

*THE AMERICAN LEGION*

Circulation: 527

*ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770*

Telephone 387-4212

<b>CMMDR:</b> Jim Dew	387-9217	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>ADJUTANT:</b> Phil Colvin	387-6550
<b>AUX. PRES:</b> Anne Stiles Hunt	273-3452	15 <sup>th</sup> of the Month	<b>SAL CMDR:</b> Jamie Richar	280-7747
<b>EDITOR:</b> George Van Valen	387-9858		<b>TYPIST:</b> Kathi Roach	387-6636

**CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY**

Mon	Feb 1	7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
		7:00 PM	Snow Club Meeting
Tues	Feb 2		Groundhog's Day
		7:00 PM	Unit 770 Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	Feb 3	4:00 – 9:00 PM	Wings Night
		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs	Feb 4	5:00 – 8:00 PM	SAL Spaghetti Dinner – Public Invited - \$8.00
Sat	Feb 6	TBA	Zone Oratorical Contest at Mohawk Central School
Sun	Feb 7	4:00 PM	Super Bowl Party – Dish to pass – Big Screen TV
Mon	Feb 8	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	Feb 10	Noon	Senior Citizens Luncheon
		4:00 – 9:00 PM	Wings Night
<b>Fri</b>	<b>Feb 12</b>	<b>FLAG</b>	<b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>
		5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Phil Colvin's Crew
Sat	Feb 13	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	American Red Cross Bloodmobile – Have you given lately?
		8:00 PM – 12:00 PM	Cabin Fever Winter Dance presented by the SAL – \$5.00 per couple
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Feb 14</b>		<b>Valentine's Day</b>
		Noon	Daytona Race Party - Dish to pass – Big Screen TV
		7:00 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting at Post 1134 – Dryden
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>FLAG</b>	<b>President's Day – Washington's Birthday Observed</b>
		7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
<b>Weds</b>	<b>Feb 17</b>		<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
		4:00 – 9:00 PM	Wings Night
		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Feb 19	5:30 – 8:00 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Lenten Fish & Steak Dinner – Public Invited – Don Smith's Crew
Sun	Feb 21	10:00 AM	Snowmobile Club Poker Run
		1:00 – 4:00 PM	Food following the Poker Run
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Feb 22</b>	<b>FLAG</b>	<b>Washington's Birthday</b>
Weds	Feb 24	Noon	Senior Citizens Birthday Luncheon
		4:00 – 9:00 PM	Wings Night
Fri	Feb 26	5:30 – 8:00 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lenten Fish & Steak Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux's Crew
Sat	2/27 – 3/3		American Legion Conference held in Washington, DC
Sat	Feb 27	6:00 PM	Blue & Gold Boy Scout Awards Dinner
Sun	Feb 28	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast - Public Invited

**SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Superbowl, Daytona Race, Snowmobile Poker Run, Winter Dance Party, etc:** are all special events held in February in addition to our regular fish fries and Lenten fries. These events offer a special chance to get together with friends and enjoy this usually cold and snowy month. Please check times and dates listed on our calendar to have some great winter get-togethers.

**Walk of Honor:** We continue to accept orders for bricks to be etched even though they will not be installed until Spring. Order forms are available near the entryway in the lounge. The purchase of a brick is a meaningful way to honor a veteran.

**Post 770 Website:** [www.Post770.com](http://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 Legion family, please contact Patrick Richar, 111Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430

**Unwanted Household Pharmaceutical Collection:** You can safely dispose of these items on March 6<sup>th</sup> at TCAT (737 Willow AV, off Rt. 13, Ithaca) from 9AM to 3PM. More info at [www.recycletompkins.org](http://www.recycletompkins.org).

## CHAPLAINS CORNER

**Sick Call:** Myron (Jr) Cronk – CMC

**Taps:** **Mark Green:** passed way on December 31. 2009. He was the Manager of Sterling Optical. By nature, Mark was a comical guy that from a young age could make everyone laugh without trying. He was a very talented person when it came to formulating and developing projects. Mark was the son of Post 770 member Larry Green.

