



# North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204

December 2020



## A Message from the Commander

We have been “breaking bread” at the bar after our membership meetings for some months now. As modest as the Mr. Subb provisions may be, they and the free first round for attendees have by all accounts been well received. This being so, we commenced the tradition this November meeting (in addition to presenting the POW/MIA “sleeve” at meeting’s start) of preparing and acknowledging a POW/MIA table: “. . . a special place for the missing son.”

The meeting was well attended and short. We discussed the November 1 annual memorial Mass at Sacred Heart (thank you Sons and Squadron Commander Mike Conners) and the Veterans Day wreath-laying observances at Memorial Grove and Lafayette Park in Albany.

Albany’s Veterans Day Grand Marshal Robert Allyn moved with his family to the Albany area from Buffalo in 1962 and graduated from Bethlehem High School in 1965. After getting a business degree at Hudson Valley Community College, Bob enlisted in the US Air Force. Upon completing training, he volunteered for a tour of duty in Vietnam, arriving in-country in January 1968, just in time for the Tet Offensive. His loadmaster training and Air Commando School medical and navigation training had him locating and “extracting” our wounded and killed in action from battle sites all across Vietnam.

After his military service, Bob earned a bachelor’s degree from Russell Sage College, majoring in Accounting and English. His career with NYS culminated with his sixteen years as Director/Curator of the NYS Vietnam Memorial and Gallery. While Director, the grand marshal was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award from Russell Sage College.

We discussed the very real possibility of having to close the post again, indefinitely, if the dramatic surge in COVID cases, we’re witnessing nationwide finds its way to Albany.

We also discussed, briefly, how much longer we want to keep the post operating, given the fact that our expenses have long exceeded our income, a situation only made worse by the pandemic.

On the bright side, should we be open for the December membership meeting, Bar/House Chair Mickey Ryan has promised a hot meal – sausage and peppers! I volunteered to bring the Prinzo’s.

Here’s wishing you all an intimate Christmas and a Happier New Year.



**Lawrence Wiest  
Commander**

## Auxiliary News

Thank you to all that donated to our Birthright project. Jan reported we had over \$250 in items and cash. At our November meeting, we voted to purchase 10 wreaths for graves at the Saratoga National Cemetery for the holidays and to give \$500 to the food pantry at the Stratton VA. The Toys for Tots box has arrived and is in the bar room at the Post. I am sure you have seen on TV that the Marine drive is asking for help from everyone because of the urgent needs this Christmas season. Please be as generous as possible.

Membership dues are coming in slowly. Jan reports we still have 26 outstanding members that have not paid for this year. Thank you to the 63 that have already paid. Does anyone have a family member interested in joining us in helping our veterans, military and their families? We could use some new members. Regular senior dues are \$25/yr. and juniors (under 18 years) are only \$8.00. Your daughters and granddaughters are welcome to join us. No one is too young!

I know many of you are sending us your greeting card fronts, but I wanted to let everyone know that per St. Jude's Ranch, they do not take Hallmark and American Greeting cards because of copyright laws. But, did you know that we can report blood donations, if you fly an American flag (how many days per month?), any volunteering you might be doing in your community (# of hours), and are you doing any virtual walks/runs (length and time).

Did you rake leaves for a neighbor? Have you done any buddy checks? Done grocery shopping for an elderly person? Sent donations to local food pantries or organizations doing Thanksgiving dinners? All of this is considered community service and is reportable. You may be wondering why you should report these small things? As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, everything we do ends up getting reported to Congress by our National

organization and can be used as bargaining power for veterans issues we are trying to get Congress and the President to support. Our numbers may seem small, but when added to others in NYS and then those added to all other states' numbers, you can see how much impact this could have. Please keep track of your activities and email to me or another auxiliary officer listed on the back of the newsletter.

Keep posted, we will probably do another food drive in January for the VA Food Pantry. I received a list from the hospital saying some of the current needs are: plastic jars of pasta sauce, jelly (also in plastic jars), peanut butter, cereal, oatmeal, rice, boxes of mac & cheese, canned soups, vegetables, fruit, and canned chicken, and ramen soups. Also, bar soap, hand lotion, full size toothpaste and shampoo. Please keep them in mind when doing your own shopping.

Lastly, I'd like to wish everyone a belated Happy Thanksgiving and hope you had a wonderful holiday.

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

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### Birthright Inc.

Auxiliary member Jan Precopia sent the following email on November 10:

“My husband and I delivered 5 boxes and a large bag of baby boy clothes to Birthright today. So many items but some were diapers, baby wipes, diaper rash cream, shampoo, baby wash, baby lotion, 15 new baby outfits, bibs, socks, rattles, teething rings, cash, blankets bought and handmade, fingerless mittens, many homemade hats and baby sweaters with matching hats!

