

THE BOUTON BUGLE

MAY

2005

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Circulation 700 Members

ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

Legion Telephone 387-4212

COMMANDER:	Al Richar	387-5920	Newsletter Deadline	ADJUTANT:	Phil Colvin	387-6550
AUX. PRES:	Vickii Barry	387-9512	15th Of The Month	SAL CMDR:	Chris Bennett	387-6255
EDITOR:	George Van Valen	387-9858		TYPIST:	Kathi Roach	387-6636

CALENDAR FOR MAY

Sun	May 1	1:00 PM	Square Dance Group in the Banquet Room
		5:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
Mon	May 2	7:00 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting at Post 800 – Groton
			Installation of Officers
Tues	May 3	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	May 4	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs	May 5	7:00 PM	Joint Legion Family Meeting – Dish to share or not
Sun	May 8	FLAG	Mothers Day
		9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Mothers Day Brunch
Mon	May 9	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	May 11	Noon	Senior Citizens Meeting
Fri	May 13	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Phil Colvin’s Crew
		8:00 PM	DJ Terry Smith and Karaoke in the lounge
Sat	May 14	10:30 AM	Legion Food Tent at Fairgrounds–Demolition Derby–See Special Events
		3:00 PM	Wedding Reception
Weds	May 18	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	May 20	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Sat	May 21	FLAG	Armed Forces Day
		1:00 PM	Wedding Reception
Sun	May 22	8:00 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	May 23	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting – Election of Officers
Tues	May 24	6:00 PM	Meet at Grove Cemetery to put American flags on Veterans graves
Weds	May 25	Noon	Pioneer Luncheon
Thurs	May 26	Noon	Senior Citizens Meeting
Fri	May 27	7:00 PM	Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner – Public Invited
Mon	May 30	FLAG	Memorial Day
		9:00 – 9:45 AM	Walk-through Flag Retirement Ceremony
		10:00 AM	Parade and Observances at St James Cemetery
		Noon – 3:00 PM	Open House at Post 770
		12:30 PM	Flag Retirement Ceremony at Post 770

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joint Legion Family Information Meeting – will be held on Thurs, May 5th at 7:00 PM with a dish to share-or not. These meetings provide an opportunity to express your opinions and share your ideas. They are vital in providing our Post with an efficient operation. Please take an hour or two and attend.

Mothers’ Day Brunch – 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 8th. The SAL is giving flowers to the 1st 50 mothers attending the Brunch. What better way to honor Mom on her special day!

Steak & Fish Fries – are back to once a month. Please join us on Friday, May 13th between 5:30 – 8:00 PM for a great meal and a lot of fun. There will be a DJ and also karaoke in the lounge following the dinner. See you there for a great evening of food, fun, and entertainment.

Legion Food Tent at Fairgrounds Demolition Derby – on Sat, May 14th from 10:00 AM on. The American Legion will begin by providing food when the pits open and will continue throughout the day. This is one event you will not want to miss and do take advantage of our tasty dogs, burgers, and hot sausage sandwiches throughout the day. If interested, I'm sure we can use some short-order cooks and servers. Let us know in advance.

Auxiliary Dinner – is being offered on Friday, May 20th from 5:30 – 8:00 PM. The ladies always come up with some great offerings, so please plan to attend. The public is invited.

American Legion Election of Officers – will be held at the regular meeting at 7:30 PM on Mon, May 23rd. A nominating committee composed of Tom Bennett, George Van Valen, and Don Bennett have proposed the following candidates: Commander – Al Richar, Adjutant – Phil Colvin, 1st Vice Cmdr. – Tom Bennett, 2nd Vice Cmdr – Open, 3rd Vice Cmdr. – Open, Financial Officer – Lee Weaver, Service Officer – Don Bennett, Chaplain – Bill Parker, Historian – George Van Valen, Sgt.-at-Arms – Open, 3 Board of Trustee members – Jim Heroux, Gordon Veley, and Open, Judge Advocate – Don Smith. The selections committee has asked a number of potential candidates to run for various Legion offices, but many are delaying in their involvement, which is understandable. We need some people to step up to the plate and become involved with the decisions of the Legion. If there are some of you out there who would like to become involved with the operation of our Post, there are a number of offices open. Let us know of your interest. It requires an evening meeting lasting 1 – 1 ½ hours twice a month and the participation in the duties of the office. At the meeting on Mon, May 23rd candidates for office may also be selected from the floor.

