



## *The Legion-Air*

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**November 2025**

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

Our month started with a great honor, we had the Vietnam and Goldstar Walls here in Cheektowaga, Oct. 2-6<sup>th</sup>. The Opening Ceremony was well attended by Cheektowaga officials and business leaders from the Buffalo community. This was a very moving experience for me and many others that visited the Honor Walls.

The E.C. Staff was well represented at the dinner for the National Commander Dan Wiley in Frewsburg, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. Commander Wiley is a KC Chiefs fan. When I presented him with a donation for his National Commander's Fund, I said to him "Go Bills", he laughed. Then everyone after me said "Go Bills". He then realized that he was in Bill's country.

The all-Women's Honor Flight, included our own Sue Quirk. This was a time to honor her and all the women who served our great country.

In the past I attended the WNY Hero's fundraiser dinner, with some of the funds going to Service Dog Training. I had the opportunity to go to Groveland Correctional Facility to witness a Dog Graduation. The veteran inmates train these dogs 24/7, for months. They then turn the dog over to a veteran civilian with PTSD. There were lots of tears from both trainers and new owners. My admiration goes to the veteran inmates who train the dogs and then to give him up to a veteran, who now can function in the community, it was heartwarming.

Our E.C. Oktoberfest was well attended and enjoyed by all. The E.C. Auxiliary had many wonderful baskets for their raffle as well. The Bake Sale with so many delicious choices were offered. I am sure we were able to collect a nice sum, to present to the Telethon in March.

Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day is coming. I hope to see a large crowd at Forest Lawn Cemetery at 9 am for our ceremony.

I'm still taking invitations to visit Post meetings. Call me 716-681-7169.

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

Membership is the backbone of the American Legion the 2026 Target Dates are: 10/8/25 – 55%, 11/6/25 – 65%, 12/3/25 – 75%.

Last month we concentrated on Checking Post 1 for potential members, Enrolling and using Mylegion.org. We will continue to concentrate on two areas to help increase our membership:

#### **Checking Post 1 & Brand Awareness**

- Proudly wear your Legion T-shirt, Pull-over, Sweatshirt, and be ready to strike a conversation with friends, neighbors and strangers.
- From September to December Veterans could be persuaded to transfer to your post by sending a friendly and inviting letter to attend your monthly meeting.
- Increase activities of your post and advertise.

#### **Mylegion.org**

- Let's put forth every effort to become an active Mylegion.org user. For the membership chair that does not use this valuable resource, let's give it a try. Using the website allows for accurate and prompt membership activity. I am willing to come to your post and assist with the transition.

#### **Remember the free tactics**

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

### **Veterans Day**

Tuesday, November 11, is Veteran's Day. The Erie County American Legion will be having its annual ceremony at Forest Lawn Cemetery at 9 AM. Decoration of the graves will start at 8 AM. Everyone is welcome to participate in decorating the 7,100 graves in the Field of Valor.

## **Americanism – VC Pat Murphy**

Veterans day also known as armistice day

We find ourselves humbled by the immeasurable sacrifices made in the name of freedom and peace. November, a month marked by remembrance and gratitude, offers us an opportunity to pause—not only to recall the dates and battles, but to cherish the legacies of those who served and shape the America we strive to build together.

We must remember that many of the fallen, never had the opportunity of marriage, children, a family and a home. They gave of themselves for the greater good, a cause that their county asked them to serve. It is up to all Americans to make sure the cause is justified, and honorable. We have a duty and a debt to pay, for we are living lives that were paid for by others blood, sweat, and tears. We must remember to always strive for a better country, with the thought that. We left our country better than we found it.

