



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

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June 2022

A Message from the Commander



We were busy this past May. 3rd Vice Don Perry and I effected a clean out of much of storage room #2, also in and about the pavilion where much “stuff” from the now pristine billiard room had been transferred to by Tim Ryan’s Limericks, all in anticipation of the pavilion’s cleaning now in progress compliments of Don Perry. We also cleaned that area behind the curtain where Scully Hall’s tables and chairs are stored. We contracted with Bill “the Junkman” Starowicz to haul it all away.

1st Vice Jackie Jones and I are working on a county grant to (at least help) underwrite the cost of a new kitchen floor and cabinets in the front kitchen. Jackie is also making plans for a new kitchen prep table and plans on forming a committee to implement a general kitchen upgrade. Volunteers?

Adjutant John Sacca and I have reached an agreement with Mahoney Notify-Plus out of Glens Falls to upgrade the post’s fire alarm system. That work should commence this month.

Recently our newsletter editor Gretchen Riley received an e-mail from Vietnam vet Gene LoParco who is Tri-County Vietnam Era Veterans’ newsletter editor. Tri-County gets a copy of our newsletter, which apparently Gene reads closely. If ever you’ve gone to a Memorial or Veterans Day parade, or most any local veterans function, you’ve seen Gene there, often with his wife Linda, taking pictures – with a camera not a cellphone – and lots of them. Gene shares his pix with most anyone who requests one. He’s become an institution to our veterans community and a treasure.

Anyhow, after reading our May newsletter, Gene told Gretchen that he believed the correct name of that memorial in Lafayette Park is the Albany COUNTY (emphasis added) Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Let me set the record straight. Once upon a time, when Tom Whalen was mayor of the City of Albany, he invited three young Vietnam veterans to meet with him in Albany’s Academy Park across from Albany City Hall and the NYS Court of Appeals and immediately east of the state-owned Lafayette Park.

Vietnam vets Joe Pollicino, John LaFalce, and I didn’t know why the mayor wanted to see us when we arrived. I do remember it was a nice day. The Mayor told us that the city had an old, dormant trust fund set up ages ago to aid indigent World War I veterans that still held over \$12,500. He would “ask” the Common Council to match that amount. “How would you like to use this money and build a Vietnam

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veterans memorial, maybe even right here in Academy Park?," the mayor asked with a smile. We were thunderstruck.

Of course we three, on behalf of the fledgling Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans (what a name!), enthusiastically agreed to enter into what would become a joint venture with the City of Albany from beginning to end with none of us having a clue about how to build a memorial and pay for it. That 25K from the city would prove to be just a drop in the bucket.

Because I worked in the Albany County Courthouse back then as a prosecutor for the DA's office, just two doors down from city hall, it was agreed I'd head up the brand new memorial committee. Early on I commenced a campaign to convince Mayor Whalen that as regards the memorial, the city should act in its capacity as county seat, lest some casualty from the hilltowns, say, go unrecognized and his family's loss unacknowledged. I was successful.

I was also aware of the intense dislike Mayor Whalen had for the young Albany County Exec Jim Coyne, who was my third baseman on the St. Pius X White Sox little league team and a year behind me at CBA. More on a memorable meeting with the mayor and a memorable meeting with the county exec in a future newsletter.

To insure the mayor's continued agreement on this county seat point I did not use the word "county" in my committee's incorporation papers or in the name of the future memorial itself. Hence, it was, is, and will remain, the Albany New York Vietnam Veterans Memorial (no comma, no apostrophe).

Pray for Ukraine.

**Lawrence Wiest
Commander**



**"FIRST FRIDAY"
FISH FRY**

**FRI., JUNE 3
4 P.M. - 7 P.M.**

**NORTH ALBANY AMERICAN LEGION POST 1610
35 NORTH FIRST ST. | ALBANY | 12204**

**COST: \$12.00 | FISH FRY, FRENCH FRIES, COLESLAW
SIT DOWN OR TAKE OUT
PRE-ORDERED PREFERRED
CALL HOUSE CHAIR JACKIE JONES, 518-368-7128
WALK-INS WELCOME
WHEN FISH IS GONE, WE'RE DONE.**



Looking for a Venue to hold an event?

