



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

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Patchogue, N.Y. 11772

The American Legion

Patchogue Post 269

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



News Letter

2015
March - May



For God and Country





Patchogue Post 269

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

POST BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015

PPC Tom Bergin	PPC George Egan	Chris Conlon
Jose Bou	PC John Matuszak	Tres. Craig Munn
Jon Ralph	Adjutant Pauline V. King	

POST OFFICERS 2014-2015

Commander	John Matuszak
1 st Vice Commander	Jonathon Ralph
2 nd Vice Commander	Tom Bergin
Adjutant	Pauline V. King
Finance Officer	Craig Munn
Chaplain	Rev. Robert Hansen
Historian	Jose J. Bou
Judge Advocate	Joseph Meiselbach
Sgt. At Arms	Joseph Meiselbach
Membership	Don Anderson
Service Officer	George Egan
House Chairman	Craig Munn
Bar Chairman	Joseph Gallagher
Bar Manager	John Matuszak

AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2014-2015

President	Patricia Bergin
1 st Vice President	Carole Bruggemann
2 nd Vice President	Beverly Matuszak
Secretary	Nicole Murch
Treasurer	
Chaplain	Cathrine Beer
Historian	
Sgt. At Arms	Veronica Bergin

SAL OFFICERS 2014-2015

Commander	Bill Dolcimascolo
1 st Vice Commander	Daniel Halliwell
2 nd Vice Commander	Tim Mullally
Adjutant	Joseph Gallagher
Finance Officer	Craig Munn
Chaplain	Joe Murch
Sgt. At Arms	Paul Plesh

Commanders Corner

Comrades

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe with all this ice and snow.

Renewal of membership has slowed down and it is getting harder on the Membership Chairman. We still have not heard from about 30 members yet and some are due to lapse. If you are having a hardship please call the Post and leave a message and someone will contact you.

Sorry to say that we have lost 3 more members. Joann Seebacher, James Rathjen and Past Commander Vinny Cappasso all in the month of February. If you know of any members I missed please let me now. Many families forget to let us know and we do not hear for months or 2 yrs. later.

We hope to be starting another bathroom down in the dugout. We are just waiting for Sons Commander Bill Dolci to find the time.

First Vice Commander Mike Burke had to drop out of Office due to job changes but we hope that he will be able to be active again in the near future. I appointed Comrade Jon Ralph to fill out the rest of the year as 1st Vice. Starting now we will be having 3 months of announcing the new slate of officers for 2015-2016 year. Please make the meetings so that come May the final vote will be taken.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
JOHN MATUSZAK
COMMANDER – POST 269

Auxiliary Corner

Auxiliary News

On December 29, 2014, eight members of Auxiliary Unit 269 celebrated the holiday season at the new German restaurant in Patchogue. The food, the atmosphere and being together was a great way to end the year and begin a new year of service to our Veterans, Children & Youth and our Community.

At our January Unit meeting, our members began planning a “Pasta Dinner” to be held at our Post Hall on Friday May 8, 2015 at 6:00 PM, for a donation of \$10.00 per person. Please try to attend our March and April meetings to be part of the planning of this event.

During the month of February, the American Legion Auxiliary celebrates “Salute to Veterans Week”. The members of Unit 269 believe that every day is Salute to Veterans. Remember to say “thank you for your service” to a Veteran and to those presently serving in the Military. While we are on the subject of “thank you”, our Unit received a beautiful thank you card and note from a Staff member of the VA Satellite Clinic on Phyllis Drive in Patchogue. The Staff wished we could have seen the faces of the Veterans when they received the wonderful patriotic T-shirts we gave to the patients who attend the Clinic.

Please remember to send your 2015 Auxiliary dues of \$20.00 to Membership Chairman, Carole Bruggemann. Your support enables us to continue to help our Veterans and their families. Ask a friend or a neighbor if they are eligible and would be interested in joining our Unit!!

The American Legion Family of Patchogue Post 269 has lost Past Post Commander Harry T. Hanson. Harry was a member of this Post for seventy plus years, and attended parades, ceremonies, Post and Board meetings, chairing the “100” Club and maintaining the Post History.

His dedication and patriotism will be missed by his “American Legion Family”.

For God & Country

Pat Bergin, Auxiliary #269 President

Echoes From The Heart

It was a Thursday morning and while I was getting ready to go to work I remembered an email I had received two days earlier. It was a notification of a funeral for a homeless Veteran to take place that afternoon at 1:30 PM in Calverton.

