



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

POST BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

Chris Conlon	James Ward	PC John Matuszak
1 st Vice Jonathon Ralph	PPC Tom Bergin	PPC George Egan
Tres. Craig Munn		Adjutant Pauline V. King

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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	Eileen Derbyshire
Sgt. At Arms	Joseph Meiselbach
Membership	Craig Munn
Service Officer	George Egan
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Bar Chairman	Joseph Gallagher
Bar Manager	John Matuszak

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1 st Vice President	Carole Bruggemann
2 nd Vice President	Beverly Matuszak
Secretary	Nicole Murch
Treasurer	Peggy Dolcimascolo
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Veronica Bergin

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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 had a safe and enjoyable Christmas. At least the weather was not too bad. The weather cooperated with us for Veterans Day. Thanks to all who came out. Special thanks to St. Joseph's Veterans group for inviting us to their ceremony in the afternoon.

The Christmas Parade in the village was very crowded this year. Thanks to everyone who showed up. Thanks to those from St. Joseph's again for coming out and marching with us, especially Captain America the cartoon character.

The Post has been busy. I would like to thank the Auxiliary for decorating the Post and the Lounge area. They did a great job. We had a great turnout for our Salute to Departed Veterans. I would like to thank Carolynn, Harry Hanson's daughter, for being there and giving a nice talk. And Thank You to everyone who showed up. It was a great turnout.

Thanks to Comrade Munn for a job well done with the Hall Rentals this year. We have had the most rentals that I can remember in a long time due to his diligent work. Thanks Craig.

The New Year will be very busy for us. There will be some changes going on to enhance the Hall for rentals.

1st Vice Jon Ralph has been busy with the newsletter, and helping Comrade Munn with the Membership. We are about 75% completed with the Membership and if you know of anyone who has not paid please remind them. It is the responsibility of everyone in the Post, not just one person.

I spoke to Comrade Jim Orban over the holidays and it is a hard

struggle for him. So give him a call, I know he would appreciate it. Also Chris Conlon has been in the hospital and was operated on January 6th. Get well both of you. Hope to see you soon.

We will be starting nominations for Post Officers in March, so anyone wishing to run contact Comrade George Egan and let him know.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
JOHN MATUSZAK
COMMANDER – POST 269

Auxiliary Corner

Auxiliary News

Auxiliary Unit #269 has finished the last two months with a whirlwind of activity. We participated in the Veterans Day ceremonies at the "Four Corners" in Patchogue. Members, along with "Josh" the puppet, marched in the Patchogue Christmas Parade on November 28th. Thank you to Vice President, Beverly Matuszak, for driving those members who couldn't march.

Donations were made to the Lighthouse Mission, and three local Churches for their Holiday food baskets.

During the month of December, members shopped, wrapped and delivered Christmas toys to the handicapped young people living at "Angela's House" in Eastport. Santa Claus (PCC Bob Bruggemann) also had toys for their siblings in his never-ending sack of gifts. We also sent an I-Tunes gift card to a twelve year old boy going through cancer treatments.

Auxiliary members joined Post 269 Legionnaires in a champagne toast at the fireplace to remember members who have passed away this past year.

Auxiliary members celebrated the holiday season at Café Gia in Yaphank. We were joined by two members of the VFW Auxiliary as well as a friend from California. What a great way to end the year and begin a new year of Service to our Veterans, Children & Youth and our Community.

Please remember to send your 2016 Auxiliary dues of \$20.00 to Membership Chairman, Carole Bruggemann. And, if you have not yet paid your 2015 dues, please do so as soon as possible.

Dates to Remember: Mid-Winter Conference in Albany, NY – January 22 and January 23, 2016.

Salute to Veterans Week: February 14-20, 2016.

Back to God, Four Chaplains Ceremony: Sunday, February 14, 2016.

For God & Country
Pat Bergin, Auxiliary #269 President

Historian Corner

On January 1, 1989 – The Veterans Administration was elevated to cabinet level status as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The American Legion fought hard for the change, arguing that veterans deserve representation at the highest level of government.

On March 15-17, 1919 – Members of the American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris France for the first American Legion Caucus.

