

THE BOUTON BUGLE

AUGUST

2005

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Circulation 700 Members

ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

Legion Telephone 387-4212

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CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Mon	Aug 1	7:00 PM	Tompkins County Organizational Meeting at Post 770
Thurs – Fri	Aug 4 & 5		Department Golf Tournament in Marathon (We have one team entered)
Sat	Aug 6	1:00 PM	50 th Anniversary Celebration
Mon	Aug 8	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting (Only one this month)
Fri	Aug 12	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Pubic Invited – Phil Colvin’s Crew
Sat	Aug 13	1:00 PM	Catered Wedding Reception in the Banquet Room
Sun	Aug 14	Noon	Bill Cooke Golf BBQ
Weds	Aug 17	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri – Thurs	Aug 19 – 25		National American Legion Convention at Honolulu, Hawaii
Fri – Mon	Aug 19 – 22		Post Clean Up (See Special Events)
Mon – Sun	Aug 22 – 28		Legion Food Tent at the T-burg Fair (See Special Events)
Sat	Aug 27	5:00 PM	T-Burg Fair Fireman’s Parade (See Special Events)
Sat – Mon	Aug 27 – 29		225th Anniversary of the Battle of Newtown – A Re-Enactment (See Special Events)
Sun	Aug 28	11:00 AM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
Weds	Aug 31	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Post Clean Up – will take place Friday through Monday, Aug 19th – 22nd. No, not your house, but OURS!! It’s time once again to give our establishment a clean sweep down, fore and aft. Or to put it another way, time for a white glove zone inspection. We need your help. Watch the bulletin board for times and sign-up sheet. See you there. Many hands make little work.

Legion Food Tent at the T-Burg Fair- will begin on Monday, Aug 22nd with putting up the tent and transporting supplies, through Sunday, Aug 28th as the fair closes down. This is another fund-raiser for the American Legion family and it takes an enormous number of volunteers to prepare and serve breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. Please check with chairperson Pat Platt if you want to be placed on a crew or stop in at the Post and sign up. We are counting on you.

T-Burg Fair Fireman’s Parade – The parade will begin at 5:00 PM sharp on Saturday, Aug 27th. Parade lineup will commence at 4:00 PM. We will form our color guard at the Post at 4:15 PM and head over to the starting point (Big M) at about 4:30 PM. Uniform will be white Legion Logo or white short sleeve shirts, dark navy or black pants and shoes, and a Legion hat. If you are unable to walk, we will have a flat bed transport for you. Let’s have a good turnout for this event. We will be leading the parade.

Newtown Battlefield Reenactment – will take place at the Newtown Battlefield State Park in Elmira, NY on Thursday – Sunday, Aug 27th – 29th. On Friday troops will reenact Sullivan’s March from Athens, PA to the battlefield. On Saturday the battlefield will become alive with hundreds of American, British and Native forces taking command of the Park (Newtown Battlefield) for a day of demonstrations, military exercises and skirmishes; a raid on the British camp, and an attack on the Six Nations Camp. **Schedule:** **Saturday:** Gates open at 9:30 AM; 10:00 attack British camp; 1 PM rededicate Sullivan’s Monument; 2 PM Assault on Six Nations at Indian Village. 4 PM assault on Continental camp. **Sunday:** Battle of Newtown

reenactment at Daniels Farm. Gates open at 10 AM; 2 PM Witness the recreation of Sullivan's first encounter with the British and Native Americans in his charge to drive them from New York.

Post 770 Website – www.Post770.com – Patrick Richar at 111 Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430, is our contact for computer information of interest to our membership. We are offering our newsletter to be sent on line to those who would like/and or prefer to receive it in this manner. All you need to do is let Patrick know and you will be put on his list of recipients via on-line preference. If you have news of interest to our membership, please send it to Patrick.

Newsletter Addresses – We have been experiencing some problems with incorrect addresses and therefore non-delivery. We just discovered that 8 or 10 did not receive their newsletters because their zip code began with 0. Our computer match did not recognize the 0 and went to a 4-digit zip delivery! Roger Meier is our computer address man and he is trying to stay on top of all of this so that you may receive the newsletter in an orderly fashion. If you know of any one of our 700 members Legion family who has not received their newsletter, please let Roger know and he will track down the problem. Thank you in advance.

August Breakfast – will not take place as usual because our grills will be at the Fair. Why not stop in at our fair tent on Sunday morning the 28th and enjoy your breakfast under canvas at the fairgrounds? Sounds like an interesting change of venue.

