

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Fri–Sun	Nov 30 – Dec 1	Winter Festival (See Special Events)
Mon Dec 3	6:45 PM	Bingo
	7:00 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting Post 1134 - Dryden
	7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
	7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Weds Dec 5	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri Dec 7	FLAG	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – Flag At Half Mast Until Noon
Sat Dec 8	5:00 PM	Hog’s Christmas Party
Mon Dec 10	6:45 PM	Bingo
	7: 30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting (Only one this month)
Tues Dec 11	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Party
Fri Dec 14	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Phil Colvin’s Crew
Sat Dec 15	10:00 – Noon	Kid’s Christmas Party – Public Invited – Sign Up Required!
	4:00 PM	Pine Tree Farms Christmas Party
Mon Dec 17	6:45 PM	Bingo
	7 :00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Weds Dec 19	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Senior Citizen’s Christmas Luncheon
	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs Dec 20	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Sun Dec 23	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon Dec 24	4:00 – 6:00 PM	Christmas Eve Open House – (See Special Events)
Tues Dec 25	FLAG	Merry Christmas – Post Closed
Sat Dec 29	Noon – 4:00 PM	Birthday Party
	4:00 – 7:00 PM	Birthday Party
Mon Dec 31	News Year Eve	Dinner & Party
	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Combination Crew
	9:00 – 11:00 PM	News Years Eve Party featuring live music from “Rawhide”
Tues Jan 1	FLAG	Happy New Year – Football Games on TV at the Post

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter Festival: Will take place on Friday, November 30th through Sunday, December 1st. Placement of friendship trees in the Legion hallway will occur during the month of December. The side door entryway will be accessible during normal hours of operation to allow for tree decorations and other affiliated activities.

Bell Ringers Needed: We have been asked to help with Bell ringing for the Salvation Army. It will be on a day early in December. Check the bulletin board for a sign up sheet. Please sign up for a one hour shift at the Shur Save.

Kid’s Christmas Party: Will be held on Saturday, December 15th from 10:00 AM – Noon. Plenty of refreshments and fun are in store when Santa arrives with his bag of toys and goodies. All little boys and girls between the ages of new born and 10 are invited to come. Bring your Mom & Dad, Grampa & Gramma, the more the merrier. We need you to sign up and tell us the ages, sex, and how many children you are bringing before Weds, December 12th so that Santa can fill his sack with presents for everyone.

“Walk of Honor”: We are pleased to continue placing inscribed bricks in our Veteran’s “Walk of Honor”. It is about the right time of the year to consider an inscribed brick in our “Walk” as a Christmas gift for the veteran friend or relative in your life that is not easy to purchase a present for. Applications may be found on the table in the entry way.

Christmas Eve Open House: It has long been a tradition to wish our comrades a Merry Christmas at the Post on Christmas Eve. We are having a festive open house with free draft beer, soft drinks, and hor d’oeveres from 4:00 until 6:00 PM Won’t you join us for a bit of comeraderie before Christmas?

New Years Eve Party: We are really going all out again this New Years Eve. There will be a great steak and fish dinner from 5:30 – 8:00PM to be followed by a great band, “Rawhide” from 9:00 till 1:00 AM. Please join us for this special occasion and ring in the New Year as it should be done. See you there..

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.

MEMBERSHIP

As we enter the year 2008 membership renewals continue to come in along with new members. At this time our enrollment stands at 340, just 53 short of our assigned quota. Notices have been sent out to all of those who have not continued their membership and if not renewed by the first of the year will be dropped from the roster and newsletter mailing list. Now is the time to make your veterans voice heard in large numbers by continuing to be an American Legion member. Welcome new members Evelyn Goldsberry and Michael J. Lehtonen. It’s nice to have you with us.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Taps: Charles A. Meeker: Passed away at his home in Little Egg Harbor Township, NJ on October 29, 2007. He was born in Ithaca but spent most of his life in New Jersey. Although not a member of Post 770, Charles had numerous relatives in the area. Our Post performed military honors at Grove Cemetery together with two regulars from the Bath VA unit. About 10 members participated with our ritual team.

Virginia B. Smith: died at Delray Beach, FL on October 31, 2007. Ginny was the wife of member Dr. Carl Smith and mother of member Dana Smith. She fulfilled a dream and became a pilot. As WWII approached Ginny joined the Red Cross and was stationed in Europe for two years. While her unit was attached to the 9th Air Force, she met her future husband Carl. She was well known in the area having raised a family and taught in the T-Burg school system for a number of years.

Betty (Wright) Heystak: died November 6, 2007. Betty was the sister of long time member Harold Wright and was well known by many in the area, having grown up and worked in and around T-Burg much of her life.

