

**CPL. JEDH C. BARKER MEMORIAL POST 153
AMERICAN LEGION**

118 Ridge Avenue, Park Ridge, N.J. 07656

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



PASCACKLE

CPL. JEDH C. BARKER MEMORIAL POST 153 AMERICAN LEGION
118 Ridge Avenue, Park Ridge, N.J. 07656 • 201-391-9754

APRIL/MAY 2017

ARTICLES SUPPLIED BY POST 153 MEMBERS "I MISSED MY FLIGHT"

After three years in the Marine Corps. With 13 months in Korea, I was discharged and headed to college. There I met my future wife and we got married in our senior year. I received a teaching degree and returned to buy a house in Park Ridge and a teaching job in the public schools of Tenafly.

Thirty five years went by very quickly and in 1994 I retired. Having done some train trips while in the Corps, I saw how beautiful our country was. I told my wife Janet I didn't want to travel to Europe but did want to see the U.S.A. So for the next thirteen years we took two 14 day trips a year, in May and October. We would usually fly somewhere and rent a car and tour the area including most all national parks. However, things changed in 2007 when Janet died from a stroke in the 50th year of our marriage.

However, half-way through the 13 years, in 2001 I decided I would like to take a trip to San Francisco. There we would rent a car for 14 days and drive north along the coast to Oregon; then east to Crater Lake, followed by Lake Tahoe and south to Yosemite. I asked Janet to call United—we had free mileage seats- to see if they could get us a flight during the second week in September when it would still be warm in Yosemite.

The clerk said seats were available Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Janet said Tuesday and a few days later we got the tickets for an 8AM United Flight #93 from Newark. I didn't think much more about it since we had been taking these trips for years and never had a problem. I liked Frisco Airport and Alamo (car rental) always treated a veteran really well.

The Saturday before the flight, I called Alamo Car Rental in

Frisco. A young girl came on and I said this was a vacation trip of some 14 days, then I told her where we would be each day and to give me a price for Tuesday of the next week. She took a few minutes to check for possible discounts. It took her more than a few minutes but she was being thorough and then came back on with two suggestions. On Tuesday it was easy and I got a price. Then she said how about coming out on Thursday. She could give me a week-end discount since it was Fleet Week-end. Also, as a veteran she thought we would enjoy the Navy activities on Friday and Saturday and the price was \$35 cheaper than Tuesday. I said OK but I would have to see if United could change us to Thursday- they could and we were all set.

Two days later I got up on Tuesday and went for a walk on a real nice day, returned and put on the TV and saw the Trade Center Towers coming down and heard 4 planes had been taken. Three had crashed, but the fourth was still up, but lost. It was United #93 out of Newark to Frisco; I went and got our Tuesday tickets and called Janet to come and sit with me. I told her the plane story and said right now we would be sitting on a plane just minutes from our death. We had been blessed.

As a teacher, I always look for a lesson in all activities. Thinking of the Alamo girl, who was more interested in giving us a good vacation than making money for her company, I saw how easy it was to be kind to someone else. Being a good neighbor pays dividends we can't always understand—in our case it saved our lives. In the Legion we do a lot of this so let's be sure to keep it up.

Larry Morgan

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

We hope the winter is gone for good. Spring is here and summer is just around the corner.

We have had and will have activities this spring. Our County meeting was at our post on the 25 of March 2017. At the county meeting there was a speaker from VA home Loan adviser who gave a very informative talk. The Montvale Boy Scout Troop 334 held their annual Community Dinner and Raffle on Friday March 31, 2017 It was a fun filled evening of food, friends, a tricky tray and Music.

The election of officers for the post, the Auxiliary and the SAL is in April. The elected officers will be installed at the May meeting. Representatives from the county will be there for the installations. We are always looking for members to volunteer for our many activities so please let me know if you know anyone who might want to be on the board or would want to help the post in any way. The big event of the spring will be the annual Memorial Day Parade on May 29 rain, or shine. We also have our shake a can coming up in May 27. Today's Thought from Booker T. Washington:

"Associate yourself with people of good quality, for it is better to be alone than in bad company."

