



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

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July/August 2022



A Message from the Commander

First off, there will be NO First Friday fish fries the months of July, August, and September. They will return Friday, October 7. In addition, this is the July/August newsletter; there will be no separate August newsletter.

Memorial Day weekend seems like ages ago, but let me try to recall some of the highlights. House Chair Jackie Jones procured for us a new set of colors and POW/MIA flag for the occasion, to replace the grimy, faded, and tattered ones flying over the post the past year.

Accepting our invitation, Albany's 2022 Tulip Queen Sam Mills joined us on Sunday morning, May 29, for the wreath laying ceremonies at the post, North Albany Academy (PS20), and St. Agnes Cemetery prior to our annual veterans' graves decoration there. Thank you post Sons Squadron members and Mike Conners for the wreaths. It should be noted that Graves Decoration Chair Don Riley cleaned the memorials in front of the post and the school in anticipation of this holiday.

I was always struck by the simplicity and the beauty of the sentiment carved into the school's memorial:

Dedicated to the men & women
who made responsibility theirs
and opportunity ours.

I'm just guessing that when this stone was being prepared generations ago, some anonymous public school English teacher took on the responsibility of composing this haunting inscription.

After that morning's third wreath laying, I escorted the Tulip Queen to Section 16, lot 69, where Sam decorated the grave of WWI hero and Medal of Honor recipient Parker Dunn. We then returned to the "lower flats," that area Don had assigned us to decorate. We were also issued a full complement of the larger size flags and a spiffy green hole punch, which was indispensable when trying to pierce clay.

The Tulip Queen had the boundless energy one would expect of a twenty-four year old, and after a couple of hours noticed me flagging a bit (no pun intended). Even though I denied it, we still reduced our pace until it was time to return to the post and join the other volunteers, including a record thirty-five or so Albany High School JROTC cadets, in a repast of burgers, hot dogs, chips, and chocolate covered doughnuts. In short order, surrounded by cadets, Sam was being treated like a rock star.

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The following day, Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, after the parade in downtown Albany, wherein the tulip queen and court were driven down the parade route by chauffeur Linda LoParco in the LoParco convertible, and after attending the ceremony thereafter in Lafayette Park, Sam returned to the post and participated in the 1:00 p.m. reading of the names of the departed post members. After that service, the Tulip Queen, still sporting sash and tiara, assumed the position of honorary bartender behind the post bar, serving and socializing with a modest number of veterans, auxiliary members, and friends of the post. (By the way, Sam is the head bartender at Albany's legendary Palais Royale.)

Before departing at 4:00 p.m., the tulip queen asked to be invited to next year's Memorial Day weekend in North Albany.

After this year's Memorial Day weekend had come and gone, it was Don and Gail Riley and their friends Paul and Caroline Stark who took on the unheralded task of retrieving and returning the graves decoration flags to the post the following Wednesday, June 1 for future use. Thank you all.

It might be off the front page of our newspapers, but the war still rages. Pray for Ukraine.



**Lawrence Wiest
Commander**



Post members Don Riley and Don Perry (with his back to us) raise then lower the colors to half staff in front of the North Albany American Legion Post 1610 on Sunday morning, May 29, at 8:20 a.m. during the first of three wreath layings that morning. (Photo by Bonnie Sklar.)



Post 1610 past commanders Mickey Ryan, left, and Jim Lawlor stand at attention alongside Albany's 2022 Tulip Queen Sam Mills while taps is being played at St. Agnes Cemetery during the third wreath laying of the morning and just prior to our graves decorating tribute. (Photo by Bonnie Sklar.)

Post Adjutant and Vietnam vet John Sacca is shown here decorating veterans' graves in the "lower flats" while wearing his cherished 1st Cav hat. (Photo by Bonnie Sklar.)



Auxiliary News

Auxiliary members, hope you have a wonderful summer. We will not be meeting again until Tuesday after Labor Day.

I am so happy to say that the Veteran Walkathon total for the entire state ended up being \$60,000. WOW!!! Thank you to everyone that helped and participated in our Walk in April.

Dorothy Curran, our Poppy Chairman, reports that distribution went well in May. Total was a little lower than 2022, but getting volunteers is becoming more difficult each year. Please consider helping next year if you can. There are still poppies on the bar at the Post. So, if you did not get one in May, it's not too late.



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



Post Memorial Day Service honoring all of the deceased members of Post #1610. Poppies laid by Auxiliary Chaplain Kathy Schmitz-Morfe and President Judy Benner.



Albany's 2022 Tulip Queen Sam Mills, second from left, and Court members Meghan O'Neil, Sakthi Muthukrishnan, and Ashley Mayfield are shown being part of Albany's 2022 Memorial Day parade while being chauffeured by Linda LoParco. (Photo by Gene LoParco.)



At Lafayette Park that Memorial Day morning, the Tulip Queen and Court with North Albany American Legion Post 1610 Commander Lawrence Wiest. (Photo by Gene LoParco.)



At Lafayette Park, Albany, site of the Albany New York Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Gold Star Families' Memorial, and the Albany post Memorial Day parade ceremony, the Tulip Queen and Court take a moment to have their picture taken with members of the Albany High School's SGT Henry Johnson JROTC Cadet Battalion. (Photo by Gene LoParco.)

Chaplain's News

Sick call:

- Wayne Riley, Legion
- William "Spider" Ryan, 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.

Cruisin' for Tots Fundraiser

Waffle & Pancake Breakfast



Eat in or Take Out

Accepting New Toys and Donations for Toys for Tots

\$10 Per Plate

Choice of Pancakes, Waffles,
Sausage Gravy & Biscuits and
Sausage links



Coffee, Tea & Orange Juice included



Sunday, August 14th 2022
9am - 11am

At N Albany American Legion Post #1610
35 North First St
Albany, NY 12204

Contact: Andrew Liuzzi at 518-365-9301 or email
aliuzzi77@gmail.com for Reservations

July and August Announcements

- No First Friday Fish Frys - July, August & September. First Friday Fish Frys will resume October 7.
- Legion Membership Meeting: Tuesday, July 19. Note: No Membership Meeting in August.
- Cruisin' for Tots Fundraiser - Waffle and Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, August 14, 9 to 11 a.m.
- North Albany Reunion: Saturday, August 20