



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204

Office: 518.465.4800/Bar: 518.465.1402

Website: <https://northalbanypost1610.com>

Email: nap1610@yahoo.com

Post Hours: Thursday 2-6, Friday 4-8 pm, Saturday 12-4 pm

Jan 2026

A Message from the Commander



Legion Family,

Greetings,

As we begin a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work accomplished by North Albany Post 1610 over the past year. Through your dedication, volunteerism, and commitment to service, our Post has remained a pillar of support for veterans, families, and our surrounding community. This Year in Review highlights the impact we made together—and the goals we are setting for the year ahead.

Ongoing Programs & Partnerships

Throughout the year, the Post:

- Served as a polling location on Election Day
- Hosted blood drives in partnership with the Red Cross
- New Partnership with the Alice Moore Cultural Center to provide biweekly youth program “Grub and Go”
- Weekly fresh produce distribution for senior such as cabbage, carrots, etc
- Every other Friday hot meals for families and community youth
- Memorial Day activities and flag placements with the Henry Johnson JROTC Albany High Cadets
- Passed a property building inspection with no findings
- Third Annual Henry Johnson Back Pack to School Initiative to over 150 local students
- Hosted the Harvest Party, Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, and Toys for Tots community outreach, providing food distribution to over 200 families

Membership & Leadership

- The Post welcomed new members and transfers, strengthened leadership continuity, and successfully conducted officer and trustee elections. Monthly meetings remained active and productive, with strong participation and thoughtful discussion. Welcome new members! We are grateful for the dedication of our officers, committee members, and volunteers whose commitment made these accomplishments possible.



Looking Ahead: Goals for 2026

As we move into the coming year, North Albany Post 1610 is focused on growth, engagement, and sustainability. Our goals for 2026 include:

- Increase Membership
- Strengthen recruitment and retention efforts
- Welcome new veterans and engage existing members more actively
- Complete the “Raise the Roof” Campaign
- Finalize our initiative for making post a **historic landmark**
- Improve Communication by creating an official Post Facebook page and updating and modernize the Post website and continue monthly newsletters
- Establish monthly virtual membership meetings as an option
- Expand Community Outreach
- Continue food distribution, holiday assistance, youth programs, and veteran-focused events
- Strengthen support to veterans and improve partnerships with community organizations

Thank you to every member, volunteer, and partner who helped make this year a success. We look forward to an even stronger year ahead. Because of your dedication, North Albany Post 1610 continues to be a place of service, honor, and community. We look forward to another year of working together to support veterans and our neighbors.

Happy New Year to you and your families.

Honoring our Veterans

Honoring those who served remains a cornerstone of our Post especially on Veterans Day and Memorial Day!

- In January, we participated in the Albany County Honor-a-Veteran Ceremony, recognizing Joe King McLaughlin, a WWII Army veteran who served with the Red Ball Express during the Battle of the Bulge.
- In December, we honored U.S. Navy Veteran Harold Louis Gauthier for his service.
- In collaboration with the Albany County Veterans Service Bureau, we also hosted a Athena’s Warriors Event, welcoming approximately 30 women veterans to learn about resources, connect with service providers, and hear from guest speakers.
- We wanted to honor and remember the veterans who passed away this year: First Vice Donald Perry, Chaplain Charles Lossi, Alfred Lemon and Robert Quirk legionnaires

Working with the Community

In October, Post 1610 hosted a Harvest Festival and Halloween Event, offering a safe and welcoming environment for families. Over 100 children and family members attended and they all enjoyed games and other fun activities including a haunted house,. Haircuts, meals, and produce distribution were also provided.

We also conducted interviews with five Albany High School JROTC cadets, strengthening our commitment to mentoring and supporting future leaders

Community Outreach

Community outreach remained at the heart of our mission this year. For the third consecutive year, Post 1610 organized a Thanksgiving Turkey and Food Basket Giveaway, providing meals to over 60 families, exceeding our original goal.

During the holiday season, our Post proudly served as a Toys for Tots collection and distribution site, delivering toys and food to over 100 children and families in need.