Post Commander Joseph C Collery

AUXILIARY NEWS

Our officers for next year are duly nominated and elected and will be installed with our fellow Post and SAL members on May 11. A county Auxiliary member will install us.

Our two main events for April were discussed at our recent meeting. On April 11 we are scheduled to host the regular monthly meeting for the Bergen County ALA when approximately 50 members attend. Regular business is conducted followed by refreshments. This will be followed by our annual Steak Dinner scheduled for Saturday April 29 (see the poster below). Tickets are available and sold in advance. Members contributed to the items used in our gift baskets to be raffled off at the dinner.

The chairmanship of Brave Warriors will be turned over from Linda Mackey to Jean Campbell. Announcement of plans for the Brave Warriors will follow in the near future. Girls State Chairmen Maureen Demes and Tami Levinson reported that 4 local high school girls were interviewed and chosen to attend the session in late June.

As usual we will be distributing poppies during the month of May, and will be situated at various businesses in the area. All of the monies collected are designated for assisting our Veterans. Several bags of groceries and 2 money donations were sent to the Tri Boro Food Center.

Barbara Musso Auxiliary Corresponding Secretary

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 5 Wed. Post Executive Board Meeting7:00 PM
 Apr 6 Thurs. S.A.L. Meeting at Post.....7:00 PM
 Apr 7 Fri. Fish Fry Dinner5:30 -8:00 PM
 Apr 10 Mon. Auxiliary Meeting.....7:00 PM
 Apr 11 Tues. Bergen County Auxiliary Meeting
 at the Post.....7:30 PM
 Apr 13 Thurs. Post Meeting OFFICER ELECTIONS7:30 PM
 Apr 23 Breakfast At The8:00 AM-12:00
 Apr 26 Wed. Bingo at the Veterans Home in Paramus ...7:00 PM
 Apr 29 Sat. Auxiliary Dinner5:00 PM

May 5 Fri. Fish Fry Dinner5:30 -8:00 PM
 May 9 Tues. Post Executive Board Meeting.....7:00 PM
 May 11 Thurs. Post Meeting OFFICER INSTALLATION...7:30 PM
 May 21 Breakfast At The Dugout8:00AM-12:00
 May 24 Wed. Bingo at the Veterans Home in Paramus ..7:00 PM
 May 27 Sat. Shake-A-Can.....8:30AM- 1:30PM
 May 29 Mon. Memorial Service at Post 1538:00AM
 May 29 Mon. Memorial Services in Park Ridge,
 Montvale and WCL.....9:00AM
 May 29 Mon. MEMORIAL DAY PARADE10:30 AM

Jun 2 Fri. Fish Fry Dinner.....5:30 -8:00 PM
 Jun 13 Tues. Post Executive Board Meeting.....7:00 PM
 Jun 14 Wed. Flag Day Ceremony at the Post.....7:00PM
 Jun 15 Thurs. Post Meeting7:30 PM
 Jun 18 Sun Breakfast At The Dugout.....8:00AM-12:00
 Jun 28 Wed. Bingo at the Veterans Home in Paramus ...7:00 PM

ANNUAL BERGEN COUNTY SAFETY ESSAY CONTEST/ COLORING CONTEST

This year our post submitted entries for both the 73rd annual Safety Essay and Patriotic Coloring Contests. Americanism and Public Relations Chairman Dot Bozzone reported receiving 396 entries in the student essay contest, earning 9 prizes. When we received the results we were pleased to learn that Kailey Levinson, a 7th grader at Park Ridge High School and also a junior auxiliary member, had won 1st place at the county level. The topic of the essay is "What Safety Means to Me". The essay had to be no less than 300 or more than 450 words. We are very proud of Kailey who will be honored in May by the Bergen County American Legion.

The Americanism Coloring Contest required 4th and 5th grade students to color a picture of the High Point Monument to be judged for accuracy and neatness. Two local schools participated and two students will receive an outstanding commendation award in May at a county event. Congratulations to Hannah Foley (Memorial School, Montvale) and Meaghan Keating (Our Lady of Mercy Academy). These students will be invited to our April meeting and given due recognition. We are also pleased to announce, Cathy Corretti served in the color guard for Tales Of Hope.

