

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Fri	Feb 1	FLAG	National Freedom Day
Sat	Feb 2	TBA	Groundhog's Day
		3 :00 PM	Zone Oratorical Contest
Sun	Feb 3	2:30 PM	Party – Banquet Room
		4:00 PM	Tompkins Co. American Legion Meeting at Post 221 – Ithaca
Mon	Feb 4	6:45 PM	Super Bowl Party – Dish to Pass (See Special Events)
		7:00 PM	Bingo
		7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
Tues	Feb 5	7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Weds	Feb 6		Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
		7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday
Fri	Feb 8		Board of Trustees Meeting
		5:30 – 8:00 PM	Boy Scouts of America Founded in 1910
Mon	Feb 11	6:45 PM	1 st Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux's Crew
		7: 30 PM	Bingo
			Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Tues	Feb 12	FLAG	Lincoln's Birthday
Weds	Feb 13	Noon	Senior Citizen's Luncheon
Thurs	Feb 14		Valentines Day
Fri	Feb 15	5:30 – 8:00 PM	2 nd Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Phil Colvin's Crew
Sun	Feb 17	Noon	Daytona Race Party – Dish to Pass (See Special Events)
Mon	Feb 18	FLAG	George Washington's Birthday Observed (President's Day)
		6:45 PM	Bingo
		7 :00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Weds	Feb 20	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs	Feb 21	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Fri	Feb 22	FLAG	Washington's Birthday
		5:30 – 8:00 PM	3 rd Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited -Don Smith's Crew
Sat	Feb 23	3:00 PM	Snowmobile Poker Run (Burgers, Dogs, etc will be served)
Sun	Feb 24	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	Feb 25	6:45 PM	Bingo
		7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Fri	Feb 29	5:30 – 8:00 PM	4 th Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux's Crew

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Super Bowl and Daytona Race Party's: You will not want to miss these great events to be celebrated in the lounge with a dish-to-pass and big screen TV. Come out of those mid-winter doldrums and enjoy the "Big Ones" with fans and friends. Save those dates. February 3rd at 4 PM and February 17th at Noon.

Save Postage: We have been announcing the Post 770 website: www.Post770.com for some time now. If you would like to receive your newsletter via this method please use our website but to save postage inform us so that we can remove

your name from the active mailing list. Patrick Richar welcomes any information for his website that would be of interest to our members. Please sent them to 111 Third Street, Waterford, NY. 12288-2830. Thank you.

“Walk of Honor”: Veteran names inscribed on bricks to be placed in our “Walk of Honor” remains on hold for the remainder of winter. Applications may be picked up inside the lounge entryway and may be submitted at any time.

Volunteers Needed: We continue to make an appeal to anyone who might be interested in putting together the newsletter, organizing our lending library of books in the meeting room, and lookin after our museum of military uniforms, memorabliia and artifacts. We need your help.

MEMBERSHIP

As we venture into 2008 our membership continues to grow. We are now 363, an increased of 10 since Januarys report. Our assigned quota is 393 so as you can see we need about 30 more re-ups or sign-ups to reach 100%. Time is growing shorter. The veterans are out there just waiting to be asked. How about it, can we reach our goal?

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: Barb Cole: CMC – Now Home
Susie Smith: Surgery – Now Home

Irene Asay: CMC – Now Home

Taps: George P. Williams: Died Thursday, January 3, 2008 at Cayuga Medical Center. George was a long time member of Post 770 having served in the US Army from 1941 – 1945. His wife and 3 children survive him. Funeral services were held at the E.C. Wagner Funeral Home in Ithaca. There were no calling hours.

William Eugene Asay, Sr.: Passed away at Cayuga Medical Center on Friday January 4, 2008. He was survived by his wife, Marion, and 5 boys. During WWII Bill served in the Pacific Theatre with the US Air Force receiving an honorable discharge on December 19, 1945. He and his brother Fred are long time members of Post 770. Whenever there was a Legion BBQ being put on you could always find Bill hooking up the propane and cooking up a storm during the many years he was able. There were no public services scheduled and the family asks that contributions be made in Bill’s memory to the local Fire Department or the Arthur Bouton Post 770 American Legion, PO Box 456, T-burg, NY 14886.