POST NEWS

'Tis a sad day that I write the following: We noted a "CANCELLED" written across the face of the American Legion Food Tent sign up sheet for Grassroots! We can ill afford to lose the 4-digit profit used to pay the monthly bills at the Post. Unfortunately, despite the many volunteers who have been supporting our Post, there were just too many 6-hour shifts left with but two or three signups. The bottom line was, at the last minute, there was not enough personnel to fulfill the numbers needed to operate the food tent. We feel badly for the time and effort put forth by chairpersons; Renee Heroux, Cmdr Richar, and all of those who were eager to go for a good time and for the good of the Legion, but it was a no go. I know that my crew along with others was saddened by the outcome.

Our next concern is that this will not happen in regards to our August Fair Food Tent. Perhaps I was remiss in not emphasizing the importance of signing up Early for Grassroots; so let me say here and now. "We need you to volunteer for our Fair food tent." Pat Platt will be chairing this event and will probably be contacting you to help out on some of our breakfast, lunch, or dinner crews. We can ill afford to lose two fund raising events. Please tell Pat you would love to work a shift or two. She will schedule you in. Thank you in advance.

It seems appropriate at this time, while soliciting volunteer help, to form a "Wish List". After all, we often see this displayed by benevolent organizations. Here is my wish list: 1.) A person (or more) knowledgeable in developing a numbering system and then implementing same, with our growing number of library books. We have many interesting books, videotapes, and pamphlets and magazines dealing with military, historical, and Veterans events. We would love to see these signed out of our library in the meeting room, on the "honor system". We need to take advantage of the wonderful facilities we already have. 2.) We continue to need volunteer bartenders at both the lounge and banquet room service bar. We are pleased with the response of our last appeal. We have had 3 step forward. We can still use more (after all the tips are not that bad either). However, volunteering is for the good of the Legion! 3.) We need a bulletin board organizer who will keep us up dated with current info to replace that which is no longer of current value. In the same vein, one who would keep our roadside events bulletin sign up to date? 4.) I can think of many more to place on our wish list, but wishes are important and its good not to get greedy and carried away on our first appeal. Thanking those who step forward in advance!!!

Now, the rest of the news. Our special events dinners, receptions, and parties continue to be successful. Often those reach an attendance of 150 or so. We thank Shirley and Sue, Tom and Mary Ann, Jim and all those "chief cook and bottle washers" that happen to enter my mind, and to all of those I have missed. And a special thanks to all of those volunteer crewmembers that have signed up to the plate to support them... And to Cmdr Al who volunteers for every event. Our fish fry crews have continuously served about 170–200. Ok, enough of this wish stuff, when does the fun start? When do the party's commence? Don't be afraid to put your two cents in and make some requests.

Some important additions to what you already know: The Auxiliary donated the payment for our electric and gas bill. The Post paid partial expenses for our delegates to the Departmental Convention in Binghamton. The American Legion Post donated a monetary amount to the Shawn Miller Children's Education Fund. ... Organizations having banquets at the Legion are required to pay NY State Sales Tax, as are our patrons of dinners open to the public. As a non profit service organization, we are not required to pay sales taxes on what we buy, but we are required to pay them on what we sell. ... 987 attended Boys State at Morrisville this year. If I remember correctly, we endowed 4 local boys to participate in the annual affair. We will be hearing about their adventures at a dinner in the fall... When "Brain Drain" flushed our sewage lines all the way to the village connections recently, they found a "Shirt" to be causing blockage. How could a shirt get in the sewage line? A mystery!!!

Our Board of Trustees has been brought up to full complement following the expirations of the terms of Phil Colvin and Roger Meier. Gordy Veley and Dave Boyd have been appointed by Cmdr. Al Richar to fill these vacancies. The Board of Trustees now has as its members: Dave Boyd, Gorden Veley, Jim Heroux, Al Richar, Harold Wright, Don Smith, Tom Bennett, Shirley Willard (Aux) and Gary Rechenwald (SAL). It is their job to make decisions regarding the operation of the Post with the approval of the membership. This is no easy task during this day and age of greater usage of our facilities and increasing costs. We believe we are fortunate to have the dedication of these people toward the good of the Legion. . Member Dick Houseworth donated sand to enhance our horseshoe pits. We noted recently in the Ithaca Journal obits that Raymond Daniel Lefforts served during WWII in the European theater as a member of the 3rd Army, Company H, 14th Armored, and 60th infantry, under General Patton in a Panzer unit, which helped to liberate prisoners from concentration camps. What is your reaction to these heroic deeds? Read Carefully!