Barbara Musso Auxiliary Corresponding Secretary

Research Study on Trauma-Focused, Equine-Assisted Therapy (TF-EAT) for Veterans with Post-traumatic-Stress Disorder (PTSD)

New York State Psychiatric Institute
 1051 Riverside Drive / New York, NY 10032

In collaboration with the Bergen Equestrian Center, staff at the New York State Psychiatric Institute are conducting a research study to explore the efficacy of Trauma-focused, Equine-assisted Therapy (TF-EAT) in treating veterans clinically diagnosed with PTSD.

Why Horses?

Horses are highly attuned prey animals, and, by nature, they are skittish or hypervigilant. Horses resemble humans in their behavior, particularly in social contexts. In equine-assisted therapy, the horse assumes the role of the "co-therapist" in providing a holistic experience for patients.

What Is the Treatment?

This is a group treatment. Each group will comprise 4-6 veterans with PTSD. As currently planned, the treatment will be delivered in eight 90-minute weekly sessions. The treatment sessions will take place at the Bergen Equestrian Center in Leonia, NJ.

Who Is Eligible to Participate?

Veterans who are: Between the ages of 18 and 70
 Have a current DSM-5 diagnosis of PTSD
 (as determined by: diagnostic measures)

BOYSCOUTS ACTIVITIES

The winter of 2017 has been a busy time for Troop 334. The January camping trip was to Camp Wah Wah Taysee in North Haven, CT. When we arrived there was no snow on the ground but by Saturday afternoon there was 8". The boys had a great time sledding. Three of scouts who were on their first winter camping trip earned their Frosty Camper award for camping out when it was less than 20 degrees out.

In February the scouts participated in the Klondike Derby at Camp Alpine. The Klondike is an event where scout troops compete against other scouts from the area. It is a test of their knowledge of scouting skills along with their ability to work as a team and to show scout spirit. 17 boys from troop 334 participated, split into three separate patrols. There were over 60 patrols entered overall. The patrols from Troop 334 took 1st, 4th and 5th overall.

The 1st place team had a perfect score of 120 points! Camp Yaw Paw in Mahwah was the site of the March camping trip. The theme of this trip was wilderness survival. It again was on a cold winter weekend. Wilderness survival turned into basic survival instincts as much time was spent cutting and splitting firewood. The boys learned that burning firewood can warm you many times over. When you cut it, when you carry it back to camp, when you split it and when you burn it.

The troop has trips planned every month for this coming spring. In April we will go backpacking on the Appalachian Trail. In May we will attend the NJ National Guard/State Police Camporee and in June there will be a whitewater rafting trip on the Lehigh River in PA.

FINANCE OFFICER'S CORNER:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM THE VA SENIOR/ VETERANS TAX BENEFITS

VETERANS: Honorably Discharged Veterans may exempt \$3000 in wages from their state income tax.
 RETIREES: The tax benefit allows exclusion of pension and retirement income from state income tax. Beginning on July 1, 2017, and rising annually for the next four years, exemptions grow from \$15,000 to \$75,00 for individuals, \$20,00 to \$100,000 for joint filers and \$10,000 to \$50,000 for married couples filing individually.
 SALES TAX: Reduced to 6.875% on Jan 1, 2017 and 6.625% on Jan 1, 2018
 ESTATE TAX: On Jan 1, 2017, relatives of people who die may exempt assets up to \$ 2 million from the tax (previously \$675,000). Spouses are still exempt from the tax. On Jan 1, 2018, the estate tax will be eliminated. The inheritance tax (11 to 16%) which applies to relatives who are not children, grandchildren and their descendants, will remain intact. Please contact your tax adviser for individual information.

NURSING HOME, ASSISTED LIVING OR HOME CARE EXPENSES

A qualifying veteran or spouse of a veteran may be eligible to receive financial assistance for nursing home, assisted living, or home care expenses from the VA under the Aid & Attendance and Housebound Pension Benefit.

