

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

Telephone 387-4212

CMMDR:	Tom Stilwell	387-5361	Newsletter Deadline	ADJUTANT:	Phil Colvin	387-6550
AUX. PRES:	Susie Smith	387-6738	15th Of The Month	SAL CMDR:	Brady Roach	387-6636
EDITOR:	George Van Valen	387-9858		TYPIST:	Kathi Roach	387-6636

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Weds	Aug 1	7:30 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Aug 3		Class of 1957 Reunion
Sat	Aug 4	3:00 – 7:00 PM	Sons of American Legion Birthday Party – Open House
Mon	Aug 6	7:00 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
		7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
Tues	Aug 7	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Thurs	Aug 8	10:00 – 4:00 PM	Senior Citizens Luncheon Meeting
Fri	Aug 10	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux’s Crew
Sat	Aug 11	2:00 – 5:00 PM	Ken Wright Birthday Party
Weds	Aug 15	7:00 PM	T-burg Alumni
Tues-Sun	Aug 21-26		Legion Food Tent at the Trumansburg Fair
Sun	Aug 26	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Sat	Aug 25		VA Clinic Card Update – Warren Road
Planning Ahead:	Sept 2 nd or 16 th		Post 770 Family Picnic at Raymond’s Pond
	Sept 7 th – 9 th		Fall Facilities Clean Up Weekend
	Sept 11 th		Antique Appraisal Show

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Walk of Honor”: We continue to receive orders for bricks to be engraved and installed. Order forms are available in the entryway to the lounge. Why not make a permanent memorial for a veteran to be placed around the cannon memorial. It will be remembered for many years to come.

Post 770 Website : www.Post770.com: Why not pull up our website and see what is new? If you have any newsworthy items that would be of interest to our membership, please send them to Patrick Richar at 111 Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430.

SAL Birthday Party: The SAL will be celebrating its 75th birthday Nationaly and the 40th birthday of Squadron 770 on August 4th from 3-7 PM. There will be FREE drafts, soda, an all kinds of finger food. Put the date on your calender now and please come out and help us celebrate.

Trumansburg Fair Legion Food Tent: Please volunteer and help us make the food tent at the fair another great success as in previous years. Please sign up at the Legion for a shift or two. We thank you in advance.

MEMBERSHIP

The new membership is at 96% with 390 paid members. Good job and thanks for renewing and/or enlisting members. Let’s keep it going.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: Tony Chiesa – CMC – Surgery – Home
Pat Platt- CMC - Home

George Van Valen – CMC - Home

Taps: Walter & Josephine Robinson: graveside services for Walter & Josephine was held on Saturday July 21, 2007 at 10:00 AM at Grove Cemetery in Trumansburg.

Ernest S. Towner, Jr.- died Sunday, June 24, 2007 in Geneva. Born in July 1925 in Elkland PA, he was the son of the late Ernest & Theo May Towner. Following graduation from Ithaca High School, Mr. Towner served in the US Navy during WWII. Members of the immediate family will hold a private service. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to the American Legion Post 770, 4431 E. Seneca Road, Trumansburg, NY 14886.

POST NEWS

On or about the 30th of June, your newsletter editor became sick and does not know what Post news took place. At that time I had planned to give accolades to many people who were involved in our Post activities, but unfortunately they have passed from my mind. Currently I am working with those who have agreed to go over events as they have happened. So here is the newsletter as put forth by your American Legion family.