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: Harold Suess – CMC – ICU

Stephanie Vann –Cornell Medical Center Surgery

Taps: Shawn Patrick Miller – passed away on June 24, 2005 at the NYS Veterans home in Oxford, NY following a lengthy illness. Shawn was selected 3rd Vice Commander several years ago, anticipating going through the offices of the Legion when he acquired a debilitating illness. Upon graduation from Ithaca High School, he entered the US Navy where he served his country during the Gulf War. He was honorable discharged in 1992. His mother, Kathy Manley Agard and stepfather Charles Smith preceded Shawn in death. His wife Dottie Denmark and daughters Michelle and Taylor, step father Lee Agard survive him, and father & mother in law Fred and Margaret Denmark. Post 770 honor guard assisted with the military funeral in West Danby. A reception was held at Post 770 for family and friends following the funeral. A memorial fund has been established for his children's education. Please mail contributions to Attention: Tracy VanDerzee, TCTC, and PO BOX 702, TRUMANSBURG, NY 14886. (Be sure to enter "Shawn Miller Memorial Fund" in the memo section on your check.)

Ralph J. Everhart- passed away at the Cayuga Medical Center on July 5, 2005. Ralph served during WWII and received an honorable discharge in 1947. He was the father of member John Everhart. The American Legion Honor Guard and burial detail along with members of the US Air Force accorded Ralph military honors at his burial at the Trumble Corners Cemetery. 8 Post members were in attendance.

Billy R. Caskey - passed away at his home prior to July 11, 2005. He was a member of Post 770 and current Commander of VFW Post 6200 in Ovid. Bill's military career spanned nearly 21 years, in which he was decorated with many service medals and commendations. Many of these were awarded during his service in Viet Nam. He was an active participant in the color guard and other activities of the VFW Post. In addition to belonging to Post 770, Bill was an Associate Member of the American Legion Post 463 of Ovid.

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP

At last count our membership stood at 434 with a quota of 446.... Still 12 short of reaching 100%. We would love to reach that goal but we are already zeroing in on next year. By now you have received your 2005 – 2006 dues applications. Just a bit of info along those lines. A) We are requesting a slight reduction of our quota, 432 and county 1,134. Because quotas rise every year in an attempt to increase membership, we need to recognize that we have lost many of our older members; hence our membership is not rising, as we would like it to. Department must OK our request for a slight reduction in both local and County Post. We will see what happens. B) As to the Norm, we ask you to please inform our adjutant of any address changes and keep us posted if you are a snowbird. Remember if you get your dues paid by the end of September, you are entitled to a **Free Early Bird Dinner** this fall.

AUXILIARY NEWS

In July you will be getting a dues are due notice from the National headquarters. Dues are due any time now – Seniors are \$20.00 and Juniors are \$5.00. If you get a notice and already have paid your dues, please discard notice. Our dues run from July 2005 – June 2006. We did not make last year's quota of 194. We were just three short. Let's make 100%. We had two juniors graduate from high school this year. Kari Ahouse and Sarah Gatch. Once they turn 18, they become senior members.

No Auxiliary dinner this month. We need fund raisers ideas. Please let us hear from you on your thoughts and ideas. Congratulations to Jean Hovencamp. She now has a new great-granddaughter named Natalee June born 6/19/05. We wish Gerald & "Boots" Springer a happy 50th anniversary and a happy 55th to Bob & Gloria Close. Our condolences to Alma Hogben on the loss of her husband Norman on 6/24/05. Alma is a 60+ member. Our thoughts are with Helen Wright, Mary Lou "Lulu" Powless and Antoinette "Boots" Springer. Let our Chaplain, Roberta Chiesa know or call the Post if you know of a member who is sick or had surgery. Is there a volunteer out there who would like to take over writing the Auxiliary news for this letter? Contact Unit President Vickii Barry. Respectively Submitted, Marge Bennett

