

THE BOUTON BUGLE

JANUARY

2008

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

Tues	Jan 1st		News Years Day – Post Closed
Sun	Jan 6		Epiphany (Traditional)
Mon	Jan 7	6:45 PM	Bingo
		7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
		7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Tues	Jan 8	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	Jan 9	Noon	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon
		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Jan 11	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Don Smith’s Crew
Sat	Jan 12	TBA	6th District Oratorical Contest
		3:00 – 8:00 PM	Shower
Mon	Jan 14	6:45 PM	Bingo
		7: 30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	Jan 16	7:00 PM	Alumni Organization Planning Meeting
Thurs	Jan 17		Persian Gulf War Began, 1991
Sat	Jan 19	TBA	Retirement Party
Sun	Jan 20	1:00 PM	6th District Winter Meeting at Post 89 – Vestal
Mon	Jan 21	FLAG	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
		6:45 PM	Bingo
		7 :00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Weds	Jan 23	Noon	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon
		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sun	Jan 27		Signing of the Viet Nam Peace Accord, 1973
		7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
		3:00 PM	Snowmobile Poker Run (Burgers, dogs, etc. will be served)
Mon	Jan 28	6:45 PM	Bingo
		7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Support Our Troops & American Legion: Buy a yellow Ribbon for only \$1.00. Proceeds go to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Red Cross, Lions Club, Rotary, Boys & Girls State and many more organizations that we are honored to support.

“Walk of Honor”: We continue to receive applications for inscribed bricks to be placed in our “Walk of Honor”. We are pleased to announce that 354 bricks have been purchased honoring veterans since this project was instituted. The Post has also contributed bricks for those veterans killed in action (KIA) and WWI veterans. The number of bricks now total over 400. Although it will be spring before any further additions are made you may still make applications now by picking up a form in the lounge.

Post 770 Website: www.Post770.com - Patrick Richar welcomes any information for his posted website that would be of interest to our members. Please send them to 111 Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188 – 2430.

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 looking after our museum of military uniforms, memorabilia and artifacts. We need your help.

COMMANDER'S NEWS

Holiday Greetings; To all who helped and put in the time to put the Post in the holiday spirit and helped put on all the various parties and meals, A GREAT BIG THANK YOU! This is a very busy time for all of us and without our volunteers we couldn't make things happen. With the holidays being almost over the next big concern will be getting the crews together for the several weeks of Lenten dinners occurring every Friday night throughout the Lenten season. Please consider helping out an existing crew or getting a group of members and friends to form a new crew. While I am on the subject of volunteers, we could sure use a few new faces at Bingo each Monday night. It only takes a few hours and remember the profits from this event go to help the Legion fund with its many activities and veteran support we do. Give Cindy or

Gary Reckdenwald or Al Richar a call if interested. Even once or twice a month would sure help us out. Every little bit helps. I would also like to thank the Ladies Auxiliary and their helpers for providing the food each Monday. One more "thanks" to Henry VanNess for helping solve and fix some of our electrical problems.

So Happy New Year and Good Health to All. Remember many hands make light work. Tom Stilwell, Commander

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership continues to grow as we enter 2008. We now have 353 signed up but are still 40 short of our assigned quota. Time is running out. All those who haven't renewed have been notified so it's up to our members to recruit some new veterans that are just waiting to be asked to become one of our group.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Taps: **Raymond Reynolds:** Died on October 16, 2007 at Lakeside. Raymond was a Sergeant in the US Army stationed in Korea. Following his discharge he was employed as an Electrical Engineer dealing with Space Flights at IBM. Raymond was a member of the American Legion Post 770 and a brother of Auxiliary member Betty Swartz and brother-in-law of Legion member Jack Swartz.

George E. Williams: Went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, November 20, 2007. George was a member of American Legion Post 770.

Clyde Hall: Died in November 2007. He was a member of American Legion Post 770.

POST NEWS

The Post takes on a different atmosphere each year around Christmas time. One can't help but notice the beautiful decorations, the Christmas trees lining the hallway appealing for canned goods donations, Christmas dinners and parties, and all the rest of the Yule time spirit that goes along with Christmas. It sure is a festive time. We would like to thank Rene Heroux, grand-daughter Jamie, Kathi Roach, & Roberta Stilwell for the great job done in decorating the trees, windows, and floor holiday displays in both the lounge and banquet rooms. It sure does look great. ...Thanks to all of those volunteers who signed up to ring the bell at Shur Save for the Salvation Army. Money collected goes to a great cause.... We were able to barely squeeze into the parking lot for the fireworks following a great buffet put on by Tom Bennett and his crew. Both the dinner and the fireworks were just great. We also managed to brave the cold weather to watch the rest of the Winter Festival Activities downtown. It was quite an evening. ...The Board of Directors welcomes Brady Roach as our new Bar Coordinator. He will be responsible for scheduling bartenders, ordering all supplies for the bar and assist in scheduling events at our Post. ...From time to time things break down at the Post and need to be replaced. Such is the case with the compressor for the walk in cooler. It was also necessary to purchase a new fire and tamper proof gun cabinet to store our rifles. Other cost consuming needs seem to be constant renewal of light bulbs and fluorescent tubes. If it isn't on thing it's another, but then, if you own your own home you know what that's all about. ...The membership was pleased to contribute a monetary donation towards the kid's Christmas party. ...We were able to help out with our fish fry crew recently. Sure was a great Friday night having put out 205 dinners with no major hang-ups. We

hope you all enjoyed the dinner as much as we did putting it on. It was a great evening. ...We also understand to HOG'S Saturday night Christmas party was a great success. Sorry we were unable to attend the kid's party before newsletter deadline time. Not sure how well that did, with all of the bad weather on the weekend in the northeast...The Gun Cabinet was won by Roger Calkins. Thought it would be nice to raffle it before Christmas, in case it was meant to be a present under the tree. Thanks to all who participated. Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