Aid & Attendance and Housebound Veterans and survivors who are eligible for a VA pension and require the aid and attendance of another person, or are housebound, may be eligible for additional monetary payment of up to \$1,100 per month. These benefits are paid in addition to monthly pension, and they are not paid without eligibility to Pension. Since Aid and Attendance and Housebound allowances increase the pension amount, people who are not eligible for a basic pension due to excessive income may be eligible for pension at these increased rates. A Veteran or surviving spouse may not receive Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound benefits at the same time.

Aid & Attendance (A&A)

The Aid & Attendance (A&A) increased monthly pension amount may be added to your monthly pension amount if you meet one of the following conditions:

- You require the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment
- You are bedridden, in that your disability or disabilities requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity
- Your eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less

Housebound

This increased monthly pension amount may be added to your monthly pension amount when you are substantially confined to your immediate premises because of permanent disability.

How to Apply

You may apply for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits by writing to the Pension Management Center (PMC) that serves your state. You may also visit your local regional benefit office to file your request. You can locate your local regional benefit office using the VA Facility Locator.

You should include copies of any evidence, preferably a report from an attending physician validating the need for Aid and Attendance or Housebound type care.

- The report should be in sufficient detail to determine whether there is disease or injury producing physical or mental impairment, loss of coordination, or conditions affecting the ability to dress and undress, to feed oneself, to attend to sanitary needs, and to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable.
- Whether the claim is for Aid and Attendance or Housebound, the report should indicate how well the applicant gets around, where the applicant goes, and what he or she is able to do during a typical day. In addition, it is necessary to determine whether the claimant is confined to the home or immediate premises.

Eligible Wartime Periods

Under current law, VA recognizes the following wartime periods to determine eligibility for VA Pension benefits:

- Mexican Border Period (May 9, 1916 – April 5, 1917 for Veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders, or adjacent waters)
- World War I (April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918)
- World War II (December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946)
- Korean conflict (June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955)
- Vietnam era (February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975 for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period; otherwise August 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975)
- Gulf War (August 2, 1990 – through a future date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation)

For further information and eligibility go to:

www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid_attendance_housebound.asp

LEGION MEMBERSHIP STATUS 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you did not pay your 2017 dues by December, as of Jan 1 2017, you will be officially suspended by National and Department of NJ, not be eligible for any American Legion Benefits Discounts, Legion insurance and be dropped from the membership rolls as well as Pascackle mailing list after this issue. It would be a shame to lose membership continuity and the benefits that come with membership. USAA insurance policies through the National Legion may also be dropped.

If you are unable to pay your fees for any reason, please advise the Commander in writing to the Post and we will do everything possible to have your fees paid. Only written requests will be considered.

TD BANK AFFINITY FUND RAISER (AH198)

If you bank with TD bank you may participate in a no cost to you or the post affinity fundraiser offered to 501c3 nonprofits. You must designate your accounts (business checking, personal checking, savings, money market, CDs, and retirement accounts) for inclusion in the American Legion Post 153 program. The program code is AH198. TD Bank will provide an annual cash contribution to the Post as outlined below.

You may designate your accounts for inclusion in the program by visiting the branch at 33 S. Kinderkamack Rd, Montvale bank or them at 201 391 0505 and talking to Bill DeBenedetto or Josh.

The Post receives \$50 for every new checking account and \$10 for existing accounts. Savings and CD deposits receive 1/10 of 1% of average annual balances.

Information on enrolled accounts is kept strictly confidential and will not be shared with our Post.

This is a win-win for our members and the Post. Do not pass it up and enroll today. If you have a TD Bank account, please call the branch and enroll. Thanks again for your support.

2017-2018 POST OFFICER ELECTION SCHEDULE

The annual nomination of post officers was held during the March meeting. In the absence of any petitions to nominate other than those submitted by the nominating committee, the election of our post officers will take place at the April 13th meeting.

On Thursday, May 11th, the officers for our post, auxiliary and the SAL will be installed by representatives from the Bergen County organizations at 7:30 PM.