POST NEWS

We want to apologize for the lateness of January’s newsletter. There were several circumstances that led to its delay. Although we can’t promise we will try to get it to you on time. ...It seems like kind of a let down to be walking through the hallways, lounge and banquet room with all of the Christmas decorations having been removed. We know that is the first sign of the spring season just around the corner. Besides, there is still a lot of skating, skiing, and snow-mobiling to be enjoyed yet. ...We were able to enjoy the New Years Eve Party and in fact, danced a couple of slow dances to the music of the band “Rawhide”. Sure do enjoy their rendition of the “Orange Blossom Special”. With all of the hats, noisemakers, and party gadgets it was a very enjoyable way to bring in the New Year with a lot of friends. ...As you no doubt noticed, we were not open on New Years Day for TV Bowl games as announced in January’s newsletter. Always check ahead for times and dates of events at the Post. Last minute changes or decisions are often made after the deadline time. ...As the January thaw goes by and the cold snowy weather returns our attendance at events seems to be falling off somewhat. Are there a lot of “snowbirds” out there that either go south or don’t venture out in the snowy weather? ...Have you noticed the new entranceway carpets to wipe your feet on? It wasn’t easy to find mats that were the right size and that would fit under the doors properly. The old ones will be put to good use however. The new ones sure do look nice. Thank you Commander Tom. ...We did manage to spend a few dollars recently. It was a pleasure to make our annual donation to the Finger Lakes Girl Scout Council camp fund. We are purchasing our own electrical meter hookups for our fair and Grassroots food tent, so that we will not be hooked up with streetlights, etc. Both of our cash registers have reached the end of the usable efficiency at fish fries, and fair tent usage so we are purchasing a new one. ... In as much as I’m not at the Post as often as I used to be a lot of things happen that I’m unaware of. If you know of any news you believe ought to be included in these pages, please drop it off at the bar before the 15th and we will try to include it.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Our quota for membership is 162 and as of now membership is at 136. ... We welcome Denise Miner who has just transferred. Susie Smith had surgery on Jan 2nd, and is now home and Barb Cole was in CMC and now recovering at home. We wish the best to you both. Our condolences to Marion Asay on the loss of her husband Bill on January 4th. We now have 200 new salad bowls purchased by the Auxiliary for the kitchen. Susie Smith will purchase and deliver a carnation to all veterans at Lakeside Nursing Home for Valentines Day. The next Auxiliary dinner will be on Feb 21st serving Meat Loaf, Macaroni and Cheese, and trimmings. Roberta Chiesa will be checking into another appraisal day for Sept 2008. The next meeting is February 5th at 7:00 PM. If you have a child or grandchild in high school, please check with the guidance counselor because the Auxiliary has 2 scholarships to offer. Have a Happy Valentines Day. Respectfully submitted, Marge Bennett

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Membership is still lagging from our goals. So, come on out and re-up guys.

As we published last month.... From the National SAL news..."Armed Forces Day (May 17) is about to have a much deeper meaning for Sons throughout the nation. That date has been chosen as the SAL's National Assistance to Veterans Day. Every SAL squadron is being asked to do something special for one or more veterans, or their families." Since then, we have contacted Sis Conrad, the Voluntary Service Specialist at the Bath VA. She told us they are in the process of making a "Wander Garden" and that they could use benches and other lawn furniture. It seems that we have enough talent in the SAL to build some items for them. Any ideas or help would be greatly appreciated.

The SAL has donated 12 new commercial grade bar stools to the legion lounge. They should be arriving in the next few weeks. Come on in and check them out. If they arrive by our next meeting on February 4th, we will spend the evening refurbishing some of the old stools to use as back-ups. Don't forget to bring your wrench and screwdriver.

We had a lot of good ideas for Mother's and Father's day raffles at the last meeting and we are in the process of procuring items at this time. More on this next month.

At the risk of sounding repetitive, we would again like to thank all the members and supporters for their generous donations to HERE4YOU. If anyone wishes to make additional donations, there is a drop box at the Post. Just a reminder – collection of these health and wellness items was not just a Holiday endeavor. It will continue as long as our troops are in harms way. Once again, thank you all for such heartfelt support. As mentioned, our next meeting is February 4th. Lastly, our thanks go out to George Richardson for his donation of postage.

