

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

Sat	Sept 1	3:00 – 7:00 PM	Wedding Reception
Sun	Sept 2	Noon – 4:00 PM	Legion Family Picnic at Raymond’s Pond – Post Closed
Mon	Sept 3	FLAG 7:00 PM	Labor Day Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
Tues	Sept 4	7:00 PM	Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	Sept 5	7:30 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri – Sun	Sept 7th – 9th		Post Clean Up
Mon	Sept 10	7:00 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting at Post 770
Tues	Sept 11	FLAG ½ Mast CANCELLED 7:30 PM	Patriot’s Day 6th Anniversary of 9/11 (1/2 mast until sunset) Auxiliary Antique Appraisal Day Post 770 American Legion Meeting (Note Change of Date)
Weds	Sept 12	Noon	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon
Fri	Sept 14	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Phil Colvin’s Crew
Sat	Sept 15	Noon	50 th Anniversary Party
Mon	Sept 17	6:45 PM	BINGO Starts
Tues	Sept 18		60th Anniversary of United States Air Force
Weds	Sept 19	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs	Sept 20	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Fri	Sept 21	FLAG	POW/MIA Recognition Day
Sun	Sept 23	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	Sept 24	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	Sept 26	6:00 PM	Senior Citizen’s Dinner
Sat	Sept 29	Noon	Wedding Reception
Sun	Sept 30		Last Day to Pay Dues for Free Early Bird Dinner
Mon	Oct 1	TBA	Tompkins County American Legion Joint Meeting with Auxiliary at Post 221, Ithaca

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BINGO: Bingo will start on Monday, September 17th at 6:45 PM. It will continue each and every Monday from then on.

Future Newsletters:– Following a recent diagnosis of my illness, it appears that I will not be able to continue for any great length of time as your newsletter editor. We are looking to the American Legion members for someone who would be willing to continue writing the newsletter. I would be very happy to assist in any way that I can. It is truly a rewarding and satisfying contribution to the American Legion. Perhaps Kathi Roach would consider typing the final copy of the newsletter as she did for me. If at all interested, please contact me, your Commander Tom, or any Legion officer.

“Walk of Honor”: We continue to receive orders for bricks to be engraved and installed. Order forms are available in the entryway to the lounge. Why not make a permanent memorial for a veteran to be placed around the cannon memorial. It will be remembered for many years to come.

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 membership, please send them to Patrick Richar at 111 Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430.

Board of Trustee's Report: New contract forms have been drawn up. They must be filled out for each function for by either members or non-members. This is very important so that we can keep track of our finances and supplies.

60th Anniversary USAF 1947 – 2007: Members of the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard displayed the Air Forces' 60th Anniversary flag during a ceremony at the Air Force Memorial in Arlington, VA. The flag will fly at the Memorial until the services 60th birthday, Sept 18th.

Changes in Dates: The Legion meeting normally held on the second Monday of September will be held on Tuesday, Sept 11th, because of a conflict with the county meeting. The County American Legion meeting will be held on the second Monday, Sept 10th, because of a conflict with Labor Day.

Family Picnic at Raymond's Pond: This is a great opportunity to visit with friends and fill up with beer and goodies. We always have a great time at Raymond's Pond and this should be no exception. Bring the family and a huge appetite as we celebrate a day of camaraderie and fun.

Post Clean-Up: We are calling upon all able bodied personnel to help us out for several days in our annual Post clean-up. This is the chance to scrub the floors, clean the cobwebs, and straighten up our facilities. We are counting on you. See you there!

MEMBERSHIP

Our new 2007 – 2008 year is underway. We are off to a good start with re-ups and sign-ups coming in daily. At this time we have 246 signed up so far. Remember, membership renewal honored before September 30th provides you with a free "early bird" dinner in October.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: **Bob Harding:** Strong Hospital – Surgery **Susie Smith:** CMC - Home
 Scott Goldsmith: in hospital due to a motor vehicle accident

Taps: **Exlida Walter Benham:** died on August 6, 2007. She was the mother of member Carl Benham.

Steve and Sandy Markham: died unexpectedly at Tupper Lake. They were sister and brother-in-law of member Jerry Houghten and Amy Broadwater and the daughter and son-in-law of member Wayne Houghten.

Don Ryder's father-in-law: passed away

POST NEWS

Harold Wright informs us that our Trumansburg American Legion baseball team held their own in our division, but lost in a double elimination tournament at the district play-offs. We are really proud of the way our boys played against some tough competition this year. ...We are still having some difficulties with our parking lot lights and are trying to figure out just what the problem is. We have several people who are working on the situation. ...We received correspondence from Newfield inquiring whether we would be able to march in the Newfield parade on September 15th. If enough of you are available and interested, we will take a color guard over. Please let us know if you are interested. ... Our August 10th fish and steak fry brought forth about 160 patrons. Anytime we get that many we like to give a pat on the back to both those who attended and those who volunteered for our crews. A job well done! The Auxiliary also put on a smorgasbord appreciation dinner with 120 in attendance. Thank you everyone. ...The bingo license has finally arrived. Bingo will be held on Monday nights starting September 17th with admission of \$3.00...Post 770 will be one of the locations for a box for "Toys For Tots", which is sponsored by the Sheriff's Department. More on this to come. ...Thanks goes to Ruth Doane for sharing her letter requesting materials for wounded soldiers at a hospital in Texas. This will be handled by the membership. ...The SAL will be setting up boxes for gifts for soldiers. Cash donations for postage will also be accepted. ...Thanks to Laurie Cronk for the beautiful jade plant for our lounge. Thank you Oleta Bower for providing us with your collection of ribbons and medals to be displayed in our Legion museum and meeting room. One of our members has volunteered to create a display. ...Your newsletter editor is very happy to announce the birth of their grandson, Quinn Allen Van Valen, son of John and Gretchen Van Valen, born on July 3rd, 2007.