**Delores “Dee” M. Hendrix:** passed away at Hospicare on January 4, 2010. Dee was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 770. During the War she started a teen center so that the kids who had fathers, brothers, boyfriends, and husbands serving our country could get together after school and share concerns. She believed in people and was always willing to lend a hand to others. In lieu of flowers, the family asks those who wish to make a contribution in Dee’s memory to kindly consider the American Legion Post 770 among other organizations.

## POST NEWS

It seems like such a short while ago that we were celebrating Christmas and New Years Eve Open House in the lounge at Post 770. At both events the place was packed and friends enjoyed great eggnog, food, music and camaraderie. We were able to find an empty chair on Christmas Eve but had to stand because of the crowd on New Years Eve. It is wonderful to see a turnout of this size. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. ...About 92 dinners were served at the New Years Dinner, about 84 at January and 96 at the December Fry. To set a good example we need more members attending our fries. ...We didn’t get a chance to watch any of the football bowl games at the Post but if they went over as well as our new offering of Wednesday night chicken wings they were well received. ...There is a noticeable change at the bar with our bar coordinator Stacie Beiber Yaw away at a military training camp for a few months. We wish her well as she continues to enhance her military career with further training. Thanks to those who have stepped up to the plate and filled in during her absence. ...Looking back a bit to Veteran’s Day, we were quite disappointed that only 2 Post 770 members showed up to march in Ithaca. Apparently other Posts had similar difficulties so it was decided at the County meeting that all Posts will together form a larger unit to march in next years parade. ...Don’t hold your breath until then but it was decided in January’s meeting to close down the Post for a weekend in the middle of May in order to have a good old fashion work bee and bring our Post up to the elegance that it normally enjoys. We hope you will be looking forward to it and jot it down on your calendars...We realize there is some snow between the smoking area and the entry doors to the lounge however please don’t let that stop you from reaching the cigarette butt disposal area. We didn’t count the butts disposed at the entryway, but there were a few.

## MEMBERSHIP

We continue to contact members who have not renewed with limited success. At present our total has climbed to 322, still 42 short of our assigned quota. As of June we begin a new membership year with a newly assigned quota. So if you do plan to continue your membership, now is the time to once again be a part of Post 770. There are many new candidates currently serving with our Armed Forces overseas. Please encourage them to become part of our organization which will see to it that they receive the aid that the VA has promised to give them. At present our organization has 58 SAL members involved with the affairs of Post 770. If you have changed your address recently, please advise us of the

change so that we can stay in contact with you. We welcome new member Edward J. Hetherington. It is nice to have you with us.

### AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership is now 130 Seniors and 7 Juniors. Our quota is 157. Please help. We need 20 more. Our condolences to Dolores Hendrix family on her passing on January 4, 2010 and to Dixie Wagner and family on the loss of her sister Jane Ding on January 11, 2010. Congratulations to Jim & Cindy Dew on their 2<sup>nd</sup> granddaughter and to Bill & Patina Janisko on their 2<sup>nd</sup> son. The proud grandparents are Phil & Nan Colvin. The next Auxiliary dinner is February 18<sup>th</sup>. Our next meeting is Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM. We need a volunteer to take over Sue Wright's project of planting some flowers in front of the Post in May for Memorial Day. There will be no Auxiliary Dinners during the Lenten Season. Happy Valentine's Day.

Submitted, Marge Bennett

### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Membership is currently 58. Pretty good for this point in time. Our quota is 67. Please welcome new member Robert Wheeler. The SAL will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February from 5:30 to 8PM. Let's try and get our families out for a nice, simple meal. The SAL will also be hosting a Cabin Fever Valentine Dance on February 20<sup>th</sup> from 8PM to Midnight. Please note the new hours. Don't let that cold weather stop you from dancing up a storm. It may seem early, but just a reminder, officer elections will be held at our May meeting. Our next meeting is Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7PM.....Brady

### DID YOU KNOW?

Although we have made our readers aware of the story of the 4 Chaplains, we like to tell it again, when possible, because we are so taken back by it. Your Editor, George

