



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

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Our New Spring Brunch...

Our Post held its annual Spring Brunch on Sunday, May 6th, 2012 at 1 PM in the Post Hall. This year we dedicated our Brunch to honoring our venerable World War II members and we enjoyed a nice turnout with 59 people in attendance. Mistakenly, some of our members thought that the Brunch was only for our World War II members and didn't attend. Our Post Brunches are for ALL our Legionnaires.

We hoped to have our Post's WWII members and their guests come and enjoy the Brunch and also receive a little recognition from their fellow veterans at the Post. 8 Honorees accepted the invitation to the Brunch. We were honored to have Past Post #1009 Commander Patrick Cavuoto, Rev. John Bourcet, Casper Faughnan, Winfred Lollar, Joseph Vigliazzo, and John Giammichele attend and re-aquaint themselves with their Post for the afternoon.

Post Cmdr Al Laughlin presented each of the Honorees with a framed certificate thanking them for their service to our country from their fellow members of the Post. The afternoon was an enjoyable celebration of these veterans by veterans. Two Honorees, Arthur Bortz and Henry Whitaker, had last minute emergencies come up forcing them to miss out on the Brunch. Cmdr Laughlin and Adjutant Patrick McDonough visited both of these Legionnaires at their homes to present them with their awards.

We thank 3rd Vice Cmdr Mike Laughlin for the excellent job he did stepping up and cooking the entire menu for the event. Thanks also go to our wonderful ladies, Pat Laughlin and Sue Blish, for all their work making everything come together which made our Brunch a success.

Join us next year for the Brunch and be a part of our Post's work in Yorktown.

Post Poppy-Fundraiser

On Saturday, May 26th, 17 of our Post Legionnaires came together to raise funds to help the Post and its Memorial Day programs. We set up tables outside the Shrub Oak A&P, the Yorktown A&P, and Turco's in Yorktown to hand

out poppies and collect donations. We hand out the traditional red poppies to remind everyone of the true reason for remembrance on Memorial Day. We'd like to thank Jim Guerra, Bill Lewis, Gerry Knapp, Anne Samoyla, Mark Levandoski, Patrick McDonough, Ken Blish, Arthur Bortz, Joe Larsen, Fred & Barbara Wooding, Al Laughlin, Ed Augustine, Terry Deveau, Patti Smith, John Gunn, Tom Brady, and Cas Faughnan for giving up four hours of their holiday weekend to help the Post pay for the almost 500 flags the Post purchases and places at all veteran's graves in Yorktown.

Civil War Veterans' Memorial Service...

This Post event was well covered in the local papers as you may have seen. John McQuillan, our Post's Financial Officer, in his continuing effort to identify all of Yorktown's veterans' graves discovered 13 veterans graves in the Shrub Oak United Methodist Church cemetery. 2 of these graves were of local men, Albert Sillick and Thomas Wildey who were killed at Hanover Courthouse and the 2nd Battle of Bull Run 150 years ago on the dates of what has become Memorial Day weekend. John planned a memorial ceremony and invited local Scouts, a fellow Civil War re-enactor who is a member of the unit Pvt Sillick served with, and the public to attend. The service included a short eulogy and the playing of Taps at each grave as Girl Scouts decorated the graves with a wreath and flag for the first time in over 100 years. This was a solemn and educational ceremony reminding all who attended of the original reason for Memorial Day. Thanks to John for putting this together and to Cmdr Laughlin, Patrick McDonough, Dave Moskowitz and Bob Gorsuch for attending from the Post.

Memorial Day Parade

The weather was hot and humid but our Post had the largest marching contingent in a over a decade with 24 Legionnaires taking part in

this year's parade. Our group looked sharp formed-up in a neat platoon wearing our Post shirts and caps which really impressed the spectators along the route. We know that all of our members cannot march the length of the parade for various reasons. There are often Jeeps or restored autos in the parade that they can ride in through the parade. Please join us next Memorial Day, or Veterans Day, and let's try to make our platoon one of fifty Legionnaires walking down the avenue. That will turn a lot of heads in Yorktown!

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Quite often when we open our Post building we find plastic bags containing worn and tattered U.S. flags left at the door or placed in the mail slot. Yorktown residents bring them to us because they know we'll retire them with the honor and respect they're due.

This year before Memorial Day we had over 300 flags stored down in our Post basement. At that time we were in near drought conditions so we teamed up with the Yorktown Fire Department and set up a ceremony for Saturday, June 16th at 3:30 PM at the carnival grounds behind the Fire Department. We invited local Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts to take part in the ceremony and advertised it in the local papers. Once word spread about the ceremony we were pleasantly inundated with flags from the community bringing our total to over 740 flags to be retired. 12 of our Legionnaires: Terry Deveau, Joe Larsen, Ed Augustine, Frank Troia, Liborio Defrancesco, Vincent Andreozzi, Bob Dagnino, Rev. John Bourcet, Mike Laughlin, and Ken Blish came out to participate in the ceremony. During the ceremony the flags were presented by Scouts and Legionnaires walking side-by-side to the Yorktown firefighters who placed them in the fire. Cmdr Laughlin and 2nd Vice Cmdr Gerry Knapp presided over the ceremony and Post Chaplain Fred Wooding played Taps in a final salute to our nation's flags. We revived this ceremony and want to make this an annual event for the Post. Anyone interested in being the Chairperson for this event next year?

We Have Summer Activities!

We don't hold monthly meetings during July and August but our members still want to

get together to socialize and have some fun. This summer we have two events everyone can enjoy. We have teamed up with the Hudson Valley Renegades to offer a unique package for their Thursday evening game on August 9th at 7:05 PM. When you order 1 General Admission ticket using our special password for that game you'll get the ticket PLUS a Renegades baseball cap for only \$10 (a \$22 value!). The HV Renegades will also donate \$3 of each ticket package sold back to our Post! Tickets can be purchased online at 'Gadesgroups.com' and use the password 'Yorktown' to get the ticket deal. This is open to all... not just Legion members so invite your family and friends to join you for a night of fun at the ball park.

On Sunday, August 12th at 2 PM our Post will hold its annual Summer BBQ for our members and their families. The hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided by the Post and we ask that all attendees bring a salad or dessert dish to put on the smorgasbord for everyone to enjoy. After the BBQ we can all go across the street to sit and enjoy the Yorktown Lions Club free concert highlighting music from the '60's to the present'. We hope to see many of you at one, or both, of these events.

From the Adjutant

In recent weeks we learned of the passing of several Post members without our ever being told by their families until now. We could have rendered honors for them if we had known in time. Please let your families know that we want to do this for all veterans, members or not. We regret to inform everyone of the passing of: Francis P. Kelly, Joseph Karasinski, Willard H. Travis, John S. Brown, and Barry Bell. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Welcome Aboard...

We wish to welcome aboard to our Post's newest member, Vincent Andreozzi. We hope that you'll feel a welcome part of our Post family and hope to see you at some of our events and meetings. Welcome Aboard!

Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.

General George S. Patton