



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

2014  
December - February



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      PPC Harry T. Hanson  
Chris Conlon      PC John Matuszak      Tres. Craig Munn  
Adjutant Pauline V. King

**POST OFFICERS 2014-2015**

Commander                      John Matuszak  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander        Michael Burke  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander        Tom Bergin  
Adjutant                        Pauline V. King  
Finance Officer                Craig Munn  
Chaplain                        Rev. Robert Hansen  
Historian                        Harry T. Hanson  
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<sup>st</sup> Vice President            Carole Bruggemann  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President            Beverly Matuszak  
Secretary                        Nicole Murch  
Treasurer                        Patricia Gallagher  
Chaplain                        Cathrine Beer

Historian  
Sgt. At Arms                    Veronica Bergin

**SAL OFFICERS 2014-2015**

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

**Commanders Corner**

Comrades

It has been a busy time here at the Post. A lot of repair work has been done. Two new timers had to be replaces for the Sign and for the light on the Flag Pole. We also had to replace the light above the entry door. And to top it all, the sign had to be gutted and new LED lights installed to help reduce the electric bill a little more. Next we discovered the pressure regulator wasn't working so thanks to the Sons Commander, Bill Dolci, that has been taken care of. Next on the list was a breakfast given by the Moose for all Veteran Group Commanders and Adjutants. Myself and our esteemed Adjutant attended and were honored with certificates by Congressman Tim Bishop and Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine. The food was great. The next day a luncheon was given by Brookhaven Town where checks were given to all Posts to be used for maintenance. It couldn't have come at a better time. Veterans Day was next and the AMVETS did a great job in setting it up. Thanks to all who attended. The day turned out nice. We attended St Joseph's College salute to Veterans and many veterans attending college turned out. All Veterans were given a commemoration coin marking the day. We also attended a Veterans Day affair at Emmanuel Lutheran School honoring Veterans and then a luncheon was given.

My wife Beverly and I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

Watch for December happenings further on in this newsletter and hope to see everyone attending.

Have a Blessed and Enjoyable Christmas.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
JOHN MATUSZAK  
COMMANDER – POST 269

## Auxiliary Corner

### Auxiliary News

The “Basket Jamboree” was a great success. It was the Unit’s first attempt at a Chinese Auction. Thank you to Carole Bruggemann for organizing the shopping and basket creations, Cathy Beer for shopping and wrapping, and special thanks to Roseann Hansen, her daughter, Clarissa, and Maria Shine for helping us create and wrap the Baskets. Thank you to Post #269 Legionnaires and the Sons of the Legion for all their help and support as well as the donations to our fund raiser. **We are a “Legion Family”**. As a result of all the hard work, we were able to make donations to the Food Pantry at the Lighthouse Mission and two local churches. In the next two weeks, we will be shopping for Christmas gifts for the hospitalized children. Legionnaire Bob Bruggeman will be Santa and Veronica Bergin will be the Elf as we distribute the gifts at “Angela’s House”, a residential treatment facility.

Many thanks to the Patchogue Elks organization for their donation to the Unit. This donation will be used to purchase gifts for the Women Veterans at Beacon House.

At our regularly scheduled meeting in December, we will be planning a Christmas dinner outing to be held during the week between Christmas and New Year’s. Please try to make this meeting so that we can have your input. We will also be decorating the Post Hall and the Dugout for the holidays. On Friday, December 19, 2014, we are invited to join Post members by the Fireplace for a champagne toast to our departed members.

Please remember to send in your 2015 dues ( \$20.00 ) to Carole Bruggemann and if you have not yet sent your 2014 dues please do so. **They are due by December 21, 2014.**

## I wish you and your families a HAPPY AND BLESSED HOLIDAY AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

For God & Country  
Pat Bergin, Auxiliary #269 President

## Echoes From The Heart

Thanksgiving has just passed and Christmas is only a few weeks away. Both of these holidays have to do with love of family and as our Nation’s motto states “In God We Trust”. We may “Trust in God”, but It seems that God is slowly being replaced. There are people in this country that want to omit the phrase “One Nation under God” from our Pledge of Allegiance, just as they have done away with prayer in schools.

In our hearts and minds, we should not change the true meaning of Christmas. This is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. All Christians believe he was the Son of God. Those who I have spoken with who are not Christians admit that he was a very great man. No one single person in the history of mankind has affected history as this simple carpenter. His death and resurrection will be debated for thousands of years. At Christmas we celebrate his birth, not his life or his death. We celebrate the birth of this humble man who once walked this earth.

