





# PASCACKLE

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

#### **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017**

#### **COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

Welcome back to a full year of activities. We have many programs on tap for this year. In August one of our members was promoted to Navy Captain. Captain David Fillis mobilized support of Operation Iraqui Freedom in Kuwait in 2003. He is now a senior member of MSC NR SSU 102, which is a reserve unit compromised of seven Strategic Officers. The unit supports MSC Far East by participating in multiple exercises throughout the region.

Beginning in September, our fall activities begin in earnest. First, Otto and Monique Stroehle are retiring and moving down to South Carolina and we had a special dinner for them on the 6th of September. They both served the Post well: Otto was 2nd Vice Commander, served on the Color Guard and was a valued leader of our Kitchen Crew. Monique served as Chaplain for the Auxiliary and helped with all the Wednesday dinners and many other events at the Post. They both worked with the monthly bingo game at the Veterans home. We will miss them.

On September 9th we will have our annual picnic from 12:00 to 6 PM. We expect a big turnout.

On the 11th of September the S.A.L. will be hosting our annual Charity Golf outing at Blue Hill Golf Course from 8AM to 12 Noon. A steak Luncheon will be provided starting at 2PM at the Post. Any Questions call Dennis Cosgrove at 201-739-9296.

Patriot Day will be observed at Veteran's Park in Park Ridge. Along with the Boro, Post 153 will be honoring those who died on 9/11. The service will begin at 6:30 PM and it will include a candlelight service. That's

the beginning of our busy year. As always, we need volunteers for our Bingo at the Veterans Home in Paramus We meet on the third Wednesday of every month. Bingo starts at 7:30PM.

I want to acknowledge the passing of Bruce Bertoli, a long time very active member of our Post. I know I speak for the entire membership when I say he was a very valued member of Post 153 and he will be missed. Rest in Peace, Bruce.

Commander Joseph C. Collery

I've got a theory that if you give 100 percent all of the time, somehow things will work out in the end. – Larry Bird

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The 100th American Legion National Convention in 2018 kicks off a 15-month commemoration to honor the organization's first century of service and propel it into the second. Minneapolis, home of the 1st American Legion National Convention in 1919, will serve as host city of the 100th National Convention Aug. 24-30, 2018. Centennial events and activities will be conducted at the national, department and post levels through the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis Aug. 23-29, 2019, and will culminate on Veterans Day 2019.

#### **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

Board Meeting
Oct 5 Thurs. S.A.L Monthly Meeting7:00PM Oct 10. Tues. Post Executive Board Meeting7:00 PM Oct 11 Wed. Marine Corp League Executive
Board Meeting7:00 PM
Oct 12 Thurs. Post Meeting7:30 PM
Oct 14 Sat. 50/50 Fund Raiser & Social Event7:00-11:00 PM Oct 19 Thurs. Auxiliary Pasta Dinner7:00 PM

### PATRIOT DAY TO BE OBSERVED IN PARK RIDGE

Patriot Day will be observed on September 11th. Each year since 2011 the Boro of Park Ridge and the Cpl. Jedh C. Barker Memorial Post 153 American Legion have coupled to honor the seven Park Ridge residents who perished on that infamous day. The annual event is held each year in Park Ridge's Veterans Park. Two years ago a "candlelight service" was added to the ceremony. The candles are provided by the Park Ridge Girl Scouts.

We Proudly Support Post 153

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#### **AUXILIARY NEWS**

We started our new season with sadness when we learned of the passing of Kerry Bertoli's husband Bruce. He died in July following a long illness. You are in our thoughts and prayers Kerry. Bruce, Rest in Peace. Our Auxiliary will soon be saying a farewell to our Chaplain. Monique Stroehle when she and her husband Otto will be move to their new home in South Carolina. Monique has served us well in so many ways. In addition to being a Chaplain with prayers, she remembered everyone with greeting cards, visiting the women residents at the Paramus Veterans Home with her craft gifts, knitting and crocheting afghans for veterans and the homeless, and visiting the home-bound. She was often found at the Post at the Wednesday night dinners, Fish Fries and Breakfasts taking food orders and cleaning-up. Monique was always ready to help with any project and she will really be missed. We all send our love and best wishes for lots of happiness and good health to you and super chef Otto.

