to be very involved with the Missing in America Project. The purpose of the Missing in America Project is to locate, identify, and inter the unclaimed remains of American Veterans. Members of the Post attended interment ceremonies on April 13th, April 27th, and May 11th at Calverton National Cemetery.

Several members of the Post also continue to attend the NOA ceremonies at Calverton. These ceremonies are conducted on the second Wednesday of the month at 10 AM at Calverton. This is a joint ceremony between the officials at Calverton National Cemetery and the Patriot Guard Riders. The purpose of the ceremony is to read the names of all veterans interred in the last month with No One in Attendance. The idea is that no veteran should be interred alone and without family.

We are also continuing our monthly community meetings in coordination with the Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer Support project. This is a monthly coffee hour and is open to all veterans and their families. It is held at the Post on the third Saturday of every month between 10 and 11 AM. Come down and get acquainted and visit with your fellow veterans.

When you drive by the Post, you will see that we have a new emblem over the front door. We worked with J-Signs in Patchogue to make a new emblem. There have been a lot of comments about how good it looks!

On May 6th, members of the Post were at Islip MacArthur Airport to see Bill Schlosser on his way to the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. The Post sponsored Bill for this flight to see the WWII and other memorials in our Nation's capital. We were also there when the Honor Flight returned late that evening. It was great to see the look on his face as he came back. Bill has said it was a fantastic time and it was well worth all the effort to make it happen. Bill wants to thank all of the members of the Post for their efforts and the support.

The Honor Flight organization is now starting to provide the same type of service for our Korean Veterans since there are very few surviving WWII veterans left. The Post will be looking to see what we can do to assist this effort.

On June 17th the Post held the annual Officer Installation Ceremony and dinner. It was very gratifying to see all of the support from the community and our elected officials. Congressman Lee Zeldin sent a representative as did State Senator Thomas Croci. County Legislator Robert Calarco, Brookhaven Town Supervisor Edward Romaine, and Patchogue Mayor Paul Pontieri all attended in person. We have received comments from the Suffolk County Legion officers about how well attended the ceremony was. They also commented on the fact that all the representatives and officials actually stayed for the entire ceremony. It shows the level of support that our Post gets from the community and our elected officials.

In June, we had to say good-bye to James and Nancy Snyder as they moved back to Georgia. Both James and Nancy had become very involved with our Post over the last year, and they will be missed. Many of us had become friends with them, and while we are very sad to see them go we want to wish them both the very best. We will keep in touch!

Upcoming Events

The Post will be busy again during the next three months. We will be planning our annual Veterans Appreciation BBQ for August, a Flag Retirement Ceremony, and a ceremony for the re-dedication of the two cannons when they return.

What could be better than a baseball game, hot dogs, and beer/cokes? Pauline, our Adjutant, has been busy working with the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency to participate in the Long Island Ducks "Heroes of the Game" program. The L.I. Ducks baseball club, in partnership with Suffolk County, recognizes two veterans at each of their home games. Pauline has submitted biographies for four of our members so that we can attend two of the games. The Ducks are donating 20 tickets per game to allow our members and spouses/partners to attend. Working with the Veterans Service Agency, Pauline obtained commitments for the July 14th and August 18th games. The dates and sign-up sheet have been announced at the last three membership meetings. Check with Pauline about the August 18th game to see if there are any openings. The tickets are free, but you have to pay for the hot dogs and beer/soda. It would be a great way to spend a Friday evening. There are some pictures from the July 14th game posted on our Facebook page. It was a good time and a very enjoyable game.

We will be holding our annual Veterans Appreciation BBQ on August 27th. We chose to do it on a Sunday this year to avoid conflict with the other events that are happening on the Saturdays during August. Come join us and help make it a great time. We will have the usual hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, and refreshments. Since we have the church rental on Sunday mornings, our event will start about 3 PM. Let's hope for some good weather.

We are starting to prepare for the return of the two cannons from the restoration work. It was decided to move the cannons to the front of the building instead of on the side where they were since they will be much more visible there. We have sent in the ideas for location and mounting to the Department of

Public Works for their help in setting up the pads for these. Right now we expect that the cannons will be coming back some time in August.

General Information

The Post sponsored Anthony Bracone as a Delegate to Boys State this year. We have spoken to him after his return, and he was extremely grateful for having the opportunity to attend. We have asked him to come to the membership meeting on September 11th to talk about his experiences at Boys State.

The Post will soon be asking for volunteers for our Color Guard and Firing Detail. We haven't had one for many years, so it is time to again start it up. This will be a great way to get involved with the Post and would be good for the community also.