Once again, the Grassroots food tent was a huge fund raising success. We thank all those many hard working volunteers and hope you had a good time as well. Special thanks goes out to Renee Heroux for organizing this incredibly complex event. ...Our apologies to Caleb Blass, son of Auxiliary member Denise Blass. It was Caleb who attended Boys State this summer, not Chad as stated last month. Chad did attend Boys State, but 4 years earlier, Sorry Caleb.... Father's Day breakfast was a huge success serving 229 hungry patrons. Thank you to the breakfast crew who volunteered their services and for the great turn out. ... Post jobs to be done will be listed on the blackboard behind the bar. ... We would like to thank Scott Sherwood from Spruce Row Campsite for donating the picnic table and to Bill Mather for donating kitchen equipment. ...The last fish fry was very well attended serving around 230 dinners. Thank you to the volunteers who worked this busy night and to our patrons. It really is a nice way to spend an evening out. ... Our parking lot is almost complete now and we want to thank Harold Wright for his time and effort on this much-needed project. We hope you weren't too inconvenienced by this work, but between weather, times and unforeseen obstacles, things didn't go as smoothly as expected. Please accept our apologies. It is almost over. Thank you Henry Van Ness for helping out during the parking lot wiring. ...We have received some engraved bricks back and Harold is working on installing them when the next batch comes in. Thank you to all who have purchased the memorial bricks and hopefully we will have them installed before too long.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Any time now you will be receiving a dues are due notice from the National office. If you pay your dues by September 30th, you are entitled to a free dinner at the Early Bird dinner in October. Let's try harder this year for 100% quota. ... Chairperson Mindy would like to thank all who came out to the Customer Appreciation Auxiliary dinner in June. We served 106 dinners. The next dinner will be in September. See you there. ...Our best wishes for speedy recoveries for Pat Plataniotis and Chloe Van Valen who both had eye surgery recently. Our best wishes to Anna Sladish who is recovering from a fall in late June. Congratulations to Ruth Scott who is the new Senior Citizen's President for 6/07 – 6/08 year. ...Our thoughts are with Pat Plat, George Van Valen and Jean Hovencamp. ...Congratulations to Vickii Barry and the other members of Sixth District Color Guard for their first place win at Convention. ...The next meeting will be in September. **SAVE: Sept 11, 2007 – Antique Appraisal Day** Respectfully submitted, Marge Bennett

A BIT OF HISTORY – PART I

As part I of a bit of history I would like to submit this article given to me on May 30th, 2007 by Fred Asay, 3rd Cavalry, US Army. It was included in his newsletter. **CREDIT GIVEN:** There has been so much written in history books of WWII about intelligence failures committed by both sides. One of the most notable being, the inability to detect the large enemy build-up of powerful forces, preparing for the "Battle of the Bulge", in the large wooded and hilly area known as the Eifel in Germany, east of the Ardennes Forest. Due to our smaller organization, the 3rd Cavalry Group is rarely mentioned as being the first to arrive in many locations. The nearest Division would usually be given credit in most historical accounts. Recently, while reading an article by Carlo D'Este, it was with some surprise that I noted our Group was mentioned quite prominently. Carlo D'Este is a well-known biographer of General Patton. Colonel Oscar Koch the intelligence officer for the 3rd Army is generally credited with being the only person who predicted a distinct probability of a major attack to our immediate north. Quote from D'Este's

article: “The intelligence produced by Koch and presented to Patton was enhanced by information gathered by the 3rd Cavalry Group. Patton attached elements of the 3rd Cavalry to each committed division and corps. Being close to the action these units were able to augment and embellish the information from regular intelligence sources.” This information would go directly to 3rd Army headquarters, bypassing the slow channels that were usually followed. Patton was credited with a quick response to the massive battle that erupted in Luxembourg and Belgium on December 16, 1944. Much of the credit for his quick reaction can be shared by the recon troops of our group.

A BIT OF HISTORY – PART II

Perhaps you may not find yourself enthralled with this bit of history as I was. Cmd. Fowler was the Executive Officer aboard my ship the USS Leyte – CV32. On numerous occasions I stood radar watches on the bridge with Cmd. Fowler. Here is the story as printed in my last Leyte Newsletter.

How Our Shipmate Helped To Save The Day During The Battle of Leyte Gulf: By John W. Winter

