



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

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November 2022

A Message from the Commander



Our grand marshal for this year's Veterans Day parade in Albany is Vietnam veteran and Legionnaire John LaFalce of Latham. John was born and raised in the Pine Hills section of Albany, went to PS4 (as did I for a couple years) and Vincentian, graduating in 1965.

John enlisted in the US Navy in April 1966 and served two tours in Vietnam, the first with the "blue water navy" off the coast of Vietnam aboard a minesweeper, the USS Endurance MS0435, which conducted "board and search" operations at the onset of the 1968 Tet Offensive. Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class LaFalce's second tour was with the "brown water navy," commanding a PBR (Patrol Boat Riverine) with a five-man crew inserting then recovering small Marine units on patrol at the mouth of the Can Viet River (just south of the DMZ).

Honorably discharged in April 1970, John returned home and married his high school sweetheart Lyn Kosinski. They have two children, Joe and Julie, and four granddaughters. He still enjoys a 36-year career working with Niagara Mohawk (now National Grid), initially as a natural gas pipe installer and is now working with the planning and design departments.

We just recently returned from a trip to Paris where we met up with my brother Mike (Legionnaire, Baltimore's Towson Post No 22) and his wife Toni. We located the Café du Croissant, 146 Rue Montmartre, Paris, where on July 31, 1914 Jean Jaures was assassinated. Assassination means the murder of a public figure. Now we had never heard of Jean Jaures up until Mike and Toni enlightened us after studying his life for a semester. Born into a lower middle class family Jaures became a well-known university teacher and lecturer who was regularly elected to France's Chamber of Deputies (like our US Senate). Let's say his politics were a bit left of center. As the specter of a world war loomed in a Europe feverish for war, Jaures' was the loudest and most persuasive voice heard by heads of governments – even France's traditional foe Germany. Jaures' efforts earned him the hatred of French nationalists, and he was murdered while preparing to reach out to US President Woodrow Wilson seeking his help in averting a war, assassinated by a young fanatic believing Jaures was playing into Germany's hands.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

If Jaures had been allowed to make his case, think of that generation of young men lost whose lives he might have saved from that senseless war. Jean Jaures is interred in the Pantheon in Paris along with the other French immortals (the most recent addition being entertainer Josephine Baker for her role in the WWII French resistance, inducted just last year).

Pray for Ukraine. If you are able, give assistance to the refugees.



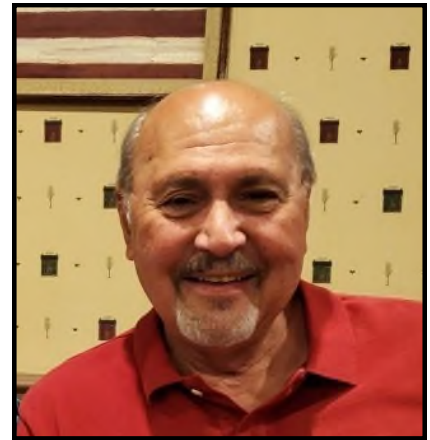
**Lawrence Wiest
Commander**



John LaFalce back in the day wearing his navy "Cracker Jack" uniform.



The Navy nickname for John's uniform comes from this logo.



Grand Marshal of Albany's Veterans Day parade and ceremonies Vietnam veteran John LaFalce.



Jean Jaures, 1859-1914



The tile on the floor inside the Café du Croissant reading "31.7.1914," being the exact spot Jaures was shot dead.



Legionnaire Mike Wiest in front of the Café du Croissant alongside the plaque memorializing the assassination of Jean Jaures.

Auxiliary News

The Auxiliary will be doing fleece throws for veterans in hospice. We are looking for red, white and blue knitting worsted to make the blankets for the veterans. A date for getting together will be determined at our November meeting. If interested, contact Judy Benner (518-869-8668).

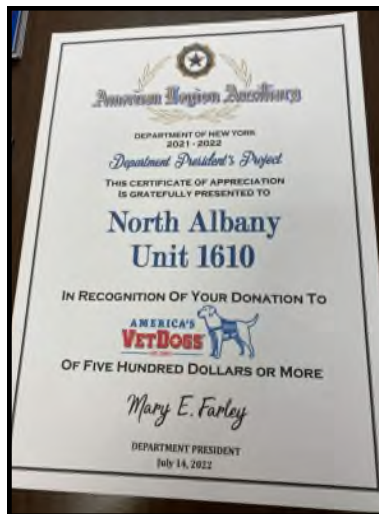
If any members would like to be in the Veterans Day Parade, it will be on November 11 and will step off at 11:00 a.m. Dress accordingly, since we won't know what the weather will be. We meet on Central Avenue in front of the Burger King.

We donated \$500 from our Poppy donations to the food and clothing rooms at the VA to help veterans having difficulty making ends meet.

At National Convention in August our Unit received two awards; one for our donation to American Vet Dogs, last year's Dept President's Project. We gave a total of \$600 to this non-profit. At State Convention, they presented a check to a representative for over \$106,000. A record total for a DPP. The second award was for the largest donation to Warriors Family Assistance fund from a unit with less than 100 members. Congratulations to all of our members for being a part of these endeavors and helping to raise this money.

**Judy Benner
President**

Award given to our Unit in recognition of our donation to American Vet Dogs which was last year's Dept President's Project.



The second award our Unit received at State Convention in recognition of the largest donation from a Unit with less than 100 members made to the Warriors Family Assistance fund.



Dart League



The North Albany Post 1610 darts on Friday nights started on October 7, 2022 at 7 p.m. Anyone who would like to shoot, please call the Post 518-465-1402. Leave your name and phone number or show up Friday night at 6:30 p.m. More info as we move forward. Dart boards have been moved to the game room.

November Announcements

- Auxiliary Meeting: Tuesday, November 1
- First Friday Fish Fry: Friday, November 4, 4-7 p.m.
- Veterans Memorial Mass: Sunday, November 6, 9 a.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
- Veterans Breakfast: Sunday, November 6, at Post following Mass
- Veterans Day Parade: November 11, 11 a.m.
- Legion Membership Meeting: Wednesday, November 16

Chaplain's News

- Post Everlasting -

On Monday, October 17 at New Comer, 1st Vice Commander Jackie Jones, Adjutant John Sacca, and Chaplain Chuck Lossi, with post member Larry Benner present, conducted a memorial service for Past Commander Patrick Ryan, who died October 9. Our condolences go out to the Ryan family.

Sick call:

- Wayne Riley, Legion
- Don Perry, Legion
- Carole Egan, Auxiliary
- Jennifer Hale, 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.

Sons news

On Sunday, November 6, the Annual North Albany American Legion Post 1610 Veterans Memorial Service and breakfast will be held. Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on Walter Street will be at 9:00 a.m. with breakfast following at the Post. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door.



Aerial photo, taken by drone, of the happy crowd at last summer's North Albany Reunion hosted by the Limericks.