

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR JULY

Sun-Sat	June 29-July 3		Boys State at Morrisville, NY
Sun	July 4	FLAG	Independence Day
			NASCAR Race at Watkins Glen
Mon	July 5	7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
Weds	July 7	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	July 9	5:30 –8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner– Jim Heroux’s Crew
		TBA	Wedding Reception
Sat	July 10	TBA	Wedding Reception – Large Banquet Room
		TBA	Bridal Shower – Small Meeting Room
Sun	July 11	2:00 PM	Wedding Reception
Mon	July 12	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	July 14	Noon	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon Meeting
Thurs-Sat	July 15 – 17		Department Convention in Syracuse, NY
Sat-Sun	July 17 – 18 - 8:00 AM		Set up Food Tent for Grassroots
Weds	July 21	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs-Sun	July 22 – 25		Grassroots Food Tent at the Fairgrounds
Sun	July 25	7:30 AM	Breakfast will be at the Grassroots Food Tent instead of our Post
Mon	July 26	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	July 28	Noon	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon Meeting
Sat	July 31	11:30 – 5:00 PM	Class of 1960 Reunion and Memorial Service for John Grove

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Message From the Board of Trustees: How you can support your Legion Home!!! Stop by the lounge for an afternoon or evening beverage and catch up with friends and make some new ones. Keep current with Legion happenings. Post hours presently are 2:00 PM – 10:00 PM during the week and 11:00 on Friday and Saturdays and we close at 8:00 on Sundays. With the exception of our bar coordinator, we are returning to a volunteer bartender staff to serve our patrons and help the organization through our current economic circumstances. The newsletter will become a bi-monthly publication. Your patronage is greatly appreciated as well as your help in other volunteer ways. Venture out regularly to your Legion home. Your presence is needed. Legion fish fry second Friday of each month and breakfast the fourth Sunday every month. Hope to see you soon.

Grassroots Sign-up Board: As we surveyed the sign-up board to volunteer for our Grassroots food tent we noticed that several of the afternoon shifts (Noon – 6:00 PM) and one evening shift (6:00 PM – Midnight) were not filled. There is room for as many as 4 people on some of these shifts. In as much as our food tent is one of our largest fund raisers, we would like to see all shifts filled with volunteers. PS It’s a fun thing to do and you get a free pass for that day.

Free Acupuncture for Veterans: IVAC (Ithaca Veterans Acupuncture Clinic) at 225 S. Fulton Street, Ithaca is holding a weekly clinic every Tuesday from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Need to boost energy, improve sleep, relieve stress, anxiety, nightmares, quit smoking? Please call them at 274 -7520 or 330 – 1253 for more information. Family members are welcome. We are trying to make arrangements to have them come to our Post on a prearranged date if enough are interested.

Search for the Queen of Hearts: The pool is now up to \$ 839.00 and growing weekly! Please stop in and buy a ticket once a week. You never know who will find the Queen of Hearts and win the jackpot! Need not be present to win. Drawing held every Sunday at 4:00 PM.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: **Calvin Bailey:** Had pace maker put in – Now Home

Taps: **Bill Hall:** Died on May 18, 2010. Our Post 770 Military Funeral Detail was called out to conduct last rites at Grove Cemetery. The flag was folded and presented to the family by active duty Army personnel from Bath, NY. Our squad was made up of members Tom Bennett, Lee Weaver, Don Smith, George Van Valen and Jim Dew, and others whose names I seem to have forgotten. At one time in his later years, Bill and Edie were regulars at the bar in Post 770.

Robert L. Usher: passed away at the Groton nursing home on May 12, 2010. Robert enlisted in the US Navy on August 25, 1944. He served in the American and Asiatic Pacific Theatres before receiving an Honorable Discharge on March 20, 1986 with the rank of Fireman First Class. Bob was laid to rest with services by the Post 770 Funeral Detail consisting of Tom Bennett, Jim Dew, George Van Valen, Bill Walsh, Dave Boyd, Harold Wright, Tony Chiesa, and others along with the US Navy active duty personnel who folded and presented the flag to the family.