Flags on Veterans Graves for Memorial Day – Anyone wishing to help put flags on Veterans graves should meet at Grove Cemetery at 6:00 PM on Tues, May 24th. If you know of any Veterans graves that do not receive a flag before Memorial Day, please contact the Post.

Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner – The American Legion will be installing their newly elected officers on Fri, May 27th at a dinner being held in their honor at 7:00 PM. Cocktail hour begins at 6. The installations and awards will follow the dinner. Awards will be to members celebrating 5 year multiples of continuous membership. Those with 25 years (multiple) or more of continuous membership are guests of the Post. This occasion is open to everyone. Please show your support of our officers by attending. Reservations requested. Stop by the Post and sign up or call 387-4212.

Memorial Day Parade, Festivities, and Flag Disposal Ceremony – will commence at 9:00 AM on Mon, May 30th. Practice for the flag disposal ceremony will begin at 9 AM, parade formation at 9:45, parade to St. James Cemetery at 10 AM. Open house and the flag disposal ceremony will follow. This will be an attempt to perform our flag disposal ceremony before a sizeable crowd. We believe it will lend more significance to our ceremony if more people are on hand to witness the event. Anyone who has tattered or torn unserviceable flags is reminded to drop them off at the Legion PRIOR to this ceremony. All Legionnaires are invited to participate in these events, which the American Legion holds annually as one of their most honored and esteemed days. Uniforms will be navy or black pants and shoes, Post Logo white shirts (or short sleeve white shirt); tie is optional and will not be worn with logo shirts. White logo shirts are available, free of charge, for those members who participate in our Color Guard regularly. In the event of cold weather, we have some legion jackets. We hope to have flat bed transportation for those members unable to walk to the cemetery. Lets have a great turnout. See you there.

Raffles and Drawings – The SAL is conducting a raffle of a \$100 gift certificate to a restaurant of your choice to be drawn on Mothers Day. Tickets are \$1 each or 3 for \$2 and may be purchased at the bar. The American Legion is conducting another raffle for an American flag and pole, with installation included. Tickets are \$5 each. The drawing will be held on Memorial Day.

Post 770 Website – www.Post770.com – Patrick Richar at 111 Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430, is our contact for computer info of interest to our membership. We are now offering our newsletter to be sent on line to those who would prefer to receive it in this manner. All you need to do is let Patrick know and you will be put on his list of recipients via on-line preference. If you feel it to be a better solution than to receive via mail, it would save on our mailing costs and ensure prompt delivery. It's your choice.

Post Volunteers – We are pretty close to being a totally volunteer run organization. This means that we are counting on everyone for his or her support. We are currently looking for a couple of bartenders for Monday and Tuesday. If you are somewhat hesitant, our bar steward will be glad to show you the ropes. Also, we are always looking for volunteer help putting on dinners, participating with honor guards at funerals, color guards at parades, cleanup crews, Post office holders... You name the detail you wish to be part of and we have the positions. Let us hear from you.

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP

We are currently at 416 and need 30 more members to meet our quota for 100 %. With some work on our memberships part we can sign up those remaining 30 members and more. The Legion has a greater voice in veteran's benefits with increasing numbers. Sign them up today! If you have paid your dues and have not received your membership card, let us know. Sometimes the process gets bogged down and perhaps we can speed it up. If you have moved, keep us informed of your address change for membership and newsletter purposes.

POST NEWS

It is hard to know where to begin when writing the Post news. So much has been happening during the last month. We will try to recap some of the events.

