

THE BOUTON BUGLE

MAY

2007

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Circulation: 575

ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR MAY

Tues	May 1	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Sat	May 5	1:00 – 4:00 PM	Birthday Party
Sun	May 6	2:00 – 8:00 PM	Square Dance Club Dinner & Dance
Mon	May 7	7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
		7:00 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting at Post 1134, Dryden
Weds	May 9	Noon	Senior Citizens Meeting
		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	May 11	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux’s Crew
Sun	May 13		Mother’s Day
		7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	May 14	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting – Election of Officers
Thurs	May 17	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Sat	May 19	FLAG	Armed Forces Day
		6:30 PM	Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner
Tues	May 22	6:00 PM	Place Flags on Graves at Grove Cemetery for Memorial Day
Weds	May 23	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sat	May 26	1:00 PM	Wedding Reception
Sun	May 27	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	May 28	FLAG	Memorial Day (Observed)
		9:00 – 10:00 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
Weds	May 30	FLAG	Memorial Day (Traditional)

Planning Ahead – September 2nd or the 16th for the family picnic and the 7th – 9th for a fall cleanup of our facilities.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Walk of Honor”: Now that Spring is here we will be receiving our inscribed brick orders to be installed. Application forms are available at the entryway to the Post Lounge. Why not honor a veteran by purchasing a brick to be a permanent reminder of their allegiance to our country?

From the Board of Directors: The Board is seeking a person to mow the grounds at the Post. Interviews for the position of building/ bar manager will begin shortly. Interested persons may still apply by contacting Dave Boyd or any member of the Board. Also, children should not handle “games of chance” tickets in any way.

Post 770 Website – www.Post770.com: Our website continues to supply information that is of interest to our Legion family. If you have anything you would like to share, please contact Patrick Richar at 111 Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430.

Albert M. Becker Memorial Scholarship Award 2007: This will be the last notification concerning the \$1,000 cash scholarship in the memory of Albert M. Becker, past NALPA President and Dept. Commander. It is awarded to a student entering or attending an accredited 2 or 4 year college and majoring in the field of communications. The student must be a child of a member of the American Legion, Auxiliary, or a member of the SAL, or graduate of the Boys or Girls State. There is an application form on our bulletin board which may be used to produce a copy for your use in applying for this scholarship. Applications must be received with all attachments included, by June 1st, 2007.

Elections of Officers: The proposed slate of officers submitted by the nominating committee, by rule, contains one person for each office. The slate of officers is as follows: Cmdr – Al Richar, 1st Vice – Tom Bennett, 2nd Vice – Dana Smith, 3rd Vice – Scott Hulslander, Adj – Phil Colvin, Financial Officer – Lee Weaver, Service Officer – Don Bennett, Chaplain – Bill Parker, Historian – George Van Valen, Sgt-At-Arms – Cal Bailey, Judge Advocate – Don Smith. Others interested in running for an office may be nominated from the floor at the Monday, May 14th Post meeting during which time the elections of officers will be held. Your attendance is important!

Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfasts: Even though either of these events do not fall on the normal 4th Sunday of the month breakfast, we will be offering breakfast on those Sundays in honor of mom's and dad's. Because these are not our regular breakfast days, we sure could use some extra help. Call Jim Heroux if interested in volunteering.

Installation and Awards Dinner: The American Legion will be installing their newly elected officers at a dinner on Saturday, May 19th at 6:30 PM which is open to members and to the public. Installations and award presentations will follow the dinner. Awards will be presented to those members celebrating 5 year anniversary multiples of continuous membership. Those with 25 years or more continuous membership are guests of the Post. Please show your support of our officers by attending. Reservations please at 387-4212 or sign up at the Post.

Flags On Graves for Memorial Day: Anyone wishing to help put flags on veteran's graves please be at Grove Cemetery at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, May 22 at which time we will break up into several groups and put flags on graves. There are several cemeteries which we have assigned other members to honor. If you know of any veteran that does not receive a flag before Memorial Day, please let us know so we may honor all of our veterans.

