



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

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Yorktown High School Visit

How do kids today learn about the history and significance of Memorial Day? Yorktown High School's Band Director, Emily Kluga, invited our Post to come and speak with her students this day of remembrance. On Wednesday, May 22nd, three of our Legionnaires visited her band classes and talked with them about what Memorial Day means to us and other veterans and how important their band's participation in the Yorktown parade is. Fred Wooding, our Memorial Day Parade Chairman, Bob Dagnino, and Pat McDonough, joined with Bob McGuirl from Pelham's Post #50 to talk with them. One passed around a WWII letter from one Commanding Officer explaining to the family of a soldier the circumstances of his death in France following D-Day. Two of the Legionnaires present removed POW/MIA bracelets from their wrists and passed them around explaining what these 40 year old items stood for then and now. A thick book containing the names of the over 58,000 KIA's/ MIA's from the war in Vietnam was shown to the classes. It was also pointed out that 6 books just as thick and heavy would be needed to list those lost from only the United States during World War II. Each veteran explained in their own way how important it is not to forget the sacrifices of all those who have died for our country since its independence. Hopefully, this lesson wasn't lost upon these students. Our Post thanks these Legionnaires for giving up their time for this program.

We have had invitations to speak at other schools but we need more volunteers to spread the visits around and not burn out the same few Legionnaires. If you would be interested in participating in one of these talks let Adjutant Pat McDonough know.

Memorial Day Parade

The 2013 Memorial Day Parade was a beautiful success! A lot of people and a lot of hard work is involved in pulling this parade off every other year. We wish to thank every one of the 27 Legionnaires who came out and helped make this such a success. Fred Wooding who

worked for a year organizing it and Gerry Knapp who 'emceed' it flawlessly; Roger Thompson, Joe Larsen, and Frank Troia who handled the wreath laying; Carroll Smith and Fred who lined the all the organizations up to march at Front Street. Rod Leone, John McQuillan, Rich Calbo, and Al Laughlin who set up the chairs and tent. Of course, our Post's wonderful 'First Lady', Pat Laughlin, who manned our 50/50 table. To all the Legionnaires who marched with us and helped out wherever it was needed - from the Color Guard to supplying water at the gazebo. With everyone's help this parade was a success and a great team effort. We hope everyone enjoyed the day.

Poppy Fundraiser

Each Memorial Day weekend we conduct our Poppy Fundraiser at the two A&P's and Turco's supermarkets to help our Post pay for the over 500 American flags and the other expenses we incur for Memorial Day (Hint: the bunting and decorations at the gazebo are ours!) While we had a successful fund-raiser we had a few things we need to address before next year.

We had a few volunteers not show up on Saturday because of the rain and that caused some problems. That left us with member alone at a table on one side of a store unable to take a break for the entire four hours we did this collection. We need a minimum of 4 people at any location to allow for comfort breaks. Next year we will close down a location if we don't have the people show up to do it safely and comfortably. We understand that the rain deterred people from showing up to help but we have to do this fundraising or else pay for all these expenses out of our Post accounts which will hurt the Post financially. We do this rain or shine because the parade expenses come rain or shine. We will push for more volunteer sign-ups before this fund-raiser next year to be better prepared.

Special thanks to Al Laughlin, Bob Dagnino, Bill Lewis, Lee Defrancesco, Fred & Barbara Wooding, John Gunn, Terry Deveau, Joe Larsen, and Pat McDonough for working in Saturday's rain and to Gerry Knapp, Tom Brady, Roger Thompson, Frank Troia, Lee Defrancesco, Pat McDonough and Cas Faughnan for their help on Sunday.

Veterans Commemorative Park Dedication

Our new Veterans Commemorative Park was unveiled and dedicated following the parade on Memorial Day. Color Guards from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Knights of Columbus, and our Post were the backdrop to the plaza as local politicians and over 150 fellow Yorktowners attended the dedication.

The old grey cement paver patio is gone and to commemorate those who have honorably served our nation we now have a beautiful red brick plaza surrounding our Post flagpole. 112 bricks spread throughout the plaza are beautifully engraved with the name and military info of Yorktown's beloved veterans. As you approach from the street a low grey stone wall welcomes visitors with the emblems of our nation's 5 military branches on display. The two memorials to our Post's departed Legionnaires and Auxiliary members now have two new weeping cherry trees planted behind them. These will sprout beautiful flowers around Memorial Day each year. In front of our flagpole is a single grey brick in the red brick plaza. This brick dedicates the Post's flagpole to the memory of Past Post Commander Thomas Reilly, who served as Post Commander for 8 consecutive years during a time when our Post struggled to survive. His dedicated efforts kept this Post alive. Our flag is flying, our doors are still open and we're more active than ever... Tom Reilly's legacy lives on!

The Park, the bricks, and certificates we printed up for each brick donor were a huge hit on Memorial Day with laudatory comments about this wonderful program. Don't forget... this program is an ongoing one and these Commemorative Bricks can be ordered at any time and will be installed in the plaza each Spring and Fall. Each Memorial Day we will dedicate the new bricks that have been added during the year.

Special thanks go to Commander Al Laughlin, Gerry Knapp, and Park Program Chairman John Gunn for their well coordinated push to complete it on time. We also wish to thank the Kuck Family of Whispering Pines Nursery on Rt 6 for their wonderful donation of the 2 weeping cherry trees. They are a friend of the American Legion and we encourage our members to support them with their business.

Installation of Post Officers

Department of New York Master-at-Arms, Richard Calbo, gave the oath of office to our newly elected 2013-2014 Post Officers at our June 13th Post meeting. The following members were sworn in: Gerald Knapp - Post Commander; Frank Troia - 1st Vice Commander; John Gunn - 2nd Vice Commander; Michael Laughlin - 3rd Vice Commander; Terry Deveau - Sgt-at-Arms; John McQuillan - Financial Officer; Fred Wooding - Chaplain; and Richard DeSilva - Membership Chairman. We wish them well and they need our full support in the coming year.

Join Us for Summer Fun...

Our Post Summer BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, August 18th at 1 PM at the Post. The Post supplies the burgers and hotdogs and we ask for members attending to bring a salad or dessert dish for the buffet. This event is free for Post members and their families. There will be a free concert across the street at the gazebo at 6 PM with 'The Capri's' for those who wish to stay for that as well.

We have arranged for a ticket deal for two HV Renegades baseball games at Dutchess Stadium for Wednesday, July 10th at 7 PM and Thursday, August 1st at 7 PM. You can get a General Admission ticket and a Renegades' baseball cap for only \$10. This is for anyone who wishes to support our Post and have a fun evening out. The Renegades will donate \$3 back to the Post from each ticket package bought. Tickets can be ordered online at GADESGROUPS.COM; enter 'post1009' as the password for this deal. Orders can be made by phone at (845)838-0014 using the same password.

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

Wed Jul 10	HV Renegade's game	7:00 PM
Thu Aug 1	HV Renegade's game	7:00 PM
Sun Aug 18	Post Summer BBQ	1 PM
Fri Sep 6	Grange Fair Flag-raising	at 10:45 AM

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Veterans Commemorative Park

