



PASCACKLE

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to you and your families. I am looking forward to working with all the Legionnaires, the SAL and the Auxiliary to make 2018 a great and successful year for Post 153.

As a last hurrah for 2017, the annual Post 153 Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. It was a great social event and we raised almost \$800 for the Tomorrow's Children Fund at HUMC. The Post added their own contribution to make a final donation of \$1000.

We are excited to know, the American Legion is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its creation. The kick off started at the annual convention in August last year and will conclude in November 2018.

As we begin our year, let's get ready for our Super Bowl party held in our Dugout on February 4th. The game starts at 6:30 and our festivities will be held at half-time.

We also will be continuing our monthly Bingo games at the Paramus Veterans home. They play the 4th Wednesday night of every month starting at 7:00PM. We are always looking for volunteers to join us in making it a fun evening.

We need more attention to increasing Post membership, as our older members are increasing in numbers and many are moving to warmer climates. We need to find younger/ newer veterans and their families to fill the ranks. All new members will certainly receive a warm welcome!!

We're looking for a kitchen crew. As you know our kitchen crew has retired and moved down south to enjoy their well-deserved retirement. The kitchen has always been an important part of our Post and we hope someone will step up to take on this task.

Also we have a lot of legionnaire's who are home bound. Some

have trouble getting out or they are in an assisted living facility They would love a visit from fellow legionnaires. A list of memebers in need is in the Sick Call section of the paper.

If you need to know who is homebound either come to a meeting or call me direct at (201) 919-5991 and I will let you know who needs a little visiting or someone just to say hello.

As I wrote at the beginning of the column, I wish all of the legionnaires, SAL and Auxiliary members and their families a wonderful, happy and most importantly a healthy 2018.

Commander Joseph C. Collery

COMMANDERS

Welcomed to our post in 2008, current post commander, Joseph Collery (left) and Dick Bozzone, a past commander.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 4 Thurs. S.A.L Monthly Meeting.....7:00 PM
 Jan 16 Tues. Post Executive Board Meeting7:00 PM
 Jan 17 Wed. Marine Executive Board Meeting.....7:00 PM
 Jan 18 Thurs. Post Meeting.....7:30 PM
 Jan 20 Sat. Auxiliary Monthly Meeting10:00 AM
 Jan 24 Wed Bingo at the Veteran's home7:00 PM

Feb 1 Thurs. S.A.L Monthly Meeting.....7:00 PM
 Feb 13 Tues. Post Executive Board Meeting7:00 PM
 Feb 14 Wed. Marine Executive Board Meeting.....7:00 PM
 Feb 15 Thurs. Post Meeting.....7:30 PM
 Feb 17 Sat. Auxiliary Monthly Meeting10:00 AM
 Feb 28 Wed. Bingo at the Veteran's home7:00 PM

AUXILIARY NEWS

It was with a great sadness when we lost one of our own— fellow member and good friend. Wini Bramley died on November 8 following four months of severe sickness and hospitalization. Wini will always be remembered for her kindness, graciousness and friendship. She served as Second Vice President and Chairman of Veterans Affairs working with a facility for homeless veterans and many other causes. Wini loved our Post especially the Wednesday night dinners, fish-fries and being with the members. She was also active with the Korean War Vets, the VFW and the Washington Twp. Woman's Club. Before retiring, she was out in the business world, the years she always fondly remembered. Wini was a resident of Westwood and spent much of her growing-up years in Park Ridge with an extended family of cousins and good friends, many from Park Ridge High School. She was always interested in people and the world around her, taking to heart many needy causes. Wini spread happiness around her along with friendship. She leaves behind her husband of more than 62 years, Bob, daughter Leslie and grandchildren Gregory and Jamie. Rest In Peace dear Wini.

Members attended the wake for Wini when we were part of a special service, each of us leaving a Poppy for her. The following day we attended her funeral (See a picture of Wini and Bob at the top right).

At our last meeting we voted to send gift cards of \$25 to each of the residents at the Alfred J. Thomas Facility for homeless veterans. These will be for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Recently, members packed and shipped 12 boxes of gifts to our Brave Warriors in time for the holidays. Each box contained a note of thanks and good wishes.

Some holiday festivities began with a Post party on December 2 with a dinner; appetizers were provided by our SAL and desserts by the Auxiliary. All donations were forwarded to the childrens ward at Hackensack Hospital. The lovely Yule tree in the dugout was trimmed by members of all our units. This was followed by a party for Auxiliary members held at Bellissimo Restaurant on December 4- an evening of cheer and warmth.

