



## *The Legion-Air*

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 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**

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**December 2025**

### **Commander's Message:**

This is the time of the year when we should stop, take a moment to reflect on all that we have in this country. Thanksgiving is a family holiday when we all gather around the dinner table, and thank GOD, for what we have on the table, the family and friends we have around the table.

I would like to thank the EC Staff, for attending back-to-back county functions. First, the EC Auxiliary meeting. I reviewed the plans for the 10 Urns Veterans Recovery Project and the WNY Heroes Red, White and Blue Gala. At the Gala I was reunited with Frank and his service dog Georgie. I saw them at the Graduation Ceremony at Groveland Prison, back on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. Frank and Georgie were still in training, but Frank could not be a happier veteran, now that he has Georgie to comfort him during his bad times.

The day before Veterans Day, the Donovan Post was invited to the Cleveland Hill Elementary School, for their Veterans Day Parade and Breakfast. To all Posts, try to take part in a schools Veterans Day events. Get students involved with this. It has Americanism and Patriotism all over it, which is part of our main pillars of the American Legion.

Veteran's Day at Forest Lawn Cemetery. It had to be one of the coldest, windiest, snowy day in recent Legion history. The snow was falling on my speech, so fast I could not read the words. The EC Legion Staff pulled together to make a bad situation, one of pure professionalism, and a very honorable ceremony.

Let's all remember to be charitable this holiday season. There is still time to make a donation to Oktoberfest for the Variety Club Telethon. The VA Hospital is in need of winter caps, gloves, coats, and socks. Let us remember George Boller of the Orchard Park Post #567, who lost his home in a terrible fire. Our strength comes from helping our fellow Legionnaires.

Happy Thanksgiving to ALL.

### **Membership: VC Howard Patton III**

Membership is the backbone of the American Legion the 2026 Target Dates are: 11/6 – 65%, 12/3 – 75%. Last month we concentrated on Checking Post 1 for potential members and Brand Awareness. Concentration for this month:

#### Retention

Encourage your existing members to renew their membership, this will assist each post in meeting the target percentage for the month. Use MyLegion.org to create a report of the current members who have not renewed and to create a mailing list with a encouragement to renew letter.

#### Buddy Check

This time of year, can be difficult for some Veterans and a call or visit would go a long way to helping someone feel loved and appreciated.

#### Remember the free tactics

Social Media: To tap into the younger Veterans, social media is a great tool, such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc.



**Erie County Commander Jerry Kowalski gives Veterans Day remarks at Hospice Buffalo. The grounds were decorated with 774 US Flags honoring each Veteran patient cared for in the past year. The flags were donated by The Erie County American Legion.**

### **Americanism – VC Pat Murphy**

We in the United States of America have a long history of independence, and fighting for our and other people's rights, and independence. We also encourage and set as examples people who go the extra miles to invest in and make the world that we live in today.

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1773, the Boston tea party, occurred this was dumping tea from ships into Boston harbor in protest of unfair taxation causing the flames of the Revolutionary War. This happened before we were a country, but the men involved would fight in the revolutionary war and create the country, we live in today the United States of America.

December 17, the Wright brothers achieved the first powered flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina revolutionizing transportation and aviation which would lead to a whole new branch of military service the Air Force and Space Force  
December 7<sup>th</sup> the attack on Pearl Harbor would force us to enter World War II a global conflict and fight with the allies to achieve victory over the axis powers.

December 25<sup>th</sup> is Christmas and our fighting men and women have been defending this country and their fellow service members since 1776 till today; There are conflicts and wars I did not mention but we know we honor them all.

Merry Christmas!

### **Law & Order – VC Pat Murphy**

Please look at your local police and law enforcement agencies, see if you can find a person that should be recognized for their action, years of dedication and service to your town, city, or county, They are out there, they are the unsung heroes of our country.

I know one of the first things I learned in the Army and then the Police force, and then the Fire Service was the squeaky wheel gets the oil, and there are way too many people out there that do not boast or brag about their actions. I consider myself to be one. I never put myself in for any award, honor or recognition. To me it was part of the job. So, look for the officer, sheriff, or constable that just does his job. They go home and live a regular life. We need them and we should recognize them.



### **Special Activities – VC Paul Wackowski**

Happy Thanksgiving to all Legionnaires and your Families as you gather with around the Thanksgiving table, pause for a moment and give thanks for all of the things that you have.

A special "Thank You"! goes out to all the County Posts and their membership for supporting the annual Calendar Sales. It been slow so far. There are 16 Posts that have participated and 18 Posts that have not. To the Posts that have not participated I can be reached at 716 - 262 – 5245 to arrange for Calendar distribution. They make great stocking stuffers at Christmas and for that matter any occasion. This is our only fundraiser for the year. Please support our County programs.

### **Boys State - Bernie Romanowski**

I hope everyone has watched Episode #10 of "Those Who Served" on WBBZ-TV, which aired during Veterans Day week. The hope is that Posts will use this video shown also on YouTube to advertise both the Boys and Girls State programs. I would suggest you send it to the high school counselors.