Thank you for your service

Tricia fact: The first women recognized as serving in the military of the United States was a Deborah Sampson. In 1781, she enlisted as a male AKA Robert Shurtleff Massachusetts 4th light rifles regiment. She went undetected for over 2 years sustaining multiple injuries in battle, she received a gash on her forehead from a sword and was shot in her left thigh. She extracted the pistol ball herself. Her identity was discovered. Later in Philadelphia, where she became ill and lost consciousness and as discovered it was while being treated. She received an honorable discharge in 1783 she was the only women to earn a full military pension for participation in the revolutionary war

## **Law & Order – VC Pat Murphy**

October was Fire Prevention Month. 3 out of 5 home fire deaths were in buildings that had no smoke detectors or detectors that were not working. Carbon Monoxide is the leading cause of poisoning in the USA. Unattended cooking is the number 1 cause of cooking fires in the USA. Check your home, loved one's homes, and building that you use for adequate smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. There should be one alarm smoke on every level of the home. Have a fire extinguisher in your kitchen, garage, and near a fireplace. This is the season for chimney fires. Have them properly cleaned or inspected. Leaving vehicles in garages running to warm up is a cause for carbon monoxide poisoning.



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

With all things considering the Calendar sales have been brisk. There are 36 posts within the County and 16 Posts have participated so far. A very Special "Thank You"! to all those Posts who have participated.

Looking at the calendar, couldn't help notice that the holiday season shall be upon us. With that in mind, the calendars make great stocking stuffers and gifts for other occasions as well as Thank You gifts.

The winner of the Early Bird Draw, of \$100 is Lynn Brach, seller Wayne Page Post 1320. Congratulations!

I can be reached at 716 262 5245 to arrange calendar distribution to you.

## **Boys State - Bernie Romanowski**

We have completed the taping of our Boys and Girls State interviews with Terry McGuire. They will air on Terry's Show "Those Who Served" on Veterans Day. Watch WBBZ\_TV, channel 505 on Verizon or Channel 67 on Direct-TV.



**Pictured left to right: Clara Bartholomew, Girls State Lt, Governor, David Brophy, Boys State Governor and Boys Nation New York Rep, Bernie Romanowski, Erie County BS Chair, Ann Baglio, Auxiliary PCP, Terry McGuire, Host/Producer, & Sophie Kephart, Auxiliary Camp Counselor.**

**Oktoberfest – Ted Balbierz** On Sunday October 19, the Erie County American Legion Family proudly hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Oktoberfest Celebration to benefit the Variety Club of Buffalo. The event was held at George F Lamm Post 622, providing a perfect setting for an afternoon of fellowship, music, and community spirit.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the members of the Lamm Post for their generosity in hosting this year's event and for their continued support of Legion Family activities. Their hospitality and attention to detail ensured the success of the celebration. Huge Thanks to PCP's Rosemary O'Connell & Anne Baglio along with all their Auxiliary Volunteers throughout the County for coordinating a highly successful Basket Raffle & Bake Sale. Special Thanks go out to Brounshidle Post Legion Family members Fran Roselli, Alex Mills who solicited donations and manned the grill along with Brounshidle SAL Members (my Sons) Thomas & Trevor Balbierz for providing this year's entertainment.

I thank the following Legion Family Posts, Units, and Squadrons for their active participation and contributions to date:

Gabriel Rodriguez Post 1928 & Unit  
Brounshidle Post 205, Unit, and Sons  
Niagara Frontier Post 1041  
Concord Post 431  
Hamburg Post 527  
Adam Plewacki Post 799  
Frank Brink Post 607  
Newcomb Long Post 1626  
Iroquois Post 1587  
Francis Donovan Post 1626  
Voiture Locale 476

Through the combined efforts of these dedicated Legion Family members, the 2025 Oktoberfest was a resounding success surpassing last year's collection we currently have collected \$7,600. With just over 4 months until the Big Check presentation at the telethon, I would like to continue to appeal to all those Legion Family Posts who may still be considering donating and I would like to encourage all remaining Legion Family organizations to support this very worthy cause supporting the Children of Erie County. Please remit any future donations payable to: Erie County American Legion and forward to: 65 Niagara Square, #609, Buffalo, NY, 14202. (Memo Variety Club) Remember to include these donations on your Post/Unit or Squadron Reports. **"Veterans Strengthening America."**



### **Regular County Meetings at 7 PM**

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 11/20 at Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post #1928 located at 261 Swan St., Buffalo, NY 14204. The Post will be serving Hispanic Food starting at 6 PM, donations accepted.

