

## Patchogue Post 269 – Rededication Speech

On March 15 of 1919, a large group of WWI veterans joined together in Paris France to form an organization called the American Legion. Membership in the American Legion was to be open to all Veterans who served during a time of war.

During that summer in 1919, local Patchogue area WWI veterans led by Dr. Frank Overton began meeting and working to form a local Post. They decided to name it Patchogue Post 269. By the start of August 1919, 32 members of that group had signed the Application for Post of American Legion. They submitted the application, and on August 15 of 1919 their application to create the Post was approved by the National Executive Committee of the American Legion. That began our commitment to service.

Our mission is simple: Support our fellow Service Members and Veterans, provide mentoring and help to the youth, and provide help and assistance to our community. Our Post has been committed to those efforts for 100 years.

Over the past 100 years, the Post has been an important part of Patchogue, and we continue to work to honor our mission of service. Today, we work closely with the Village of Patchogue on community and veterans projects, we are an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, we provide classes in Flag Etiquette at both South Ocean Middle School and Saxton Middle School, we provide a color guard for the Special Olympics events in the area, we conduct Flag Dedication ceremonies at local businesses and housing complexes, we hold ceremonies for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Flag Day at local

nursing homes and homeowner groups, and we are an active participant at most of the community events. These are just some of the many programs and events that our Post is active with.

I would like to highlight one program that many of you may not know about. We are working with Greenlawn Post 1244 on the Missing In America Project. The focus of the Missing In America Project is to identify the unclaimed remains of honorably discharged veterans at funeral homes around the area and provide for their interment with military honors at Calverton National Cemetery. Our Post will be providing the Honor Guard Firing Detail for those ceremonies at Calverton.

I would like to take a moment to thank the Village of Patchogue for all of the support and assistance that they have given us over the last 100 years. Without their help and support we would not have been able to accomplish everything that we have done.

I would like to first thank Mayor Paul Pontieri for his vital support to us. I also want to thank Deputy Mayor John Krieger and the Village Trustees Salvatore Felice, Thomas Ferb, Lori Devlin, Joseph Keyes, and Susan Brinkman for their continued support and encouragement for everything that we are doing. Support from the Village is critical in our mission of service.

I must also thank our Village attorney Brian Egan, our Village Clerk Patricia Seal and her staff, the Village Parks and Recreation Department Maria Giustizia and LuAnn Lategano, and the Village Department of Public Works Joseph Dean and all the men and women who work there.

All of the Village officials and Village Departments have given a tremendous effort to make this Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, along with this re-dedication ceremony a success and they deserve a thank you for their huge efforts.

I would also like to thank David Kennedy and the Chamber of Commerce for all of the help and assistance in organizing and planning this ceremony. Their expertise has been invaluable to us.

I want to thank all of the people in the community and the businesses around Patchogue for their continued support as we start our second 100 years of service to our veterans, our community, and our youth. Your support and help is vital in our efforts to fulfil our mission.

Finally, I want to thank all of the members of our Post for their efforts and commitment to make our Post and this re-dedication a success.

Remarks by State Senator Monica Martinez.

Remarks by Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone.

Remarks by Suffolk Legislator Robert Calarco.

Remarks by Brookhaven Councilman Neil Foley.

Remarks by Patchogue Mayor Paul Pontieri.

Now, if the Officers and members of the Post will step forward please.

On behalf of all the members of the Post, I now officially re-dedicate Patchogue Post 269 for the start of our second 100 years of service to our veterans, our youth, and our community.

Ribbon Cutting by Commander Jonathon Ralph, David Mann, and Pauline King.

Acceptance of award from Jayne-Lattin VFW Post 2913.

Acceptance of award from Boy Scout Troop 540.

In a moment, we will be moving to the Baker Street side of our Post for the dedication of our Main Hall in honor of Lt Michael Murphy. After that dedication, we would invite everyone to go inside and look around our main hall and our second floor meeting room. Our founding documents are on display inside.

Thank you, and God Bless the United States of America.