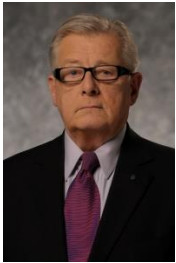




# North Albany Post 1610 **American Legion**

35 N. First St., Albany NY 12204

JUNE 2019



## **A Message from the Commander**

Memorial Day 2019 has come and gone and is now a memory. The weather on graves decoration Sunday and parade Monday was ideal. Even on flag retrieval Wednesday the weather was with us.

Every time I see that bus full of Albany High JROTC cadets pull into the post, it brings joy to my heart. Again, they were with us for the brief wreath layings at the post memorial, North Albany Academy (PS 20) memorial, and the St. Agnes Cemetery memorial (0830, 0845, and 0900 hrs respectively). Then the cadets, vets, and other volunteers set about seeking the graves of service personnel and veterans and “decorating” them with small flags as a gesture of thanks for their sacrifice and service.

We made short work of that project and returned to the Post where the cadets, having worked up an appetite, made short work of the nutritious brunch of burgers and hot dogs and all the fixings provided them for their good service. Thank you all who made the day a success.

The SGT Henry Johnson JROTC Battalion was out again the following morning, this time in full force for the Albany parade. Major Dave Erickson and First Sergeant Allen Reone do a superb job training these cadets.

After the parade, at the Post the colors were placed at half-staff and all present adjourned inside to Scully Hall and we commenced the reading of the names of those North Albany residents killed in action in past wars and the names of our deceased Post Legionnaires. The remainder of that afternoon was a quiet open house at the Post.

Wednesday morning, 29 May, our Don Riley and Tom Tracy and their volunteers provided yeoman’s service retrieving those thousands of flags placed throughout St. Agnes Cemetery the Sunday morning before, well ahead of the groundskeepers’ lawn mowers. This day the weather teased but held off.

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Sara and I returned from a trip to France the Saturday evening of Memorial Day weekend. The trip, with my brother Mike and his wife Toni, included a week in Paris, and this year being the 100th anniversary of the formation – in Paris – of the American Legion, we took the bus to Pershing Hall at 49 Rue Pierre Charron where Legion Post 1 (now defunct) held its meetings for many decades. We donned our post caps and had our wives take pictures of us in front of the hall (they were thrilled about all of this). Actually, Mike, a



Tuesday, 14 May 2019, Paris: From left: Mike Wiest, Janusz Klebeckic, and Larry Wiest in front of Pershing Hall, for many decades home of the first American Legion Post.

member of Towson (MD) Post 22, didn't have a cap so I borrowed our adjutant Ellis' for the occasion.

Watching all of these goings on was a corporate chauffeur leaning against his Mercedes. Mike, who speaks French, filled him in and he enthusiastically showed us his veteran's ID and agreed to have his picture taken with us. Janusz Klebeckic was a longtime member of the French Foreign Legion with tours in Rwanda, Iraq, Cambodia, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Djibouti (where the Foreign Legion's Africa HQ is located).

**Lawrence Wiest**

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**RENTAL INFORMATION**

Remember that the Post banquet room and pavilion are available for family picnics/reunions, graduation parties, etc. To arrange an event, call the Post at 518-465-4800 or 518-465-1402 or email [nap1610@yahoo.com](mailto:nap1610@yahoo.com). We are also looking for a House Chairman for the Post. If interested, please contact Larry Wiest, our Post Commander at 518-434-6438.

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The Post is still on the hunt for bartenders. If interested, please call Bar Chair Mickey Ryan at (518) 522-3486.

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**CHAPLAIN'S NEWS**

**Deceased Legion Members:**

John J. Mulderry, Jr. – March 4, 2019  
DuWayne "Jeeper" A. St. John – April 8, 2019  
Mark Pelton – April 15, 2019

**Sick Legion Members:**

John Gardy, Jim Lawlor, Richard Garhartt,  
Bill Gilheaney, Joe McCubbin

Speaking of Bill Gilheaney, does anyone know where Bill is? Inquiring minds want to know.

If you know of anyone who is sick or has passed, please contact our Chaplain Charles Lossi at (518) 438-6336.

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**Ladies Auxiliary**

I would like to thank all of the Auxiliary members that helped distribute poppies during May. I would especially like to thank Sally and Dorothy for co-chairing this committee again this year. Donations totaled \$3,753.63 (which is an all-time high).

I would like to thank all members that helped over Memorial Day weekend, either at the Post, St. Agnes Cemetery, or in the Parade. All events were successful because of volunteers like you.

Stratton VA Bingos – A bingo will be held for our hospitalized veterans at 3 p.m. on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, on the 9th floor of the Medical Center. If you can assist our veterans, please be at the VA by 2:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Diane Maguire at 518-813-4765 (home), 518-209-0497 (cell) or via email, [dmaguire520@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dmaguire520@nycap.rr.com).