Memorial Day Parade, Flag Disposal Ceremony, Observances & Open House: will be held on Monday, May 28th beginning at 9:00 AM. This is perhaps the largest annual observance taking place on the Post calendar. Uniform will be navy or black pants and shoes, Post logo white shirt, tie is optional and Legion hat. Logo shirts are available free of charge for those members who participate in our color guards. In the event of cold weather, we will wear Legion jackets, or wear your own blue jacket. We will be conducting our flag disposal ceremony while we are in uniform and the attendance of the public is at its greatest. At 9:00 AM we will walk through the flag ritual at the Post; at 9:45 assemble for the parade; at 11 AM ceremonies at the cemetery; 12:30 PM flag retirement at Post 770; and from Noon – 1 PM Open House at our Post. All members are encouraged to participate in these events which the American Legion holds annually as one of their most honored and esteemed days.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership has grown to 379 as of the end of March. We are about 26 short of our quota. For those that have not paid their dues for the 2006 – 2007 membership year, this will probably be your last newsletter. We will be taking your name from our mailing list. So, there is still time to sign up or re-up before you are dropped from the rolls. We have tried to contact all of those who have, for one reason or another, failed to re-new.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: **Ron Taylor:** CMC – Now Home **Cal Bailey:** Foot Surgery – Now Home
 Elaine Joseph: Knee Surgery – Now Home **Jean Hovencamp:** Throat Surgery 4/13
 Ruth Scott: Eye Surgery – 4/18 & 4/25 **Dawn Smith:** Shoulder Surgery 4/20/07
 Sue Wright: Knee Surgery 4/25

Taps: **Janet Newhart Smith:** passed away on March 28, 2007 at the Beechtree Care Center in Ithaca. Janet was the sister of member Bruce Newhart.

POST NEWS

The last fish & steak fry I worked with my crew we did about 100 dinners and because of the snowfall we were lucky to do that well. We headed to Florida on April 1st for two weeks and therefore missed out on our crews last fish & steak fry. It was probably a good thing because we heard that well over 200 dinners were served and we almost ran out of fish. ...Actually the last event we attended before our get-away was the Legion birthday dinner. Tom put on his specialty, Spanish pot roast with all of the trimmings. His able kitchen crew of Pat Denmark, Gary & Cindy Rechdenwald, Gordie Veley, and Brady Roach enhanced it. Commander Al and Chaplain Parker were the MC's with Phil Colvin reading a message from the National Commander regarding the years the American Legion has been with us and the affect it has had in procuring veterans benefits. Ann Stiles presented an engraved electronic bugle to the American Legion for use in military funerals. Thanks to Scott Hulslander for stepping forth as a volunteer bartender for the evening. Our only disappointment was the number of Legion family in attendance. I only counted about 35. ... Our Boys State Chairman, Bill Parker, reported that our interviewing committee composed of Tom Bennett, Al Richar, and Don Bennett were really challenged to pick 4 finalists to represent our Post in June for a week at Morrisville College. We are pleased to announce the selection of Chad Blass, Tyler Murray, Ben Roberson, and Daniel Sullivan. We will be hearing a report of their views

and experiences in the fall. ... A donation to the SPCA was made in the memory of Bill Stanton ... As we elect our new officers in May for the year 2007 – 2008 it occurred to me that many are unaware of the committee chairs that are assigned to many of the offices. Here is a list of some of them: Activities and Programs, Americanism, baseball, Boys State, Building fund, building & grounds, children and youth, finance, graves and burials, information and equipment, kitchen steward, law & order, legislative, veterans affairs, membership, newsletter, parade and color guard, public relations, school oratorical and scholarship, Sons of Legion liaison, constitution & by-laws, and perhaps a few I have forgotten. Just so you are aware, our meetings and assignments are not all fun and games though we do have our laughs on occasion. Incidentally, we are always open to volunteers who may not hold an office, but would like to chair or serve on a committee that they have an interest in. Please advise us if that is the case. ... We took a break while writing and ventured up to the Legion on this Sunday afternoon, April 15th and lo and behold the transformation in the meeting room and hallway are a sight that will astound you. Hardwood stained molding of baseboards, doorframes, and yes-even wanes coating have transformed the place. Hats off to all of those involved, especially on this Sunday afternoon.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership is now at 157 and we need 31 more members to make our quota. We have four of our junior members who are helping us on various functions now. They are Brianna Clark, Christina Bennett, Jamie Heroux, and Brittany Weeks was our Easter bunny, which she did a great job! Gary & Cindy Rechdenwald gave us a progress report on Bingo at our last meeting. Our condolences to Christine Stanton on the loss of her husband, Bill. We wish a speedy recovery for Sue Weaver, Barb Cole, Elaine Joseph, Dawn Smith, Sue Wright, Ruth Scott, and Jean Hovencamp. The Girl Stater this year is Liz Watson. There will be a county meeting at the Post on May 15th at 7:30 PM. The next regular meeting is May 1st at 7:00 PM. The nominatin committee will present a slate for officers. The elections will be held at the June meeting. Happy Mothers Day. Wear your poppy proudly on Memorial day to honor all veterans.