Nominees Were PresentedMarch 9th
Officer's Election.....April 13th
Officer's InstallationMay 11th

Following are the slates of officers for the 2017 - 2018 for the post, the auxiliary and the S.A.L.:

POST 153 NOMINATED OFFICERS

Commander	Joe Collery
1st Vice Commander	John Lynch
2nd Vice Commander	Otto Stroehle
3rd Vice Commander	Tom Madru
Finance Officer	Bob Kelly
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jerry Alexander

Trustee (5 year term)	Dick Bozzone
(1 year term)	Jerry Alexander

County Delegates	Alternate County Delegates
Jerry Alexander	Jim Barrett
Joe Collery	Jim Donovan
Al Quackenbush	John Lynch
Otto Stroehle	Tom Madru

Note: the positions of Adjutant, Chaplain, Historian and Service Officer are named by the new Commander.

AUXILIARY NOMINATED OFFICERS

The Officer nominations took place at the monthly meeting held on Monday, March 13, 2017.

President	Annie Whitney
1st Vice President	Dee Mackey
2nd Vice President	Wini Bramley
Chaplain	Monique Stroehle
Finance Officer	Lorraine Westrich
Historian	Dot Bozzone
Secretary	Barbara Musso
Sargent at Arms	Maureen Demes

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NOMINATED OFFICERS

Commander	Scott Hessberger
1st Vice Commander	Doug Carey
2nd Vice Commander	Larry McKenna
Adjutant/Finance Officer	Dennis Cosgrove
Sargent at Arms	Mike Marconi
Chaplain	Art Distasi
Service Officer	Mike McTigue

Remember, anyone may present other candidates as long as the following criteria are met.

- The candidate must be a member in good standing (membership dues for 2017 are paid).
- The candidate's name is presented in writing to the Post Commander no later than five (5) days before the election. The final date is April 8th.
- The written presentation is signed by no less than five (5) members in good standing (membership dues for 2017 are paid).

BOYS STATE & GIRLS STATE 2017

Just a quick reminder to all that in the next few weeks all area high schools will be receiving applications for this year's Boys State Program and this years Girls State Program. Boys State and Girls State both run from June 18-23, 2017. There is an open application period followed by interviews and selection. There are also several Orientation Nights to attend. It is a once in a lifetime experience for these deserving high school students.

SCHOLARSHIPS 2017

Post Scholarships

Post Scholarship Applications for 2017 are now available behind the Bar at the Dugout. All children and grandchildren of Legionnaires, Sons of the Legion, and the Auxiliary currently in Senior Year of High School are eligible. Applications must be received by April 30, 2017 to be considered.

There are several New Jersey Department Scholarships available to current high school seniors who will be attending College next year. All of these can be found on line at bcjnal.org. These Scholarships are quite generous and worthwhile. Applications are being taken now.

S.A.L. REPORT

As we move into the spring season, our Squadron is invigorated to support our Veterans of the American Legion both locally and nationally. Under the leadership of Commander Scott Hessberger, we are donating our charitable contributions to help Veterans returning home with P.S.T.D. counseling services, which was the N.J. State Commanders Squadron project. We also supported the Bergen County Squadron Commanders project which gave funds to Boys State. So far this 2017 year we are off to a great start helping American Legion projects. Before you know it, our Memorial Day Parade will be upon us. As usual we have assured the parade com-

S.A.L. 2017 ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER DANCE

We would like to thank all the folks who came out and attended the March 11th St. Patrick's Day dinner dance. A great time was had by all who attended. A traditional St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner was enjoyed by all, and was prepared by S.A.L. Squadron members Larry McKenna, Russell Chapman, John Stewart and Jim Mescher. The setup of the hall was done by Vinny Alfano. The decorations were wonderful and created by Dee Mackey and Margie Behr. Table settings were done by Annie Whitney and her sister Patsy. Bartenders Scott Hessberger and Bob Behr generously donated their time and tips back to our charity account. Brian McCabe and Mike McTigue along with Stephanie Cosgrove and Jerry Alexander assisted with the serving duties. DJ Bill did a fantastic job, and new member Paul Zimmerman won the "Music Trivia" contest. We all look forward to seeing Paul on Jeopardy one day.

mittee that we would be supporting them strong as we always do. Any S.A.L. members, who would like to be on the parade volunteer committee, please contact Commander Scott with you availability. We welcome and encourage all new volunteers to come out and help with this great event. We have been asked to join the Bergen County American Legion (Pool/Billiards) league. Anyone interested in putting a team together to compete with local American Legion Posts should contact Dennis Cosgrove, who will put you together with the "sign up" information.

