



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204

October 2020



A Message from the Commander

At our September 20 membership meeting, we presented Past Commander Ed Carroll with his 50-year Certificate of Continuous Membership (see picture on page 2). The envelope from National HQ had a 2018 postmark and was discovered in our office just recently by eagle-eyed John Sacca. Sorry, Ed. A longtime member of our now-retired color guard, Ed was also manager of the Post's 1979, '81, and '85 NYS American Legion championship baseball teams. Over seventeen years, Ed has logged in more than 7000 hours of volunteer service at Stratton VA, mostly driving veterans to and from hospital appointments. "It's been fulfilling," Ed says. "The vets look forward to the rides; there's a lot of lonely guys out there." Congratulations, Ed.

We returned last Tuesday (9/15) from a road trip with another couple to Harpswell, Maine, where we were the guests for several days of a third couple. The three wives were SUNY Albany classmates and have kept up their friendship ever since. Harpswell is just a lobster claw's throw from Bath. One of the highlights of the trip was a cruise on the Kennebec River, past the Bath Iron Works where the last of three Zumwalt class stealth guided missile destroyers – the Lyndon Johnson – was being readied for its yearlong shakedown cruise before its commissioning and ultimate deployment to San Diego to join its two sister stealth destroyers. It looks unlike any destroyer you've ever seen before.

In the distant past (May 3, 1997 to be exact), Sara and I took a trip to Bath with a busload of Vietnam vets, their significant others, and a good number of Gold Star Mothers, all compliments of Tri-county Vietnam Era Vets, to attend the launching of the Donald Cook, the first US Navy warship named after a POW (Vietnam – died in captivity) and the only ship authorized to fly the black POW-MIA flag. The USS Donald Cook, the 25th ship of the ARLEIGH BURKE class, is an Aegis Guided Missile Destroyer.

On New Year's Eve, 1964, Marine COL (then Captain) Donald Cook was accompanying a unit of Vietnamese marines searching for a downed American helicopter crew when the unit was ambushed at the crash site by a large Viet Cong force. Cook was wounded and taken prisoner. In the POW camp he was taken to, Captain Cook's unselfish and exemplary conduct in protecting and caring for his fellow POWs despite its causing him to endure harsher and harsher treatment from his captors during his three-year confinement resulted in his deteriorating health and ultimately his death from malaria on December 8, 1967. He often gave his own meager rations to ill POWs and assumed their manual labor workloads.

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He was de facto POW leader when his captors demanded none. The prisoner release was completed in 1973, and after his death and his story were made known, COL Donald Cook was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Jimmy Carter.

The USS Donald Cook was commissioned on December 4, 1998 in Philadelphia. Again, Tri-county was present



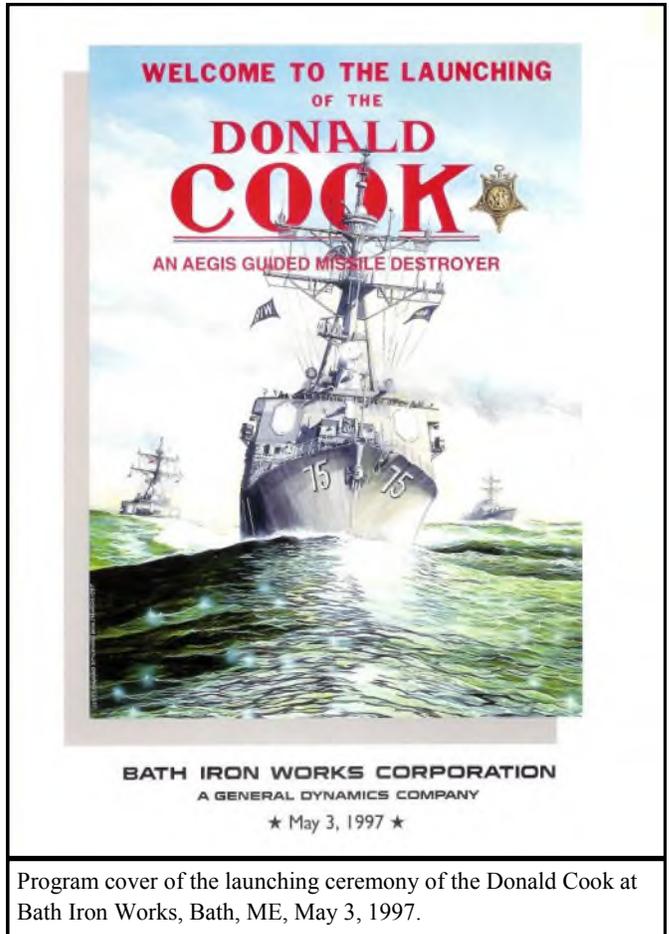
**Lawrence Wiest
Commander**



Post Commander Larry Wiest (r) presenting to Past Commander Ed Carroll (l) his 50-year Certificate of Continuous Membership at the September 20, 2020 membership meeting.