On March 29, 2000 – Senate Joint Resolution 14 (106th), The Constitutional Amendment that would return the people's right to

protect the U.S. Flag from physical desecration falls four votes short of the necessary 67 votes needed to override a Presidential Veto.

Did You Know:

1. In 1919 the American Legion Auxiliary is first established to support the American Legion.
2. In 1924 a Ladies Auxiliary was organized for the Patchogue Post 269 and Mrs. Blance Bosch was elected President. A Charter was granted in 1925 for Patchogue Post Auxiliary Unit No. 269 containing 59 members.

Other Important Dates:

January 27, 1973 – Viet Nam Cease Fire.

January 30, 1968 – The start of the Tet Offensive.

February 23, 1945 – The U.S. Flag is raised over Iwo Jima.

February 24-28, 1991 – Operation Desert Storm.

March 15-17, 2016 – The American Legion celebrates its 97th Birthday.

March 19, 2003 – The start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Jose J. Bou – Post Historian

Echoes From The Heart

I realize that the American Legion cannot endorse a political party or a candidate. With this in mind, I intend to follow these rules, so please do not interpret this article as an endorsement for anyone.

This being said, I wonder what exactly is “political correctness”? It seems that you cannot state anything derogatory about religion, race, gender, age and anything else that may be offensive to even the smallest minority. In other word, as a candidate, you cannot dislike

me because I omit what I truly think. To some politicians this is the way to get votes.

On the other side of the spectrum, should crude and rude be the rule? Should truth and being vocal take the place of and not a back seat to “political correctness”?

Next year, the Presidential election will give you the opportunity to make a choice. The mud-slinging and personal attacks on the candidates of both parties has not been in this political arena for many years. This will get down and dirty.

Our system permits us to vote in secret. We will not be indicted if our choice does not win. If we vote for what is in our heart and what we truly believe is the right path for our Nation, then our choice may be heard even if the person we vote for loses the election.

There will be much turmoil in the coming months and when the time comes, get out and vote. Your choices may need all the help you can give. When the election is over and the dust settles, we are going to go through a very interesting four years.

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

Community Activities

Members of the Post participated in several events for Veterans Day. St. Joseph’s College held a “Parade of Heroes” event on Sunday November 8th. All veterans were honored by name. The ceremony was held during a series of Girls Lacrosse tournament. The teams formed an arch of crossed lacrosse sticks for the Veterans to walk through. Next year we will be able to get the word out sooner.

On Tuesday November 10th, Commander John Matuszak along with Jon Ralph, Craig Munn, and Tom Bergin, attended a Veterans luncheon held by Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine. During the luncheon, Brookhaven Town presented donations to the various Posts to help with normal building maintenance costs.

We participated in the Veterans Day Ceremonies at the Four Corners. The weather partially cooperated and although cloudy, it didn’t rain on us. Music was provided by the Patchogue Medford High School Band. Along with Mayor Paul Pontieri of Patchogue, Brookhaven Councilman Neil Foley and Suffolk Legislator Rob Calarco gave short speeches. Speeches were also given by Commander George Barret of the VFW Post 2913, Commander John Matuszak of the American Legion Post 269, and Commander Mike Amodio of AmVets Post 111.



Several of the members then went up to St. Joseph’s College for their Veterans Ceremony. Maria Wiener, who lost her husband Jeffrey Wiener who was killed in action in Iraq, gave a very moving speech on what it meant to be a Veteran. All veterans in attendance were

honored by name and presented with a Challenge Coin celebrating the event.



Pictured above are members of the St. Josephs College Student Veterans of America organization, VFW Post 2913, and American Legion Post 269.

We were also invited to a movie night on the 12th at the college to view the movie “Memorial Day” which was filmed in 2012. Jon Ralph and Eileen Derbyshire both attended the movie night.

And finally, Jon Ralph along with Tom Bergin and Jose Bou attended a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast given by NY Senator Tom Croci.

It was a busy week, but we ended the week with a large sense of satisfaction at the reception we received at every place we went.

We again led the annual Greater Patchogue Chamber Of Commerce Christmas Parade on November 28th. The weather cooperated and it wasn't very cold or windy. Several members of the St. Joseph's College Student Veterans group joined us for the parade.

Commander John Matuszak and 2nd Vice Tom Bergin attended a Flag

Etiquette class for the local Cub Scout troop on November 2nd in Patchogue.

