

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

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**ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770**

**Telephone 387-4212**

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**CALENDAR FOR JUNE**

Mon	June 1	6:30 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting and Installation of Officers at Post 770 (See Special Events)
		7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
Tues	June 2	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	June 3	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sat	June 6	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Red Cross Bloodmobile – Have you given lately?
Mon	June 8	TBA	Rehearsal for High School Chorus Concert
		7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Tues	June 9	3:00 – 9:00 PM	School Chorus Concert held at Post 770
Weds	June 10	Noon	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon Meeting
Fri	June 12	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux’s Crew
Sat	June 13	6:00 PM	6 <sup>th</sup> District Convention Dinner at Post 617 at Marathon
<b>Sun</b>	<b>June 14</b>	<b>FLAG</b>	<b>Flag Day</b>
		Noon – 6:00 PM	Benefit Fundraiser for Patrick Richar (See Special Events)
		1:00 PM	6 <sup>th</sup> District Convention at Post 617 at Marathon
Weds	June 17	6:00 PM	TCSD Grant Committee Meeting
<b>Sun</b>	<b>June 21</b>		<b>Father’s Day – Summer Begins</b>
		<b>7:30 – 11:00 AM</b>	<b>SAL Father’s Day Breakfast – Public Invited</b>
Mon	June 22	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	June 24	6:00 – 8:30 PM	Senior Citizen’s Annual Dinner & Meeting
Sat	June 27	2:00 – 8:00 PM	Graduation Party
Sat-Sat	June 27-July 4		Boys State at Morrisville
Sun	June 28	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Regular Monthly Breakfast – Public Invited

**SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Borrowed Chairs:** About 40 or 50 chairs have been borrowed from Phil Colvin’s barn and we would like to have them returned at this time. As we begin to make plans for Grassroots, T-Burg Fair and other summer events, the chairs play an important part of getting ready for these activities.

**Summer Time Events:** As we enter our longer days of warmer weather we are planning to cut back on a few events. Please note the following changes. Post membership meetings will be held once a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday during July and August. Also, there will be no Auxiliary Dinners until September.

**Installation of Tompkins County American Legion Officers:** will take place at 6:30 PM at Post 770 on Monday, June 2<sup>st</sup>. Please make an effort to attend so that we can have a good turnout at our own Post. Al Richar will be installed as County Commander.

**Patrick Richar’s Benefit Fundraiser:** Come one, come all. Help support one of our SAL member’s, Patrick Richar. Many of you readers of our Post newsletter, will recognize that name. Patrick has set up and takes care of our website page which keeps all of you members aware of what is going on at your Post. We are having a benefit at our Post for him. Patrick is currently under going dialysis and eventually will be having a kidney transplant. The Benefit will be held on June 14<sup>th</sup> from Noon until 6:00 PM. There will be a chicken barbeque, music, raffles, a silent auction with lots of items, a

dessert wheel, a dunking booth, and more. Should be lots of fun for all. Please come and join us for a great and worthwhile event.

**The American Legion Online Update:** Sign up for a weekly electronic newsletter published every Thursday and sent to your e-mail address. It has great stories, with links to slide shows, video clips, and related materials at their Web Site. Just go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) and click on "Publications" and submit your e-mail address. It's easy and it's free.