It is still early, but Boys State Chair's should start planning for interviews next year. In 2025 we only had boys from just 10 high schools in Erie County. Also, I would recommend Posts consider seeking funding from Corporations and other organizations. Remember if you do not have funding let me know and we can try to get help from other sources.

One final request. I would like the Post Commanders to forward to me the name, telephone number and email address of your Post Boys State Chairman. Send to [glabpost@aol.com](mailto:glabpost@aol.com)

## Oktoberfest – Ted Balbierz

Thanks to everyone who has supported the Annual Oktoberfest to benefit the Variety Club of Buffalo. So far, with everyone's collective efforts we have raised \$9,000. If you have not done so, please consider donating to this very worthy cause so we can reach \$10,000! Send in your donation check to the County Office.



## Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 12/18 at Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 located at 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, NY 14225. The Post will be serving Holiday Turkey Feast starting at 6 PM for \$10.

Thanks go out to the 17 Posts that were in attendance for the November County Meeting at Iroquois Post #1587. Posts in attendance were; 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 1477, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1672, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County on 12/18.

## Future County Meetings;

January 29, Matthew Glab Post #1477

February 26, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205

March 26, David McKeever Post #64

## Sunday December 7,

### 8<sup>th</sup> District Conference, Orleans County

Jewell Blackman Post 529, 5 Wright Street, Holley, New York 14470

Membership Mtg – Noon

Conference – 1 PM

## Department Leadership Dinner

The Erie County American Legion Family will host Department American Legion Commander John Miga, Department Auxiliary President Maureen Morgan, and SAL Detachment Commander Joseph Guidice Jr., on Friday, February 13, 2026.

The Dinner will be held at the George F. Lamm Post #622. Cocktails will be at 5:30 PM and the Dinner at 6:30 PM. Dinner cost TBD and released soon. Please make your reservations through the Office or pay at the County meetings.



**SUBMISSIONS**  
**For the January**  
**"The Legion-Air"**  
**Due December 19**  
**[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**



**The Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 Honor Guard prepares to deliver the Rifle Fire and Taps at the Annual Veterans Day Services at Forest Lawn Cemetery.**



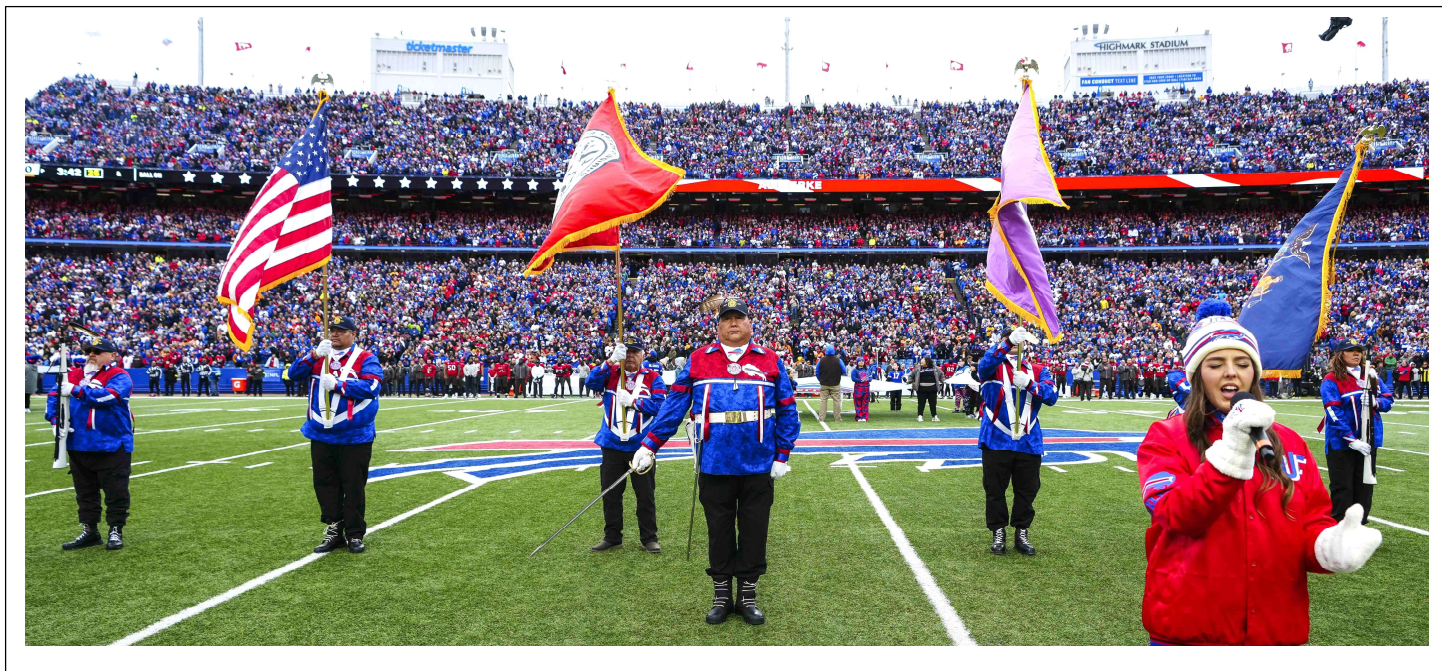
**Thanks to all who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the Annual Veterans Day Grave Decoration and Services at Forest Lawn Cemetery on 11/11/25. George Barton thanks everyone who helped decorate/retrieve the 7,100 flags.**