Commander John Matuszak and Finance Officer Craig Munn attended an awards ceremony run by the Long Island ABATE motorcycle club where they were presented with a donation.



The money donated will be used for veterans and local assistance programs. The membership voted to donate \$100 to each of five local church organizations for their food pantry/soup kitchen. We are very grateful to the ABATE Motorcycle club for their generous donation.

Recent Events

It can now be said officially that Patchogue has renamed the park in front of the post to “Harry T. Hanson Veterans Memorial Park”.



Since we are so close to the winter season, we are planning to have the official dedication ceremony around the first of May. Stay tuned as we work to get an actual date.

Our post was asked to perform the “Post Everlasting” ceremony for John Wagner. The request came from the Arthur H. Clune Post 1533 in Mastic Beach. The ceremony was performed on November 30th at the Robertaccio Funeral Home.

On Friday, December 18th at 8 PM members of the Post and friends gathered in front of the fireplace for the annual Salute to Departed Comrades.



It is a time to remember all of our comrades who have passed away. Let us never forget those who have gone before us, and give honor to their service.

Post Everlasting - 2015

Harry T. Hanson	James Rathjen	Joann Seebacher
Vinny Cappasso	John W. Knoth	Frederick Hollmann
George Wilson	Charles Maxwell	Kenneth Andersen
Udeth Rosario		

This ceremony is conducted every year and has become an important tradition for the Post.

1st Vice Commander Jon Ralph and 2nd Vice Commander Tom Bergin attended the Missing In America Project ceremony on October 27th for 10 Unclaimed Veterans. The ceremony was held at the National Cemetery in Farmingdale. It was organized by the Missing In America Project and run by Greenlawn Post 1244. The purpose of the MIAP organization is to locate, identify, and inter the unclaimed remains of American Veterans. These forgotten veterans have served our country and, as such, deserve to be buried with honor and respect. It was an honor to be allowed to stand as family for these veterans. The ceremony was attended by over 100 people. The American Legion was well represented as well as The American Legion Riders and The Patriot Guard. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Band provided the music for the ceremony. News 12 Long Island covered the ceremony and aired a three minute feature about it on Veterans Day. We also attended Missing In America Project Interment ceremonies on December 10th and on December 30th.

Upcoming Events

Starting with the monthly membership meeting in March, we will begin the nomination process for the Post Officers. At the March and April meetings, names will be presented for nomination for all of the offices and voting will be done at the May meeting. Start thinking about who we want to have as the officers in the Post. The first list of nominations will be published both on our Facebook page and in the April newsletter. This is a great chance to get involved and make a difference.

On Sunday February 14th, Suffolk County American Legion will be holding its “Back to God – Four Chaplains Remembrance” ceremony. It will be held at Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Patchogue.

General Information

Members of the Post have been very involved in reaching out to the Student Veterans of America group at St. Joseph’s College. We have established communications with the faculty advisors and members of the group. The leaders of the Post feel that it is very important to work together with the SVA group and St. Joseph’s College. It’s the right thing to do, and both the Post and the SVA will benefit from this relationship. So you will be hearing more about their events both at the membership meetings and on our Facebook page.

We have also started working on increasing our visibility with the community. We are taking steps to be able to post information and events on News 12, WALK Radio, WBLI Radio, WBAB Radio, Newsday, Long Island Advance, Penny Saver, and Patchogue Patch. Initially, we are focusing on getting events posted on their web sites under Community Events. We are taking steps to increase our reach in the social media for younger veterans. The Post now has a Twitter account (@ALPost269), a community on Google+ (American Legion Patchogue Post 269), and a group on LinkedIn (American Legion Patchogue Post 269). We have also set up a traditional web site. The website URL is:

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

We are half way thru the membership year that started in July. At this point, 75% of the members have sent in their renewals for the 2015-2016 membership year. We encourage all of you who have not yet paid their membership dues to do so as soon as possible. Membership is important to keep our Post a successful and vibrant organization. If you did not renew for the 2014-2015 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 know of anyone who has not yet paid their dues for either last year or this year, we would ask you to please remind them how important it is.

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: January 11th, February 8th, and March 14th.

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

January - March



For God and Country

