

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Thurs	Oct 1	TBA	Rotary Club In Banquet Room
Sat	Oct 3	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Red Cross Bloodmobile
		10:00 AM	Form Up Firing Squad & color guard at the Post for DeWitt Park
		11:00 AM	Rededication of the Veterans’ Monuments at Dewitt Park, Ithaca (See Special Events)
		6:30 PM	Early Bird Dinner and Program (See Special Events)
Mon	Oct 5	7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
		7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Tues	Oct 6	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	Oct 7	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Oct 9	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux’s Crew
Sat	Oct 10	7:00 – 11:00 PM	Autumn Harvest Dance with DJ – Sponsored by SAL - Public Invited
Mon	Oct 12	FLAG	Columbus Day
		7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	Oct 14	Noon	Senior Citizens Luncheon Meeting
Thurs	Oct 15	5:30 – 8:00 PM	American Legion Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Fri	Oct 16	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Senior Citizens Bazaar Set Up
Sat	Oct 17	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Senior Citizens Bazaar
		5:00 PM	Masons Banquet
Sun	Oct 18	4:30 – 5:30 PM	Department Visitation at Post 770
		6:00 PM	Prime Rib Dinner – See Bill Parker for Tickets (See Special Events)
Mon	Oct 19	7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Weds	Oct 21	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs	Oct 22	TBA	Set Up for NRA Banquet
Fri	Oct 23	5:00 PM	National Rifle Association Dinner
Sat	Oct 24	FLAG	United Nations Day
		2:30 PM	Wedding Reception
Sun	Oct 25	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
		Noon	Bath VA Hospital Visitation and Steak Luncheon (See Special Events)
		3:00 PM	National Commanders Visitation at the Big Flats Post (See Special Events)
		4:00 PM	Dinner
Mon	Oct 26	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Tues	Oct 27	FLAG	Navy Day
Sat	Oct 31	8:00 PM	Halloween Party – (See Special Events)

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rededication Ceremonies of the Veterans Monuments at Dewitt Park in Ithaca: will take place at 11:00 AM on Saturday, October 3rd. We have been asked to provide a backup for Dryden Firing Squad and Color Guard. Uniform is the usual white shirt, navy or black pants and shoes with Legion hat and jacket. This will be a large event so we better meet at 10:00 AM at the Post in order to arrive at 10:45 at Dewitt. Let’s have a good turnout.

Early Bird Dinner and Program: will be held at 6:30 PM on Saturday, October 3rd. It's free if your membership dues are paid before October 1st. Come join us for a great evening as we kick off the fall season. We have invited our girls' and boys' stater to tell us about their experiences this past June. Reservations are requested for this usually well attended event. Call 387-4212 or sign up at the Post. You won't want to miss this great evening.

Department Visitation At Post 770: On Sunday, Oct 18th, around 4:30 or 5:00 the Department deligation including the Commander and the President will be arriving at our Post. It would be nice to have as many members on hand as we can muster up to greet them. If you would like to attend the prime rib dinner, please see Bill Parker, Tom Bennett or Commander Jim Dew for tickets.

Bath VA Hospital Visitation & Steak Luncheon: Once again we will be extending our hospitallity to our Bath Hospital Veteran friends. Come at Noon, on Sunday October 25th, and extend a bit of comaraderies and make these guys and gals feel at home. If you can pour coffee, smile, and carry a plate, please volunteer to help. The inner reward you receive will be heart warming. Some of you will be getting a call to bake a pie or contribute some home made goodies. It's all for a great cause and the veterans look forward to this excursion every year.

National Commander Visitation Dinner: will take place beginning at 3:00 PM at the Big Flats Post on Sunday Oct 25th. Anyone planning to attend the visitation and dinner will need to have a ticket. Please see Tom Bennett, Bill Parker or Commander Jim Dew to make reservations and obtain a ticket.

Halloween Party: will be Saturday, October 31st beginning at 8:00 PM. Come in your costume, enjoy some munchies and drinks, and fool or scare a few friends. Who knows... we might even recognize you. See you there.