**POST NEWS**

It's always discouraging to begin Post news with an apology for an error because of poor note taking. However a glaring mistake occurred in your May newsletter and we'll correct it right now. Keith McMillen and Andrew Dunn are our newly chosen Boy Stater's for this year. Their names should not have been placed under "sick Call" last month. They were selected from 11 original candidates. We wish them well on their venture in learning about Americanism through participation in a model democratic community this summer. ...Our first spring visitation of the Bath VA Hospital veterans took place in mid-April. The Auxiliary doesn't usually invite them here for a wonderful steak luncheon until the fall. It was an exciting spring day, with the weather cooperating, as 3 bus loads of veterans and their attendants drove into our parking lot. Every table was filled as the steaks rolled off the grill and the homemade pies were cut up for distribution. Overcoming some hesitation because of a time factor, the supervisors were "talked" into letting the group go on a "Sue & George" conducted tour of our local landmarks. We have enjoyed this part of the visitation many times before but it has not occurred lately. Everyone enjoyed the day: the vets, their attendants, the steak cookers, the many Auxiliary and Legion gals and guys, and the young helpers who kept the vets in a happy mood. A great big thank you to every one from the pie bakers to the coffee pourers. A job well done. ...The "once a month" dances of past years have not materialized lately so it was with great anticipation that we welcomed an evening of dancing with the DJ "Elephant Sound" sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion. Their Commander, Brady Roach told me that Dave LaPadula was instrumental in acquiring this DJ who played a fantastic variety of music. Looking at the dance floor showed that every one was in the mood and enjoyed themselves immensely. As Chuck & Joan Steward said to me "where else can we Senior Citizens kick up our heels and dance to a beat we enjoy." The DJ even went from table to table asking what songs people would like to hear. My wife, in my absence, said "The YMCA". She knew I couldn't resist that one. Wonderful snacks accompanied the music, dancing, and a great evening of being with friends at the Legion. The age group went from 2 to 92. Yes, even little 2-year-old Dillon had a ball on the dance floor. ...We are pleased to announce the results of the Post 770 American Legion election of officers. They are Commander – Jim Dew, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Scott Hulslander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Jim Heroux, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice – Tom Bennett, Adjutant: Phil Colvin, Treasurer –Lee Weaver, Chaplain – Bill Parker, Historian – George VanValen, Judge Advocate – Don Smith, Sgt-at-Arms – Calvin Bailey, Service Officer – Don Bennett. ... Here is a change of great importance because of more room space and parking, the Red Cross Blood Drive will be using our facility twice a month beginning on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Our organization is actively involved in community affairs. ...Commander Tom Stilwell and I would like to thank Jamie Saine for the fine article that appeared in the April 29<sup>th</sup> Free Press in which she called to everyone's attention our "Walk of Honor". With so much attention being focused on the Cannon lately we have tended to overlook the "Walk of Honor" which lies beneath it. The article reminds us of the many names of veterans who are remembered. ..."TOGETHERWESERVED.COM" cards have been left on the table in the entryway to the barroom. They seem to represent three branches of the Armed Forces: Army, Navy, and Air Force and perhaps others. If interested see what they are all about. They seem to be self-explanatory.

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By Invitation of AFTWS Member:

*Bradford Fisher*

Member # 69966

**TOGETHERWESERVED.COM**



A place where US Soldiers can Reconnect with lost Brothers Share a few memories and Tell their Army story.

By Invitation of ATWS Member:

*Bradford Fisher*

Member # 134793

**Registration Instructions**

1. Go to [army.togetherweserved.com](http://army.togetherweserved.com) (ATWS) and click on the Join button.
2. Register as an Active Duty or Former Soldier.
3. Locate ATWS Member whose details are on the front of this card, and click on the "Credit as Inviter" button on their Profile.

If you would like copies of these cards, please contact [admin@army.togetherweserved.com](mailto:admin@army.togetherweserved.com)

In addition to the election of officers at the May 11<sup>th</sup> Post meeting, there were some lively discussions and decisions made. Among them was how to spend the remaining money in the Bingo account. It became quite clear that our parking lot is a priority item. It seems we either repair it big time or lose it because of it's dire need of repair. So, be prepared for some major activity in the parking lot to put it back into top condition. There will be time in the future to deal with our new pavilion. ...You have already read about Patrick Richar's illness and the fundraiser planned in Post events and announcements. The fundraiser will include many events besides the BBQ. The Auxiliary will have a Dessert wheel to spin for prizes; there will be raffles, music, and other items so plan on a day of a lot of activity. ...Our last breakfast took place on Mother's Day and the SAL presented all Moms assorted flowers donated by Brownie's Corn and Produce. Everyone must know who "Brownie" is. We had a turn out of 160 people who enjoyed a superb breakfast. While we are dealing with numbers I might add that our crew, (Colvin's) served 151 fish and steak dinners on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Tom Bennett and crew served 95 Chicken BB dinners at an anniversary party on May 9<sup>th</sup> with a very positive response from those that attended. Add together all of the events mentioned and the number of dinners served and as you can see we aren't standing around idle but participating in our community in a very positive way. ...The Legion has gotten a golf team together and are participating in the upcoming Rotary Tournament. Are there any low handicapped "ringers" involved? ... We are pleased to announce that our new Trustees, Jim Heroux and Phil Colvin will replace those whose terms have expired. Also, Tom Bennett and Al Richar have been appointed delegates to represent our Post at the Department Convention this summer. ...We are always fascinated with numbers as you can see as you make your way through this newsletter. Let us throw one more number at you because as an organization we are quite pleased with it. We had 16 members present at our last meeting. We believe it shows increasing interest in our Post affairs. ...Take another look at the cannon wheels. Harold Wright has painted them and they look great. Our cannon hasn't had this much attention since it was built in 1892 at the Rock Island Arsenal. ...Last, but not least, the membership made a monetary donation to the VFW in support of the Courtesy Van they maintain, and we donated our Bingo machine to the Ovid VFW.