We send our best wishes to Second Vice President Wini Bramley who is recovering from hip surgery. Wini fell and broke her hip, which was followed by surgery and lots of physical therapy. We are thinking of you and want to say HURRY BACK. Wini is presently having a respite at Sunrise on Chestnut Ridge Road.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Our next meeting will be held at the Post on Saturday Morning September 16th at 10:00 AM .This is a first and will help us not having to drive at night. This will be discussed at this time. Kindly remember any donations to the Food Pantry which we collect at each meeting.

Upcoming events include our giving assistance to the SAL at their annual Golf Outing. We have a date for our annual ever popular Pasta Dinner. It will be held on Thursday, October 19. There are many things to do and many to continue (Vets Bingo, county meetings, etc.). Our annual Poppy distribution will be held in November. We continue to work together with our Post and the SAL.

Barbara Musso, Secretary

## **AUXILLARY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DONATIONS**

The Auxillary will be doing their annual mailings of packages to service men and women for Christmas. Anyone who would like to donate any of the following items:

Money • Snacks • Toiletries

Please contact Jean Campbell at 201-391-5348

ANY donation would be greatly appreciated

#### **GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**



The present headline is in the past tense as these courageous mothers are gone but not forgotten, They represent the last four gold star mothers who were alive at that time.

Top left: Post 153 commander Kevin O'Brien smiles as he presents Mrs. Thomas Kyle with a corsage.

Top right: Dick Bozzone, first vice commander at the time, honors Mrs. Ruth Barker whose son received the medal of honor posthumously for action in Vietnam.

Bottom left: Dick Bozzone honors Mrs. Josephine Bigham.

Bottom right: Kevin O'Brien pins a corsage on Mrs. James Smyrychynski.

Each of these Brave Ladies' sons were killed in action in Vietnam in the late 1960's. Gold Star Mothers' Sunday is celebrated each September.

#### S.A.L. REPORT

The S.A.L. hope that everyone had a great summer, and that you could relax and enjoy the great weather with your friends and family members. As we move into the beginning of the Fall season, we still have two major" end of the summer fun events still to be enjoyed.

On Saturday September 9th, we have the Raffle Drawing at our Annual Picnic and on Monday September 11th we have our Annual Charity Golf Outing. We can use volunteers for both events, so anyone interested in helping, please stop by the Post for more details.

This year's Charity Golf Outing will be held in the memory of our good friend, Legionnaire, and avid golfer Bruce Bertoli. Bruce played in every Legion Golf Outing since its inception, and was instrumental in supporting the event. We will miss Bruce's smiling face, but know he will be with us in spirit this day. It is not too late to sign up and attend the golf outing, we have room for everyone interested in playing, please see attached flyer for more details.

Besides our local S.A.L. charity recipients, the Sons of the American Legion Squadron will be making a significant donation to the Jedh C. Barker Memorial Post 153 for the 100th Anniversary "beautification" project with our proceeds this year.

For God and Country



#### **TAPS**

**Bruce Bertoli** of Naples, Florida, formerly of Park Ridge on July 21. He was a member of the United States Army serving in Germany during the Vietnam War.

**William Pappas** of Woodcliff Lake on July 22. He was a member of the United States Navy serving in World War II.

#### **BOY SCOUTS**

Adventures are unusual and exciting, bold and risky. They are experiences that provide new challenges to confront. Boy Scouts seek adventures in many ways, from learning new skills to serving their communities. In July. several scouts from Troop 334 Montvale embarked on another adventure, completing a fifty mile canoe-packing trek in the Adirondacks. These scouts, ages ranging from 14 to 17, attended Floodwood (Northern New Jersey Council's high adventure base) where such an adventure is provided. Steering their canoes, the scouts navigated the waterways of the New York mountains, paddling from Long Lake and Stony Creek through Upper Saranac Lake and beyond. Twice, the scouts tested their strength and endurance as they trekked three miles on foot carrying their canoes and gear to circumvent treacherous waterways. Through many challenges, the scouts continuously held good cheer and excitement. Whether jumping off Tommy's Rock or swinging high over the lake, the scouts grew in their friendships, forever igniting worthwhile skills and captivating stories.