Thanks go out to the 17 Posts that were in attendance for the October County Meeting at Iroquois Post #1587. Posts in attendance were; 63, 64, 205, 430, 431, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 1477, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1672, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County on 11/20.

### **Future County Meetings;**

December 18, Francis J. Donovan #1626  
January 29, Open, need a Post Host, no dinner is scheduled due to potential weather issues.  
February 26, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205

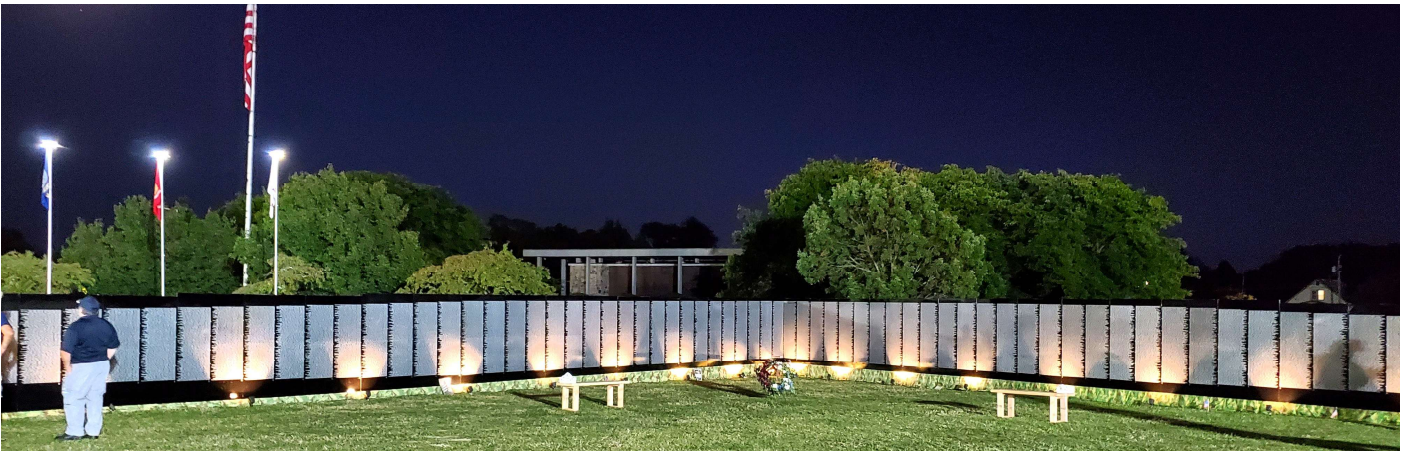


**All Female WNY Honor Flight attendees in Washington DC. (L to R) PCC Sue Quirk, Cofounder Jeff Miller and "guardian" Sue's Sister Kathy Klopp. The Honor Flight program is celebrating its 20th Anniversary.**

