

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Circulation 700 Members

ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

Legion Telephone 387-4212

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CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

Thurs	Sept 2	7:00 PM	Joint Legion Family Meeting (See Special Events)
Sun	Sept 5	5:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Sept 6</b>	<b>FLAG</b>	<b>LABOR DAY</b>
Tues	Sept 7	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	Sept 8	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Sept 10	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Jim Heroux’s Crew – Public Invited
<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sept 11</b>	<b>FLAG</b>	<b>PATRIOTS DAY – 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Sept 12</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Family Picnic at Raymond’s Pond (See Special Events) Post Closed</b>
		<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Flag Disposal Ceremony</b>
Mon	Sept 13	7:00 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting at Post 770
Tues	Sept 14	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting (Change of date because of Cty Mtg)
Weds	Sept 15	7:00 PM	VFW Post 5498 Meeting
<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sept 17</b>	<b>FLAG</b>	<b>POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY</b>
			<b>CITIZENSHIP (CONSTITUTION) DAY</b>
Fri	Sept 17	5:30 PM	Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Tues	Sept 21	7:00 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Auxiliary Meeting – Post 770
Weds	Sept 22	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sat – Sun	Sept 25-26		Legion Charter Bus to Washington, D.C. Memorial Sites
Sun	Sept 26	8:00 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	Sept 27	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Thurs	Sept 30		Last day to pay dues for free Early Bird Dinner

**LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL EVENTS:**      October 16      Bath Vets Noon Visitation and Steak Luncheon  
    October 23      Early Bird Dinner

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Joint Legion Family Information Meeting** –with a dish-to-pass/or not will be held at 7 PM on Thursday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are sure to be things regarding the food tent at Grassroots, Alumni weekend, and the Fair. Should be a great meeting.

**Legion Family Picnic & Flag Disposal Ceremony** – will be held at Noon at Raymond’s Pond on Sunday, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a good appetite and plan to have a great time. Legion Members bring your hat, dark pants, and white shirts for the flag disposal ceremony at 2 PM. We need to conduct this event at this time due to the rain cancellation on Memorial Day.

**Football Games Color Guard** – We are pleased to present the colors again this year at the home football games. During the National Anthem we will hoist the flag up the pole at the T-burg High School football field. Uniform is dark pants, white shirts, and Legion hat. In the event of cold weather the Post will provide jackets. It takes only a few minutes and presents the American Legion in a very positive community role. Your participation is needed. See the school calendar for time and dates of home games. We usually meet at the Post, allowing sufficient time to be at the field and ready to do our job.

**Newsletters** – Each month we receive some returns in the mail because of incorrect addresses. If you know of any one who is not receiving their newsletter or if you wish to change your address, please forward your change request to Roger Meier at Post 770. Each month Roger updates our computer mailing list, so he’s the man to contact. Your newsletter was written

earlier than usual this month due to your Editor and Typist going on vacation. We hope you get most of the August news, but probably not all.

**Post 770 Website – [www.Post 770.com](http://www.Post770.com)** – Patrick Richar is in need of materials and pictures of interest. Send them to Patrick at 111 Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430. Besides the calendar being posted on the site, we have some pictures of the pig roast from May, photos of Grassroots and Alumni weekend. We hope to have more pictures and interesting information added as events happen. Please take a look at our website. We need your help to keep this site current and up to date. Thank you, Patrick, for setting this up and maintaining it.

**FLAGS** – Are you thinking of replacing that faded, worn-out and tattered American flag? Turn in your old one in time to be disposed of properly at our ceremony on Sun, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, and purchase a new flag at the Post for \$25. These are quality flags.

### AMERICAN LEGION POST 770 CONTRIBUTION FUND

Your contributions of money, materials, and labor continue to come in. During the Grassroots and Alumni Weekend the food tent would not have been possible without the dozens of helpers that came to set up, render service to the customers, and to tear down the tents and equipment. Do you realize we grossed more than “five figures” just at the 4 days of Grassroots? That goes a long way to help pay the mortgage and utility bills. Thank you everyone. It’s your Post and you are doing a great job to make it “our home away from home”. Keep up the good work.

### AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP DUES

As we begin the new fiscal year of the American Legion, dues are coming in very nicely. At this time we have 210 signed up, about half way to our goal of 446. As we have mentioned before, we anticipate a \$5 increase in membership dues beginning on January 1, 2005. By paying now you will be saving \$5. If you do not receive your dues notice, please let us know. We will try to track down the problem. Welcome new member Peter Dumont... Nice to have you aboard.