DID YOU KNOW? SAN DIEGO CROSS BECOMES FEDERAL PROPERTY

A giant cross in San Diego that's been contested for 17 years by an atheist became the property of the federal government. Supporters hope the legislation transferring the 29-foot cross and war memorial it's a part of, to the federal government, will protect it for good. A series of court decisions have deemed the cross unconstitutional because it stands on public property. "Just because something may have a religious connotation doesn't mean you destroy it and tear it down," Rep Bilbray, R-Calif. "It's a great victory for our veterans," Said House Armed Services Committee Chairman Hunter, R-Calif. But the legal fight that began in 1989 when atheist Philip Paulson sued San Diego over the cross is not played out yet. Paulson, a Vietnam War veteran, contends that the cross, dedicated in 1954 in honor of Korean War veterans, excludes veterans who are not Christian. State and federal judges have ordered the cross removed, saying it represents an unconstitutional endorsement of one religion. In July, the US Supreme Court blocked an order that the city take it down by Aug 1st, giving lower courts time to hear appeals. City officials have argued that the cross is part of a secular war memorial, and the cross has been embraced by San Diego residents who last year overwhelmingly approved a measure to preserve it by donating it to the federal government. A judge declared the measure unconstitutional. The legislation authorizing the transfer passed the House and Senate in recent weeks after California's two senators, Democrats Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, agreed to let it go through. Federal ownership could help insulate the cross from additional legal challenges, because under federal law, which is more flexible than California law, religious displays may stand on public property if they have a secular meaning.

DID YOU KNOW? MILITARY PUNISHMENTS – 250 YEARS AGO

How do they compare with punishments given out in today's Armed forces?

Read and compare written by Carol Kammen.

Lieutenant Colonel Francis Barber of the 2nd New Jersey Regiment kept the Order Book for the army that marched with General John Sullivan's army on its invasion of the Iroquois in 1779. This effort was to suppress Iroquois actions against

settlers on the frontier in New York and Pennsylvania. Barber records the infractions that led to court martial during that summer long trek into central New York. On July 15, three soldiers were “tried by a general court martial,” each was found guilty of desertion and sentenced to receive 50 lashes on “his bare back and each to pay twenty dollars”, to those who had apprehended them. This reward to the captors is an interesting innovation and obviously a way to encourage soldiers to thwart desertions they might hear about. On July 21, several members of the “German regiment” were condemned to be shot for mutiny and desertion. The men petitioned to be pardoned promising “to distinguish themselves in future (as) brave and obedient soldiers.” The court extended mercy, and the soldiers returned to their regiment. On July 28, one soldier was charged with re-enlisting, in order to collect the bounty money. He was sentenced to 50 lashes; another soldier who deserted was sentenced to receive 100 lashes, while a corporal charged with “insolence & mutiny was sentenced to be reduced in ranks” and receive 100 lashes. The next day, John Brown, of a New Jersey regiment, was charged with desertion. He was reported to have “deserted to the enemy about two years earlier, given them intelligence respecting the movements of American army, remained with them for a long time and lately returned, supposed for the purpose of acting as a spy for the enemy,’ and since his return has “robbed & murdered a soldier,’ and therefore was considered “Too dangerous a person either to continue with the army or to be sent to any part of the United States. Because the order book was torn at this point, there is no record of what happened to Brown. On Aug 21, a sergeant was tried for robbing the state stores of liquor. He was found guilty and sentenced to be reduced to the ranks, to lose one month’s share of rum, and still to serve his regiment “As if he had received it.” He was also to be marched to the parade, stripped of his coat, which he was to wear wrong side out with a canteen hung about his neck. Thomas Perry was also tried and found guilty of robbing the state stores of rum while he was standing sentry duty. His sentence was to run the gauntlet through General Maxwell’s brigade. On this day, all the women and children traveling with the army were ordered to remain at the small garrison while the army went forward to meet the Iroquois. A final court martial charged a captain with unjustifiably and cruelly beating and abusing Sergeant Ashley. He was found guilty and sentenced to be severely reprimanded. Here, Barer noted the captain was not only “guilty of an abuse of power, but manifested a malevolence of temper scarcely to be equaled.” An army might travel on its belly, eating its way from place to place, but it is also in need of order. Crimes committed were met with punishments on the spot as in a way to discourage other infractions of military law. All this was quite true during the long march in 1779 in facing the Iroquois.