



# Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

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## Four Chaplains Ceremony

On February 3, 1943, the USS Dorchester, a US troopship makes its way across the freezing North Atlantic. Suddenly there are explosions and panic as a torpedo fired from a German U-boat tear through the ship. Among those scrambling soldiers on board are four US Army Chaplains. While they are each from different faiths they work together to calm the troops and hand out life-vests. When there are no more life-vests, they hand over their own to save four more of their shipmates knowing full well that any chance of their survival went with those vests. 27 Minutes later as the ship slipped beneath the freezing waves survivors told of seeing the four Chaplains linked arm in arm praying with their shipmates. That night only 230 of the 902 on board survived and the story of these Chaplains was retold again and again to honor their selfless heroism.

Our Yorktown Post has conducted a Four Chaplains Ceremony each year for many years. A few years ago our ceremony consisted of two local members of the clergy and about 25 people including our Post's Legionnaires. Last Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, our Post once again conducted our annual ceremony honoring the selfless sacrifice of these 'Immortal Chaplains'. We were host to a crowd of 125 people including Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace, NYS Assemblyman Steve Katz, Yorktown Justice Sal Lagonia, and Eugene Perotta, representing NYS Senator Greg Ball's office. Our ceremony began with a pageant of 38 students from Mildred Strang Middle School's Living History class dressed in Revolutionary War uniforms complete with muskets. Led by their teacher, Chris DiPasquale, a Revolutionary War re-enactor, the students filed in to present our National Colors during the opening ceremonies. Not a sound could be heard in our packed Hall during their display. When their part was complete the students filed out and could have left, but they came back in to the rear of the Hall to learn more about these wonderful men and their story.

This year five members of the clergy participated in the ceremony with us. Mother Claire Woodley-Aitchison of St Mary's Episcopal

Church in Mohegan Lake, Rabbi Robert Weiner of Temple Beth Am and Pastor Dan O'Brien of Calvary Bible Church in Yorktown, and Msgr Thomas Sandi of St Elizabeth Seton Church did their usual wonderful job for their third year in a row. One of our Post's newest Legionnaires, Rev. John Bourcet, thankfully took part in the ceremony when one of our clergy was delayed.

Once again Gerry Knapp and Bill Lewis put forth a superb effort making this a touching and memorable event for all who attended. Great work!

## 'Breakfast with Santa'

Our 'Breakfast with Santa' event on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> with the Yorktown Lions Club was a huge success. We had planned on having two seating's of ninety minutes each for guests to eat and have time to visit and take photos with Santa but due to a high number of reservations a third seating was added. When all was done, 288 people showed up and had a great time and breakfast that morning. We thank the Yorktown Lions for their help in making it such a success. This event brought in about \$500 for the Post which always helps. Post Commander Al Laughlin says that the Lions' Club was already discussing doing it again next year. Thank you to all our members who helped set-up, serve, and clean-up for this fundraising event. We have already made plans with the Lions' Club to team up again for a 'Breakfast with the Easter Bunny' on Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Keep your eyes peeled for more details coming out in March.

## Post's Holiday Party

On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 49 members of our Post family came together at the Post Hall to enjoy our annual Holiday Party. This free brunch had old and new members eating a delicious meal while enjoying a relaxing afternoon of getting to know each other better. The Post raffled off a basket of cheer and a couple of envelopes with lottery tickets in them to kick off the holiday season right.

We owe a huge thank you to Pat and Al Laughlin and Sue and Ken Blish for all their hard work cooking which made the brunch such a wonderful afternoon to enjoy. This party could not have happened without them... our true "A" Team!

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## Westchester County Meeting

Want to learn what the Westchester County American Legion is doing around the County? You will have the opportunity on Wednesday night, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM when our Post hosts the County's March meeting in our Post Hall. All Legionnaires are invited to attend the meeting and see what it's all about. Our Post is very fortunate to have Rich Calbo and Fred Wooding on the County's Executive Committee and they keep our Post well informed.

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## Welcome Aboard...

We wish to offer a hearty welcome aboard to our Post's recent new members: Patti Smith, Robert Kaplan, John Ruxton, and Frank Troia. We hope that you'll feel a welcome part of our Post family and we hope to see you at some of our events and meetings. Welcome Aboard!

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## Post Uniform?

The American Legion and our Post always try to present a neat professional appearance at events. Our Post jackets and shirts tell people who we are clearly by their patches and stitching. There are also other less costly ways to identify yourself as a Legion member. The American Legion sells a pocket patch holder for your regular blue blazer. Anyone can order it themselves for about \$6 through Emblem Sales. Adjutant Pat McDonough can give you more info on how to order it.

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## From the Adjutant...

Do you like the direction our Post is going in? Would you go to a Renegades baseball game with us? Are there programs you'd like to see the Post get involved with? We will be sending

out a survey soon to learn what our members want their Post to be doing. Please take the time to respond honestly to help make this Post even better.

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## Post Dues Increase

The Westchester County American Legion has decided to raise their 2013 membership year dues by \$2, from \$4 to \$6. The Post Executive Committee discussed this and then Commander Laughlin presented their options to the Post membership during the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for a decision. We could not raise the dues and have the Post pay the additional \$2 from the \$6.50 portion of the dues we keep (in effect reducing our dues income by 30%) or raise our dues for the first time in six years by \$3 to cover the County's raise and to put a \$1 increase to the Post's dues portion.

In the last six years we have increased services like this newsletter, the Post's website, Get Well, condolence and birthday cards for our members, and we still maintained a Summer BBQ and Holiday Party that are FREE to our members and their families. The membership voted unanimously in favor of raising the Post's dues by \$3 for the 2013 year. Members will see the amount listed on their 2013 renewals from National HQ starting this August.

### Post #1009 Upcoming Events

- |     |        |  |         |
|-----|--------|--|---------|
| Tue | Mar 6  | Exec. Committee Mtg                                  | 7:00 PM |
| Thu | Mar 8  | Post General Meeting                                 | 7:30 PM |
| Wed | Mar 14 | County Meeting<br>Held at Post #1009                 | 7:30 PM |
| Sun | Apr 1  | Breakfast with Easter Bunny<br>More details to come. |         |
| Tue | Apr 3  | Exec. Committee Mtg                                  | 7:00 PM |
| Thu | Apr 12 | Post General Meeting                                 | 7:30 PM |
| Tue | May 1  | Exec. Committee Mtg                                  | 7:00 PM |
| Sun | May 6  | Post Spring Brunch                                   |         |

### Yorktown Post #1009

235 Veterans Road, Yorktown Hts, NY 10598  
(914) 962-2843      [www.nylegion1009.org](http://www.nylegion1009.org)