AUXILIARY NEWS

DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL, THE ANTIQUE APPRAISAL DAY HAS BEEN CANCELLED. It will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Our next meeting is September 4th at 7:00 PM. Dues are due anytime for 2007 – 2008. Congratulations to George & Chloe Van Valen on their new grandson born on July 3rd and to Scott & Christina Hulslander on the birth of their 2nd son , born on August 7th. Proud grandparents are Don & Dawn Smith. We wish a speedy recovery to Jacque Boyd who had hip surgery and to Susie Smith who is at CMC. Our new department President, Carol Johnson is from our own 6th District for 7/07 – 7/08. The September 20th Auxiliary dinner will be Chicken & Biscuits, Baked Ziti & Soup with all of the trimmings. Cost is only \$7.00. Gary & Cindy Reckdenwald gave a Bingo report and we are happy to report that we start September 17th! Respectfully submitted, Marge Bennett

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Once again, it is time to renew your membership. We managed to do 105% last year. Let's try to do even better this year. So, if you know someone eligible and interested, try to get them signed up.

The SAL will be sponsoring a collection station for the volunteer group HERE 4 YOU. We will be helping them collect health and wellness items to be sent to local military personnel currently serving overseas. There will be a collection box placed in the foyer of our lounge that will have a detailed list of the desired items. They are also requesting monetary donations to aid with shipping as well as the names and addresses of local military personnel. For more information contact Cliff Irwin at 607-869-5791 or go to here4you@zoom-dsl.com. This is a great opportunity to provide some comfort to our soldiers.

Our next meeting will be not be until October 8th as the first Monday in September falls on Labor Day.

DID YOU KNOW?

TC3 Tuition Program Helps: Though there is an abundance of state and federal tuition assistance programs for returning veterans who want to seek an education, Tompkins County Community College has initiated a new financial aid program that addresses the difficulties veterans may face upon immediate return from duty. While the Department of Veterans Affairs offers veterans up to \$1,000 per semester for full-time study and the federal Montgomery GI Bill provides educational benefits, TC3's program takes these ideas one-step further. Beginning this fall, TC3's "Welcome Home" program allows the college to waive one semester of tuition for New York state residents returning from Iraq or Afghanistan combat zones. The program is especially beneficial because it allows veterans to immediately pursue an education upon return to the United States rather than waiting for the government to process their VA benefits or needing to compile income information for financial aid offices.

Aircraft Carrier USS Intrepid Out of Water For Body Makeover: The World War II aircraft carrier USS Intrepid is coming out of the water for its full-body makeover and a little "boatox". The war veteran turned floating military museum was to be placed in dry dock, where it will be perched on 212 custom-made pine blocks while crews scrape and power wash its salt and weather corroded keel, then paint it the traditional battleship gray. It took a complex engineering feat just to have the blocks milled to mimic each dent and scar in the keel from years of wartime service, including repeated Japanese kamikaze and torpedo attacks, said Intrepid Foundation President Bill White. "This has been such an exciting project to see Intrepid go through such an overhaul to honor our heroes," White said in an interview with The Associate Press. A big decision has been made to remove Intrepid's four solid bronze propellers. One of the 30 – ton propellers will be displayed in front of the Intrepid Sea, Air, & Space Museum when it returns to Manhattan in October 2008. Another is expected to be exhibited at the US Navy Memorial in Washington. The other two props will be offered to the public for sponsorship but not for sale, White said. "If we auctioned them, we agreed it would only cheapen her glorious past. These propellers played such a significant role in history. They got the crews out of harm's way each time." White said. When crews first tried to move the Intrepid last November, the propellers became embedded in thick mud, defying the efforts of six high-powered tugs. The predicament forced a major dredging operation, which eventually allowed the tugs to wrestle the mud-stuck old warrior from its Hudson River berth of 25 years for towing to Bayonne NJ for the \$5 million renovation project.

Sampson State Park's Navy Veterans Museum Appoints It's New Director: Fearing that their museum at Sampson State Park might not have a future, the Sampson's Navy Veterans of World War II have been assured they have nothing to worry about. The Finger Lakes State Park Commission has come the rescue. Krystal Westfahl of Brooktondale – a 27-year-old Appleton, Wisc. Native – has been named museum director. Working under the supervision of James Dunne, Sampson State Park manager, Westfahl has the job of promoting the museum through contacts with the public, schools, colleges, universities, and businesses. The Navy will share her with their next-door neighbors, the Korean War Veterans of Sampson State Park. The former brig, that once housed wayward sailors and airmen, no longer resembles a brig at all. In different wings are the photos, clothing and gear relating to life in the military. There is a periscope off the attack submarine USS Benjamin Franklin. Outside on the lawn are Navy and Air Force airplanes and watercraft. For months on end, former sailors and airmen, often accompanied by their spouses and other members of their families, scraped rust, shoveled pigeon droppings, and evicted various species of wildlife. The results are Navy and Air Force museums drawing a steady stream of visitors during the summer tourist season and into the fall months. Each September brings veterans from across the nation for annual Sampson reunions. And each September turns up fewer Sampson sailors, said Bill Andrew, a Navy veteran. The men and women are into their 80's and 90's now and declining in numbers. Museum tour guides, often-Navy veterans of some of the nation's most difficult World War II battles, aren't as plentiful as they once were. Here is where Westfahl, the museum director, is to step in. Tour guides this year will be college students well prepared to talk WWII history with visitors.