Special thanks go out to Past Commander Jim Barrett for arranging for the Bergen County Police Pipe and Drum band, who entertained us with some great traditional music. We would also like to thank John Broderick who donated a number of home-made bird houses that were decorated in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day. We used the fantastic Birdhouses for our door prizes, along with some great Irish whiskey and other spirits. Events of this nature do not go off without a great deal of planning and execution, so we would like to thank all the above mentioned volunteers for their help, as well as all the others who helped that we might have not mentioned.

*Ce'ad mi'le fa'ilte - (A thousand thanks)
Slainte ! - (Health)
God Bless America and Gold Bless our Troops and Veterans*

REHAB

The monthly Bingo Party at the Paramus Veterans Home was held on February 22nd. The team consisted of Legionnaires Al Quackenbush, Joe Collery, Otto Stroehle, Jerry Alexander, Dick Bozzone, Andy Demes and Auxiliary members Annie Whitney, Linda Mackey, Barbara Musso, Dot Bozzone and Maureen Demes. Also helping was volunteer Sal Buda. The caller was Holly Padula. The 53 residents were served bananas. The monthly Bingo Party at the Paramus Veterans Home was held on March 22nd. Jim Donovan reports that his team consisted of Legionnaires Al Quackenbush, Joe Collery, Otto Stroehle, Jerry Alexander, Dick Bozzone and Andy Demes, SAL member Vinny Alfano and Auxiliary members Annie Whitney, Linda Mackey, Dot Bozzone and Maureen Demes. Also helping was our volunteer Sal Buda. The caller was Holly Padula. The 50 residents were served bananas.

DENOYELLES DUGOUT NEWS

ATTENTION ALL!! Current News. Beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, including fresh coffee, are always available. Come in and spend some time with fellow Legionnaires and guests. There is something for everyone at The Dugout. Hope to see you soon! Thank you for your support!!

**Hours Monday thru Friday
4 PM - 11 PM (Thurs 3:30 PM)**

Note: Bar will close at 10 PM if no patrons are present

**Saturday 1 PM - 8 PM
Sunday 1 PM - 8 PM**

Happy Hours Monday thru Friday 4 PM - 6 PM

SICK CALL

Jerry Ritz was injured when he was struck by a car on Park Avenue. He suffered a number of serious injuries. He is rehabbing at the Atrium. He appreciates all the visits he has received from post members. We wish him well in his lengthy recovery.

Lee Hopper is him recovering from a knee operation. He too appreciates all the well wishes he has received. We wish him well.

THE KITCHEN CORNER

Wednesday Dinners have come to a stop and Fish Fry, Sunday Breakfast will continue until June, including June. The Pascacke has all the dates indicated in the calendar above. Due to Easter, Sunday Breakfast will be the following Sunday. We really enjoyed cooking for all of you and hopefully our menu choices and variety was up to your standards. We wish you all a happy spring and a joyful summer.

Thank you to our committed Servers Loraine, Monique, Cathy, and Dee. Many thanks from all of us. Jerry, Al, and Otto.

Our virtuoso kitchen crew continues their monthly 1st Friday Fish Fry Supper. Service starts at 5:30 PM and goes until 8:00 PM. There's no standing in a buffet line waiting your turn; as you place your order with our skilled wait-staff, sit back and enjoy a beverage refreshment while your food is being prepared, and then, delivered to you. The volunteer staff is outstanding as usual, and a great, simple meal waits all who attend!