Arthur F. Millspaugh: passed away at home on June 7, 2010. I can well remember Art and his brother Wes purchasing the lumber and ladder building company from Carmen and Pearsall. I'm not sure which brother was discharged from the Army with the end of WWII first, made the purchase and awaited the discharge of the other to form the well known Millspaugh's Brothers Hardware and lumber company. Both Art, Wes, and their sons Denny and Doug were always there to help out the Legion Post, with any project that were underway, especially involving the building. Art enjoyed many hobbies among them making maple syrup at the Sugar Shack, jewelry making, and raising a vegetable garden. Art had many relatives and friends as evidenced by the long waiting lines at two separate calling hours.

Our Funeral Detail has been called upon to perform their duties at numerous burials this spring. It seems fitting to list those active members and invite others who may wish to participate to contact our Chairperson and flag folder, Phil Colvin. The rest of the crew is as follows: Taps Rifle Shooters: Dave Boyd, Tony Chiesa, Harold Wright, and Tom Bennett. Flag Detail: Lee Weaver, Don Smith, Jim Dew, Bill Walsh. Chaplain: George Van Valen. Bugler: Don Cole. Plus several others who escape my memory at the moment.

POST NEWS

Although our Post was slated to be closed for the entire weekend of May 15th and 16th, we were informed we would shut down for only one of those days because we could not afford to be without business income for both days. Having succumbed to illness and other distractions I was unable to be a witness to the progress of maintaining a great looking Post that was the outcome of some real hard work by a number of groups and individuals. Thanks to all who participated with this endeavor. ...Memorial Day is one of our treasured days of remembrances. As in previous years, the events were planned and coordinated by the Parade Chairman, Tom Bennett. Beginning with putting flags on the graves of all our veterans that are buried in a number of smaller local cemeteries and ending up with Grove and St James Cemeteries we wish to thank all of those who participated in this event. The newly mowed lawns graced with newly placed flags gave our cemeteries an honor to which we subscribe. As seen on page 3A of the June 1st Ithaca Journal, our Post 770 comprised of 11 members is front and center of the Memorial Day Parade pictures, marching down the Main Street of T-Burg. Thanks to our appeal for marchers. Every one in the picture looked great! The parade began at 10 AM followed by a program at Grove Cemetery with Cmd. James Dew as Master of Ceremonies, Invocation given by Father John Kotun, National Anthem by the Trumansburg Central School Band, Pledge of Allegiance by Auxiliary President Ann Hunt, Flanders Field recited by Cara De Coudres, Speaker Rev Kotun, Benediction by Enid Zollweg, 770 Firing Squad, Taps by JT Swartz and Sam Watson. As far as I know this was the 1st Memorial Day speaker that did not have any affiliations with the Armed Forces. Dr. Kotun spoke about the sacrifices made by veterans to preserve the liberties and freedoms that we Americans have enjoyed because of the commitments made by those who believed in those freedoms. It was a most inspiring speech! Following the ceremonies at Grove many of us returned to the Post for an Open House including hors d'orves and a roast beef dinner for those like myself who had not yet eaten. Though it is a sad day of

remembrances it was a well planned and executed day of participation at our Post. Hats off for all those who helped to make this a day of remembrance.