In the first week of August, the troop followed up the high adventure of Floodwood with its annual excursion to summer camp at Camp NoBeBoSco. As always, the rolling hills of western New Jersey provided the perfect backdrop for a week full of merit badge classes, skills competitions, service projects, and outdoor activities ranging from Sand Pond to the shooting range. The scouts braved two brutal thunderstorms and countless visitations from their friendly neighborhood bear to have a highly successful week, earning a total of 58 merit badges, placing 1st, 3rd, and 3rd in the three camp-wide competitions, and earning Honor Troop and Honor Patrol awards. In recognition of the positive impact the troop had on the camp throughout the week, the scouts were honored to be chosen to lead the entire camp in the closing flag ceremony on Friday night. This year was Camp NoBeBoSco's 90th anniversary, and as the scouts packed up to go home on Saturday morning it was clear that they couldn't wait to return for year 91.



#### **REHAB**

The June monthly Bingo Party at the Paramus Veterans Home was held on June 28, 2017. The team consisted of Legionnaires Joe Collery, Al Quackenbush, Otto Stroehle, Jerry Alexander and Andy Demes and Auxiliary members Linda Mackey and Maureen Demes.

Also helping was volunteer Sal Buda. The caller was Holly Padula. The 61 residents were served bananas.

The July monthly Bingo Party at the Paramus Veterans Home was held on July 26, 2017. The team consisted of Legionnaires Al Quackenbush, Otto Stroehle and Jerry Alexander and Auxiliary members Linda Mackey and Maureen Demes.

Also helping was volunteer Sal Buda. The caller was Holly Padula. The 56 residents were served bananas and cookies.

#### **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 Legionaires 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

# BERGEN COUNTY LEGION POSTS COLLECTING UNSERVICEABLE FLAGS

Additionally, the Bergen County American Legion Organization will be holding a ceremonial Flag Retirement on Saturday, September 30, 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"

#### **DICK BOZZONE HONORED**



Park Ridge Councilman Robert Oppelt, liaison to Jedh C. Barker Memorial Post, Park Ridge American Legion (left) and Mayor Keith Misciagna (right) presented borough resident Dick Bozzone (center) with a special resolution honoring his retirement from chairman of the annual Tri-Boro Memorial Day Parade. Bozzone held the post as chairman for 13 years but was co-chairman for the last 6 of those with James Miller.

#### **CATHY FERRERO HONORED BY POST 153**



This was at the Atrium Senior Living in town. Cathy Ferrero, director of activities, was honored by Post 153 for her dedication in supporting veterans' activities. Pictured left to right are Paul Ramasco, Cmdr. Joe Collery, Cathy Ferrero, Tom Scheulen and Dick Bozzone. One morning last month she organized a "chat to chat" kind of coffee klatch so that resident veterans would have an opportunity to connect with a few post members so they would not feel forgotten. She creates activities for all the residents, but especially those that are veterans, such as celebrating Flag Day, Veterans' Day and participating in the tri-boro Memorial Day parade.

#### AGING PLAQUE TO BE REHABBED

Two veterans from the Cpl. Jedh C. Barker Memorial Post 153 American Legion are hoping to rehab an aging monument at the Park Ridge High School field. According to Dick Bozzone, a past commander and historian and Thomas Scheulen, a Vietnam War combat veteran who served with the US Army's Americal Division, they believe it "is the right thing to do since the years have oxidized the monument and the facing has made the names of young borough veterans difficult to read." They both have passed the monument, as have thousands of local residents, who use the track and field, and probably very few even look at the monument on the front of a large boulder that was dedicated sometime around 1970. "These young men deserve better."

Dick and Tom are researching who was responsible for erecting the monument and are planning a small rededication ceremony at the conclusion of the project. The names on the plate are as follows: Cpl. Jedh C. Barker, a recipient of the Medal of Honor who was killed in action at the age of 22 in Vietnam in 1967. The others are: Cpl. Charles Bigham, USMC, killed September 9, 1967; Cpl. Thomas Mallon, killed in action on March 3, 1967, PFC Thomas Kyle, Jr., USMC killed in action on August 20, 1966, a soldier, Sqt. Kenneth Rakentine, US Army, formerly from New York and PA, killed on September 13, 1967. He apparently was listed as being from Park Ridge. These veterans believe that these seven young men were the cream of our nation's youth and their sacrifices deserve more than having their names tarnished on a monument that thousands of people have passed by over the years. The names of all these men are also listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Veterans' Park in Park Ridge.



All photos courtesy of Dot Bozzone

#### **FINANCE OFFICER'S CORNER:**

#### **Tax Tips**

**Appreciated securities or other property** you have held 12 months or longer can incur combined Federal and State capital gains taxes greater than 30%. Gifting those securities or property to the American Legion Post 153 in 2017 avoids the capital gains tax and still allows you to claim the full value of the gift as a charitable deduction. The value of the security on the date of transfer will determine the charitable deduction.