When I was driving to work, I started to think about this Veteran. The “Missing in America” committee found out he was a Veteran of Viet Name and had been honorably discharged. Other than that, we could not find out if he had a family or where he came from.

I left work at 12:30 to be on time. As I traveled the Long Island Expressway, it started to flurry. The farther east I drove, the snow started to come down heavier. It was close to a white out! Somehow, I made it to the administration building. Waiting there were two car loads of the Legion Riders. There were another three cars with Legionnaires from four different Posts. When we proceeded to the Chapel area, the Legion Riders arrived first and each of the eight men had an American Flag on an eight foot pole. They lined the pathway to the Chapel and stood at attention as the casket moved past. There was an Honor Guard. Taps was played and the American Flag was folded and resented to the Chairman of the Suffolk County Missing in America committee. After a prayer, it was noted that we only had this Veteran’s name...period! I looked at the somber faces of the men present. This Veteran had no family to speak of, but for this short period of time we became his family. We were giving him the respect

in death that he did not have in life. As for the Legion Riders Honor Guard, they were transformed into a true “Guard of Honor”.

In conclusion, as I was driving home, I found myself smiling. I realized that I felt good about myself for the honors we were able to give to this Viet Nam Veteran.

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

Community Activities

On Sunday, February 8th, several members of the Post attended or participated in the “Back to God – Four Chaplains Remembrance” ceremony. It was held at the St. Jude’s R.C. Church in Mastic Beach. Tom Bergin, in his role as County Chaplain, officiated the ceremony. It was a very moving ceremony, and there was a very good turnout for it.

Recent Events

It is sad to report that Harry T. Hanson passed away on January 3rd. Ceremonies were held on January 10th. Harry had served during WW2, Korea, and Vietnam. He had been a member of the post for 73 years, and served as Post Commander four times. Harry was also serving as Post Historian.

Joann Seebacher, a member of our Post for 8 years, passed away on February 5th.

James Rathjen, a member of the Post for many years, also passed away on February 3rd.

Vincent Capasso passed away in February. Although he had moved to Florida and was no longer a member of our Post, he had served as Commander here. Services were held in Florida.

Jose Bou volunteered to take on the duties of Post Historian. He had taken over the task of running the 100 club as of January 1st from Harry. Jose will also fill in Harry’s position on the Board. Michael Burke had a very good opportunity and is now working in the IRS, but with the new job he is not able to continue as 1st Vice Commander. Jon Ralph has volunteered to fill the 1st Vice Commander position. Jon will continue doing our newsletter and our Facebook social media. Both Jose and Jon are fairly new to the Post, so this is a good sign that newer members are involved and helping, and shows other members that there are many opportunities to help and serve.

On December 19th, the Post held the annual “Salute to Our Departed Comrades”.





Upcoming Events

The annual St Patrick's Day parade will be held on Sunday, March 22nd. We will be assembling on Route 112. The parade starts at 11:00 AM. It will go from Route 112 down Main Street and end at West Avenue. Don't forget to check the Facebook page for any last minute details or information.

The annual Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday May 25th. We don't have information about the actual assembly or start time yet. Information will be posted on the Facebook page as we get closer to the event. The best guess will be a line up on Route 112 at 10:30 or so, but we don't have any notification yet so check the Facebook page.

It is time to start the process of electing the officers of the Post for the 2015-2016 term. The first part of the process will happen at our monthly membership meeting in March where everyone will have a chance to put their name in for any of the positions. This will be followed by the April membership meeting where you have a chance to again put your name in. The actual election of officers will occur at the membership meeting in May. Anyone interested in putting their names up for a position should make sure to attend the March and April meetings. The slate of candidates will be published on our Facebook page for anyone who is interested to see who is running.

General Information

We are now into the second half of the membership year. We would like to ask all the members that have not yet paid their membership dues to contact Don Anderson, Craig Munn, or Jon Ralph and get the dues paid up. It is important to the Post to keep up the membership numbers. 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 know of anyone who has not yet paid their dues, we would ask you to please remind them how important it is.

We are always looking for new Veterans to join us at the Legion. If you know any qualified veteran who is not yet a member, please take a few minutes to see if they are interested in joining our Post and encourage them to do so.

The success of our Post is directly related to our members, so your support is critical to us.

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

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 3-6 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> or enter American Legion Patchogue in the "Find Friends" search. 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 631-654-5735, 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

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