



# North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204

October 2019



## A Message from the Commander

**This has been a sad September.** I can't remember a month when we lost so many people who were near and dear to our veterans' community.

**Dorothea Rockenstyre** was the last of our local Gold Star Mothers of the Vietnam era. She lost her son Richard, an Albany High graduate, in that war. She was a force of nature. Everyone who met her loved her. At a point, she became president of the American Gold Star Mothers, Albany Chapter, then its Department of New York president, then its national recording secretary. Dorothea was appointed Grand Marshal of Albany's 2005 Veterans Day parade. She died September 3.

**John Schillaci** was a WWII army veteran who served in France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe as a field lineman. He often felt the Germans were right behind him cutting the wire he'd just laid. John came to our post when the Ambrose Scully Post, located on Albany's Central Avenue, closed its doors years ago. He was that post's last commander for more than a decade. John was appointed Grand Marshal of Albany's 2007 Veterans Day parade. On that day, the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School principal presented him with his high school diploma. After a year of high school, he had left to work on his father's farm. He died September 17.

**Charles "Chuck" Kelly**, a Korean War navy veteran, was a 60-year member of our post. Let me be more specific: a 60-year *active* member of our Post. When I came on board, Chuck was one of only a very few active members keeping this post afloat. He kept our fiscal books (an increasingly stressful job) until his doctor told him to give it up. He kept the color guard functioning as the award-winning unit it was until it just this year disbanded after too many hips and knees gave out with no younger ones to replace them. Chuck shared his vast institutional knowledge selflessly and his small mountain of keys reluctantly. Chuck died September 18. On behalf of the post family, I extend our condolences to Chuck's family and to Maryellen Browarsky who cared for Chuck 'til his passing. We are sorry for your loss.

**Henry Rosenzweig** was a Vietnam veteran and a friend of mine. He suffered a terrible head wound over there and spent a year or more in a military hospital recovering. He was then unceremoniously sent home without discharge papers. Henry was a member of and active in (usually as finance officer) a host of veterans organizations (not ours) and volunteer fire companies. He and his wife Mary Ann were active in the Catholic Church, specializing in visiting residents in nursing homes (hard work). He had a wicked sense of humor, often at the expense of other veterans, usually those running a meeting and, most especially and gleefully if the veteran running the meeting was his brother Mark. Having stepped off decades of Albany parades together, we got to know each other well. We were of like minds politically and philosophically. Henry died September 22.



**Lawrence Wiest  
Commander**

## Auxiliary News

Date for the Craft Fair is getting closer, but still not too late to reserve a table to sell your goods. Contact Kim Rice at the Post or call her at 518-526-8097, so you don't miss out.

Our children's party with Santa and Mrs. Claus is in the planning stage. I hope some of you will attend our next meeting on October 1 to give your ideas on how we can improve it for this year. If you cannot make the meeting, just email me ([judybenner13@gmail.com](mailto:judybenner13@gmail.com)) with your suggestions. The date we have picked for this year's event is Sunday, December 8.

Our school supplies collection is still going on. So, if you haven't dropped off your donation yet, it's still not too late.

The National dues reminder has been sent out and, I have heard that many are questioning the best way to pay your dues. We would like all dues sent directly to Jan Precopia, our Membership Chairman, at her home address, which is shown at the bottom of the letter. Going through National, either online or on the phone, does not get the info to Jan in a timely fashion. If you want to talk to Jan, you can reach her at 518-573-5167.

Boscov's has changed the procedure to get your one-day military discount-shopping pass. Now you can go to <https://www.boscovs.com/shop/DigitalVerify.do>, answer a couple of questions, and they will email you a pass that you can print out whenever you need to shop. NO longer have to go to the Customer Service counter and request one. Veteran spouse can also use the pass. It will be much easier, especially during the holidays, when everyone is using their free gift-wrap service.

**Judith Benner**  
**President**

## Bingo at the VA

Bingo resumes at the Stratton VA Medical Center on Monday, October 21. It is held on the 9th floor and begins at 2:45 p.m. Bingo takes place on the third Monday of each month with the exception of July and August. For more

information or to volunteer, contact Diane Maguire at 518-209-0497 or via email, [dmaguire520@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dmaguire520@nycap.rr.com).

## Honor A Veteran

The Honor A Veteran Program honors a deceased veteran on the first Monday of each month at various American Legion Posts. The ceremony is a reflection upon and celebration of the life of a deceased veteran. This month's program will honor **Gary Rhatigan**. The ceremony will take place at the North Albany Post 1610 on Monday, October 7, beginning at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact Mickey Ryan (518-465-4800 or 518-465-1402).

## 25-Week Club Party

The 25-Week Club party was held on September 14. The event had a fantastic turnout. Thank you to the 82 members who participated in the club.

