

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR FEBUARY

Sun	Feb 1	2:30 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting at Post 770 – T-burg
		4:00 PM	Super Bowl Party – Dish to Pass – (See Special Events)
Mon	Feb 2		Ground Hog’s Day
		7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
		7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Tues	Feb 3	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	Feb 4	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sat	Feb 7	TBA	Zone Oratorical Contest
Mon	Feb 9	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	Feb 11	Noon	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon Meeting
Thurs	Feb 12	FLAG	Lincoln’s Birthday
Fri	Feb 13	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Don Smith’s Crew
Sat	Feb 14		Valentine’s Day
		2:00 PM	Wedding
Sun	Feb 15	Noon	Daytona Race Party (See Special Events)
Mon	Feb 16	FLAG	Washington’s Birthday (Observed)
		7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Weds	Feb 18	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs	Feb 19	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Sat	Feb 21	12:30 Sign up	Dart League Tournament at Post 770, play begins 1:30
Sun	Feb 22	FLAG	Washington’s Birthday
		7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
		2:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Poker Run
Mon	Feb 23	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	Feb 25		Ash Wednesday
		Noon	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon Meeting
Fri	Feb 27	5:30 – 8:00 PM	1 st Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux’s Crew
Sat	Feb 28	4:00 PM	Blue & Gold Cub Scouts Banquet

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Super Bowl Party & Daytona Race Party: You will not want to miss these great events to be observed and celebrated in the Lounge with a dish-to-pass and big screen TV. Come out of those mid-winter doldrums and enjoy the “Big Ones” with fans and friends. Save these dates: Feb 1st at 4:00 PM and Feb 15th at Noon.

Walk of Honor: We continue to accept orders for bricks to be etched even though they will not be installed at our Memorial Site until spring. Order forms are available in the entryway to the lounge. The purchase of a brick is a meaningful way to honor a veteran.

Post 770 Website: www.Post770.com Why not pull up our website and see what is new? If you have any newsworthy items that would be of interest to our Legion family, please contact Patrick Richar, 111Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: **Mary (Jackie) Alford:** Convalescing from hip surgery at Lakeside **Joe Gulyas:** CMC

TAPS: Loretta Whitaker: Died in December. She was the mother of James and Ken Whitaker.

Lena May Conroy: passed away on December 19, 2008. She was the mother of member Dale Conroy and Grandmother of member Kathy Conroy.

Ernest W. England: passed away at the Cayuga Medical Center on January 9, 2009. He entered the US Army earning the rank of Corporal. Ernie received his honorable discharge on December 10, 1945. The Post 770 firing squad rendered Military honors following a memorial service at the Church of Epiphany.

John Grove: Passed away at his home at Fort Walton Beach, Florida on December 17, 2008. Although much of his time was spent in Florida, it was not unusual to receive a telephone call or letter asking if we could use some Post 770 shirts or jackets. Perhaps we might have need of a used stove or refrigerator delivered on his next trip up north? I felt this year might have been a good time to stop at Fort Walter Beach on our way home from our annual trip to Florida. John had always promised to show me around the Air Force Base. The unexpected news of his passing was announced at our December Post meeting. At that time a letter was read that should be shared with all of the membership.

Local Humanitarian John Grove Dies: Kimberly White, Fort Walton Beach, December 19, 2008