### WASHINGTON, D.C. MEMORIAL EXCURSION

Many of us will be heading to D.C. aboard a Legion chartered bus on Sept 25-26<sup>th</sup> to view the recently dedicated WWII Memorial and many other memorials in addition to Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Roberta Chiesa provided us with some interesting facts concerning the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and I thought that the best time to include it in our newsletter would be just prior to our Arlington visit.

**Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Facts:** **1.** How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the Tomb of the Unknowns and why? 21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one-gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary. **2.** How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why? 21 seconds, for the same reason as number 1. **3.** Why are his gloves wet? His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle. **4.** Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time? No, he carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the Tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder. **5.** How often are the guards changed? Every 30 minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. **6.** What are the physical traits of the guard limited to? For a person to apply for guard duty at the Tomb he must be between 5’10” and 6’2” tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30”. They must commit 2 years of life to guard the Tomb, live in a barracks under the Tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty **FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.** They cannot swear in public **FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES** and cannot disgrace the uniform or the Tomb in any way. The first 6 months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery. Every guard spends **5 Hours a day** getting his uniforms ready for guard duty. Some people think that when the Cemetery is closed to the public in the evening that this show stops. First, to the men who are dedicated to this work, it is no show. It is a “charge of honor”. During nighttime, the drill of relief and the measured step of the on-duty sentry remain unchanged from the daylight hours. To these men, these special men, the continuity of this post is the key to the honor and respect shown to these honored dead, symbolic of all unaccounted for American combat dead. The steady rhythmic step in rain, sleet, snow, hail, heat and cold must be uninterrupted. Uninterrupted is the important part of the honor shown. On the ABC evening news, it was reported recently that, because of the dangers from Hurricane Isabel approaching Washington, D.C., the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment to ensure their person safety. **THEY DISOBEYED THE ORDER WITH “NO WAY, SIR!”** Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment; it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person. The Tomb has been patrolled continuously 24/7, since 1930. Very, very proud of our soldiers in uniform.

## POST NEWS

Have you noticed the new storage shed at the north side of the building? It belongs to the Auxiliary. They were so congested in their meeting room with wheel chairs and such that something had to give. Thanks Tom Bennett and Barry Smith for helping to unload it...Probably the biggest events to happen since last newsletter were the Legion food tent at Grassroots & Alumni Weekend at the fairgrounds. Grassroots is always a "panic" because the people (1,000's) that go dress to enjoy themselves. It was hard to concentrate on our job in the food tent when the hourly Bongo drum parade of stilt walkers and pastel painted girls danced their way past our tent and down the midway. There was no shortage of music with 4 band stages all going at once. My favorite on the Sat, 6 PM to midnight shift, was the Zydeco (Louisiana) Cajon bands. We sure were a hit in the food department with a steady stream of customers from breakfast through lunch, dinner & well into the night. Many thanks to Rene Heroux who took on the task of organizing this event and to everyone who rallied around her...The following weekend saw many, many TCS alumni coming back to the Burg. Of particular interest to your editor was the Friday night prime rib dinner put on for 41 of the Class of 1945 by Chef Tom Bennett, Roger Meier, and myself. Having graduated in '46, done a P.G. year in '47, you can see why I had several particular interests in this class reunion. We "lucked out" with the weather on Saturday afternoon and had a great day of remembrances. In addition to our food tent selling burgers, dogs, and sausages, Spook, Phil, Jim, Brady, Gordie, and the guys and gals cooked 440 BBQ chickens. Shirley and Sue put out hor'doerves and Tom Bennett supplied the rest of the food and set up serving lines. It was a wonderful dinner (until we were about 5 plates short and a few had to wait till we got enough to finish). There were a couple of bands under the "big top" and every one had a great day of picture taking, visiting the school, camaraderie, and just a lot of fun...Our crew found a way to get the grills back and to serve Sat and Sun breakfasts for the Alumni. Apparently the word wasn't circulated on Sat because we only served 39. We made sure it was announced on Sat at the Fairgrounds and it resulted in 193 breakfasts on Sunday morning. Wow! Thanks again everyone for your help and patronizing our Post...Member Calvin Bailey and wife Jane became great-grandparents (the 5<sup>th</sup> time) to a baby boy on July 13, 2004. Parents Emily McKenzie & Travis Miller are doing fine with baby Xavier Alexander Miller. The Bailey's have 10 grandchildren. Congratulations.