We have recently acquired a triangular flag case to hold the folded flag which covered the casket of John King whose brother exploded over Ohio during WWII. It is a fitting addition to be hung in the meeting/museum/library room named in his honor The John King room. The flag and funds toward the furnishing of the room were given to the American Legion by the King family of Trumansburg. ...Regarding the Golf Tournament held to raise funds towards the cemetery under construction on the south side of the former Sampson Navy and Air Force Training Base. We take pleasure in congratulating Post 770 who had the most golfers show up. They were Jim Heroux, Jim Heroux Jr., Gordy Veley, John Daube, Dan Motill, Chad Grove, Leigh Durant, and Tom Jackson.... Since there is no change in membership numbers we will not include it this time. Still 19 short of our quota. It doesn't appear we will make it by Department Convention time which is July 15th. ..We notice in Nick Chaffie's weekly Ithaca Journal column titled Schuyler Seneca Tour talk, he makes mention of Sampson State Parks acreage on August 14th will be bustling with various units and personnel representing the present day Armed Forces to those of years gone by. "A Salute to the Troops", Bill Sebring of Ovid, a correction officer at the Willard facility, will appear himself as a Civil War soldier and is encouraging others to join him. Local historical societies, groups, and individuals will set up various displays and exhibits. Have you heard anything about this event? I wonder if our Post has been contacted. You can contact Bill at 869-5520....An article of interest accompanying Memorial Day activities in the Ithaca Journal says that there are 4,705 veterans (estimated) which is 5.5% of the population in our county. This is rather low when compared with Stueben and Susquehanna at 13.6% in Cayuga and Chenango counties at 11.5%. ...Lloyd Loop, chairman of our Boys State committee is meeting with 5 Tompkins County Boy State participants on June 24th. We would guess he will be filling them in on what to expect during their upcoming week at Morrisville. ...Scholarships have been presented by Commander Jim Dew to the following high school winners: Heather Mount - \$300, two school awards of \$50 each to Grace Parker Zielinski and Noah Selfert. Congratulations!...Among those suggestions for cutting our operating expenses at the Post which were presented to the Board of Trustees were turning off some gas jets on the stoves that are not regularly in use. Fewer trips into and use of the walk-in cooler. Keep the same bar hours. Do you have any other cost saving ideas that would help to reduce our operating expenses? ...I seemed to have misplaced my notes regarding the installation of officers and presentation of membership awards. About 40 – 50 were in attendance. Filet Mignon and accompaniments were cooked and presented very tastefully by Tom Bennett, Cindy and Gary Reckdenwald. It would have been nice to have a few more on hand to enjoy such a wonderful dinner and to applaud those who have been members for so many years. Thanks to all who were a part of the evening events. ...There has been a proposal by the Board as a way to cut costs would be to reduce putting out the newsletter to every other month. This is okay by me having been the editor for more than 20 years and because of health reasons, I don't know how much longer, but that's beside the point. What are your feelings? Can we plan a calendar for 2 months in advance? Here is something to think about relating to cost. I'm sorry not to have a bottom-line figure of cost per newsletter but in the future we should be able to come up with one. We mail approximately 500 newsletters each month. The cost to make copies, address and sort for the Post Office is unknown to me, but may be calculated by dividing 500 into the monthly bill received in the office of our accountant from Mailbox, Inc. Since I temporarily pay the Post Office for their delivery cost I know exactly how much mailing costs. Approximately 15 cents per newsletter. Of course by adding the two costs together we can calculate our total cost to sending the newsletters monthly and what savings would be produced by going from 12 to 6 newsletters each year. Let us hear what your thoughts are. It's your Post, yet we are having financial problems and need to cut costs somewhere. ...Henry VanNess, as 6th District Chairperson of the Legion Baseball this year, tells me he is having problems acquiring a home playing field. It seems that mowing, lining and preparing the field for games is not part of scheduling our field for Legion home games. Henry has found TC3 field for the 6th District games, but could use some help. If you can be of help, please contact him.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership is still at 149 with 140 seniors and 9 juniors. HELP! We need 8 more to make our quota of 157. Please pay your dues if you haven't done so yet. July starts a new year. The two names drawn for free dues for 7/10 – 7/11 were Diane Schooley and Josie Wright. Pay your dues by Sept 30th and we draw 2 more names for paid membership for 7/11 – 7/12. You will be getting a dues notice from National Headquarters around July. Our condolences to Edyth Neff on the loss of her companion of many years, Bill Hall who died on May 18th. Also condolences to Jackie Brooks on the loss of her son John on May 19th. We wish a speedy recovery to Sue Weaver who had knee surgery on June 7th. The newly elected chaplain is Beth Jenkins – Historian is Marge Bennett, and Sgt at Arms is Ruth Scott. At the June meeting the officers were installed by Dawn Smith. We thank Mary Schmidt for doing the flowers around the Post, to Susie Smith for being Poppy Chairman, to Ann Stiles Hunt for two successful years as Unit President and to Legion, SAL, Boy Scouts, &

5 Auxiliary members, Dawn, Sue, Rene, Marge & Marti for helping clean the Post. Congratulations to Tom & Elaine Joseph on their 2nd granddaughter born May 19th. No meetings in July or August. Mindy is all finished with Auxiliary dinner so she has more time with her grandson. She would like to thank all who worked, baked, and attended the dinners.