BUILDING REVITALIZATION FUND RAFFLE

Held on March 4, our 4th post raffle event was another social and financial success. Ninety one tickets were sold. The Dugout was filled with over 40 people who enjoyed the buffet prepared by our kitchen crew and bartender. The first prize of \$540 went to Bob Kelly, the second number was an unsold ticket, so Commander Coltery drew another winner, Al Quackenbush (\$340) and the third prize of \$225 went to M. Swanson. The event 50/50 drawing of \$110 went to Bill Back. Thanks to all who bought tickets and supported the event. To date we have raised over \$5000 for upgrades (building, parking lot, and monument) to the Post. You can participate by mailing a \$25 check payable to Post 153, noting raffle in the memo section or purchasing a ticket at the Dugout. Only 100 tickets will be sold. You do not have to be present to win so those outside the area may participate and win. Our next event is planned for Nov. 2017. We hope to see you there as a winner. Thanks to Don Eck, Otto Stroehle, Jerry Alexander, and Al Quackenbush for their assistance in making this event a success.

BERGEN COUNTY LEGION POSTS COLLECTING UNSERVICEABLE FLAGS

Spring has arrived, and perhaps your spring clean-up has begun. Please remember that spring clean-up may also include replacing your worn American flag. Jedh Barker Post 153, along with all the American Legion Posts of Bergen County, reminds residents that American flags need to be disposed of properly and in a dignified manner. When a flag becomes unserviceable, it is due to fading and/or tearing and should no longer be displayed but replaced. Jedh Barker Post 153 will be hosting a ceremonial Flag Retirement at on Flag Day, Wednesday June 14 at 7:00 PM. The flags are incinerated after a proper ceremony with readings and patriotic songs. We encourage all post members to attend. Additionally, the Bergen County American Legion Organization will be holding a ceremonial Flag Retirement on Saturday, June 17, at the Bergen County Police and Fire Academy on Campgaw Road, Mahwah. The flags are then incinerated after a proper ceremony with readings and patriotic songs.

*We thank you for flying Old Glory!
For God and Country, "We continue to serve"*



POST REVITALIZATION PROJECT UPDATE

Since 2013 the Post Committee (Barry Stein, Jerry Ritz, Walter Coyman, Bob Kelly, and Jim Barrett) has focused on a priority list of projects that were necessary to upgrade the infrastructure of the Post. Our first major project was removal of the roof and structure with an entirely new beam support system and roofing material and removal of outdated HVAC equipment. Shortly thereafter we completely renovated our kitchen facility with a deconstruction of the old kitchen, major upgrades to plumbing and electrical, installation of a new tile floor and easier to maintain durable plastic wall covering and purchases of a new commercial oven, gas fryer, commercial dish washer, convection oven, commercial toaster and storage racks. In the refrigeration area, we replaced an outdated beer cooler in the dugout, a keg cooler in the upstairs hall, refurbished the air conditioners in the dugout, replaced the bar ice machine, refurbished and added new compressors to the walk-in coolers.

In the dugout area, we added all new high top tables and chairs, as well as new bar stools, refurbished the shuffleboard table and the pool table. We are currently replacing our high hat lights with new energy efficient Led lighting that will save the Post energy dollars. New bar sink plumbing was added with a connection to our sewer lines and a disconnect from storage tanks under the parking lot. The parking lot was torn up, milled and completely resurfaced with 4-6 inches of new asphalt and finished with new striping, larger parking spots, additional handicapped spots and Belgian block installed around the perimeter of the lot and monument. The monument cannon was sandblasted, repainted and now sits on paving blocks in the monument area. We also purchased all new garrison flags and component flags for our flagpole. This spring we will complete landscaping around the monument in preparation for Memorial Day.

Without the support of our Legion, SAL and Auxiliary members and the support of those who donated monies, attended our many dining functions, fund raisers, picnics, raffles etc., none of this would have been possible. We thank you all for your contributions. Although we have spent in the 2013-16 period \$243,550 on maintenance and improvements out of a total expense for that period of \$580,470, the Legion has not had to incur any debt, assess its members or components and is presently financially sound. Our expenses have not hampered our charity donations during the same period of \$150,995.

We are proud of the work we have accomplished and, as part of our 100th Anniversary Celebration, will showcase our Post to the community with an Open House. Our continuing financial stability will rely on your support of our programs and events. We hope you will assist us in purchasing our raffle chance book sales that you will receive in a future Pascackle prior to our Post September Picnic.