### U.S. Women Soldiers Gain Battlefield Ground (Written by Matt Kelley, printed in the Ithaca Journal)

"Female American troops in Iraq have killed Iraqis with bombs and bullets. They've won medals for valor and Purple Hearts for combat wounds. They've been captured as prisoners of war, killed by enemy fire and buried as heroes in Arlington National Cemetery. American women have participated more extensively in combat in Iraq than in any previous war in US history. They've taken roles nearly inconceivable just a decade or two ago - flying fighter jets and attack helicopters, patrolling streets armed with machine guns and commanding units of mostly male soldiers. Seven have been killed in combat. Yet all this has gone largely without much comment in Washington, despite the attention given to rescued POW Jessica Lynch. Congress debated the issue of women in the military after the 1991 Gulf War, voting months later to loosen the 1948 ban on women in combat. The issue hasn't come up on Capitol Hill this year, however. "It doesn't seem to be a big deal," said retired Navy Capt. Lory Manning, who tracks military issues for the Women's Research and Education Institute. "We could not do what needs to be done over there without women. If there needs to be a body search of an Iraqi woman, there's no way an American male could do that." Military women in Iraq say they are doing their jobs just like their male colleagues. Opponents of women in combat haven't resigned themselves to this turn of events. They're trying to pressure President Bush to reinstate restrictions on women serving in support units that travel close to the front line, such as Lynch's 507<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company, which was ambushed in Nasiriyah. That unit included the first American woman soldier killed in the Iraq war, Pfc. Lori Piestewa. Elaine Donnelly, an opponent of women in combat who is spearheading a petition drive on the issue, said she believes it's important that women not be put in danger of being captured and raped. Medical records indicate Lynch was sodomized while in Iraqi captivity but she does not remember it. "If we are opposed to violence against women at the Air Force and other service academies, why all of a sudden if violence happens at the hands of the enemy, we say it doesn't matter?" said Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness.

## CHAPLAINS CORNER

**Sick Call:** Vickii Barry - Sayre - Home

Alan Cramer - CMC

Bob Davenport - CMC

**Taps:** Jean Welch - died Saturday, July 24, 2004 at her home in Ithaca. Jean was a member of Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary.

Our Military Funeral Honor Guard had a busy week early in August. On Weds, Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 of our members conducted military services at the interment of Stephen Smith at the Trumbles Corners Cemetery. On Sat, 8 of our members

conducted a military service at the interment of Loren Fisher at the Spencer Cemetery. We are always honored to be asked to perform this service for our fellow Veterans.

### THE CANNON "WALK OF HONOR & MEMORIAL SITE

It has been a while since we have received bricks from the company that does the inscribing. They usually wait until they have about 300 orders (ours and several other Honor & Memorial sites) before they run a batch of bricks. I called this past week and was assured ours would be ready to pick up at weeks end. These next two months would be a good time to purchase a brick for a Veteran friend, family member, or loved one. There will probably be one more batch of bricks inscribed this fall before winter sets in. After that we will have to wait until spring. We have run off more brick forms to add to our depleted supply (Sorry Fred and others). So now is the time to fill one out and turn it in at the Post. P.S.: They make wonderful Christmas gifts.

### AUXILIARY REPORT

Our outgoing Unit President, Dawn Smith, and incoming Unit President, Vickii Barry, Pat Plataniotis & Helen Wright attended the NYS Dept Convention at Buffalo, NY. A belated congratulations to Dawn Smith on becoming 1<sup>st</sup> Vice – County. A big **THANK YOU** to Sue Wright & Shirley Willard and their crews for volunteering their time and effort on Aux. dinners, wedding receptions and parties. Also to all who worked at Grassroots & the food tents in the month of Aug...Our thoughts are with Pat Bonsall, Dixie Wagner, Dawn Reeves & Lulu Powless...If you know of some member that is sick or has had surgery, please let our Chaplin, Mary Milks, know. Our condolences to long time American Legion member, Bill Parker & Aux member Lois Ditmars on the loss of their brother, Don Parker on 7/18/04. Also to Jean Welch's family on their recent loss of Jean on 7/24/04... Congratulations to Ron & Sandy Gladstone on their 2<sup>nd</sup> grandchild and to members Sue & Harold Wright on their great-granddaughter, Kaylee Ann, born on Aug 7<sup>th</sup>. Grandfather, Mike Wright, and parents, Eric & Alicia, are very proud. Our President, Vickii Barry is recovering from back surgery at Sayre on 7/23/04 and now home recuperating. She is asking for every member to help her have a very successful year as YOUR President. The next meeting will be Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Please try to attend and support Vickii. Membership is starting to come in – Don't forget – Pay dues by Sept 30<sup>th</sup> and be an Early Bird and receive a free dinner in October. The Tompkins County Auxiliary meeting is Sept 21, 2004 at our Post 770. If interested in attending call Vickii at 387-9512.