For more than two decades, retired Air Force Maj. John Grove worked tirelessly on humanitarian missions, including delivering food and medical supplies to Southeast Asian countries and helping to set up a fresh-water system in a Thai village. Grove, described by longtime friends as a “humanitarian hero,” died this week at his home at the age of 66. An autopsy is pending, but the cause of death is believed to be heart failure. Dave Freeman, a retired Air Force helicopter pilot, said he and Grove belonged to the same squadron and worked on various aid projects in recent years. Grove flew special ops in Thailand during the Vietnam War, where he received a Distinguished Flying Cross, “and the Air Commandos recognized the need to help people in the different countries in Southeast Asia.” Freeman said. The McCoskrie/Threshold Foundation, the nonprofit, humanitarian branch of the Air Commando Association, was born out of that need. Grove served most recently as its vice president. Freeman said Grove was an environmentalist as well a humanitarian. He said Grove “loved the environmental aspect of what he did. He was saving all of that stuff from just going to waste.” Lon Lancaster, a longtime friend who also worked with Grove on foundation projects, described him as “the humanitarian hero in the local area.” “I suspect that many in the local area would say that John Grove was one of (if not the) most prolific humanitarian workers in the Fort Walton Beach area for the past 20 years,” Lancaster wrote in an e-mail. Starting in the mid- 1980’s, Grove worked to improve the lives of others and of future generations. The projects included helping to ship hundred of donated school desks, dental equipment, and clothing from the United States to countries such as Honduras, Guatemala, Vietnam, and Laos. Most recently, he solicited donations of electric stoves, refrigerators, washers and other items to give to orphanages in Honduras as part of the foundations 16th annual Christmas Wish program. The Fort Walton Beach resident also coordinated charitable efforts closer to home. He delivered donated baked goods, medical supplies and other items to nursing homes and community organizations. “He was just a great member of the community,” Freeman said, “He went out to Krispy Kreme in Destin and they would give him all the doughnuts they weren’t going to sell, so he always had doughnuts and gave them out wherever he went.” Grove is survived by his mother, three brothers, and two children. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

POST NEWS

Probably the biggest event to take place since your last months Post News is Christmas. The annual Kids Christmas party put on by the Auxiliary was held on Sunday Dec 21st and brought forth about 50 kids and adults to enjoy the festivities. Everyone had a great time this year beginning with entertainment provided by Joseph and his guitar. Elves giving out goodies and presents were Taryn, Ally, and Ian VanValen. Games and “hands on” activities were provided for all of the kids along with cartoons on TV. Santa, played by Tom Joseph, soon arrived by fire truck and passed out presents to all of the good little girls and boys. Steve Caywood of “Little Venice” and Don Scott of Ron Don’s donated pizza for hungry little stomachs. A great party with lots of things to do and eats took place with much thought and time behind the scenes. Great job everyone! ...The Christmas Eve Open House was one of the best I have attended. The hor'doerves and food were plentiful of many varieties and exceptionally tasty. I thought Terry Harvey’s egnog was superb too! Apparently everyone enjoyed the event; it was the biggest attendance at a Christmas Eve open house that I have ever been to. The place looked so seasonal and the entire event was outstanding. Great job everyone! ...We didn’t hear how the New Years

Eve fish fry went but I hope the attendance was greater than at the dance. A few of us enjoyed dancing to a great band "Rawhide" but were disappointed with the size of the crowd. Some that stopped in said they had been to 4 or 5 other places in the village and the attendance was down in all of them. Perhaps it was the bad weather or maybe the fear of DWI's. Who knows? I do hope the crowd will be better next year. ...Our steak and fish fry crew had a nice evening on Jan 9th. We server 149 dinners to a steady crowd. Everything seemed to go well, we did not run out of anything, yet we had a little left over. A great evening. ...Have you noticed the new trim on the banquet room doors? You will soon be seeing new window dressings also. Phil Colvin, Steve Hovencamp, and Don Cole revised the doors with their carpentry expertise and the Auxiliary purchased the new window coverings.

MEMBERSHIP

Presently we are at 321 with only another month to attain our goal of 380 members and receive the \$100 incentive issued by the County Commander. Therefore, in order to encourage our delinquent members to pay their dues before April 1st we are going to delete their names from our newsletter mailing list. This is not a threat but merely an encouragement or reminder to pay your 2008 -2009 dues now. The Legion is there for you; won't you be there for the Legion?

AUXILIARY NEWS

Our membership is 127 seniors and 5 juniors. We welcome two new seniors Gail Dean and Sandy Bassette. There is NO Auxiliary dinner in March due to the weekly Lenten Fish Fries. Our best to Betty Covert with foot surgery and Mary Alford who broke a leg and now recuperating at Lakeside. Unit President Ann Stiles Hunt & Sue McConnel attended mid winter conference in Albany at the end of January. Our condolences to Eudora Carson on the loss of her husband Don and to Kathleen Gooding on the loss of her father. Also to Sandy Voorheis on the loss of her husband Ed. Watch the March news for more on the 75th birthday of our Auxiliary Unit. A friend of Tom Stilwell's, Ron Hutchinson, who served in the Marine Corp, donated the white hat for our Marine mannequin to us. We recently received from Richard & Anna Doane of Boerne, TX a new Air Force cap to complete our mannequin display. Richard is the cousin of member Wayne Doane and a 20 + year Air Force veteran; Anna is a member of Aux Post 593. Our thanks go out to them and everyone who has contributed to our project. The next meeting is Feb 2nd at 7:00 PM. We hope to have the Bath Veterans back to our Post in April. Happy Valentines Day! Submitted, Marge Bennett