## MEMBERSHIP

There has been little change in our membership of 360. We have several new members to add to our roll: Rudolf B. Hoppe, Christopher R. Thorp and Joshua R. Bowers. It's nice to have you with us.

## AUXILIARY NEWS

Our membership is now at 153 while our quota is set for 154. Please help us. We only need one more. On April 19<sup>th</sup> Harmony Falls sang for the 65 Bath veterans outing to our Post. This time we had helpers from SAL & Juniors. Thank you to all who baked pies and desserts. It was a very rewarding day for all involved. Our best wishes for Liz Raymond in CMC and Dawn Reeves who has returned home recuperating. Also to Patrick Richar who does the news items on the computer who has been in the hospital in Albany, NY. We hope every mother had a nice Mother's Day. Our Poppy Princess is Kayden Schmidt. There are NO Auxiliary dinners for the summer. See you on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. We will sponsor two ladies horseshoe teams this year. The newly elected officers are President – Ann Stiles Hunt, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Marti Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Sue McConnell, Secretary – Mary Milks, Treasurers – Cindy Reckdenwald & Jane Gallagher, Sgt-at-Arms – Sue Weaver, Chaplain – Roberta Stilwell, Historian – Marge Bennett. The next Auxiliary meeting is June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM. Happy Father's Day to All. Submitted, Marge Bennett

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Newly elected officers for 2009-2010 are Commander-Jamie Richar, Vice Commanders - Brady Roach, Gordy Veley, and Pete Mahoney, Adjutant - Lee Weaver, Treasurer - Gary Reckdenwald, Historian - Leonard Bailey, Sgt. At Arms - Jerry Clark, Chaplain - Chris Vann. Thanks to every one that participated in the Mother's Day breakfast. The SAL is doing the breakfast for Father's Day also and we need your help. Also, thanks to all for your help and ideas for the Patrick Richar benefit. It should be one heck of a party. Lastly, our next meeting will be June 1<sup>st</sup> (don't forget Jamie).

## DID YOU KNOW?

### **SILVER STAR DAY – 5/1 OFFICIAL DAY – SILVER STARS JOIN BLUE AND GOLD**

For more than 200 years, service members have made sacrifices for this country on the home front and abroad. The Auxiliary has been supporting those service members while they are away serving and when they return home for nearly the last 90 years. In 1918, the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defenses suggested that mothers who had lost a child in WWI wear a gold star to signify mourning. This led to the tradition of covering the blue star on service flags with gold if a service member was killed, or silver for those who were wounded. To provide a way to honor the wounded Steve Newton and his wife, Diana, founded Silver Star Families of American (SSFOA) in 2005. It is now part of the Department of Defense's America Supports You program. Newton served in the Marines during Vietnam and joined the Navy Reserves when he returned home. He is now a Legionnaire at Post 638 in Springfield, MO. He and his wife wanted a person way to honor those who shed blood for their country – and SSFOA was born. Nearly 1,000 soldiers have been honored with Silver Star Banners, but the names of many soldiers and sailors are on a waiting list. "There is nothing sadder than a wounded soldier on a waiting list for a banner," Newton said. "I want other units to visit SSFOA Website, become educated and incorporate this organization into a project for the Auxiliary." Eligibility for Silver Star Banners according to the SSFOA Web site: Any armed forces personnel either currently serving honorably or those who have served honorably from any way, who having served in a war zone has been wounded by enemy action or who has been injured or contracted a serious illness that could be rated at least 10 percent disabled by the Department of Veterans. This includes Affairs including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Agent Orange and Gulf War Syndrome associated illnesses. Newton hopes that the Legion and Auxiliary will help support those service members who have been wounded. Newton's wife, Diana, added, "We want the Legion and Auxiliary to do the things they are already doing and incorporate us with their efforts. "We want to have the Legion family work with us to find the wounded, sponsor banners and visit VA hospitals," Newton said. "We never want to forget what these people sacrificed." Visit [www.silverstarfamilies.org](http://www.silverstarfamilies.org).