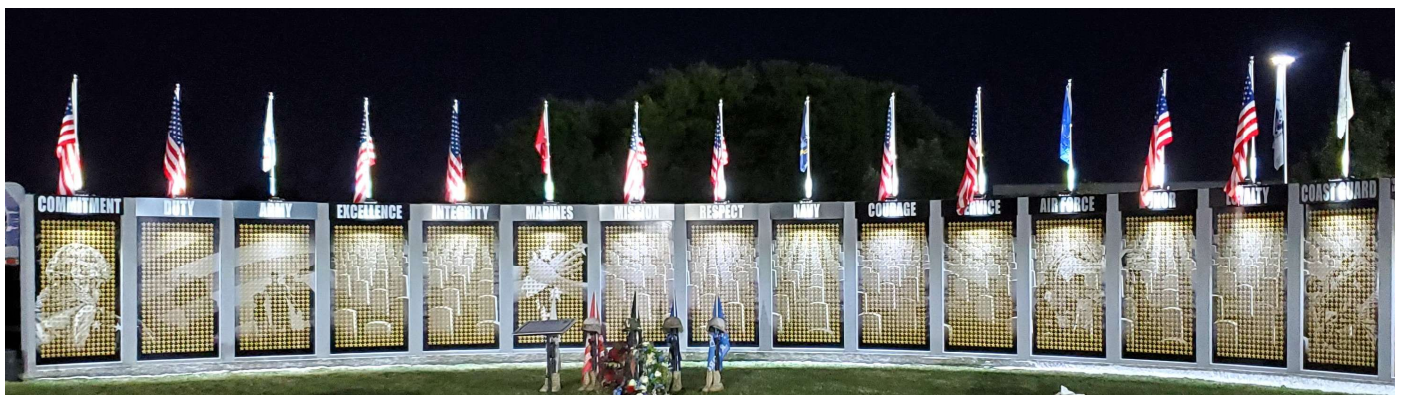


**SUBMISSIONS**  
**For the December**  
**"The Legion-Air"**  
**Due November 21**  
**thelegionair@gmail.com**





**The Vietnam Moving Wall at Pine Hill Cemetery the first weekend of October.**  
Photo by Dan Lachut.



**The Gold Star Mothers Tribute at Pine Hill Cemetery the first weekend of October.**  
Photo by Dan Lachut.



**Oktoberfest Chair Ted Balbierz, left, and Erie County Commander Jerry Kowalski announcing winners of the various prizes. Thanks go to all who contributed and attended to the Buffalo Telethon Fundraiser. For those unable to support so far, donations are still being accepted for the Telethon. We have raised \$7,600 so far and would love to see this number grow.**  
Photo by Sue Quirk.

**Saturday November 8**, Concord Auxiliary Unit 431 is sponsoring a Veterans eat free spaghetti dinner from 3:30 to 6:30 PM, 109 Zoar Valley Rd. Springville, NY 14141. Includes two meatballs, salad, bread, dessert, coffee and tea. \$10 for all others, 9 - 4 years \$5, 3 & under Free.

**Saturday November 8**, Frank L. Gierlach Post #1320 at 50 Gates St Sloan N Y 14212, will host a Holiday Craft Fair from 10 AM to 2 PM.

**Saturday November 8**, AJ Jurek Post #1672 Turkey & Ham Raffle, free admission and free snacks, beer and pop. First spin is at 7 PM.

**Thursday November 13**, Frank L. Gierlach Post #1320 will host a lunch and meet session with Robert Stutz Veterans Affairs Advisor at their Post starting at 11:30 AM. For more information you can contact Robert Przybylak at 814-392-4531.

**Saturday November 15**, Iroquois Post #1587 Meat Raffle at 5 PM. Contact Ron Cook at roncookpost1587cdr@gmail.com

**Sunday November 16**, 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.

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

**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. Next PC Club meeting is Wednesday January 14 at the Gierlach Post #1320 at 7 PM.

**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. Wednesday: Chiavetta's Chicken & Ribs BBQ 2 – 6 PM, 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. We are happy to announce we are the new home of the Polish Villa 2U food service! Serving the finest cuisine every Friday from 4 -8 PM. Come join us at The Foxhole Bar and enjoy an ice cold Spaten beer! Live music every Friday from 7 till 10 PM .Always open to the Public!

**This Thanksgiving**, let us express our heartfelt gratitude to our veterans and active-duty military for their unwavering service and sacrifice. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 11/21 for the December edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

Erie County Website – [eriecountyal.org](http://eriecountyal.org)  
Phone: (716) 852 - 6500 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>