**At the 11/11/25 Veterans Day Services at Buffalo Forest Lawn, Congressman Tim Kennedy delivers his remarks. (L to R) second row, Adjutant Jim Bojanowski, Commander Jerry Kowalski, and Chaplain Rev. Michael Johnson.**



**Pictured at the Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post #1928 Veterans Day Ceremony, from (L to R) Cheryl Thomas, Commander Jesse Clipper Post 430, Brian Luallen, CEO, Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, James Bojanowski, Adjutant, Erie County, John Sanabria, Commander Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928, Rev. Eugene Pierce, Past Commander, Jesse Clipper Post 430, and Ventura Colon, Service Officer, Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928.**



**Iroquois Post 1587 presented the colors at the Buffalo Bills 11/16/2025 game. Legion Members (L-R) Barry Printup, DJ Huff, Leonard Wheeler, Commander Ron Cook Jr., Randy Jo Greene, Nancy Scott, in the front, National Anthem Singer Ali Berke.**



**Iroquois Post 1587 presented the colors at the Buffalo Sabres 11/17/2025 game. Legion Members (L-R) Commander Ron Cook Jr., DJ Huff, Stephanie Young, Ron Jamieson, and Barry Printup.**

**Sunday November 30**, Pancake Breakfast at Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave, Kenmore, 9 AM to Noon. \$10.

**Thursday December 11**, Pasta Dinner & Christmas Raffle at Niagara Frontier Post #1041, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo, NY 14207 from 5 to 7 PM. Adults \$12, Veterans \$6, Children 5 to 12 \$6, 4 and under free. 716 875 9276.

**Sunday December 14**, ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd. Swormville, 14051. From 8 AM to 12:30 PM. Fresh, hot, buttermilk pancakes, "Egglands Best" eggs, link & patty sausage, juice & coffee or tea. Adults \$10, children under 12 \$4, children < 5 free.

**Wednesday January 14**, PCC meeting at the Gierlach Post #1320 at 7 PM.

**Saturday January 24**, PC Club Holiday dinner will be held at the Longhorn Steakhouse at 1 PM on Walden Ave. Cost \$20 a person. It includes food and drink during the meal. RSVP deadline January 14. Contact Gary Oakes Jr at goakes\_jr@hotmail.com or 716-292-9970.

**Orchard Park Post #567**, 5784 Ellis Rd., Orchard Park, Dinners at the Post are from 4 – 6:30 PM (or until sold out). Monday: Beef on Weck, Tuesday: Tacos: Tacos, choice of beef or chicken, Hard shell or Soft. Thursday: Pasta Night! Comes with Salad, 2 meatballs and garlic bread. Friday: From the Grill.

**Newell Faulkner Post #880**, 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 14057. Normal Hours: Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 3 to 9 PM, Fri. 11 am to 9 PM & Sat. 11:30 am to 9 PM. DINE - IN OR TAKE OUT, Tuesday Taco Night, Wednesday 10 for \$8.50 Wings special, dine in only, Thursday Steak Night, Friday Fish Fry & Specials, Saturday Pizza & Wings and Sandwiches. [www.post880.com](http://www.post880.com)

**Matthew Glab Post #1477**, 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218, serving Wed and Friday 2-8 PM, Fish Fry's, Seafood, Burgers and weekly specials, Wednesday 75 cent wings, Taco's \$4.

**Francis J. Donovan Post #1626**, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, Food served by Polish Villa 2 every Friday from 4 – 8 PM. Live Music every Friday 7-10 PM. Christmas Concert with a full Choir on December 12th at 7 PM. Visit our website at : [francisdonovanpost1626.com](http://francisdonovanpost1626.com)  
We are a drop site for Toys For Tots...please bring new unwrapped toys to our Post and drop off into the bins inside the Post. Thank you! Always open to the Public!

**Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to you and your family. Remember our deployed Troops who are away from their families and keeping us safe. We express our heartfelt gratitude to our veterans and active-duty military for their unwavering service and sacrifice.**

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 12/19 for the January edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor**

**Erie County Website – [eriecountyal.org](http://eriecountyal.org)  
Phone: (716) 852 – 6500      [Veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:Veteran14202@verizon.net)  
Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

**DNY website - <https://nylegion.net>**

**National American Legion website - <https://www.legion.org>**