I saw a bumper sticker which said “Keep Christ in Christmas”...for he is Christmas. Yes, he is Christmas, not Macy’s, JC Penny, Target, or a million other stores. In the New Testament, Jesus said “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to GOD the things that are GOD’S.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!!

For God and Country,  
Tom Bergin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander

### Community Activities

Thursday Night November 20th Patchogue Elks Lodge 1323 presented a \$650 donation to the American Legion Auxiliary Patchogue #269 to be used to provide supplies for the homeless Women Veterans at Beacon House in Bay Shore. Patchogue Elk Douglas MacVittie Chairman of the 4th Annual Lodge Trap & Skeet Outing held in October, raised the funds for the donation along with Co-Chairman Donald Ferguson & Lee DiClemente. Pictured, l/r- Douglas MacVittie, Sgt. at Arms Veronica Bergin with Auxiliary President Pat Bergin and Exalted Ruler Jerry Stein.



On November 29<sup>th</sup>, our Post participated in the annual Patchogue

Christmas Parade. The parade route was on Main Street from West Avenue to Rider Avenue. There were over 60 different groups participating in the parade. The sidewalks between West Avenue and Rider Ave were packed with people watching the parade. It was great to see the community turnout for this.

Our Post was host for the “Breakfast with Santa Toy Drive” sponsored by “Ski’s Open Heart Foundation”. The foundation will donate the toys to children at the local hospitals. They also collected toys and pet supplies to be donated to local animal shelters. Check out their web site at <http://www.skisopenheart.com>

### Recent Events

Our Post participated in the ceremonies honoring Veterans Day. This year it was organized by the AMVETS Post 111 as part of the United Veterans Organization. All three Veterans organizations ( AMVETS Post 111, American Legion Post 269, and VFW Post 2913 ) were well represented. All three Commanders spoke to the Veterans and civilians. Patchogue Mayor Paul Pontieri also spoke along with several other local officials. We would like to extend our thanks to Patchogue Village, the Patchogue Fire Department, the Patchogue School Band, and the Suffolk County Police for their participation and help in making this ceremony happen. There are pictures from the ceremony that have been posted on our Facebook page. The weather really co-operated and it turned out sunny and cool.

It is sad to report that Albert Eid passed away on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ceremonies were held on November 25<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with AMVETS Post 111 and VFW Post 2913. Arnold Tierney also passed away on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. The American Legion “Post Everlasting” ceremony was conducted on December 4<sup>th</sup>. William Taylor passed away on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The “Post Everlasting” ceremony was conducted on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming Events

On Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM we will be gathering at the Post for the salute to our departed members. There will be a champagne toast in front of the Fireplace.

### Departed Members:

Fred Sobotka	WW2
Robert Furman	Vietnam
Henry N. Gordon	Korea
Robert E. Miskosky	WW2
Albert L. Eid	WW2
Edward Adams	Vietnam
Fredrick J. Striers	WW2
Charles V. Moffett	WW2
Arnold E. Tierney	WW2
William Taylor	WW2

This ceremony is conducted every year and gives us the opportunity to pay our respects to the members who have passed away during the year. It is an important tradition to remember those who have left us.

## General Information

We are now into the holiday season. The annual Thanksgiving Day feasts and family get-togethers have past. And now we all look forward to the Christmas holiday and the New Year's celebrations. This time of year we always focus on the pleasures and joys of family and close friends. We can give thanks that we have all served this great country. It is also a time for remembering family, friends, and comrades who have passed away. We are truly blessed to have the freedoms that we enjoy.

The Thanksgiving holiday gave us a chance to be with family and reminisce about times in the past. It was a change to give thanks and share the company that comes from family and close friends.

The Christmas holiday will also give us a chance to be with family and friends that we may not get to see often. And while it is a time of joy, we should all take a few minutes to remember what Christmas is really about and celebrate it.

We should also take a moment to remember those who are on active duty serving our nation. Please give thanks for their sacrifices and pray for their safety. It is always a difficult time of year for our service men and women who are away from home for the holidays.

We wish all of you and your families a very happy and safe Holiday season.

The Post has been decorated for the Christmas Holiday. Annabelle and Catherine did a great job of decorating the tree in the Dugout.



The Auxiliary did the decorations for the main hall. It really looks sharp. Thanks to all those who pitched in and helped do the decorations.

We are now taking orders for the satin heavyweight Legion Jackets with the Posts name. They are \$70 per jacket. You can also order a baseball hat with the Post name for \$20. Contact Craig Munn to put in your order.

### **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: December 8<sup>th</sup>, January 12<sup>th</sup>, and February 9<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:jralph@optonline.net) with any comments, questions, or suggestions. Remember, this isn't my newsletter, its 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