AUXILIARY NEWS

Our quota for membership is 162 and as of now membership is at 118. ... We are still looking for names and addresses of service people in the military serving OUR country. Please call 387-4212. ...On November 30, the raffle for the rocking chair was drawn and the proud winner was Lorraine Dickhaut. ...Unit President Vickii is looking for any volunteers to help out in the kitchen with food for our Bingo players. Please let us know if interested. ...Our condolences to David & Sandy Kline on the loss of their daughter-in-law, April, on November 25, 2007. ...We would like to thank the Post for their contribution to the children's Xmas party. All went very well. ... There will be NO Auxiliary dinner in January. We will start again in February. ... Congratulations to David and Vickii Barry on their 3rd grandson, Riley James (9 lbs.6 oz., 19 ¾ inches) and to the proud parents Chris and Nicole Makala. ...The next meeting will be January 8th, 2008 at 7 PM, Not New Years Day. Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Years.

Respectfully submitted, Marge Bennett

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Membership is now at 45; just 10 or so more to reach our goal. So, come on out and re-up guys. 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." May 17th may seem a long ways away but it really isn't if we want to do something significant. Let's discuss this at our next meeting on January 7th 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 is 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. More for all you dog folks... Last months article, IF I COULD ONLY TALK, was graciously provided by our member and local veterinary wizard, Doctor Richard Orzeck. If you have a chance, visit the doc's website at www.doctoroz.com. It contains a lot of very useful information as well as some fun reading. Thanks again Doc. It has come to our attention that the military has greatly changed its philosophy regarding the Military Working Dog (MWD). For example, the Army will be issuing grants to develop an enclosure to protect MWDs in the event of a chemical or biological attack. Specifications for such enclosure are actually similar to those required for the protection of our troops. It would seem that the long training period (18 months), significant cost, not to mention the many services they perform, has given cause to shed a new light on the real value of these dogs. Also, in many cases, MWDs are now allowed to retire with their handlers. Amazing! Lastly from the SAL, we hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and we wish all a very Happy New Year.

RECENT COMBAT AWARDS TOTAL NEARLY 343K

Soldiers have earned nearly 343,000 combat awards and decorations in Iraq and Afghanistan so far, according to the Army's latest medal count, which was calculated by Human Resources Command in mid-April. It includes valor, service, achievement and combat badges awarded since December 2001 for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and since March 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Army is the major participant in ground combat, and thus accounts for most of the prestigious valor medals. Marines have been awarded 21,154 combat awards in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, according to the Marine Corps Web site. The total is far behind that from the Vietnam War, with more than 2.8 million medals – not including combat badges. The Army did not keep centralized records on combat badges until the Grenada campaign of 1983, so totals for Vietnam and earlier do not include combat badges. While there were 11.2 million soldiers under arms in WW II, the medal count was only 1.8 million, possibly because of under-reporting in the pre-computer age. The total includes 301 Medals of Honor and 4,434 Distinguished Service Crosses. About 2.8 million soldiers participated in the Korean War of 1950 – 53. The conflict generated 41,801 awards,

including 78 Medals of Honor and 723 Distinguished Service Crosses. Other than the current wars the Persian Gulf War was the largest conflict for awards and decorations since Vietnam. Most of the 142,248 medals and badges awarded who participated in the intense 100-hour ground offensive of February 1991. The medal count includes 25,013 combat badges, but no Medals of Honor or Distinguished Service Crosses.

SAMPSON VETERANS DEDICATE T-33 TRAINING JET AIRPLANE

Looking for an aircraft for a static display at the Sampson State Park Museum, the Sampson Air Force Base Veterans Association learned there was a T-33 jet trainer at Atwater, Ala., in need of a new home. Upon arriving in Atwater, a team of Sampson veterans found “A lot of rust,” said Lynn C. Brown of Dryden, “And a plane in a serious state of disrepair.” John P. Murtha of Richfield Springs said the Sampson veterans added their name to a list of groups and organizations looking for an aircraft for static display purposes. Officials at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, Brown said, was looking for a new home for the T-33 and found the Sampson veterans next in line. Figuring it might be a long time before another aircraft was offered, the Sampson contingent accepted the 50-year-old T-33. Cleared of a jet exhaust interior occupied by various bees and insects, the plane was disassembled and hauled to a warehouse at Sampson State Park. It was there, Murtha pointed out, the T-33 Crew invested nearly every Saturday for 3 ½ years. The finished product, displaying the wording “Spirit of Sampson” now stands on a pedestal in the yard of the Navy / Air Force Museums at the state park. And the seven-member T-33 crew, Murtha notes with pride, are all senior citizens in their 60’s and early 70’s. Their work finished back in September, the T-33 was dedicated during the annual reunion of the Air Force veterans, and individual plaques were awarded to the T-33 crew for hours of work on the aircraft. More than 300,000 men and women trained at the Sampson site during the Korean War years, 1950 – 1953. Taking over a wing of the former brig, they have built a museum depicting Sampson and Air Force life. Another wing of the old brig has been converted into a Navy museum representing the WWII years when Sampson was a naval training station.