



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

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The American Legion

Patchogue Post 269

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Patchogue, New York, 11772-0457



News Letter

2015
October - December



For God and Country





Patchogue Post 269

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

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Commanders Corner

Comrades

I hope everyone had a Great Summer. We have been very busy at the Post. We had a Veterans barbeque and invited as many WWII Veterans that we could find. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it a Great success.

On September 13 the Suffolk County Marathon passed thru Patchogue. We were on Four Corners handing out flags and cheering the runners on. All of the proceeds will go to helping Veterans. If anyone needs help please call the Post and we can put you in touch with the Suffolk County Veterans Affairs Officer.

Now that we are into the last part of the year, Veterans Day is approaching. We will be having services on the Four Corners as usual. The date is November 11th. Hope to see you there.

In December we will be having our annual Salute to Veterans in front of the fireplace. More info as to date and time will be posted on our Facebook page and at the monthly meetings.

As of Jan 1, 2016 there will be a dues increase. This one is coming from National. Please send your dues in so that you do not have to pay the increase until next year. Comrade Munn will surely be happy.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
JOHN MATUSZAK
COMMANDER – POST 269

Auxiliary Corner

Auxiliary News

Auxiliary Unit #269 has had a busy and wonderful summer. Unit members marched in the 4th of July parade, participated in a flag dedication at the new Bellport Health Center, joined Post members at the Veterans Appreciation BBQ at the Post, and initiated four Auxiliary members at the September Unit meeting. Thank you to the Legionnaires who attended the initiation ceremony. Your attendance was greatly appreciated.

Auxiliary members distributed a total of 80 baseball hats to the Veterans at the LISVH home, the VA Clinic in Patchogue, and the Veterans Place in Yaphank. Unit members volunteered at the LISVH home for monthly bingo on the first Friday of each month. Auxiliary members shopped for five women Veterans who live at a transitional home sponsored by United Veterans Organization – Beacon House.

At our October 6th Unit meeting, we will be planning a “Basket Jamboree” (Chinese Auction) to be held on Sunday, October 25th starting at 3 PM at the Patchogue Post. Help is needed in shopping for and creating the baskets.

First Vice President, Carole Bruggemann, is collecting membership dues for 2016. Your dues help us to continue to support our Veteran and Children/Youth projects.

We will be participating in Veterans Day Ceremonies at the Four Corners on November 11, 2015. Check our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/American.Legion.Post.269> for upcoming details.

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Auxiliary member Eileen Gentile. Eileen was a VIM member of Unit 269, a Past Unit

President and a Past Suffolk County President. In recent years, Eileen was unable to attend Unit meetings but was always available on the phone to offer her support and encouragement. The Unit Charter has been draped to honor her service to the American Legion and the Auxiliary. Thank you to Christina Mohr for representing the Unit at the Funeral Mass.

For God & Country

Pat Bergin, Auxiliary #269 President

Historian Corner

On November 10-12, 1919 the first American Legion Convention convened in Minneapolis MN. The delegates voted 361-323 to locate the American Legion’s National Headquarters in Indianapolis Indiana instead of Washington D.C. The convention also passed a resolution in support of the Boy Scouts of America.

On December 15, 1943 the past National Commander Harry W. Colmery wrote the first draft of what would later become the G.I. Bill of Rights. It is considered the American Legions single greatest legislative achievement.

Other Important Dates:

October 23, 1983 – The bombing of U.S. and French military barracks in Beirut Lebanon.

October 25, 1983 – U.S. led invasion of Grenada.

November 11, 1918 – Armistice Day

December 7, 1941 – Pearl Harbor

December 15, 1943 – G.I. Bill of Rights first draft

December 20, 1989 – U.S. invasion of Panama

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Jose Bou – Post Historian

Echoes From The Heart

We all know the motto “For God and Country”. I feel one word was left out. That word is Family! I believe that we, as parents, were aware of our responsibilities. We had to teach the skills and tools that will give our children the knowledge to survive in this world. Our greatest honor was when we realized that our offspring had the strength and character to take their place in our complex society. I have no doubt that every day we think about and pray for their wellbeing.

Once they leave our nest and start their own family, will they teach their children a good sense of what is right or wrong? Will they still believe there is a God? Will they strengthen our grandchildren as individuals as to what is moral, both mentally and physically? Will they provide them with a good example of integrity, self-sacrifice, hard work, and love?

There are many soul searching questions. There is one thing I wrote about a few years ago. As a father, I can only hope I did my job well.

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

Community Activities

Commander John Matuszak and 1st Vice Jon Ralph attended several meetings sponsored by the Patchogue Chamber of Commerce regarding the Suffolk County Marathon. The marathon was set up by Suffolk County and all proceeds are being used to help veterans. All monies raised in the event will be handled by the Veterans Service Agency, a division of Suffolk County government. We set up an area at the Four Corners the day of the event and handed out American Flags and poppies. Suffolk County expects to make this an annual event in order to raise funds to assist veterans. It should also help local businesses along the route.



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On Thursday August 20th, the Post was invited to participate in the dedication and flag raising at the Bellport Primary Care facility. This is a new facility opened by Brookhaven Memorial Hospital to help provide health care to the Bellport area community. If you live in the Bellport area, the new facility is located at 515 Bellport Avenue just north of Montauk highway in Bellport. There were short speeches

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from the various administrators and directors of Brookhaven Memorial Hospital followed by presentations from our elected public officials from the Town, County, State, and Federal levels.