A delicious chicken barbeque dinner was catered by PBJ's Barbeque. Music was provided by DJ Chad (Chad Farrell). Entertainment consisted of games, corn hole, and lots of laughter and good cheer.

Thanks to Mickey Ryan for saying yes to starting the 25-Week Club up again; to Gail and Gretchen Riley and Larry, Sara and Mason Wiest for helping organize and set up for the party; to Jim for tending bar all day; to everyone who helped throughout the day; and, to everyone for making this a successful event.

A fun time was had by all! Kudos to Kim Rice for putting it altogether.

Plans are in the works for the next 25-Week Club. If interested, contact Mickey Ryan at 518-465-4800 or 518-465-1402.

## Chaplain's News

### Deceased:

John Gardy, SAL – August 22

John Schillaci, Legion – September 17

Charles “Chuck” Kelly, Legion – September 18

### Sick Call:

Legion: Patrick Ellis and Herk Rider

Auxiliary: Lisa McNicol

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](mailto:jodee4444@hotmail.com) or newsletter editor Gretchen Riley, 518-526-8753 or [ghodges220@yahoo.com](mailto:ghodges220@yahoo.com).

### Post Website

The Post has a new website. You can access the website by going to: <http://northalbanypost1610.com>.

The website is a work in progress and will continue to be one for some time. You'll find a calendar of upcoming events under the tab “Events”. Let the Post know if you find something amiss with the site.



Your Commander is in desperate need of a Membership Chair.

We are also looking for a House Chairman for the Post. If interested in either of these positions, please contact Larry Wiest, our Post Commander at 518-434-6438.

The Post is still on the hunt for bartenders. If interested, please call Bar Chair Mick Ryan at 518-522-3486. Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SONS are all eligible to bartend. On-the-job training provided!

### Post Hours

Normal hours have resumed at the Post:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday through Friday: 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.

### Are You Ready for Some Football?



Football season has begun. Come hang out at the Post and watch some football games. Doors open at Noon.

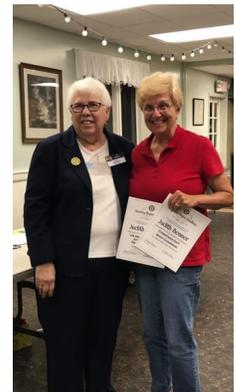
## Auxiliary President Awarded Certificates of Appreciation

Our Auxiliary President Judy Benner was presented with two Certificates of Appreciation at our County meeting in September for her outstanding work and dedication to our Veterans. Judy has been an excellent chairman for the Christmas gift shop that is run every year at the Stratton VA Medical Center. Through her organization and the help of other Auxiliary members, our hospitalized veterans have been able to give free gift cards to their loved ones.

Judy also works at the hospital assisting veterans with their appointments; she is an amazing volunteer to the core! We should all follow her leadership. Thank you Madame President for all you do for our Auxiliary, Post and our most important Veterans!



The two Certificates of Appreciation awarded to Auxiliary President Judy Benner.



L to R: County President Jo Grace with Auxiliary President Judy Benner



## Dart League

The Dart League kicked off their season on September 27 at 7 p.m. The Dart League is looking for new members. If interested, sign up at the bar or call the bar at, 518-465-1402.

**\*\*\* Reminder \*\*\***

**Craft/vendor fair Sunday, October 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Crafters and Vendors wanted! Contact Kim Rice at [kluvy14@aol.com](mailto:kluvy14@aol.com), if interested.**

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## Upcoming Events — Save the Date

Sunday, October 6: Vendor/Craft Fair — Crafters and Vendors wanted. Contact [kluvy14@aol.com](mailto:kluvy14@aol.com)  
Monday, October 7: Honor A Veteran Program, 8:30 a.m.  
Friday, October 25: Halloween Party, 7 p.m. Potluck, DJ, costumes. All are welcome.  
Sunday, November 3: Veterans Memorial Mass, Sacred Heart Church, 9 a.m. followed by Breakfast at the Post

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## Next Month's Meeting Dates:

9th Ward/Post 1610 monthly meeting: Sunday, October 20, at 12:30 p.m.  
Legion: Sunday, October 20, at 12:30 p.m. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.  
S.A.L: TBD  
Auxiliary: Tuesday, October 1, at 7:00 p.m.  
Limerick: Thursday, October 3, at 7:00 p.m. Nominations and Election of Officers  
Community Meeting: Tuesday, October 1, at 6 p.m. (for Legion, SONs, Auxiliary and Limericks).

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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  
Sergeants-at-Arms: Michael Ryan and William Ryan  
Chaplain: Charles Lossi (518) 438-6336  
Historian: Charles Kelly

**\*\*\*\* Important Notice \*\*\*\***

**It should be noted that we no longer have a P.O. Box. Everything should be sent to the Post physical address:**

**35 North First St.  
Albany, NY 12204**

### 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 [janpre@nycap.rr.com](mailto:janpre@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)

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