We were away during the Monte Carlo game night, but understand the attendance was not as great as it usually has been. Perhaps it was because the Dart League Banquet was held at Post 770 at noon till whenever and maybe people were sort of worn out by evening. We want to thank Calvin Bailey for organizing the Monte Carlo night and calling on various businesses for prize donations. The following provided prizes: Trumansburg Sure Save, Village Greenhouse, Millspaugh's, Gimme Coffee, Ida Mays, Ron Don's, Heads Up, Ehrharts, Word of Mouth, Stover Lumber, Maguire Chevy, Hair Techniques, Big M, American Legion, Rant-a-Flick, Kinney Drug, Rongovian Embassy, NAPA, Simply Red, Little Venice, and Nice and Easy. I'm sure it was a fun evening and we want to thank all of those who contributed.

On Saturday, March 19th the day began with a breakfast fundraiser for the T-burg traveling baseball team from 8 to 10 AM. The kids Easter egg hunt and party followed at noon. Organized by Jackie Newhart and the Auxiliary gals, the event was staged inside because of the weather. The Easter Bunny, who arrived via a T-burg Emergency vehicle, provided Easter baskets, prizes, candy and refreshments. Thanks to all who worked to make this an annual success. The sun barely set on this Saturday evening, before the American Legion Birthday dinner party commenced. Tom Bennett and crew put out a great Spanish Pot Roast dinner with all of the trimmings. This was to be Tom's Swan son as he slipped into retirement, but I have to tell you that I have worked a banquet or two since the Legion B-day and Tom shows no signs of leaving the kitchen. The dinner concluded with a short talk by the 6th District Commander and a wonderful descriptions of their week at Girls State by our two representatives, one of which I'm proud to say was my granddaughter Sarah Gatch and the other was Tiffany Heimbeck Maybee. As if this wasn't enough, the evening ended in the lounge with DJ Jon Kilts providing the music until midnight. Many of you must remember Jon... he played often at the old Legion and we welcomed him back with open arms following several years of major medical problems. Well, that was quite an eventful day... yet that's what our legion is all about. Activity, community service, and camaraderie.

The last week in March proved to be equally active with a Harley Group meeting, Senior Citizens meeting, Steak & Fish Fry dinner, shower, and Easter Sunday breakfast to close out the month of March.

Thus far in April we have had a retirement party, horse club dinner, Legion family joint meeting, steak & fish fry dinner, shower, another retirement dinner, breakfast, Auxiliary dinner, and wedding reception. Wow! Lets end here. What follows are the details!

We have been very pleased with attendance at most of our events. We have averaged about 100 for breakfasts and 200 for fish fries. Enough said... We hope to maintain these numbers and provide the best food, service, facility and camaraderie that a Legion Post can provide with all volunteer help. We realize that sometimes, we are a little overwhelmed and short of help, but we try our best with what and who we are. We can always use more help and ideas for efficiency, but please give your critical suggestions to the crew with whom you are acquainted and not patrons who are attending for the first time.

At our April Joint Family meeting we had 11 present to give their suggestions and criticisms. This is the way the meeting went: A) We are looking for more volunteer bartenders, especially on Monday and Tuesday evenings. B) Keys have not worked in several locks, lockmaster will be notified and correct this problem. C) Discussion of bugle options at funerals and ceremonies. D) We put a hold on the discussion of funeral receptions. E) Bingo was discussed - Auxiliary will work with Legion on ideas and bringing it to reality F) Spring-cleaning has been changed to be held on Aug 19th, 20th, 21st and hold the 22nd. Please save these dates on your calendar. G) Raffles discussed H) donations to the Post discussed.

The American Legion, SAL & Auxiliary have made a number of donations in keeping with our community involvement. The SAL has donated Mothers Day flowers, a new TV set, and glasses for the bar. The Auxiliary has donated 100 plates and several cordless telephone replacements. The Legion has donated 2 Savings Bonds to the Junior Class Prom party, paid a long time distressed members dues, made a monetary donation to Girl Scouts, purchase of Cornell ROTC Medals (as our share with other Tompkins County Legions), and a \$900 fee for our 4 representatives to attend Boys State. We would like to thank Joe & Barb Lockwood for the beautiful planters of flowers that you see at the front of the building near the Cannon Memorial.