If you are 70.5 years or older, make a gift directly from your IRA. The IRA Charitable Rollover permits direct transfers from your IRA to Legion Post 153 without reporting the distribution as adjusted gross income (AGI) on your tax return. Excluding the IRA withdrawal from your AGI helps you avoid higher taxes on Social Security benefits, higher Medicare premiums, higher tax brackets and surtaxes on investment income. The rollover counts toward your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution for the 2017 tax year.

Your IRA Custodian will have a special form permitting you to make this transfer.

A 529, Roth IRA, insurance: What's best way to pay for college? One type of 529 plan is the college savings plan, in which parents, grandparents or whomever--even the student, as long as she's at least 18 years old, can open one--invest money that grows tax-free on behalf of the beneficiary. As long as it's used to pay for qualified higher-education expenses, the money, including any earnings, comes out tax-free. Pros: it is transferable to another child, anyone can contribute to it, and there are no income limits to setting it up. Cons: limited investment choices, potential higher fees.

**Roth IRAs:** If you have held the account for more than 5 years, you may use the money tax free for education expenses and have a wider range of investment choices. If your grandchildren earn money you may add that amount to the Roth IRA each year. If not used for college, the funds may be used for retirement.

**Cash-value life insurance:** There are a variety of flavors of whole, universal or variable life insurance policies, but the gist of it is you can build up a balance that you can withdraw money from or borrow against, thus providing a source of college funds. Pros: flexibility; you can use money for anything you want Cons: upfront and ongoing fees.

**Estate Planning:** Do you have current and complete copies of HIPPA authorization, health care

Proxy, will, living will, power of attorney, executor designation? Could you loved ones have easy access to these plus bank, auto home and life insurance, deeds to property ,mortgages, loans, personal information(social security, credit cards, tax returns, passwords). All of these should be in a side place where trusted loved ones can recover them. Your bank or financial custodian may have a vehicle like Fidelity's online Fidspace where all your document is stored in one safe place. An attorney or tax advisor can be well worth the cost—significant savings can result from thorough, informed planning to maximize what you leave behind for your beneficiaries.

**Medical Expenses:** Runaway medical expenses are hardly a secret; 57% of people facing home foreclosure identify medical debt as a primary cause. While there is no magic formula to escaping these costs, there are tools to challenge denial of a claim. Is it a processing error due to incorrect information? Insurance companies make processing errors in 15% of all claims. The error rate is even higher on hospital bills Look for the denial code in your explanation of benefits (EOB). Review your coverage and get all medical records necessary to file an appeal. You have 180 days to do so. Check www.healthlawadvocates.org and www patientadvocate.org for information on concise and specific appeals. Send it to your insurer's appeal address certified mail. If your appeal is not successful, you have a 60 day time right to a review from a state or federal independent review board. (www.cms.gov; www.njconsumeraffairs.gov)

#### 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.

#### FROM THE KITCHEN CREW

As we are saying farewell to Otto, we are postponing Wednesday dinners and Sunday morning breakfasts until further notice.

Watch the paper for future events.

Thank you all.

THE KITCHEN CREW.

#### **MEMORIAL CEREMONY HONORING MARINE CPL JEDH C. BARKER**

A memorial ceremony for USMC Medal of Honor recipient, Jedh Colby Barker, celebrating the 50th anniversary of his supreme sacrifice, will be held at the Cpl. Jedh C. Barker Memorial American Legion Post, 118 Ridge Ave., Park Ridge. NJ at 7:30PM on Thursday, September 21, 2017.

While engaged in a massive firefight as part of Operation Kingfisher, Barker was killed on Sept. 21, 1967 southeast of Con Thien near Phu Oc and the DMZ in South Vietnam throwing his wounded body on a grenade and protecting his fellow Marines.

Cpl. Barker was born in Franklin, New Hampshire in 1945. His father, Colby, served in the Marine Corps during World War II and the first name, "Jedh" is a combination of the first initials of his father's Marine buddies: John, Ezekial, Donald and Herbert

When he was 6, his family moved to Park Ridge. During his years at Park Ridge High School, he distinguished himself in team sports including football and baseball, serving as cocaptain of the former his senior year. In retrospect, his ability to lead and at the same time, be cognizant of the team dynamic so essential to success demonstrated the qualities he would later apply to his Marine service.