Patricia Jean Plataniotis: known fondly as Pat Platt or Aunt Pat, passed away at the Cayuga Medical Center on November 10, 2007. Pat was related to a number of people in the area. She was most widely known for her interest and participation in Legion activities, banquets, dinners, fund raisers, etc. She was chairperson of the Legion Fair Food Tent each year which involved getting crews together, ordering food, dealing with the Board of Health, and so on. Cards and Darts were among the attractions that kept her on the go so often. Not one to sit around and become bored, she kept on the move as long as she was able. A memorial remembrance was held at the Legion with food being donated by a number of local restaurants in town. Hundreds attended to wish Pat a grand farewell.

POST NEWS

We are very pleased to see 80 – 90 Bingo players gathering at our Post each Monday evening. It is nice to know we are offering an activity that is widely accepted in the area. Of course this means that a lot of volunteers are needed to help Gary & Cindy continue to operate the event every week. We don’t want anyone to get “burned out” so please, if you can spare some time, help us out on Monday’s by selling tickets, calling numbers, or what ever else you do to make Bingo run smoothly. ...The Department visitation luncheon was held at Post 770 this year. About 40 – 50 attended and enjoyed Broccoli Soup, sandwiches, and all that goes with it. Thanks to Roberta & Tom Stilwell, Mary Harvey, and Brady Roach for putting on such a delicious luncheon. Members attending from our Post were Tom & Roberta Stilwell, Phil & Nan Colvin, George Van Valen, Bill Parker, Mary Harvey, Vicki Barry, Tom Bennet and Brady Roach. It was a wonderful day and greatly appreciated by Dept. Cmdr. William Burnett and Auxiliary President Carol Johnson. The dinner was held at Post 221 in Ithaca. ...The NRA Banquet was very successful. A great Prime Rib dinner brought forth a lot of people. We understand this has become a well-received annual event. ...We heard by the grapevine the Senior Citizen’s Bazaar was well attended and quite successful. ...The Early Bird dinner was well attended but unfortunately the Boys Stater’s who were to tell about their experiences had previous commitments that evening and will give their reports in the spring. We were however very fortunate to have a delightful presentation given by our Girl Stater,

Elizabeth Watson. It was a very enjoyable evening. ...In October the Auxiliary served 97 dinners and the fish fry was well attended. Sounds like both turned out quite well. Our patrons always seem to turnout with their support for our dinners. Thanks. ...We heard great reports about the Pee Wee Football breakfast put on by Karl Mount and his Roadhouse crew. About 80 attended. ...One of the highlights of the year is the Veterans Day Parade held in Ithaca. Although we were unable to march in it this year we did attend. Our ranks were somewhat thinned with only Roger Meier, Phil Colvin, Bob Smith, and Jim Dew representing Post 770. Never the less it was a great parade and the thing we enjoyed most about it as we have every year, was the combined Bagpipe Band from Athens, PA and Binghamton that played at the VFW afterwards. When they boost up the amps in a confined space like the VFW, it really "knocks your socks off". We look forward to it every year. ... We were unable to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony at DeWitt Park because of the Baptism of our grandson that day. Post 770 was asked by the County American Legion to supply a firing squad and a color guard. A number of the members committed to being there. Actually there were 7 or 8 in attendance. As I think back to my childhood when Armistice Day was celebrated to commemorate the signing of the WWI truce on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The context of this day has changed considerably to become known as Veteran's Day. Checking the Journal for events on the 11th we found these scheduled: Celebration of the birthday of the Marine Corps, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Ceremony, and Cornell ROTC conducted a ceremony. ...The Post membership has made a number of monetary donations in November. Hospice Care, Bath VA Hospital Gift Shop, and the National Emergency Fund (The Dept & Nat Commanders Fund) were among them. ...Harold Wright was presented with a plaque honoring him for his involvement with American Legion Baseball for 47 years. That is a long time and a lot of devoted hours to the youth of the American Legion baseball program. Great Job and Congratulations, Harold. ...We continue to look for a Legion member to assume the duties of Editor of our newsletter. We could change it to every other month or I would be glad to help anyone with it. Come on, there must be someone that would enjoy contributing to our organization via pen and ink. If interested give me a call.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Our quota for membership is 162 and as of now membership is at 110. There is NO meeting this month but our Xmas party in on December 11th at 7:00 PM. Auxiliary will provide snacks. Please bring a gift of under \$10.00 for the exchange. On December 15th at 10:00 AM we will be having our annual Kid's Xmas party. Please sign up before December 12th. Please let us know of any names and addresses of veterans serving our country for Xmas gifts by Dec 1st. Just call the Post at 387-4212 with the information. The Auxiliary dinner will be on 12/20/07 and we'll be serving a smorgasbord with lots of trimmings. There will be No dinner in January. Our best to Cindy Dew who is recovering at home from surgery on Nov 8th. On November 10th our current Sergeant at Arms, Pat Plataniotis died at CMC after battling cancer for one year. She was diagnosed in October 2006 after a fall at the Post the day our Bath Veterans were to arrive. She was manager/bartender from 11/1981 until 2000 at our Post. She took money at fish fry's and breakfasts. Pat also chaired the Fair food tent for many years. In 1989 she started the present Dart League and was an avid bowler. She made many phone calls for baked goods.

