



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

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

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Commanders Corner

Comrades

This is my final message as Commander. I want to thank you for the support you have given me these past five years. We have accomplished many things together and I want to say thank you to everyone.

We still have things to be done until my term has been completed. First is Solar Electric. I hope to have it completed in May before Memorial Day. Next, Home Depot in Bellport will be here in May to clean up around the Post and get it ready for Memorial Day.

On May 21 we will be placing flags at the cemetery on the graves at Cedar Grove in Patchogue starting at 8 AM. The more people we have the faster we can finish.

On May 30, we have the Memorial Day Parade on Main St. and ending at the Post with ceremonies to follow. After the ceremonies there will be food and refreshments at the Post.

On June 4th at 6 PM we will be having the Installation of Officers. I invite you to come because I will be leaving and passing the gavel to Jon Ralph if he is elected. Final announcement will be May 9th so I hope all who are able please come to the meeting and meet the new Officers.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
JOHN MATUSZAK
COMMANDER – POST 269

Auxiliary Corner

Auxiliary News

Here we are at the beginning of April with the possibility of snow in the forecast. While we have had a mild winter, we have also had a roller coaster of temperatures and rain.

January was a busy month for this Auxiliary Unit. The Empire Girls State Committee met to review ten essays submitted by girls interested and eligible to attend the 2016 Girls State program. We were able to select five girls to be interviewed. We met the girls at Patchogue Medford High School for the purpose of meeting and selecting one citizen and one alternate. What a challenge. The decision was quite difficult as each girl was fantastic. The committee selected Elizabeth Marge as our citizen and Emily Potter as the alternate. Elizabeth and her mother attended our Unit meeting and the members present were able to meet our citizen and get to know her.

On February 14th, Unit and Post members attended the Suffolk County American Legion Back to God ceremony to honor the “Four Chaplains” who lost their lives on the USAT Dorchester during WWII. There were not enough life jackets on this troop transport ship and the “Chaplains” of different faiths gave up their only means of survival so that others might live.

Post and Unit members participated in the Patchogue St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 19, 2016. Thank you to Bob Rogers for cooking a great Corned Beef dinner for our members.

I have appointed Cathy Beer, Peggy Dolci, and Kristina Mohr to be on the nominating committee. Please contact anyone of them if you are interested in running for a position within the Unit. Elections will be held at our May meetings. Installation of officers will be on Saturday, Jun 4, 2016 – time TBA.

Back by Popular Demand: We are planning a Pasta Dinner at the Post on Saturday May 7, 2016 at 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$10.00 a person and seating is limited. Call Carole Bruggermann at 399-7253 or Pat Bergin at 207-5899 for tickets.

For God & Country
Pat Bergin, Auxiliary #269 President

Historian Corner

On May 8-10, 1919 at the St. Louis Caucus “The American Legion” was adopted as our organization's official name. The Legion's draft of the Preamble and Constitution were also approved.

On May 29, 1946 the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary presented a small and struggling organization called the American Heart Association with a \$50,000 grant. The grant inaugurates a nationwide program for the study, prevention and treatment of Rheumatic Heart Disease.

Did You Know:

On November 24, 1948 Commander Frank Ransome of the American Legion Patchogue Post 269 announced plans for a Campaign Drive to raise \$2,000 for the purchase of an Iron Lung for the residents of Patchogue. The Post was able to place coin collection boxes in various stores throughout the village and offered to supply a 8”x10” reproduction of the photo shown below to anyone who donated \$5.00 or more. In early December 1948 Post Commander Ransome reported that the Post had raised over \$600 from the proceeds of the coin collection boxes and the recent Patchogue Post 269 “Gay Nineties” Benefit Show held at the Patchogue High School. In the following months all of the money was raised with contributions from various Clubs and Organizations from Patchogue and its vicinity. The Iron lung was purchased and on June 23, 1949 at the 25th Silver Anniversary Jubilee

of Patchogue Post 269 the Iron lung was formally presented to the residents of Greater Patchogue.