Job well done! Our next meeting is September 7th with a time change to 7:30 PM.

Have a pleasant & safe summer.

Historian Marge Bennett

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

As of this month, we will begin collecting dues for 2011. Father's Day Breakfast was a great success with 210 patrons served. Thanks to the few SAL members that showed up to help. \$350 profit from the event has been earmarked for the Legion to purchase a new computer. The SAL has also agreed to help with the building utility bills for the next few months. Congratulations to BBQ grill winner Marie Adinolfi. Our next meetings are Monday, July 5th and August 2nd at 7PM.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Voice of the New York American Legion Press Association, June 2010

Thank you, American Legion Family! Your voices were heard on Capitol Hill!

Congress cleared a sweeping veterans' omnibus health care measure that would also provide assistance to caregivers of veterans. The bill (S.1963), which passed the House 419 – 0 and the Senate the next day by voice vote, includes several of The American Legion's top legislative priorities: to improve women's services at VA health care facilities, provide better support for caregivers of disabled veterans, expand mental-health services, reduce homelessness and commit the Federal government to a number of other initiatives to better serve veterans and their families. President Obama is expected to sign the bill. Last September, The American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill testified before a joint session of the Veterans' Affairs Committees that women's health-care needs had to move up on the congressional agenda for VA. "The demographic of the American veteran is changing," he told the committees at that time. "This includes a growing and significant number of women veterans who sacrifice no less than their male counterparts." After S. 1963 passed, The American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division Director Barry Searle said the nation's largest veterans' organization is "especially impressed by the attention this bill is giving to our 1.8 million women veterans. It specifically calls for VA mental-health professionals to be educated and trained to handle sexual trauma cases. It authorizes a study to find out what barriers are preventing women veterans from seeking the VA health-care benefits they've earned from their service. The bill creates a pilot program to provide childcare services for mothers who need VA services, and even provides seven days of health care to newborn children of women veterans." National Commander Hill added that The American Legion has worked closely with Congress over the last year and a half to set fresh, relevant priorities for VA health care and pass legislation that will make them a reality. "This omnibus bill really strengthens the quality and quantity of health care for the nation's veterans," Commander Hill explained. "It improves VA rural health care and increases access to mental health care. It even gives more care and services to veterans who've been exposed to Agent Orange and other chemicals in combat zones. This bill is a comprehensive response to many things The American Legion has been advocating for quite some time." The American Legion has worked for several years to improve VA access in rural areas. In many sparsely populated parts of the country, veterans are forced to drive hundreds of miles to receive medical care. Until recent years, their travel reimbursement was 11 cents a mile. While the reimbursement rate has more than quadrupled in response to pressure from The American Legion, the omnibus bill is designed to do a better job of delivering care where veterans live. "This bill will do a lot for veterans living in rural and other remote areas," Searle explained. "It requires VA to focus on recruiting and retaining more health care workers in rural areas, improve the overall quality of health care in rural communities, and to expand telemedicine services in those areas." Commander Hill has also spoken with leaders in Congress and the administration to extend help for families who struggle to take care of their wounded-warrior or disabled-veteran spouses or children. "This legislation will support family members and others who care for the disabled, ill, or injured veterans." Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said, "This is very important to families, military families. Our wounded soldiers and their families have made a serious sacrifice for our country, and this bill will bring them some relief." The measure offers 24-hour respite care in veterans' homes, caregiver training and mental health counseling, as well as financial support to cover travel costs for medical treatment. House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Filner, D-Calif., and Speaker Pelosi both praised

The American Legion for its persistence, insight and support as the bill was crafted. “As the leaders of The American Legion have stated, this legislation offers bold solutions to major challenges facing service members, veterans and their families. Our sincere thanks to everyone who called, wrote and emailed Congress with regard to this matter. This significant and far-reaching bill will enhance VA’s ability to furnish veterans with the quality health care and benefits they have earned through their service to our country. The American Legion looks forward to timely implementation of the provisions of the legislation.