While looking over the roster of our members at our reunion I noticed that one of our deceased shipmates was RADM Richard L. Fowler. When I first reported on board the USS Leyte as a green Ensign in May 1952 he was the Executive Officer and the ship was under the command of Capt. Ford N. Taylor. I remember CDR Fowler to be a fine and considerate officer. Little did I know then that he was one of the heroes of the Battle of Leyte Gulf, which took place off the Philippines in October 1944. This naval battle, the namesake of our ship, was one of the largest naval engagements in history. It marked the end of the effectiveness of the Japanese fleet and opened the way for the planned invasion of the Japanese homeland. The main battle consisted of four individual engagements as well as the invasion of the Philippine Islands. The most heroic and yet somewhat embarrassing engagement was the Battle of Samar. Adm Halsey had taken the bait of a Japanese deception tactic and sailed his entire task force north to attack an intentionally fleeing Japanese battle group. This left the exit of the San Bernardino Strait, near the island of Leyte, unguarded except for a group of CVE escort carriers and their destroyer screens that were protecting the American invasion force. A strong Japanese fleet of 4 battleships and 8 cruisers emerged from the Strait intent on destroying the landing troops. The Japanese officers mistook the light carriers for full size Essex-class carriers and were cautious in their approach. This gave the brave sailors and airmen in the destroyers and CVE's a chance to turn the tables and force the enemy to retreat. Our force lost three destroyers, the Hoel, Roberts, and Johnston and one CVE, the Gambier Bay, along with many brave sailors. The following quote from the book, “The Last of the Tin Can Sailors”, by J. Homfischer, tells of our shipmate Fowler's heroism: “eight Wildcats and sixteen Avengers, aloft by 0844, vectored themselves into the fray. Led by CDR Richard L. Fowler, commander of Kitkun Bay's VC-5, these pilots had the right weapons for the job – torpedoes and five hundred pound semi-armor-piercing bombs. A three-plane element of TBM Avengers packed as much punch as a destroyer escort. Four Avengers approached the cruiser, Chikuma, from nearly head-on. It was a textbook anvil attack. The ship turned to starboard, giving the planes on the port side a large broadside to hit. At 0853 a torpedo from a TBM struck on the port side near the stern. There was a burst of flame and a column of water as high as the length of the ship. The cruiser, Chokai, too was nearing her end. Commander Fowler had been airborne for more than two hours guiding the improvised aerial assault. At 0905 he began maneuvering in order to attack with the sun at his back to blind the enemy gunners. Orbiting the Japanese fleet three times before the path of his flight was aligned to his liking he led three other Avengers and a dozen Wildcats through the clouds. Surprise was complete. No flack came his way. The cruiser, Chokai, never had a chance. In thirty-five seconds the VC-5 skipper, flying an unarmed plane, led the group down upon the unsuspecting ship. Fowler reported that 5 five hundred pound bombs struck amidships, three more blasted the bow, and another his astern. He triumphantly called out over the radio, “Scratch one CA”, his lethal work done, Fowler rendezvoused with his fellow fliers and headed for the CVE's of Taffy 2 group to land. We can all be proud of shipmate Fowler and his fellow sailors who made the difference between victory and defeat in October 1944. Well Done, Sir!

LEGION HONORS MILITARY WOMEN – BY ELIZABETH ROMAN

“There are more than 15,000 women serving in Iraq, and women have been part of the military through many wars,” said Marjorie E. Cavanaugh, American Legion Department Executive Committee women and organizer of the event. “Women are often overlooked in the military and that's why we feel this tribute is important,” she said. “There are currently 28,295 women veterans in the commonwealth, but only 13,000 are registered in our database,” said Heidi Krudkenberg, Women Veterans coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Veteran Services. “The challenge is, many women do not think of themselves as veterans because they haven't been in direct combat, but a veteran is any person who has served in the military,” she said. “Being in Afghanistan made me appreciate the great freedoms we have

in this country. People ask me all the time about the war in Iraq, and I say we serve our country, we don't serve a concept or an idea," said Cavanaugh. "In the Middle East, there is no front line. There is no more discussion about women in combat. We are there. Bullets do not discriminate.", she said.

THE USS NEW YORK

With a year to go before it even touches the water, the Navy's amphibious assault ship, the USS New York, has already made history. It was built with 24 tons of scrap steel from the World Trade Center. It is the fifth in a new class of warship-designed for missions that include special operations against terrorists. It will carry a crew of 360 sailors and 700 combat-ready Marines to be delivered ashore by helicopters and assault craft. Steel from the World Trade Center was melted down in a foundry in Amite, LA., to cast the ship's bow section. When it was pored into the molds on Sept 9, 2003, "those big rough steelworkers treated it with total reverence," recalled Navy Capt. Kevin Wensing, who was there. "It was a spiritual moment for everybody there," said Junior Chavers, foundry operations manager. "It had a big meaning to it for all of us, they knocked us down. They can't keep us down. We're going to be back."

The ship's motto? – "NEVER FORGET".