After two years of college, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in June of 1966. In October, he was discharged from the Reserves to enlist in the regular Marine Corps. He did his recruit training at Parris Island, S.C., and underwent individual combat training and weapons special training at Camp Lejeune, N.C. In December, he was promoted to private first class.

From March to June, 1967, he was a member of Marine Air Base Squadron 21, in San Francisco. He was subsequently re-assigned as a machine gunner with Company F and sent to Vietnam. He was promoted to lance corporal on Sept. 1.

That Cpl. Barker chose to be a Marine while protests against the war were being staged across the country and many young men fled the country rather than face the draft, speaks to his personal character and the sense of duty demonstrated by his father, a Marine, who served with distinction during World War II and his brother, Warren, who served in the USMC during Korea and Vietnam.

The bravery and ultimate sacrifice of Lance Corporal Jedh C. Barker has been memorialized in many ways.

In the months after his death, the then-Pascack Valley American Legion Post 153 in Park Ridge resolved to rename the post in his honor and memory and it has been the Jedh C. Barker Memorial American Legion Post 153 ever since. His name is engraved on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Panel 26E, Line 99 and on the date of his death, Sept. 21, 1967 on the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, NJ.

In 1976, the Marine Corps named a new building in his honor. Barker Hall is located at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia. In a letter to the family, the commanding general said naming the building in their son's honor, "will assist in perpetuating the memory of your son, Jedh, in the proud history of our Corps, and is a special recognition of an individual Marine who helped write that history."

A plaque honoring his sacrifice is displayed in Franklin's borough hall. In addition to the text of the Medal of Honor Citation, it bears this inscription: "Presented Nov. 11, 1990 by the townspeople of Franklin, NH, Franklin VFW Post 1698 and auxiliary and the Massachusetts chapter of the Third Marine Division Association in grateful appreciation to a Franklin, NH resident who was awarded the Medal of Honor for exemplary heroism."

A bronze plaque dedicated to his service and supreme sacrifice is located in Veterans Park in the borough of Park Ridge, NJ.

He will be forever remembered by those who knew him as a beloved son and brother, a team player, a loyal friend; and to all who know of his sacrifice, a hero in the truest sense of the word.

He is buried in George Washington Memorial Park in Paramus. His grave marker reads simply:

JEDH COLBY BARKER

MEDAL OF HONOR

L CPL US MARINE CORPS

VIETNAM

1945 - 1967

On the 40th anniversary of his death, American Legion Post 153 hosted a celebration of Cpl. Barker's life, honored his memory at a special event and accepted the Medal of Honor from his family for permanent display with pictures of the family receiving the Medal from Vice President Spiro Agnew at the White House on October 31, 1969. Barker's other medals and decorations include the Purple Heart, the Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze star and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Jedh died a hero. After being wounded in combat, he saved the lives of his remaining brothers in arms by throwing himself on a live hand grenade "with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty". The final sentence of his Medal of Honor citation reads: "He gallantly gave his life for his country". Like many who went before him, he lives on in the hearts of those who knew him.

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEGION AND POST FUND RAISER

Mark Saturday Oct 14, 2017 from 7PM to 11PM on your calendars for the 50/50 fund raiser and social event that has been very successful and well received by members of our Post.

The concept is simple and effective: The Post sells only 100 tickets @ \$25 each (first come, first served), awards prizes of 25%, 15% and 10% of gross proceeds, and invites ticket purchasers to a buffet of hot food and a free drink on the night of the drawing. Non ticket purchasers may join us for a \$10 donation. You do not have to be present to win! You may mail in a check for \$25 payable to the Post and get yourself a chance to win.

Comments from past attendees: "fun evening, great time, plenty of great food and company, when will we do this again!"

Tickets will be available for sale at our Picnic on Sept 9 and Golf Outing on Sept. 11 and daily at the Dugout.

Proceeds from this event will fund the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Legion and our Post. Remember you have to be in it, to win it! Support you Post with this fun filled evening fund raiser.

# PATRIOT DAY MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH CO-SPONSORED BY: BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE CPL JEDH C. BARKER MEMORIAL POST 153 CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY at 6:30 P. M. VETERANS PARK REMEMBERING "9/11"

9/11 CEREMONY