Bob Kelly, Finance Officer

POST 153 CONTINUES TO HONOR LOCAL LADIES AS "CENTENNIAL WOMEN"

This "centennial women" project was developed by Dick Bozzone, past commander and current historian along with Commander Joseph Coltery; post 153 is the first to organize such an event in the United States.

When Eleanor Bowen of Park Ridge celebrated her 108th birthday on January 22nd she had been alive for 3,045 days since she was born in New York City in 1909. This amazing woman was one of six siblings born to Mr. & Mrs. Herbert whose family had emigrated from Germany. The only surviving child, she had three brothers who served in the United States Army during World War II. She attended elementary school in New York City; while a student at public school #1 she remembers that being of German extraction during that tumultuous era, some of the 1200 students at the school began calling her a "KRAUT," a pejorative at that time.

During the school's war efforts the students were encouraged to sell "liberty stamps or liberty bonds." Leaving her fellow students in the dust, she sold the most bonds and consequently she was awarded a citation and honored by the principal of the school; from that time forward the verbal bullying stopped.

After taking courses in secretarial training she worked as an executive secretary for General Motors Corp. in Manhattan. Eleanor married George Bowen and I had the pleasure of meeting one of their two children, Peter who is a cpa residing in Montvale. Eleanor Bowen has been a part of the living history of this country since she was born only about a generation after such as the likes of Buffalo Bill and Billy the Kid roamed the sage brush deserts of the old West.

Mrs. Bowen is one of a rare breed of American who just lacking nine years would have lived in parts of three centuries!

Surely one can see that she has lived in the most turbulent and arguably the most dangerous century in history. The following are just a few of the noteworthy historical events:

**She was 3 years old when the RMS "Titanic" struck an iceberg and sank with some 1500 souls in 1912.*

**Eleanor was living while Teddy Roosevelt was our President.*

**This woman has lived under the rule of twenty Presidents.*

**She also witnessed two world wars as well as prohibition and the beginning of women' suffrage.*

**When President Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated she was only three years old.*

**She experienced the "Great Depression."*

**While Charles Lindbergh crossed the Atlantic Ocean she was a teenager.*

**In closing Eleanor experienced the beginning of the atomic age along with many other history-making events since 1945. We stand in unison with all her family and friends wishing her God speed and good health.*

Allow me to say for one and all. . . "You are a heck of a lady!"

Dick Bozzone – PC and Post Historian



Photo courtesy of Dot Bozzone

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AT POST AND PARADE

The annual Tri-Boro Memorial Day parade will begin at 10:30 AM starting at Memorial Drive/West Grand Ave., Montvale, on Monday, May 29th. (Please remember that for safety reasons, beginning this year the parade will no longer alternate with Woodcliff Lake regarding the starting point). Marchers will march through the center of Park Ridge and the parade will terminate in WCL. Prior to the parade a 9:00 AM memorial ceremony will be held in all three towns. Following the parade, we will serve the traditional hot dogs at the post; we encourage all members to participate.

Commander Joseph Coltery has named James " Jim " Donovan as this year's " Grand Marshal ." A former commander and presently responsible for the monthly BINGO nights at the Paramus veterans home, Jim is a Vietnam Era veteran of the United States Navy. He served in the fleet from 1958 through 1962 as a Bosun's Mate, second class. He lives in Montvale with his wife Patricia. They have four children as well as grandchildren. Jim has been a post member for twenty years.

Dick Bozzone & Jim Miller co-chairmen

118 Ridge Ave.  Park Ridge, NJ

Sliced Steak Supper

(Sponsored by Auxiliary Unit 153)

Sat. April 29 * \$20/Ticket

Only 100 Tkts.

**Purchase Tickets at DeNoyelles Dugout
DJ/Music, Door Prizes, 50/50
Serving 6:30 to 7:30 ... Includes Free Soda**

*Sliced Steak Salad
String Beans Amandine
Homemade Mashed Potatoes
Sautéed Mushrooms & Onions
Rolls, Dessert, Coffee, Tea,
Complimentary Glass of Wine
Cash Bar*