Dates to Remember:

- 1) April 6, 1917 United States enters World War 1.
- 2) On April 10, 2016. The American Legion Auxiliary celebrates it's 97th Anniversary.
- 3) May 21 2016 – Arm Forces Day.
- 4) May 8, 1945 –V-E Day.
- 5) May 30, 2016- Memorial Day.
- 6) June 6, 1944- D Day.
- 7) June 14, 2016- Flag Day.
- 8) June 25, 1950- The Korean War begins.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Jose J. Bou – Post Historian

Echoes From The Heart

Written by Tom Bergin with advice from Paul Harvey

The space age started in the late 1950's and the crowning glory to our country's determination came when we put a man on the moon in 1969. This was history in the making. We all know of the strife of the civil rights movement and Viet Nam. These were turning points in our Nation. When Viet Nam ended, it could not be seen that America's greatest advancement was yet to come. In 1982 we saw the birth of the computer. A hand held calculator had more power than the electronics on the space craft that landed on the moon in 1969.

Recently, one of my grandchildren asked "Grandpa, what were the good old days that you talk about?" This caught me off guard for a minute or two. I asked him to put down his iphone and told him what I wished for him. Those of us over 65 may remember some of this.

I told him I wish he had the opportunity to walk to school with his friends and to live in a town where you can do it safely.

I wish on a rainy day you have to get a ride. But, I hope you don't ask the driver to drop you off two blocks away so you won't be seen riding with someone as "uncool" as your Mom.

As you advance your skills on a computer, I hope you learn to add and subtract in your head.

I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a girl. And, when you talk back to your Mother that you learn what Ivory Soap tastes like.

May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flag pole.

Most important, I don't care if you try a beer, but I hope you don't like it. And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope you realize he is not your friend.

May you feel sorrow at funerals and joy during the holidays.

I hope your parents punish you when you throw a baseball through your neighbor's window and they hug and kiss you at Christmas when you give them something you made for them.

These things I wish for you – tough times and disappointments, hard work and happiness. This the only way to appreciate life.

One last thing, we secure our friends not by always accepting favors, but by doing them.

Written with a pen, sealed with a kiss, I'm here for you. And when I die before you, I'll go to heaven and wait for you.

Now, step away from your computer, put down your iphone and go outside. Smell the fresh spring air. Open your eyes to all of nature that surrounds you. Realize the love of your parents. For no special reason, give your Mother a hug and tell her how much you love her. Computers, iphones and everything that goes with them are great, but never lose track of basic human attributes. They are as true and necessary today as they were in the "Good Old Days".

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

Community Activities



On February 8th, our Post was host to Congressman Lee Zeldin. He announced the expansion of the “PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer to Peer Program for PTSD and TBI”. The program is being expanded nationwide from its current base of New York State. The program is designed to provide Veterans with PTSD and TBI the opportunity to talk with other Veterans in an informal setting. The Post was very honored to provide the hall for this important announcement.

In conjunction with the Dwyer Program, members of the Post and the Auxiliary have met with members of the local Dwyer project and the Student Veterans of America group from St. Joseph’s College to see what we can do to help. It has been decided and announced that we will be holding a Monthly Community Outreach program starting Saturday April 16th at the Post from 10 AM to 11 AM. We will be serving coffee and donuts. This project is open to all veterans, active service members, and their families. We plan to do this on the third Saturday of every month. We are honored and excited to be a part of this important project and to be able to host this outreach program.



On February 14th, several members of the Post attended the “Back To God – Four Chaplains Remembrance Ceremony”. It was held in Patchogue at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior. The ceremony was well attended. Members from many of the Posts in Suffolk County attended. The Suffolk County Color Guard, along with the Suffolk County Auxiliary, presented the Colors. Tom Bergin, Suffolk County American Legion Chaplain and 2nd Vice Commander in our Post, performed his usual excellent job as Master of Ceremonies.

We want to express our thanks to everyone who attended, and especially to those who worked so hard to make this ceremony a success.

We continue to work with the Student Veterans of America group at

St. Joseph's College. Several members of the Post attended the "Military Graduate Recognition Ceremony" at the college. We were proud to be able to attend. It is important for all Veterans to work together and help each other. We want to extend congratulations to all the graduates for their accomplishments, and thank them for their service to our country.

And since it is March, it was time for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. This year it was held on Saturday, March 19th. As we have done often in the past, both our Post and members of VFW Post 2913 joined together to form one group. As we went down Main Street, we noticed that the sidewalks were packed almost the entire length, so the community turned out to enjoy the festivities.



There was a good turnout from the Legion and the VFW, and the weather was nice to us also. We had a sunny but cool day, and that made it easier to march. After the parade, Bob Rogers (who is a member of the Sons squadron) made a very delicious Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner at the Post.