“As I told the volunteers today that we are a small group of women but have big hearts and celebrate life! They were very pleased to have received all these gifts!

“Thank you ladies for all of you adopting this project!”



Veterans Day 2020, 11:00 a.m.: Your post commander Lawrence Wiest, in front of the Our Lady of Peace Memorial at New Scotland and South Lake Aves, introduces the day's grand marshal, Vietnam vet Robert Allyn, at the first of two wreath-laying ceremonies in Albany. (Photo by Michael Joyce)



Bob Allyn and his wife of 53 years Judy Allyn wait patiently while his praises are being sung before he gives remarks and is presented with his official sash of office. Behind them are Ft. Orange post member Ause Krumins, left, and our own post member Tom Tracy. (Photo by Michael Joyce)



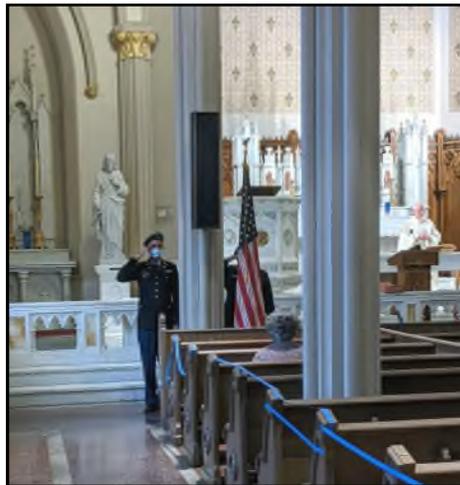
Also in attendance were Cindy Roberts, left, president of American Gold Star Mothers, Albany Chapter 11, Gold Star Sister Pat Wagoner, and Carrie Farley, past president of American Gold Star Mothers Department of New York and a member of our post Auxiliary. (Photo by Michael Joyce)



Veterans Day, noon: Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan with members of the Albany High School SGT Henry Johnson Battalion JROTC at the Vietnam Veterans and Gold Star Families memorials in Albany's Lafayette Park after the second wreath-laying ceremony. The cadets with their color guard were with us throughout the morning. (Photo by Michael Joyce)



Albany Veterans Day 2020 Grand Marshal Robert Allyn stands at ease in front of the east face of the Albany, NY Vietnam Veterans Memorial. (Photo by Michael Joyce)



Sunday, 1 November 2020, 0930 hrs: Having posted the colors in front of the altar in advance of the post's annual Mass in memory of those members who have passed this past year, the Albany High School JROTC color guard (partially obscured) salutes the flag before it "column lefts" down the south aisle of Sacred Heart Church. (Photo by Michael Connors)



Membership meeting, Sunday, 15 November 2020, 1230 hrs: "As always, we will set a special place for the missing son . . . ." (photo by Sara Wiest)

## Sons Squadron

**1 November 2020 0900**  
**North Albany American Legion Post 1610**  
**Annual Veterans Memorial Mass**  
**Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Kevin J. Allen       | Joseph L. McCubbin |
| Harold "Joe" Decker  | John "Jack" Mullin |
| John J. Fitzgerald   | William K. Prime   |
| Louis W. Graiff      | Arthur J. Roth     |
| Charles "Bus" Kieley | Robert W. St. John |
| William P. Kieley    | Robert Van Amburgh |



Thank You

Albany High School JROTC Henry Johnson Battalion Color Guard

## Upcoming December Meetings

**Legion/9th Ward/Post 1610**, Sunday, December 20, 12:30 p.m.

**Auxiliary**, Tuesday, December 1, 7 p.m.

**Sons Squadron**, Thursday, December 3, 6 p.m. (will be a Zoom meeting - details to follow).

**Limericks**, Thursday, December 3, 6 p.m.

**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 (518) 434-6438  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Open  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### **\*\*\* Reminder \*\*\***

The Post will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. It will be open on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

### Sons of the Legion

Acting Squadron Commander: Michael F. Connors II

### Auxiliary

President: Judy Benner (518) 817-1240 [judybenner13@gmail.com](mailto:judybenner13@gmail.com)  
Vice President: Jan Precopia (518) 489-1406 [janprecopia@nycap.rr.com](mailto:janprecopia@nycap.rr.com)  
Secretary: Sheila Savage (518) 221-3729 [sheilasavage1618@gmail.com](mailto:sheilasavage1618@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Dorothy Curran (518) 786-1284 [tomdor2000@yahoo.com](mailto:tomdor2000@yahoo.com)  
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