Pat was a FRIEND to many. What a tremendous turn out for the memorial. Respectfully submitted, Marge Bennett

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

We would like to thank the Congregation of The First Baptist Church of Trumansburg for the kind donation of health and wellness items to be sent to our local soldiers fighting abroad. We would also like to thank all the other members and supporters for their generous donations. As you may know, we have been working on this endeavor with the local organization HERE4YOU. We have been told that the response has been tremendous and beyond imagination. If anyone wishes to make additional donations, there is a drop box at the Post. Once again, thank you all for such heartfelt support for our troops. Our next meeting will be December 3rd.

To all you dog folks. It's a little known fact, that over 4000 dogs were sent to Vietnam, and were trained by their handlers to sniff out booby traps, trip wires, enemy tunnels, guard air bases, and much more. It has been estimated that these canine heroes saved as many as 10,000 Americans. **"IF I COULD ONLY TALK"** "My military career began in late 1965 when Sgt. Bob Brown was assigned to me at the 173rd Airborne Brigade at Bien Hoa. Our first combat mission was during Operation Toledo in August 1966. When we returned to the kennels after the 28-day operation, Sgt. Brown was awarded his Combat Infantryman's badge. Although we dogs were not eligible for military awards or decorations, he still passed along his appreciation of a job well done." "Our lives then became a whirlwind of missions. Brownie) and I had become inseparably buddies. We trusted each other completely. That bond was our means of survival. Sadly, after returning home from one of these missions, I got the shock of my life. Brownie, it seems, would be going home. After all we had been through together, we were being broken up. My handler for the past 15 months was now under direct orders to stay away and to have no further contact with me "My next handler was an OK kind of guy, as were all of those that followed. We all worked hard, but the personal chemistry just wasn't the same... The remainder of 1968 and 1969 was

spent patrolling near Highway 19, the main artery into the Western sector of the highlands from the coastal plains." "And then things got a little easier for me. Long days on point left me tired at night and stiff the next morning. I had an image to maintain. I was a seasoned veteran and a survivor. But by now I was a little overweight and turning slightly gray. It didn't worry me though; most of the handlers would be in similar shape when they retire." "Then one day in 1971 I noticed a different mood around the kennels. Many of the other dogs were being put into their crates and loaded onto a truck. I eagerly followed because I thought we were finally going home. "We were taken to a nearby airbase where there were many dogs from all over the country. I wonder if he thinks about me as much as I think about him. Does he remember all that we'd been through together? I'm so excited I can hardly stand still. In the veterinary clinic, I couldn't understand why everyone was crying. Just give me my discharge papers and vaccinations and get me on that plane home; I can hardly wait." "In all of my excitement I barely felt the needle. It feels just like the tranquilizer shot that we got before we left America on the plane ride over here way back in July of '66. It seems to be getting darker. Will Brownie remember me? I feel numb! I think I'll rest awhile and think of what it will be like to be home. I'm tired. I . . .

Budda's story was written by: R. "Pete" Peters, 39th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) Vietnam, March 1966 - July 1967.

PLEASE NOTE: Budda (4A82) bravely served his country for the human equivalent of over 40 years. During his time in Vietnam he had 8 handlers, all of whom survived to return home. He had 5 confirmed enemy kills in close combat. He protected and saved the lives of uncountable numbers of American servicemen. For all of this, his government awarded him the death penalty.

FINAL SALUTE FOR NAVY VETERANS FOR SAMPSON

The men and women of the former Sampson Naval Training Center have been gathering each September at Sampson State Park for the past 19 years to recall their days as recruits or base personnel. Occupying one wing of the old brig is the museum fashioned by the Sampson Air Force Base Veterans Assoc. Because the Air Force veterans are younger, they'll continue the care of their museum into the foreseeable future. Sampson operated as a Navy installation during World War II, 1941 – 1945. The Air Force moved in with the coming of the Korean War in 1950. The visit this year as members of the Sampson World War Navy Veterans Inc. will be their last. The 20th annual and final reunion fell on Sept 11th – 13th. In their 80's and older, the WWII veterans are passing the torch to a new generation. "We have returned to the old base, finished our museum, our static displays, paid tribute to our fallen comrades, our commitment has been accomplished and our mission is complete." President William H. Andre of Elbridge writes in the latest newsletter. "Thanks and God bless to all of you," he wrote. "You may all stand tall and proud. Sampson is now sacred ground and our spirit in our youth and our senior years will always be present at Sampson."