



# North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204

January 2021



## A Message from the Commander

Acting on the implied advice of our nation's Physician Dr. Anthony Fauci and our beloved governor Andrew Cuomo, who both warn us that we're facing a dreadful pandemic winter, we closed the post effective December 14.

So we tough it out these next few months until we seniors (which is most of us) get our Pfizer or Moderna shots, shake it off, and return to some semblance of normal. In the meantime, wear a mask, wash your hands, and keep your distance.

On Sunday, 29 November, post members John Town and Jim Slivko completed the arduous task of incinerating scores of boxes and bags of retired American flags that had been dropped off at the post and were accumulating over the past year and a half in the pavilion and game/small meeting room, awaiting proper disposal.

You'll remember this process began on or about last Flag Day but was interrupted when an off-duty, over-zealous Albany firefighter noticed our smoke while driving by on I-90 and closed us down, claiming the fireplace, when used for this purpose, was too close to the pavilion.

With AFD Chief Gregory's blessing, John Town brought down a burn barrel and an ample supply of fire brick, and he and Jim Slivko set up a burn site in the picnic/horseshoe area well east of the pavilion and commenced the burn. From 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., the two of them burned flags. Some flags were so big that John had to cut them into pieces. This is dirty work, but unlike the old fireplace, the burn barrel was very efficient and produced very little smoke. Chief Gregory offered to send a contingent of firefighters to any future burn-related ceremonies. He was very supportive. Our heartfelt salute and thank you to Jim Slivko and John Town.

Father Peter Young passed away this past December 9 at age 90. Most of us know of him at least by reputation for his life's work with the poor, the homeless, those suffering addiction to drugs and/or alcohol, and prisoners. He was a young street priest who early on worked with another street priest, Howard Hubbard.

Peter Young was a CBA and Siena grad. A formidable athlete, he was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals, but fate or providence intervened and he was drafted into the U.S. Navy for the Korean War. It was in the navy that Father Young found his vocation. He was St. John's pastor in Albany's south end. He taught at Cardinal McCloskey High School. He founded the Peter Young Housing, Industries, and Treatment network, under which 117 sites across New York now operate to provide shelter, job training,

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employment, and substance abuse counseling. He served as chaplain to the NYS Senate and as chaplain to the inmates of NYS Corrections' Mount McGregor. "Father Young dedicated his life to serving the most forgotten and vilified members of our society," said his Times Union obit. The TU quoted a virtual attendee at Father Young's funeral who said online, "Truly a saint for our time."

Happy New Year. Remember, every day now gets longer.



**Lawrence Wiest  
Commander**

**Auxiliary News**

Hope all had a nice holiday season and stayed safe.

No January meeting and not much news from dept. To see the seminars at Mid Winter Conference you need to go to [deptny.org](http://deptny.org) and click on 'announcements' and follow the instructions to see all of the events. There is no registration or cost for senior members.

**Judy Benner  
Auxiliary President**

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

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

The Post is closed effective December 14, 2020 due to the pandemic. No in-person meetings or other events till further notice.

**Sons of the Legion**

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**Auxiliary**

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