#### **Interfaith in Action: The Famous Tale of the Four Immortal Chaplains**

During a cold, North Atlantic night, 67 years ago, four chaplains slipped beneath the frigid waves with almost 700 of their fellow American soldiers and Merchant Marines on the USS (USAT) Dorchester. It was the third-worst loss of life at sea during all of World War II. The story of these four chaplains and their heroic actions continues to reverberate today as a message of religious diversity, compassion and strength. Two Protestant pastors, a Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi were first on deck after two torpedoes smashed into the hull of the troop transport ship just after midnight on Feb 3, 1943. The initial explosion immediately killed more than 100 men, jammed below almost head to toe. There were far too many men in such small quarters. Within 18 minutes, the former luxury liner turned troop transport was gone, leaving a mere 230 men out of 902 to be rescued 150 miles from Greenland in "Torpedo Alley." The four chaplains were Father John Washington, a Catholic from NJ; Rev. Clark Poling, Dutch Reformed, from Ohio; Rabbi Alexander Goode from PA; and Rev. George Fox; Methodist, from VT. They attended Chaplain's School at Harvard University together. One of Poling's cousins said, "Sharing their faith was not just a first-time deal for them. They had prayed together a number of times before that final crisis." These men were brought together by the desire to serve our nation during the critical years of WWII and a shared devotion to their Abrahamic "Father" helped them forge a bond that was visible to all they were around. While violence and mayhem are commonplace in war, what these four chaplains did during this life-and-death scene was far from ordinary. When the ship listed, the power and lighting were knocked out, and chaos prevailed. The men aboard the ship were crammed into a small space below deck, all of them in need of hope and spiritual guidance – their religious preferences no longer mattered. The deck of the Dorchester was covered in ice and the men's quarters were hot from too many bodies in one space for 10 days in a row. Many of the men were confident that they would see the dawn of the following day and decided to sleep as comfortably as possible in their cramped space. Many men slept in their underwear and decided not to wear their life jackets because they were too hot to wear throughout the night. When the ship was hit, the men were tossed from their cots and chaos spread throughout the sleeping quarters. After the chaplains got the men into as many life jackets as the boat was equipped with, they realized they too would need to give up their own life jackets in order to help their fellow comrades. The last sight of the four chaplains by those lucky enough to get into lifeboats – many floated away empty – was of the four men arm in arm on the slanting deck of the Dorchester,

singing and praying in voices heard over the din: “Shma Yisroel Adonai Delehenu Adonai Echod: - “Our Father, which are in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done ...” And then they were gone. One of the survivors said, “It was the finest thing I have ever seen this side of heaven.” On May 28, 1948, the United States Postal Service issued a special stamp to commemorate their sacrifice and brotherhood. On July 14, 1960, Congress authorized the “Four Chaplains Medal,” featuring the Star of David, tablets of Moses and the Christian cross, along with their four names. This medal of valor would never again be repeated and the medals were given to the next of kin of the “Immortal Chaplains.” The Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Valley Forge, PA, is an inter-faith memorial with three altars – Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant – and an eternal flame that calls all to recognize the sacrifice and heroism these four chaplains demonstrated.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### **Cadet Training Goes Beyond Drills: West Point, NY**

Cadets had already fought off an overnight attack by insurgents firing blanks when the morning brought even more simulated problems. Local villagers – really Arabic-speaking role players – massed outside their camp gate and made demands. Then cadets dispatched to stabilize a nearby village were hit by an explosive device. The ensuing battle went badly; Cadets suffered casualties and alienated the local sheik by ignoring him. “You need to show respect to somebody when you enter their village and you have shot up their houses, Sheik Yusef (actually Joseph Khalipha, of Fort Pierce, FL) scolded cadets during a debriefing. “We are worried, and we are upset. We can’t get to our homes.” The latest update to summer field training at the US Military Academy goes beyond tactics and drills. Senior Cadets who face eventual deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan must think through ethical and political quandaries typical of conflicts in which it’s difficult to tell enemies from friends. It’s the “handshake or hand grenade” dilemma, said Lt. Col Chris J Kidd, who heads the three week program at West Point. The exercises force future Army officers to think through thorny problems. “It’s getting out of the comfort zone a little bit,” said Cadet Nick Lewis-Walls, of Plainfield, Ind., as he sat watch behind a machine gun. “It gets us to think of respecting cultural traditions and values, as opposed to just rocking through villages.” West Point continues to adapt to post-Sept 11 military needs. The academy pumped up instruction in Arabic, opened a Combating Terrorism Center and added new minors in terrorism and foreign area studies.