We must thank Bob for his hard work to make that happen.

Recent Events

Our Post was asked to perform the "Post Everlasting" ceremony for Richard Vassallo. Although he was not a member of the Legion, his family asked if a ceremony was possible. Since he was a Veteran, we were honored to be able to do the ceremony. The family was very appreciative that we were there. We were able to get seven or eight members to attend, so that is a tribute to our Post that we could get it organized so rapidly.

Upcoming Events

We have started the nomination process for the 2016-2017 slate of Officers. The nominations will be read and confirmed again at the April membership meeting, and the voting for the officers will be done during the May membership meeting. Several of the newer members are running for various positions, and it is great to see them getting

involved. The more people who are involved, the stronger the Post will be. Another plus with having newer members getting involved is that they bring new ideas and new ways of looking at things. The more ideas and views we have, the better we all will be.

The Officers Installation Ceremony will be held on June 4th at 6 PM. Supper will be served after the ceremony. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The newly elected Officers will assume the responsibilities of their positions during the ceremony.

In preparation for Memorial Day our Post, along with VFW Post 2913 and AmVets Post 111, will be doing the "Flags In" ceremony at the local cemeteries. We will be placing a U.S. Flag at the grave markers of all Veterans. This tradition started over 60 years ago at Arlington National Cemetery. The date and time will be announced at the membership meetings and will also be on both our Facebook page and our Web site.

Plans are under way for the annual Memorial Day Parade. It will be held Memorial Day, May 30th starting at 11 AM. We will assemble on Route 112. We have already stated working with Patchogue Village and the Parks and Recreation Department to insure that this is a success. And we have been in contact with our elected representatives to see if they can attend. After the parade and ceremony, we will have hot dogs and hamburgers at the Post. We would like to ask all members to try to make the parade this year.

Once again we will be having a Flag Retirement Ceremony. This year we will hold the event on or close to Flag Day which is Tuesday June 14th. In prior years we have tried to do this event in September, but have decided to move it to correspond with the honoring of our Flag. Once we have a definite date, it will be announced at the membership meetings and posted both on our Facebook page and our Web site. Since the last two years this event has had to be cancelled due to weather, we will have a "rain date" this year just in case. Right now we are thinking of June 11th with a rain date of June 25th.

And finally, we have been in touch with the local schools in regards to the annual school awards that are presented by the Post. These awards are usually presented in June.

General Information

The executive board has been talking with the company Harvest Power about putting up solar electric panels at the Post. They have come back with several proposals based on leasing or buying. Either way, the initial proposals show that we will save a little money on our electric bills. While the savings are greater if we buy the system, we are looking at the lease proposal also since it is a "no money out of pocket" lease. No final decision has been reached, and discussions are continuing with the Harvest Power company along with our insurance company.

The Team Depot volunteer organization from The Home Depot in Bellport has contacted us to see if they can help us on any projects at the Post. This year we will again be redoing the shrubs and flowers and other general upkeep work.

We have enhanced our web site with a new Resources page. This page provides links and phone number for Veteran Crisis Hotlines, governmental veteran agencies, non-government veteran support groups, and veteran organizations. The page provides a good starting point for veteran help and assistance. Phone numbers are provided for local area agencies and groups.

The website URL is:
<http://alpost269patchogue.wix.com/patchogue-alpost269>

In order to help our Auxiliary unit, we have also started a Facebook page dedicated to the Auxiliary. This is yet another way to get information out to members and the community. The URL is:
<https://www.facebook.com/American.Legion.Auxiliary.Patchogue.269>

We are almost complete with the membership year that started last July. If you did not renew for the 2014-2015 year or the 2015-2016 year, it is not too late. Your membership is vital to allowing all of us, yourself included, to continue to provide help and assistance to Veterans, their families, and the Community.

If you have ideas for community events, ways to help our fellow veterans, fund raisers, or ideas for increasing our membership, please let us know. All ideas are greatly welcomed.

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: April 11th, May 9th, and June 13th. 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.

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> You can get photos of the Post and pictures from various events by looking in the Photos section of the page. The newsletter and Facebook page are produced by Jon Ralph. Call 631-235-7537, or email jralph@optonline.net with any comments, questions, or suggestions. 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

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News Letter

**2016
April - June**



For God and Country