Remember to keep track of any volunteer hours or donations you make over the summer so we can report them in September. If you are not sure of an item, just make note of it and we can determine its validity later. We do still collect cancelled stamps, greeting card fronts, and aluminum ring tabs, so just bring those items to the Post and place them in our mailbox.

**Judith Benner, President**

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### American Legion Boys State

Post 1610 will sponsor five cadets from the Henry Johnson Battalion, Albany High School JROTC. This hands-on civics program will be held at Morrisonville, NY, from June 29<sup>th</sup> until July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The boys operate a simulation of government on the levels of city, county and state. In doing so, they learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens.

The following cadets have been selected to attend Boys State: Enrique DeJesus, Prince Ndihamo, Shadrick Nsengiyumva, Pratik Saha, and Dennis Tanquid.

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women. One Albany High School Junior will attend this program, under the sponsorship of the Zaloga Post.

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### American Legion Auxiliary Empire Girls State

Empire Girls State is being held at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY. The program will run from Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, to Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. Julia Wang, a Colonie High School Junior has been selected and will be attending Empire Girls State. Julia is in the top third of her class.

The purpose of Girls State is to provide high school juniors across the State the opportunity to create and govern a 51<sup>st</sup> mythical state. The Units choose girls after interviewing the candidates. Consideration is given to scholastic achievements, leadership, character, honesty, and physical fitness. They learn the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship in this weeklong, hands-on workshop in government.

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### This Month in Military History

June 6<sup>th</sup> marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. The Normandy landings were the landing operations on Tuesday, June 6, 1944 of the Allied invasion of Normandy in Operation Overlord during World War II. Codenamed Operation Neptune and often referred to as D-Day, it was the largest seaborne invasion in history. The operation began the liberation of German-occupied northwestern Europe from Nazi control and laid the foundations of the Allied victory on the Western Front. Planning for the operation began in 1943.

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### Patriot Flight

Patriot Flight is now accepting applications for their fall trip to Washington, D.C. memorials for WWII, Korean, and Vietnam veterans. The trip is free to veterans, and the guardians cost is \$380.00. You can get the application for both veteran and guardian on the Patriot Flight website, <http://patriotflight.org/>. If you would like to make a donation, you may mail your donation to Patriot Flight, PO Box 190, Delmar, NY 12054. Should you have questions, contact Bruce Mendini at 518-795-0685.

On their last flight on May 4<sup>th</sup>, three of our Post members made the trip. The members were Joe Duclos, Larry Benner and Joe Gardy. I am sure any of these men would love to share their experience with you.



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**Important Upcoming Dates**

Monday, June 3, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.: Orientation for Boys’ State at Zaloga Post  
Sunday, June 16, 2019 – 12:30 p.m.: 9<sup>th</sup> Ward/Post 1610 monthly meeting  
Tuesday, June 25, 2019 – Primary Election at the Post  
Thursday, June 27, 2019 – Boys State begins. Busses leave Zaloga Post at 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday, June 30, 2019 – Girls State begins

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**Next Month’s Meeting Dates:**

Legion: Sunday, June 16, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.  
Refreshments will be served.  
S.A.L: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.  
Auxiliary: Meetings will resume in September.  
Limerick: Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.  
Community Meeting: Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 6pm (for Legion, Sons, Auxiliary and Limericks).  
Everyone is encouraged to attend.

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**Save the Date  
(more information to come)**

September 14<sup>th</sup>: 25-week club dinner  
October (date TBD): Craft fair

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**General Post Phone No.:** (518) 465-4800 **Fax:** (518) 320-0586  
**Post Bar/General Information:** (518) 465-1402 **Email:** [nap1610@yahoo.com](mailto:nap1610@yahoo.com)

**Post**

Commander: Lawrence Wiest  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: John Sacca  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: Open  
Adjutant: Patrick Ellis  
Finance Officer: John Sacca  
Judge Advocate: Lawrence Wiest  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Michael Ryan and William Ryan  
Chaplain: Charles Lossi (518) 438-6336  
Historian/Color Guard: Charles Kelly (518) 465-4800

**Sons of the Legion**

Acting Commander:

**Auxiliary**

President: Judy Benner [judybenner13@gmail.com](mailto:judybenner13@gmail.com)  
Vice President: Jan Precopia (518) 489-1406 [janprecopia@nycap.rr.com](mailto:janprecopia@nycap.rr.com)  
Secretary: Diane Maguire (518) 813-4765 [dmaguire520@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dmaguire520@nycap.rr.com)  
Treasurer: Dorothy Curran (518) 786-1284 [tomdor2000@yahoo.com](mailto:tomdor2000@yahoo.com)  
Chaplain: JoAnn DeLisle (518) 426-8463 [jodee4444@hotmail.com](mailto:jodee4444@hotmail.com)

**Editor for the Newsletter**

Gretchen Riley (518) 526-8753 [ghodges220@yahoo.com](mailto:ghodges220@yahoo.com)