We have had several articles about our Post and members written in the Long Island Advance. For those of you who have not read them, there are links on our Website under the Articles tab.

Last year we were asked to participate in a Veterans Day event at the Sayville Middle School and talk with various classes about our experiences and how they affected us. We are now starting to contact the Principals at the elementary and middle schools here in Patchogue to try to organize a set of similar events to support our local schools. We are also thinking of setting up some Flag Etiquette classes that we would be able to give to schools and community groups. Anyone who would like to help with this are strongly encouraged to get involved and make it a success.

You will be hearing more in the next several months about our Post's Constitution and By-Laws. The last time they were updated was in June of 2010, and that version got lost somewhere between the County level and Department of New York level. That was seven years ago, so it is time to take another look at this and bring it up to date with how the Post currently operates. We have already formed a Constitution and By-Laws committee which will be working on the creation of a revised version.

We also have a Veterans Monument Identification project in progress. This project will identify and document all the monuments around Patchogue that are dedicated to our Veterans and their service. We will be publishing this once it is completed.

We haven't forgotten about the stair lift project. We have spoken recently with the owner of Patriot Mobility and he is actively looking to make it happen for us.

We would like to ask all of you to please provide us with your email addresses if you have email. As many of you have already seen, we have started providing the minutes from the Post Membership meetings via email in advance of the meeting. Our intent is to allow the approval of the minutes from the prior meeting to be done rapidly and save more time for all of our activities and events. It will also provide the information about what we are doing to the members that cannot make the meeting and hopefully encourage more participation. So please just send an email to alpost269@aol.com and we can make sure we have your email on our list. An added benefit to having all of your email addresses is that it will reduce our expenses. Being able to distribute notifications and this newsletter electronically will cut down on the printing and postage expenses. As a point of interest, it costs about \$1,800 per year to print and mail the four newsletters that we produce every year. We are hoping to distribute the newsletter

in electronic format and try to reduce our costs. Any money that we save can be used to help and enhance our programs and community outreach.

In keeping with our efforts to encourage more outreach to the community, we have been having more guest speakers at our monthly Membership meetings. In May we had Dave Rogers talk about his efforts in the Village to support and recognize our Veterans. In June a representative from the VA Vet Center came and talked about their outreach and programs that are available to us. During the August Membership meeting, Mr. Richard Margulis, President and Chief Executive Officer of Brookhaven Memorial Hospital will be giving a presentation about the hospital. He will be talking about the plans and efforts that the hospital is doing in support of the local community. Although it isn't strictly a "Veterans" focus, Brookhaven Hospital is our local community hospital and most of us have had times that we needed their services. The Post extends its thanks to Mr Margulis for taking the time from his very busy schedule to talk to us. It is not often that we can have a CEO from a major organization come in person to talk to us, so we view it as a big accomplishment and it shows that our Post is important in the community.

We will be inviting other businesses and local community groups to come and give presentations to our members on activities or information that would be important for our members to hear. We are hopeful that we can get a representative from AARP to come talk about their efforts and programs relating to consumer protection and combatting fraud and online scams. This is something that we have all faced and encountered. We are also reaching out to the Long Island State Veterans Home to see if they will give a presentation about their programs. They may have programs and events that will be of interest and benefit to our members.

If any of you have ideas or a subject you would like to hear about, just let us know and we can try to make it happen. The more involvement we have with the community will provide a benefit to both the Post and the community.

Post Everlasting

Alfred Volkmann, a member of our Post for 29 years, passed away this spring. Members of the Post performed the Post Everlasting ceremony at Ruland Funeral Home.

Alexander Zelenski passed away on July 13th. Members of the Post performed the Post Everlasting ceremony at Robertaccio Funeral Home.

N. B. Kozerski also passed away in Palmyra Virginia on May 20th. He was a member of the Legion for 42 years.

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: July 10th, August 14th, and September 11th. The October meeting will be October 9th. 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. SONS meetings are held on the first Monday at 8 PM.

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

Events, photos, and other information are always available on our Facebook page. 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. Important announcements and event information are also available on our Website. Our Website has a resources page with phone numbers and links to many Veteran support groups as well as links to several crisis hotlines. We also maintain a Blog section for commentary and an Articles tab for published articles. Make sure to check the Events section of both our Facebook page and our Website so you can keep up to date with the latest information.

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

Patchogue Post 269

Post Office Box 457
Patchogue, New York, 11772-0457



News Letter

2017

July - September



For God and Country