The Lyndon Johnson is identical in appearance to this postcard picture of the USS Zumwalt DDG 1000, departing Bath Iron Works, Kennebec River, September 7, 2016.



Program cover of the launching ceremony of the Donald Cook at Bath Iron Works, Bath, ME, May 3, 1997.



Portrait of COL Donald Cook, USMC

Chaplain's News

Deceased:

Joseph L. McCubbin, Legionnaire - August 18, 2020

Sick Call:

Charles Lossi, Legionnaire
Bev Pach, Auxiliary
Dorothy Curran, Auxiliary
Ann Long, Auxiliary

If you know of anyone who is sick or has passed, please contact our Chaplains Charles Lossi at 518-438-6336 or JoAnn DeLisle at 518-426-8463 or jodee4444@hotmail.com. Or, newsletter editor Gretchen Riley via ghodges220@yahoo.com or at 518-526-8753.

Auxiliary News

Our monthly meeting for September was held on Tuesday, September 15 via Zoom. While there weren't many in attendance, it was good to see those who were and their smiling faces. A few minutes were spent at the beginning catching up with everyone. I'm happy to report everyone is doing well.

The Auxiliary's first project of the year will be collecting donations for Birthright, Inc., located in Ballston Spa, NY. Birthright of Ballston Spa is a non-profit pregnancy support service. They have served the Capital Region for over 40 years having opened in 1977. Birthright takes infant clothing, newborn to 12 months, all size diapers (they use a lot of size 4), baby wipes, and baby rash cream. Clean, gently used newborn to 12 months clothing is also accepted.

Donations can be brought to the October 6 meeting or can be dropped off at the Post in the baby wrapping paper decorated box. Monetary donations are also welcome. Auxiliary members will use the money to purchase needed items. If you can't make it to the Post or would prefer not to, please contact Judy Benner to arrange pick up (518-817-1240).

Membership dues are now due. Please send your dues to Jan Precopia, 1160 New Scotland Rd., Albany, NY 12208. Jan would prefer you mail your dues to her home, and not mail to nor drop them off at the Post.

A discussion was had regarding the possibility of holding a chicken barbeque to benefit the Post. Our Post, Post 1610, is the last surviving American Legion Post in Albany. No decision was made. What are your thoughts on this idea? If such event was held, it would be a drive-thru since there are no inside events at the Post.

**Yours for the Auxiliary,
Judy Benner
President**

SONS Squadron

The SONS squadron will be delivering a check to the Project Strive WWP efforts next Friday.

Sunday, 1 November is our traditional North Albany Veterans observation and breakfast. As previously announced, we are suspending the breakfast, but not the Memorial Mass.

The SONS Squadron will be pushing for attendance at our Annual North Albany American Legion Post 1610 Veterans Memorial Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on Walter Street. The Church has a great committee handling COVID-19 compliance rules and regulations. Because the church is so large, we are able to have 150 in attendance with appropriate social distancing. You sign-in upon entering the church, one person per family with your cell phone number for contact tracing in event of a positive case.

Pens used for signing in are sanitized, as are the pews. There are no missals or hymnals and very specific instructions for Communion. The rules are read just before Mass begins and at Communion. The program we normally have at the Post will be handed out, together with the bulletin, as we leave Church.

While we will miss the best \$5.00 breakfast value there is, we continue to remember, thank and bless our Deceased Veterans.

God bless our Veterans!

Upcoming October Meetings

Legion/9th Ward/Post 1610, Sunday, October 18, 12:30 p.m.

Auxiliary, Tuesday, October 6, 7 p.m. at the Post. If not able to hold at the Post, it will be via Zoom.

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

Post

Commander: Lawrence Wiest (518) 434-6438
1st Vice Commander: Open
2nd Vice Commander: Open
Adjutant: John Sacca (518) 486-0528
Finance Officer: Open
Judge Advocate: Lawrence Wiest
Sergeants-at-Arms: Michael Ryan and William Ryan
Chaplain: Charles Lossi (518) 438-6336
Historian: Michael Ryan

Sons of the Legion

Acting Squadron Commander: Michael F. Connors, II

Auxiliary

President: Judy Benner (518) 817-1240 judybenner13@gmail.com
Vice President: Jan Precopia (518) 489-1406 janprecopia@nycap.rr.com
Secretary: Sheila Savage (518) 221-3729 sheilasavage1618@gmail.com
Treasurer: Dorothy Curran (518) 786-1284 tomdor2000@yahoo.com
Chaplain: JoAnn DeLisle (518) 426-8463 jodee4444@hotmail.com

Editor for the Newsletter

Gretchen Riley (518) 526-8753 ghodges220@yahoo.com

Post website: <http://northalbanypost1610.com>

Friday Night Darts

Dart league will start on Friday, October 9 at 7 p.m. Sign up at the bar if interested. Masks and social distancing are required in accordance with the CDC guidelines and NYS law. For more information, contact Mickey Ryan at the bar.

Note: The Post bar hours will be changing soon.