SAVE: Sept 11, 2007 – Antique Appraisal Day

Respectively submitted Marge Bennett

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Election of officers will be held Tuesday, May 15th at a special meeting. Nominations are now being accepted. If you wish to nominate someone, please contact Gordy Veley (227-0024) or Tom Stilwell (387-5361) or come to our next regular meeting on May 7th. Membership is currently at 53, which is 95% of our quota of 56. There are several of our members that have not renewed for 2007. Please come out and help us reach our membership goal. Please welcome new members Pat Denmark, Jeremy Yaw, Zachary Yaw, Brandon Bieber, John Testa, and Kyle Reynolds. Our Father's Day raffle of the Bose Wave Music System is underway and ticket sales have been good. If you would like to help us sell tickets, they are available at the Lounge. Also, we need volunteers to help with the Mother's Day Breakfast (May 13th) AND the Father's Day Breakfast (June 17th). Please contact Brady Roach (387-6636) if you would like to help us honor all of our parents. Lastly, the SAL has purchased two lighted OPEN signs to help attract business to our lounge. Let's hope it works.

SUPPORTING OUR SOLDIERS

This came across our email and thought it was needed to be shared. We can only assume it comes from a veteran. **Will you give this to my Daddy?** As a Company, Southwest Airlines is going to support "Red Fridays." Last week I was in Atlanta, Georgia attending a conference. While I was in the airport, returning home, I heard several people behind me beginning to clap and cheer. I immediately turned around and witnessed one of the greatest acts of patriotism I have ever seen. Moving thru the terminal was a group of soldiers in their camos. As they began heading to their gate, everyone (well almost everyone) was abruptly to their feet with their hands waving and cheering. When I saw the soldiers, probably 30-40 of them, being applauded and cheered for, it hit me. I'm not alone. I'm not the only red-blooded American who still loves this country and supports our troops and their families. Of course I immediately stopped and began clapping for these young unsung heroes who are putting their lives on the line everyday for us so we can go to school, work and home without fear or reprisal. Just when I thought I could not be more proud of my country or of our service men and women, a young girl, not more than 6 or 7 years old, ran up to one of the male soldiers. He kneeled down and said "hi." The little girl then asked him if he would give something to her daddy for her. The young soldier, who didn't look any older than maybe 22 himself, said he would try and what did she want to give to her daddy. Then suddenly the little girl grabbed the neck of this soldier, gave him the biggest hug she could muster and then kissed him on the cheek. The mother of the little girl, who said her daughter's name was Courtney, told the young soldier that her husband was a Marine and had been in Iraq for 11 months now. As the mom was explaining how much her daughter Courtney missed her father, the young soldier began to tear up. When this temporarily single mom was done explaining her situation, all of the soldiers huddled together for a brief second. Then one of the other servicemen pulled out a military-looking walkie-talkie. They started playing with the device and talking back and forth on it. After about 10-15

seconds of this, the young soldier walked back over to Courtney, bent down and said this to her, "I spoke to your daddy and he told me to give this to you." He then hugged this little girl that he had just met and gave her a kiss on the cheek. He finished by saying "your daddy told me to tell you that he loves you more than anything and he is coming home very soon." The mom at this point was crying almost uncontrollably and as the young soldier stood to his feet, he saluted Courtney and her mom. I was standing no more than 6 feet away from this entire event. As the soldiers began to leave, heading towards their gate, people resumed their applause. As I stood there applauding and looked around, there were very few dry eyes, including my own. That young soldier in one last act of selflessness, turned around and blew a kiss to Courtney with a tear rolling down his cheek. We need to remember everyday all of our soldiers and their families and thank God for them and their sacrifices. At the end of the day, it's good to be an American. RED FRIDAYS ----- Very soon, you will see a great many people wearing Red every Friday. The reason? Americans who support our troops used to be called the "silent majority". We are no longer silent, and are voicing our love for God, country and home in record-breaking numbers. We are not organized, boisterous or over-bearing. We get no liberal media coverage on TV, to reflect our message or our opinions. Many Americans, like you, me and all our friends, simply want to recognize that the vast majority of America supports our troops. Our idea of showing solidarity and support for our troops with dignity and respect starts this Friday -and continues each and every Friday until the troops all come home, sending a deafening message that.. Every red-blooded American who supports our men and women afar will wear something red. By word of mouth, press, TV -- let's make the United States on every Friday a sea of red much like a homecoming football game in the bleachers. If every one of us who loves this country will share this with acquaintances, co-workers, friends, and family. It will not be long before the USA is covered in RED and it will let our troops know the once "silent" majority is on their side more than ever; certainly more than the media lets on. The first thing a soldier says when asked "What can we do to make things better for you?" is...We need your support and your prayers. Let's get the word out and lead with class and dignity, by example; and wear something red every Friday.

**WE LIVE IN THE LAND OF THE FREE, ONLY BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE.
THEIR BLOOD RUNS RED, SO WEAR RED!
MAY GOD HELP AMERICA TO BECOME ONE NATION, UNDER GOD.**