On Saturday August 22nd, we hosted a Veterans Appreciation BBQ for all veterans. We had about 70 people who attended the event and we were very fortunate to have a great day, not too hot and not too humid. Given the success and feedback we received, we are planning to make this an annual event. For this first event, we had invited members of the Selden Post and the Medford Post to come. Several members of those Posts attended and were very grateful for the invitation. Next year we hope to expand the invitations and have more publicity for the event. We want to thank all the members of the Post who volunteered their time and efforts in making the Post look good, setting up all the

tables and chairs, and getting the food and supplies. And we must thank the ladies from the Auxiliary who are always willing to jump in and help make all the events a success. And a very big thank you to Joe Meiselbach for handling the grill.



We have been working with the UVO (United Veterans Organization) to hold the Flag Retirement Ceremony. The UVO is a combined organization of American Legion Post 269, AmVets Post 111, and VFW Post 2913. The Flag Retirement Ceremony is on Saturday October 3rd at 10 AM. It is being held at Fireman's Park and parking is available at Shorefront Park in Patchogue. This ceremony provides an honorable and dignified method of disposing with old and non-serviceable American Flags. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and we had to cancel it. We are working on re-scheduling it

but have not yet gotten the permission from the Village. The tentative date is Saturday October 24th, but watch for updated information on our Facebook page.

Recent Events

It is sad to report that Kenneth Andersen has passed away.

On July 23rd, 1st Vice Commander Jon Ralph represented Post 269 at the internment of two veterans at Calverton National Cemetery. The ceremony 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 two veterans.

Upcoming Events

On Saturday, October 24th, we will set up an Information and Recruiting Table at the Patchogue Theater. The Del-Satins will be performing, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the American Legion. The Del-Satins are a musical group that started in the 1960's. They put on a good performance last year.

We are making plans for the Veterans Day ceremony at the Four Corners in Patchogue. We will be providing updates via the monthly membership meetings and on the social media Facebook page. We hope that many of you will be able to attend the ceremony. This year, Veterans Day will be on Wednesday, November 11th.

Originally known as Armistice Day, it was created to honor the end of World War 1. The armistice ending that war occurred at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The original intent of this holiday

was to honor the veterans of World War 1. It was recognized by the United States Congress in 1926, and became a National Holiday by Congressional order in 1938. With the end of World War II and the Korean Conflict, it was recognized that a change in meaning was needed. In 1954, the holiday was changed to be known officially as "Veterans Day" in order to honor American Veterans of all wars. Between 1971 and 1978, the holiday was observed on a floating day to provide for three day weekends, but due to public response it was returned back to the November 11th date of every year. The focus of Veterans Day is to pay honor and thanks to all veterans who served during time of war. Unlike Memorial Day which is devoted to honoring those who died in the service of their country, Veterans Day is more focused on honoring and paying thank you to the living veterans for their service and sacrifices. Although originally intended for veterans who served during wartime, it now honors all veterans of the Armed Forces whether they served during wartime or peacetime. It should remind all of us of the fact that all those who have served, not only those who died, have sacrificed and done their duty to our country.

We will again be participating in the annual Christmas Parade in Patchogue. The date and time are not yet available, but we will announce information as we get it, both at the monthly membership meetings and on the Facebook page.

Although we have not set a date or time yet, we will again hold our annual "Salute to Our Departed Comrades" in December. This is a tradition started several years ago at the Post by Past Commander George Egan. Commander Matuszak has continued the tradition, and it is one that we should all participate in. It is important for us to remember and salute those of us who have passed away during the year. As tradition calls for, it will be held on the main floor in front of the fireplace and conclude with a Champagne Toast to those who have passed away during the year. Let us not forget those who have left us. More announcements will be coming shortly for this.

General Information

On November 8th at 3:00 PM, there will be a performance at the Patchogue Theater featuring the music of John Philip Sousa. It will celebrate Veterans Day with “A Sousa Salute to Our Veterans”. There is no association with the American Legion, but if you like military and patriotic marching music, it might be a nice way to spend a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon.

We are about one-third of the way thru the membership year that started in July. At this point, about half 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.

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.

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.

We have been in contact with the Village trying to determine the progress on getting the Park in front of the Post renamed to

“Harry T. Hanson – Veterans Memorial Park”. As soon as we get more information from them we will let everyone know.

Although it is only October, we are fast approaching the holiday season. We would like to take a minute to wish all of you a very enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday, and a very Happy and Festive Christmas time. We wish all of you the very best for not only you, but your family and friends. The holidays give all of us time to be with those we love and cherish. So please enjoy them, and have a safe and festive holiday.

We have a copy of the book “Military Memories of World War Two” by Major Harold O’Neill. Although Major O’Neill is not a member of the American Legion, he is a member of VFW Post 2913 in Patchogue. We felt it appropriate to have the book available at the Post for anyone who wants to come down and read it.

And a “Just for Fun” item. For those of you who didn’t know, we do have a team that plays in the American Pool Association 9-Ball league. Matches are held on Sunday afternoons starting at 4 PM. Every other week we will be playing at home, so come down to the post and cheer for our pool team. We may not be the best team, but we do have a lot of fun. Check in at The Dugout and we will have the schedule posted there.

As Commander Matuszak noted, there is a proposal at the National level of the American Legion to increase the membership dues by \$5.00. There has been several articles in the Legion magazine from the National Commander on this subject. As we get more information we will pass it on, but you will probably hear as much as we do on this subject.

And finally, you may be seeing a Membership Drive being done at the start of the year. National and State level have made available \$68,000 Dollars for media advertising. They are doing this trial in Suffolk County since there is a large Veterans community that have not joined.

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: October 12th, November 9th, and December 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 631-654-5735, 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: Craig Munn