Walk of Honor: We continue to accept orders for bricks to be etched and installed among the many that are already part of our "Walk of Honor". Order forms are available near the entryway in 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. Please when emailing the website for information on usage of the Legion for functions, please include your telephone number. Then your request will be directed to the proper person to answer your questions.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: **Dick Wager:** Surgery

Taps: **George Stevenson:** Died September 2, 2009. He was a long time member of Post 770.
Judy E. Brown: Died September 10, 2009. She was the sister of member Robert Clark.
Wife: of member Jessie Tompkins died recently.

POST NEWS

Phil Colvin received a phone call from Holly Hollingsworth recently concerning the rededication of the Tompkins County Veterans Memorials in Dewitt Park. He wanted to know when our American Legion Post received its charter. As historian, I try to keep track of such things and was able to search through the last 25 or so years of newsletters. That's when the question became somewhat difficult to answer. Why? It appears that our original charter was applied for on November 19, 1919 and was granted on February 10, 1921. Here lies the problem. After a very active beginning our Post became inactive to the point of being asked by the State to turn in its charter. However, when the County Commanders came to pick it up, it was nowhere to be found. About 10 years later, during the summer of 1932 it became the feeling that the Post should reorganize and so it did on September 19, 1933. Now, which date do we give Holly? It seems the original 1921 date was the time the original charter was issued. I believe that is the date we gave Holly. ...It was quite a race between downpour of rain and the Trumansburg Fair Saturday night Fireman's Parade. Fortunately the rain came first and ended in time for the parade to begin. Susie Smith, fire police directing traffic on Main Street caught the brunt of the rainstorm without a coat and was drenched. As observers, we couldn't help but notice the thinned ranks of the American Legion Color Guard, Bill Walsh, Roger Meier, and Phil Colvin carried the colors to lead the parade. We are usually two or three rows deep but Lee Weaver, Don Smith, and Jim Heroux who usually march, were at the fairgrounds cooking BBQ chicken for the food tent. The moral of the story is that we like to have as many march with our unit as possible. We can never know just how many will be available. We were pleased to see uniformed Sons of the American Legion participants Pete Mahoney and Bill Krom carrying a banner, newly painted by Pete's wife Brenda, behind our Legion Color Guard.... Our food tent at the Fair did quite well this year. We showed a better profit than last year. When

we consider the rain showers that showed up at peak fair attendance times we are very pleased with the results. We owe a great deal of thanks to chairperson Al Richar, tent chair, Phil Colvin and crew, daily food tent crews of Legion, Auxiliary and SAL. They all did a fantastic job, some working several shifts....9/11 is a day we celebrate with mixed emotions each year since its inception. This year the ceremony followed the Friday night fish fry at 8:00 PM and was orchestrated by SAL Vice Commander Brady Roach. Reverend John Kotun gave the invocation. Speakers were Gulf War Vets Leigh Durand, Scott Hulslander, Jamie Dew, and Dan Motil. Poem recited by Pete Mahoney, and benediction by Chris Vann, who also acted as Master of Ceremonies. Legionnaires Harold Wright, Henry VanNess, Dave Boyd, and Tony Chiesa rendered a rifle volley. The Color Guard was composed of Legionnaires Jim Heroux and Phil Colvin. Bugle Boy Don "Sweet Lips" Cole played Taps. Approximately 70 people attended the ceremony.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is climbing rapidly as we begin the fall season of our new Legion year. We have a paid membership of 205 plus 33 Paid Up For Life members. Our total is 238 and our quota is 364. Still a long way to go but we are gaining. Pvt. Jeremy Yaw, son of members Stacie Yaw Bieber and John Bieber and Fred Yaw, graduated Basic Combat Training September 3, 2009 at Fort Benning, GA. He will be completing his advanced training following graduation from High School in 2010. Jeremy is a member of the Army Reserve and is assigned to a maintenance unit in Horseheads.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership is starting to come in. We have 69 Seniors and 1 Junior so far. You can still pay your dues even if you don't have your dues are due slip from the National Headquarters. Seniors are \$20 and Juniors are \$5.00. If you paid your dues by September 30th you are entitled to a free early bird dinner on Saturday Oct 3rd. Our condolences to Philis Brooks on the Loss of her mother, Margaret Rumsey. A BIG THANK YOU to all who worked the food tent at the Fair. We made a monetary donation to the local Food Pantry. Hope you have your ovens in good working order because the Bath Veterans will be at the Post on Sunday Oct 25th for their Steak dinner and all those bake goods they take back with them. We have them twice a year now. Once in the fall and again in the spring. Calendars will be going on sale again soon for \$20.00. They have numbers on them from 1 – 1000. The nightly 3 numbers being drawn from the state lottery, starting January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 will be the winners. Winners will be paid once a week and the money collected will go for Auxiliary projects. Makes a nice Christmas present. Who knows what they might win? The next meeting is Oct 6th at 7:00 PM. We will draw two names for free dues for 2011. You cannot win two years in a row. Auxiliary Dinner is October 15th. Hope you have a fun and safe Halloween. Submitted, Marge Bennett