The outside BBQ grill and pavilion, and picnic area are all available to rent. We can also provide the cooks. Hot fun in the summertime!

The Post banquet room and meeting room are also available for your indoor events. For information, or to book the BBQ grill, pavilion, picnic area, banquet room, or meeting room, contact House Chair Jackie Jones (518-465-4800).



Auxiliary News

Now that May is over our events will be winding down some. Our Albany County Walk-A-Thon was attended by 27 members and friends. Total donations came to just over \$4600. We are still waiting for Sons office to announce the total for all of the walks held over the State.

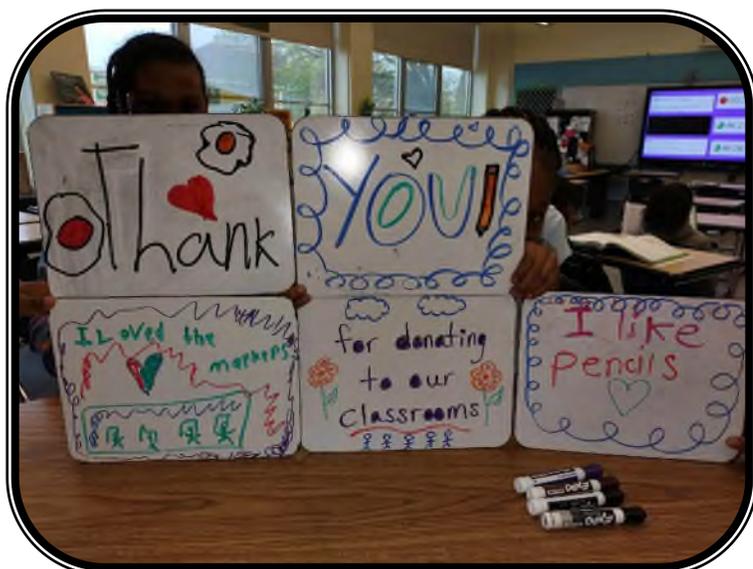
Poppy distribution ends on Memorial Day Weekend so our total collected will be announced next month. If you still have not gotten a poppy, they are available at the bar in the Post.

Our last meeting for this year is June 7 at 7 p.m. Hope we will see you there.

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



Saturday, April 30: Veteran Walk-A-Thon, sponsored by Albany County American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. This event was held at Cook Park in Colonie. Donations benefit veteran's homeless programs at NYS VA Medical Centers and the nonprofit, American Vet Dogs.



The above pictures, together with the pictures on page 4, were submitted by Ms. Felts from Giffin Elementary School in Albany. The Auxiliary's Give 10 to Education spring project donated school supplies to Ms. Felts' classroom as well as to the classrooms of Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Thomas, and Ms. Pinkowski at Giffin.

Give 10 to Education pictures: students from Giffin Elementary School, Albany.



Chaplain's News

Sick call:

- Wayne Riley, Legion
- Carole Egan, Auxiliary
- Jan Precopia, Auxiliary
- Theresa Jones, Auxiliary

Prayers are asked for Marc DeLisle, Auxiliary member JoAnn DeLisle's son. Prayers are also asked for Andrew Liuzzi, husband of Auxiliary member Stacy Liuzzi.

June Meetings and Events

Auxiliary: Tuesday, June 7, 7 p.m.

Flag Day, Tuesday, June 14



Legion Membership: Tuesday, June 21, 7 p.m.



Save the Date

North Albany Reunion, Saturday, August 20

Post Officers

Commander: Lawrence Wiest 518.434.6438
 1st Vice Commander: Jacqueline Jones
 2nd Vice Commander: open
 3rd Vice Commander: Don Perry
 Adjutant: John Sacca 518.486.0528

Finance Officer: Open
 Judge Advocate: Lawrence Wiest
 Chaplain: Charles Lossi
 Historian: John Mullen
 Sergeants-at-Arms: Michael Ryan and William Ryan

Sons of the Legion

Acting Squadron Commander: Michael F. Conners II

Auxiliary Officers

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: Peggy Hovish 518.785.3485 phovish@nycap.rr.com
 Chaplain: Kathy Schmitz-Morfe 518.495.2955 ksmorfe@gmail.com