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

July 14, 2005

Dear Legion Members, It is with a sad heart that I sit here composing this letter to you. What ever happened to the "Military Way"? When you were all in the military everyone worked together, your survival depended on it. It should have followed you through all your lives to the present. Now your Legion's survival depends on YOU. I have worked along side Mr. Bennett going on 5 years, ever since your Past Commander Grainger left. I have worked hard for Tony because 1st Sgt Grainger takes pride in his American Legion and misses being here to work with you. In those years I stood silently by and watched dissension among the ranks. The American Legion is a family. In that family are the Auxiliary and SAL members, there to support and work along side the Legion members. You have a beautiful American Legion, and you should all work "TOGETHER" to keep it a Proud Place for any American Veteran to call his "home away from home". A place to go to attend your many functions or just to meet with friends for a couple drinks. So many have worked to make this new Legion a reality and not just a dream any more. It took many years of planning and hard work. Why throw it all away? That is where you lost me! You don't seem to be pulling together, but pulling apart. Guaranteed it seems to be the same Vets volunteering and doing most of the work. If the rest of the members have a problem with that, don't bitch and moan. Get out there and talk to other members, get them involved. Stand up to the plate and volunteer to help these other Vets working to keep your Legion from closing. I have volunteered working long hours at Grassroots, at the Fair, and along side Mr. Bennett in the kitchen. All before I ever became a member last year. All with Pride and without any pay except for mere gratuities, which I only use to support My 5 Marine Battalions during this Middle East War. It saddens my heart to think of them fighting and some dying to protect your freedoms, and to see you fighting among each other over such trivial things. What would happen if you were on the front lines like they are? Not working together you all would be dead. That is what will Exactly happen to your Beautiful American Legion because you aren't working together. Those Marines work TOGETHER to survive. I can't see where you members are doing that. There are only a few of you that are and to SURVIVE, everyone has to work TOGETHER.

Sincerely, Mary Ann Richar

SUBJECT: ON THE SENATE FLOOR

Some people still don't understand why military personnel do what they do for a living. This exchange between Senators John Glenn and Senator Howard Metzenbaum is worth reading. Not only is it a pretty impressive impromptu speech, but it's also a good example of one man's explanation of why men and women in the armed services do what they do for a living. This is a typical, though sad, example of what some who have never served think of our military.

John Glenn on the Senate floor: Date: Mon, Jan 26th, 2004 11:13 AM Senator Howard Metzenbaum to Senator Glenn: "How can you run for Senate when you've never held a real job?" Senator Glenn: "I served 23 years in the United States Marine Corps. I served through two wars. I flew 149 missions. My plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire on 12 different occasions. I was in the Space Program. It wasn't my checkbook, Howard; it was my life on the line. It was not a nine-to-five job, where I took time off to take the daily cash receipts to the bank. I ask you to go with me...as I went the other day...to a veteran's hospital and look those men - with their mangled bodies - in the eye, and tell THEM they didn't hold a job! You go with me to the Space Program at NASA and go, as I have gone, to the widows and orphans of Ed White, Gus Grissom and Roger Chaffee... and you look those kids in the eye and tell them that their Dads didn't hold a job. You go with me on Memorial Day and you stand in Arlington National Cemetery, where I have more friends buried than I'd like to remember, and you watch those waving flags. You stand there, and you think about this nation, and you tell ME that those people didn't have a job? I'll tell you, Howard Metzenbaum; you should be on your knees every day of your life thanking God that there were some men - SOME MEN - who held REAL jobs. And they required a dedication to a purpose - and a love of country and a dedication to duty - that was more important than life itself. And their self-sacrifice is what made this country possible. I HAVE held a job, Howard! What about you?"

For those who don't remember - During WWII, Howard Metzenbaum was an attorney representing the Communist Party in the USA. If you can read this, thank a teacher... If you are reading it in English, thank a Veteran.

Please keep this circulating. JOHN GLENN - WELL SAID!

The American Legion Magazine Publication

I don't know how well you read your monthly American Legion Publication, but perhaps if you're like me, you may often skip quickly through articles that don't seem to be appealing. I just want to say that the June 2005 issue contains some articles you need to look over. The 1st article is titled "Men in Black" and deals with questions such as "What justification does the Supreme Court use to decide that flag burning and pornography are free speech, yet prayers and religious symbols are not?"

Other articles are "Good Samaritans", "A Symbol of Everything I believe in", "Keeping the Constitution alive and Well", "A Two-Front Battle Against the ACLU", "Boys State at 70: Roots recalled by founder's daughter", etc. I don't know about you, but I keep the June issue handy to reread and draw my conclusions. Let your thoughts of freedom guide you.

FYI:

Honors For Veterans: Relatives or friends of a deceased war veteran can obtain a Presidential Memorial Certificate recognizing the veteran's service to the country. The parchment-like certificate, written in script, bears the veteran's name and the President's signature. To learn how to apply, call the Veteran's Administration at 800-827-1000. You will automatically be connected to your nearest local office.