These efforts were made possible through valued partnerships with:

- Capital Roots
- Regional Food Bank
- Market 32 & Hannaford
- Albany Community Land Trust
- Menz and JNYSURF & TURF, LLC
- Sheriffs Department: Greg Apple



We also continued hosting after-school community dinners, were approved to operate a food pantry, and partnered with the Alice Moore Cultural Center to provide weekly senior meals and produce distribution.

bi-

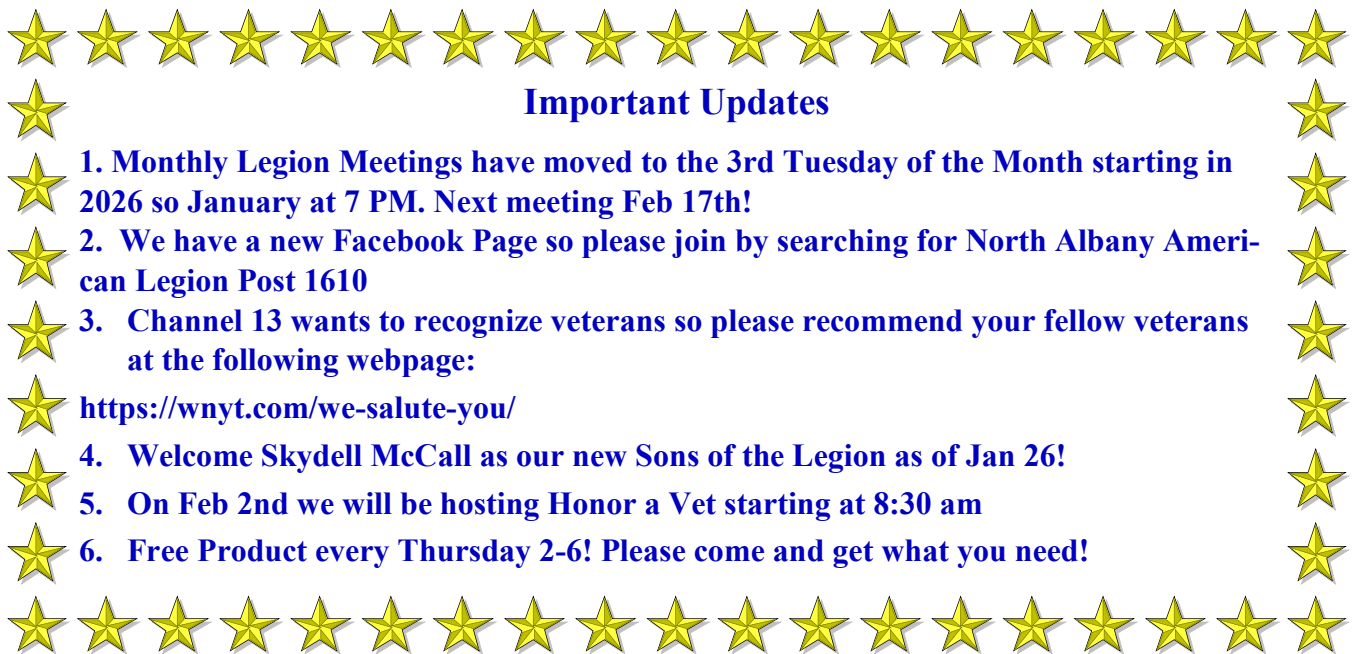
Capital Plan & “Raise the Roof” Initiative



A major focus this year was the launch of our **Capital Plan Fundraising Initiative**, with **Phase One dedicated to replacing the Post’s roof**. Multiple fundraising events—including the **Raise the Roof fundraiser**—were held to preserve our historic building. We are also working with **Common Council Member Kelly Kimbrough** to install **historical signage** recognizing North Albany Post 1610 as a historic landmark in Albany.

How to Donate: Make checks payable to: North Albany Post 1610 Include Capital Plan in the memo section. Your support big or small helps us maintain our Post as a safe and welcoming space for veterans and the community.





Important Updates

- 1. Monthly Legion Meetings have moved to the 3rd Tuesday of the Month starting in 2026 so January at 7 PM. Next meeting Feb 17th!**
- 2. We have a new Facebook Page so please join by searching for North Albany American Legion Post 1610**
- 3. Channel 13 wants to recognize veterans so please recommend your fellow veterans at the following webpage:
<https://wnyt.com/we-salute-you/>**
- 4. Welcome Skydell McCall as our new Sons of the Legion as of Jan 26!**
- 5. On Feb 2nd we will be hosting Honor a Vet starting at 8:30 am**
- 6. Free Product every Thursday 2-6! Please come and get what you need!**