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

The SAL would like to thank all those that attended and participated in the 9/11 memorial services, especially our members, Chaplain Chris Vann and Vice Commander Pete Mahoney. As we mentioned last month, the SAL will be hosting a Harvest Dance on October 10th from 7-11 PM, so come on out for some fall fun. Dues are now being taken for 2010. Try to show your support as early as possible this year. Our next meeting will be October 5th at 7 PM. We had a lot of fun at the last meeting. This time we should do some work around the Post.

DEWITT PARK AND TOMPKINS COUNTY VETERANS' MEMORIALS

Restoration Project & Rededication Ceremony: "All Gave. Some Gave All. To Preserve Our Freedom"

Projects Planned: **I. Restoration:** Cleaning to remove rust and years of accumulated stains, Caulking monuments, Sealing to aid in graffiti removal, Resetting brick walkways, Painting of benches, lampposts and flagpole, Landscaping trimming, raking adding mulch, weekly clean up. **II. Additions:** Plaque to identify WWI monument, Modify Korea/Vietnam monument to include John C. Smith, Jr., Patrick L. Griffin, Jr, and to allow for future needs, Signage with guidelines for use of the park, Lighting for the flag and walkways.

Rededication of Monuments: The rededication ceremony will be held on Saturday, Oct 3, 2009 at 11:00 AM Rededication will include all Veterans' monuments: Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, USS Liberty, Iraq. We will honor John C. Smith, Jr. USS Liberty and Patrick L. Griffin, Jr. Iraq. Honored guests will include all family members and relatives of those whose names are on the monuments. They are invited and encouraged to attend. Reserve

seating will be provided. A display area will feature veterans' organizations, artifacts, uniforms, and various information from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

DeWitt Park, Ithaca – Home of Tompkins County Veterans' Memorials: Project Restoration and Respect – An effort to **RESTORE** and update DeWitt Park and the Memorial Courtyard and to renew **RESPECT** for veteran's monuments and the park. DeWitt Park, Ithaca is owned by the First Presbyterian Church and maintained by the City of Ithaca. This arrangement has been in effect for more than 100 years. DeWitt Park has been designated as a quiet park and the location for Tompkins County veteran's memorials. The park is a beautiful spot to relax in a busy city. Unfortunately, the city has not had the resources to maintain the park and monuments properly. Concerned citizens have joined with veterans to **RESTORE** the park and reaffirm **RESPECT** for both the park and the Memorial Courtyard.

We Need Your Support: As with any worthwhile community project, finances play a major role. We have a budget of \$17,000. Volunteer labor and donated materials have enabled us to keep this figure as low as possible. 100% of money donated goes directly to the restoration project. We have no overhead. Your contributions are tax deductible. We have a 501C19 classification. Please make checks payable to VVA 377/DeWitt Park Project. Mail checks to Bill Brown, 333 W King Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. For more information, please contact Bill at 273-7578 or Holly Hollingsworth at 39-7696 or at pthollingsworth@aol.com. Please consider making a donation. Thank you very much.

Please Help Us Locate Our Honored Guests: Families that have lost a loved one in time of war have paid a heavy price. Our committee wants to honor these families and include them in the rededication of the monuments and courtyard. Reserved seating will be provided. If you are the father, mother, sibling, wife, son, daughter, grandparent, grandchild, great grandchild, cousin, niece, relative of a Tompkins County resident who died in service during wartime, we want you to be our guests at the rededication. To arrange for your reserved seat on Saturday, October 3rd contact Holly Hollingsworth. Or if you know relatives of any of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, please advise us of their addresses even if they have moved away. **We want to include all of them.**