An American Legion Committee made up of Cmdr Al Richar, Tom Bennett, and Don Bennett interviewed a number of candidates for Boys State. The following boys were picked: Nicholas Robertson, David Porter, Eric Koehler, and Christopher Ploss. These boys will be representing our Post at the Annual Boys State Mock Government Convention held in June.

Delegates and alternates have been selected to represent our Post at the 6th District and Department Convention. The delegates are Don Smith and Tom Bennett. Alternate is Bill Parker.

We enjoyed Terry Smith as DJ and Karaoke person in the lounge following the steak & fish fry on Apr 8th. The music was varied and low enough to enjoy conversations with friends. A few brave gals entertained us with their singing as part of the Karaoke. Terry will be providing this entertainment in the lounge again on Friday, April 29th and May 13th. Come on in and enjoy an evening of dancing & singing.

We believe we have found another bugler to play taps at military funerals and other Honor Guard Rituals. He is Sam Watson, a student in the middle school. Welcome aboard Sam, we much prefer a bugler than a recorded tape.

It appears that our current Post 770 Commander will be slated for double duty next year. Al Richar will be a candidate for both Post 770 Commander and Tompkins County Commander. If successful in the election of officers, Al will have his hands full with his dedication to the American Legion.

We are continuing to forward "Walk of Honor" applications for brick inscriptions to our supplier. We expect the release of a dozen or so newly inscribed bricks to add to our Memorial site. Order forms are available at the Post. We hope you will consider purchasing one for a family member or loved one. They are a very appropriate gift for a veteran.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: Shawn Miller – Transferring from Oxford Veterans Hospital to Lakeside
Doug Pokorney – Chemo Asbestos illness Sam Ward – By-Pass Operation

Taps: Frank J. Lupo, Jr. – on March 11, 2005, gave up his long bout with cancer to be with the Lord and those he loved that went before him. He proudly served in the US Army during the Korean War, spending a majority of his time in San Francisco where he met his wife Arlene, who was also serving in the Army. Frank was a member of Post 770.

Gerald Doane, Sr. – died on Sunday, March 13, 2005 following a long illness. Jerry was the brother of member Wayne Doane.

Patricia M. Bowers – passed away on Sunday, April 3, 2005. Pat was a 50+-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Friends joined the family at a reception at our Post following the funeral and committal services.

Stephen Craig – died in March 2005. Steve was a veteran of WW II. Committal services were held at the St. James Cemetery on April 14, 2005. The American flag was removed from the casket, folded, and presented to his wife Joan Craig. She in turn donated the flag to the American Legion Post 770, to be flown beneath the golden eagle on our flagpole in Steve's memory.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership is only 9 short of our 100% goal. The nominating committee presented the following names for officers for July 2005 to July 2006: President – Vickii Barry, 1st Vice – Jackie Newhart, 2nd Vice – Susie Smith, Secretary – Ruth Scott, Treasurers – Roberta Stilwell and Mary Schmidt, Chaplain – Roberta Chiesa, Sgt-at-Arms – Pat Plataniotis, and to go on the Board of Directors, Shirley Willard. Elections will be held at the May 3rd meeting at 7:00 PM. Nominations can be made that night. Plan on attending. The Girl Stater to represent our unit is Hannah Birdsall. For the May Auxiliary dinner on the 20th, please check the Penny Saver. Our condolences to Elaine Joseph on the loss of her sister on 3/26/05 and to the Patricia Bowers family. Pat died on 4/3/05 and was a 55+-year member. The auxiliary would like to wish three Past Commanders a very Happy 80th Birthday: Tom Bennett on 4/18, Bill Parker on 4/23 and Ken Westbrook on 4/10. On 4/9 our President Vickii hosted a bridal shower at the Post for her daughter, Nichole, who will be getting married on 5/21/05. At the May meeting we will decide on a Poppy Princess – Don't forget to get a Poppy on Memorial Day.

Respectively Submitted, Marge Bennett.