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

The SAL has collected and delivered many health and wellness items for the Bath Vets. Thanks to all for your generosity. Thanks to Jim and Rene for delivering these items. At our last meeting we took down the lounge decorations and continued with our kitchen cleaning projects. We are currently running a cash raffle for Valentine's Day. Please come by the Post and pick up some tickets to sell. The raffle will be drawn on February 11th. Membership is currently 41. Our quota this year is 58, so lets get out and renew your membership. Our next meeting will be on Groundhog Day, February 2nd. Plan on spending an hour or so taking care of our Post prior to meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?

Legion Launches VetCam for Families of Military, Vets: No software downloads needed, Indianapolis Dec 5, 2008
Military troops deployed overseas can now use their webcams to talk with their families back home without having to download software packages that might not pass muster with command cybernet security requirements. The American Legion has launched "VetCam", a free webcam service that enables US military service members and veterans to talk face-to-face on their personal computers with friends and family by simply registering as a user. Once registered, each user can connect with two webcams and use the service 24/7 from anyplace with an Internet connection. "webcam technology has been around for a while, but many required downloading software to make them work," said David Rehbein, National Commander of the American Legion. "We want our troops, our veterans, and their families to be able to enjoy the pleasure of talking face to face with their loved ones anywhere in the world, with just a couple of mouse clicks. Next to actually being there, seeing and talking with your spouse and kids, mom and dad and best friends are morale boosters prior generations of veterans never had." To initiate the service, a user will need a webcam or a computer

with a built in webcam. Then just go to www.legion.org, click on VetCams, register and start communicating. Once registered, simply log in at any time to connect. All members of the United States Armed Forces (active duty, Reserve and National Guard), members of the American Legion, their families and friends are welcome to use this complimentary technology.

Operation Comfort Warriors: Meet the Challenge: NYALPA, Dec 2008

We need your help. Most importantly they need you. They are our warriors, our guardians, or our protectors. They are liberators, peacekeepers and nation-builders. They are our neighbors, friends and family members. They are the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. And now they are hurting. The US government does a good job providing for the essential needs of the men and women recovering from war injuries in hospitals like Walter Reed, Brooke Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Medical Center, just to name a few. But what about the so-called nonessentials, the items that don't show up as a budget line on a government spreadsheet? Nonessential comfort items such as loose fitting sweat suits that can cover a soldier's healing body without adding pressure to the burns he suffered during an RPG attack in Ramadi? Or an I-Pod to help drown out the tinnitus that has plagued the medic ever since she drove too close to a roadside bomb in Afghanistan? Or a gripping novel that provides a welcome distraction from PTSD? When the Red Cross notified the American Legion that zip-up sweatshirts were in short supply at Walter Reed, the Legion immediately ordered 100 sets. But it's just a drop in the bucket. Consider that there are 67 other US military inpatient facilities and 1,369 VA inpatient and outpatient centers, and you can grasp the enormous need. Their size and needs, however, are dwarfed by the obligation that America has to these heroes. The American Legion family is calling this effort Operation Comfort Warriors. Contributing is effortless. We will handle all of that. You can use your credit card to make an online donation at www.legion.org/ocw or mail a check to Operation Comfort Warriors, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. The American Legion will pay administrative and promotional costs for Operation Comfort Warriors, so you can be sure that your entire donation will go directly to the troops. Many centers are not equipped to store large quantities of care packages; so monetary donations are needed in order to purchase items that are truly needed. Semper Fi, or Semper Fidelis, is the Marine Corps motto meaning "Always Faithful." Well today's wounded warriors in all service branches remain faithful. Faithful to their country, their comrades in arms and their loved ones back home. Operation Comfort Warrior will never be able to compensate these heroes for their sacrifices. But it will show them that we care.