Important News From The US Department of Veterans Affairs – 02/02/2010 President Signs Veterans’ Emergency Care Fairness Act

The Veterans’ Emergency Care Fairness Act, signed into law by President Obama will enable the Department of Veterans Affairs to reimburse veterans enrolled in VA health care for the remaining cost of emergency treatment if the veteran has outside insurance that only covers part of the cost. Previously, VA could reimburse veterans or pay outside hospitals directly only if a veteran has no outside health insurance. In addition to reimbursing veterans for emergency care in the future, the bill allows the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide retroactive reimbursements for care received prior to the passage of this bill. Akaka has received correspondence from veterans who were unable to receive financial assistance under the previous rules, and plans to share their information with Secretary Shinseki.

Presumptions of Service Connection for Persian Gulf Service

On March 18, 2010, the Department of Veterans Affairs published a proposed regulation in the Federal Register to establish presumption of service connection for nine diseases. This action is necessary to implement the decision of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that there is a positive association between service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and Afghanistan during certain periods and the subsequent development of the following infectious diseases:

Brucellosis, Campylobacter jejuni, Coxiella burnetii (Q fever), Malaria, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Nontyphoid Salmonella, Shigella, Visceral leishmaniasis, West Nile virus.

The new presumptive conditions will apply to veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, as currently defined under title 38 Code of Federal Regulations and to veterans who served in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001, the date specified in Executive Order 13239 as the date combatant activities commenced in that country. As Congress has not officially ended the period of the “Persian Gulf War”, this proposed regulatory change applies to all veterans who served in the Southwest Asia Theater of operations from August 2, 1990 to the present.

Mojave Desert Cross Disappears:

Thieves have stolen a cross in the Mojave Desert that was built to honor Americans who died in war, less than two weeks after the US Supreme Court allowed the religious symbol to remain on federal land. The 7 foot high cross was stolen from a sprawling desert preserve, National Park Service spokeswoman Linda Slater said. The cross came under legal fire about a decade ago when a former park service employee claimed it violated the constitutional separation of church and state. The Supreme Court said the cross should remain.

Enjoy a Virtual Tour of Legion Museum:

Members of The American Legion family now have the opportunity to view from the comfort of their homes a selection of pieces from the Emil A. Blackmore Museum at The American Legion’s National Headquarters. A virtual tour of the museum is available at www.legion.org/virtualltour. There, The American Legion Library staff has selected an array of items, with attention to both visual appeal and each one’s showcasing of an aspect of the Legion’s legacy. The organization’s history is illustrated by such items as the gavel and block used to preside over the first national convention in Minneapolis in 1919, the wars Legionnaires have fought in by such items as a captured Viet Cong AK-47, and Legion programs and causes by such items as a promotional bat from the 1965 American Legion World Series, played in Aberdeen, SD. The tour also offers a few sights not on display in the museum. A statue of St Michael the Archangel, sheathing his sword as a sign of the ending of God’s wrath through a plague upon Rome, was presented to the Legion at the third national convention in Kansas City, MO., by Gen. Armando Diaz, head of Italy’s military forces in World War I. The Italian inscriptions reads: “To The American Legion and to its officials and members, who fought with valor on the bloody battlefields of the Great War at the side of the soldiers of Italy. With affectionate memory of comradeship, General Diaz, Rome, October 1921.” The appearance of St. Michael in Rome symbolizes the US entry into the war. Due to its age and condition, the statue is currently in storage. Emil A, Blackmore served as the Legion’s national adjutant

from 1956 to 1967. Shortly after his death, the National Executive Committee passed a resolution naming the museum after Blackmore, in recognition of his personal interest in the project. Those interested in visiting the museum in person are welcome to visit National Headquarters in Indianapolis. Hours are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Veterans Benefits Calculator:

The American Legion Veterans Benefits Calculator gives veterans a head start in their efforts to file benefits claims. By simply clicking through an application at www.legion.org, veterans or family members can view and print both a list of benefits they may be eligible to receive and contact information for a nearby American Legion service officer who can help complete the process. www.legion.org/benefitscalculator

Legion Video Addresses Claims Process:

The American Legion's position on the VA claims process is explained in a video presentation by Peter Gaytan, executive director of The American Legion's Washington office. www.legion.org/legiontv

Online Forums:

Visitors of www.legion.org can interact with one another online to discuss American Legion programs, including Legion Riders, American Legion Baseball, Boys Nation, Legion Racing and Veterans Affairs. www.legion.org/forum