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

The SAL is having a Mothers Day raffle for a gift certificate of \$100 to a restaurant of your choice. Tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each or 3 for \$2.00. We will also be giving the 1st 50 mothers that attend the Mothers Day Brunch a potted plant on Sunday, May 8th. The drawing will be at 4:30 on Mothers Day. The SAL voted in a new member, Gordy Veley. Welcome

aboard Gordy and thank you. The Sons have purchased a brand new 32-inch screen TV for the lounge at our Post and hope that everyone enjoys watching it. Cmdr. Chris Bennett will call members for a special members to vote a Sons of the American Legion to the Board of Directors. Two members have said they would like to be on the Board: Brady Roach and Lenny Bailey. Cmdr Chris had proposed a new meeting time for the Sons since we have a tough time trying to get members to show up at meetings. The new meeting time would be, if passed by membership, the 4th Sunday of every month at 11 AM. Breakfast will be available. Upcoming events proposed are a BBQ raffle pack consisting of a grill, a package of meat, and charcoal. Perhaps maybe next year do a golf tournament in 2006.

LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL NEWS

Air Force Airman Benjamin E. Thomas has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During the six weeks training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed field training exercises, as well as drill and ceremony marches; and received physical training, rifle marksmanship training, and special training in human relations. In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is the son of Mary Kelly of Trumansburg. The airman is a 1999 graduate of Charles O. Dickerson High School, T-burg.

Army Pfc. John P. Foster has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Knox, Ky. During the nine-week training period, the trainee received instruction in drill and ceremony, weapons, rifle marksmanship, and bayonet training, chemical warfare, field training and tactical exercise, armed and unarmed combat, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, traditions and core values. He is the son of Brayton Foster of Trumansburg. Foster is a 2004 graduate of T-burg High School.

STORY TWO

Last newsletter we printed "Story One" from the USS Leyte newsletter. Please read "Story Two" which follows:

Some years earlier there was a man in Chicago called Easy Eddie. At that time, Al Capone virtually owned the city. Capone wasn't famous for anything heroic. His exploits were anything but praiseworthy. He was, however, notorious for enmeshing the city of Chicago in everything from bootlegged booze and prostitution to murder.

Easy Eddie was Capone's lawyer and for a good reason. He was very good! In fact, his skill at legal maneuvering kept Big Al out of jail for a long time. To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big, Eddie got special dividends. For instance, he and his family occupied a fenced in mansion with live-in help and all of the conveniences of the day. The estate was so large that it filled an entire Chicago city block.

Yes, Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him. Eddie did have one soft spot, however. He had a son that he loved dearly. Eddy saw to it that his young son had the best of everything; clothes, cars, and a good education. Nothing was withheld. Price was no object. And despite his involvement with organized crime, Eddie even tried to teach him right from wrong. Yes, Eddie tried to teach his son to rise above his own sordid life. He wanted him to be a better man than he was. Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things that Eddie couldn't give his son. Two things that Eddie sacrificed to the Capone mob that he could not pass on to his beloved son, a good name and a good example.

One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Offering his son a good name was far more important than all the riches he could lavish on him. He had to rectify all the wrong that he had done. He would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Scar-face Al Capone. He would try to clean up his tarnished name and offer his son some semblance of integrity. To do this he must testify against the Mob, and he knew that the cost would be great. But more than anything, he wanted to be an example to his son. He wanted to do his best to make restoration and hopefully have a good name to leave his son. So he testified.

Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago street. He had given his son the greatest gift he could offer at the greatest price he would ever pay.

I know what you are thinking. What does Story One in the April's newsletter have to do with this Story Two?

Butch O'Hare was Easy Eddie's son!!!

WHAT IS A VETERAN?

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel. He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown

frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th Parallel. She is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang. He is the POW who went away one person and came back another or didn't come back at all. He is the Parris Island drill instructor who has never seen combat – but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs. He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand. He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by. He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb of the Unknown, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must further preserve the memory of all anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep. He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket – palsied now and aggravating slow – who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come. He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being – a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs. He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say **Thank You**. That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded. Two little words that mean a lot, **"Thank You."** It's the soldier, not the reporter, who gave us our freedom of the press. It's the soldier, not the poet, who gave us our freedom of speech. It's the soldier, not the campus organizer, who gave us our freedom to demonstrate. It's the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves others with respect for the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.

Prayer for our Servicemen: Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Thank you, to all the veterans...and the ones still serving!!