



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

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A Message from the Commander

Legionnaire Michael Edward Ryan died this past January 17. We had a splendid turnout of Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Limericks for Mickey's wake at Parker Brothers in Watervliet the afternoon and evening of Monday, January 22. He was loved and admired by all who knew him.

I would call him almost regularly to see how he was holding up in a seemingly endless fight with cancer, and he would most always answer the phone. In response to my sometimes ungentle probes into his current status, his answer was always the same, "It is what it is." Then I would ask for advice on the latest crisis at the post, advice he seemed always happy to share. My last call to Mickey on Wednesday, January 17, went unanswered, but was immediately returned by his wife Terry who said they had taken him to St. Peter's the night before.

Mickey lived and breathed the North Albany American Legion Post. He was of the third and possibly final generation that carried the post's history and institutional knowledge in tattered and scattered files and in their heads. There were the hundreds of WWII vets – and a handful of old WWI vets – who started it all and made the post prosper, a few Korean War vets who joined up several years later, and then some Vietnam era vets (Mickey: Navy, USS Independence, 1968-72) and the occasional Cold War era vet who joined the post. We still await the Desert Stormers, the Enduring Freedom, and the Iraqi Freedom reinforcements to arrive.

Mickey as bar chair kept the post bar humming for many decades and that was an important job. It kept the post financially healthy in addition to being the post's social center. It was and is a complex and stressful position that includes acquiring and scheduling bartenders and insuring their "banks" or "purses" are ready for their shifts, keeping the books, records, and reports prepared and maintained for the post officers and its accountant, insuring the liquor license is kept current and all fees and taxes are paid; keeping inventory stocked and all vendors paid in a timely manner; making ongoing bank runs; keeping all equipment clean and in good working order, repaired, or replaced; coordinating with the house chair that the barroom, kitchen, and rest rooms are clean and in good order; and scheduling deliveries and appearance of service personnel. I'm sure I missed things, but this, plus his commander's tour from 1979 to 1980, and much more is what Mickey did for the post for many, many years – although he was often found in the kitchen, he never got a dinner or a plaque.

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Whenever you talked with Mickey, no matter the subject at the outset, the conversation would often turn to his family. He loved his family, his wife Terry foremost, their daughter Maggie and her husband Dan and most certainly the grandkids, Carly, Tommy, and Billy, whom he always spoke of with great affection.

Do not abandon Ukraine!

**Lawrence Wiest
Commander**



**Post Commander Michael E. (Mickey) Ryan
1979-1980**



Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade
Chairman



Mickey with his granddaughter Carly.



Mickey with his wife Terry Ann at the Limerick
Dinner, March 2011.

Rest in peace Mickey.
You will be missed.

Auxiliary News

Hope everyone had nice holidays and is staying healthy. The Auxiliary is starting 2024 very busy. Empire Girls State interviews have started. Americanism Essay contest entries will be arriving before we know it.

I attended the County Visitation Dinner at Zaloga Post on January 17 to meet our NYS officers for 2024 before the Mid-Winter Conference at the Albany Marriott that following weekend. Gretchen and I attended a presentation on Friday evening by Mental Health workers from Stratton VA and Syracuse VA. They spoke about the VA S.A.V.E. course offered that will help you act with care and compassion if you come across a Veteran who is in crisis or having thoughts of suicide. It was a great night and very informative.

Saturday workshops continued to supply us with information on the Legion Family College, non-profit "P.S. I Love You Day" (check out their website: <https://psiloveyouday.net/>), applying for grants, and Empire Girls State. We also had the opportunity to hear the National Auxiliary

President, Lisa Williamson, speak about her project "Be the One".

Mark your calendars. The Veteran Walk-A-Thon is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, and will again be at Cook Park in Colonie.

We will be doing a RADA order soon. If anyone wants to order anything, just email, or call me, (judybenner13@gmail.com or 518-817-1240).

Dorothy Curran is looking for volunteers to help with Poppy Days in May. She is working on getting the Price Chopper in Loudonville as our first choice in locations. If anyone has a suggestion for other locations, please let either Dorothy or myself know. Donations collected during Poppy Days allow us to continue to help our veterans. Let Dorothy know if you are available to help. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

A baby shower will be held on Friday, March 29 for female Veterans at the Stratton VA. More details to come.

**A very proud ALA President,
Judy Benner**

Reminder for all Auxiliary members

Your membership expired on December 31, 2023. If your membership card does not show 2024, you need to send your dues to Jan Precopia (1160 New Scotland Ave., Albany, NY 12208). You may also pay your dues directly online with a credit card by calling National at (317) 569-4579.

Please pay your dues as soon as possible! It would be great to reach our quota which is 75. To date we have 56 members who have paid.

Chaplain's News

- Post Everlasting -

Past Commander Michael (Mickey) Ryan,
January 17, 2024

Sick call:

- Don Perry, Legion
- Shannon Lenet, Auxiliary
- Nancy Lucarelli, Auxiliary
- Susan Egan Rooney, Auxiliary
- Janis Sabatino, Auxiliary

"Blessings for Bamma"

Please join us on March 3, 2024 to celebrate and support Sue Egan Rooney. Sue, an Auxiliary member and daughter of Past Commander James "Skip" Egan, is battling Stage 4 Metastatic Breast Cancer. Event is at Colonie Rec Center, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. For information contact Mike Westfall (518-209-7438) or Allie Tombs (518-573-0557). Flyers are posted in the bar at the Post. Thank you for your support!

American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships Department of New York

There are six scholarships offered by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York that can be applied for by either a daughter, son, grandchild, or great grandchild. Each scholarship is worth \$1,000. Applications and information can be found on the department website (www.deptny.org).

Sons of the American Legion Scholarship Department of New York

There is one scholarship offered by Department of New York, worth \$500. Members in good standing of the American Legion Family are eligible to apply for it. Copies of the application and information can be found on the department website (www.deptny.org).

National American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships

National American Legion Auxiliary offers four scholarships: Children of Warriors (\$5,000). Decedents of Veterans are eligible to apply for it. Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship (\$2,500) and qualified junior members are eligible to apply for this one. Non-traditional Student (\$2,000) and qualified members in good standing of The American Legion Family are eligible to apply for it. Details and applications for these scholarships can be found at <https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships>.

American Legion Scholarships

The American Legion also offers seven scholarships. Participants of Boys and Girls State may be eligible to apply for one of the scholarships, the Samsung Scholarship. Details for all the American Legion scholarships can be found at <https://www.legion.org/scholarships>.

It is important to keep in mind all the scholarships have deadlines and requirements that need to be met.