We are thinking of our dear friends Monique and Otto Stroehle who just settled in their new home in Fort Mill, South Carolina. Our love and good wishes are always with them. Now we send our very best wishes for a wonderful, happy healthy New Year.

Now is the time to send wishes for good health and lots of happiness in the New Year, 2018. To all Legionnaires, and SAL

members, the best of luck from all the Auxiliary members. As always we are looking forward to lots of good work with all of us working together in 2018. What a team we are!!! We will continue our monthly Bingo games with the vets and contributions to the TriBoro FoodCenter as well as other projects.

Barbara Musso, Secretary

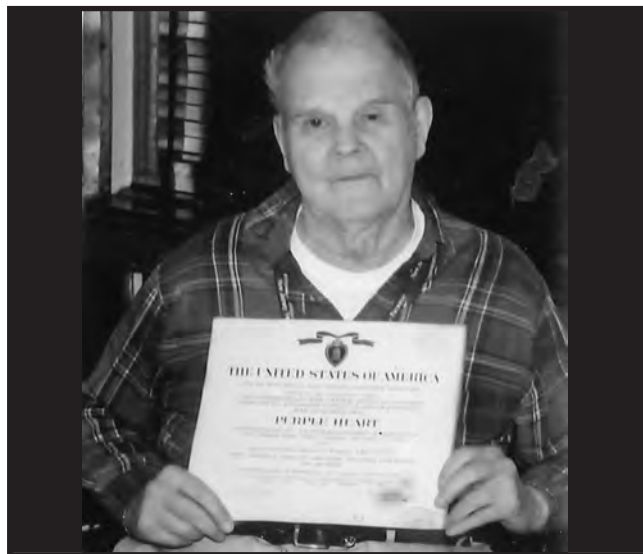


SICK CALL

The following Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L. members are ailing and we wish them well.

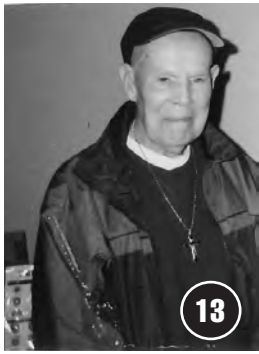
Jerry Ritz	J.J. Fredericks	Lyle Garcia
Fred Brodie	Robert Bramley	Frank Mahon
Joe Marigliani		

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN... OUR FALLEN COMRADES



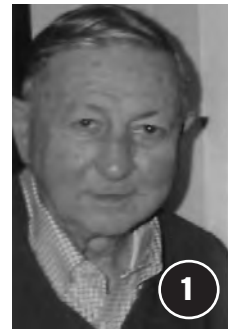
"Skip" Sibbald, PC

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN... OUR FALLEN COMRADES



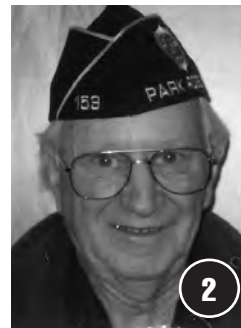
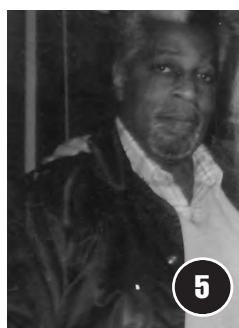
From the top:

- 13. George Rice
- 11. Donald Davies
- 10. Frank Venusti, PC
- 16. Nicholas (last name?)
- 4. James Yanni
- 7. Orley Benson
- 9. "Doc" Lewis
- 15. Bernard Kettler
- 8. Frank Siegel
- 12. Martin Nell, PC



From the top:

- 14. Frank Contesa, PC
- 1. Alfred Musso, PC
- 3. James Finnegan, PC
- 6. Walter Winfield
- 5. Joseph Farrar, PC
- 2. ???



S.A.L. REPORT

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 153 hopes that everyone had a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy Chanukah. We also wish everyone a great 2018 New Year. Our season closed with a great thank you celebration / Holiday Cheer to all the S.A.L. volunteers. It was a truly deserved "thank you" party, which we were proud to organize. In attendance was our State Detachment Commander David Page, who traveled all the way from New Egypt, New Jersey to join us this night. Also in attendance was our State Detachment Vice Commander, Greg Shaffer.

The Squadron took this opportunity to present Commander Page our annual donation toward the State Commander's Project for 2018. The Commander's project will be a New Jersey American Legion family project in conjunction with The American Legion and The Auxiliary. The project will consist of supporting three (3) Veterans Memorial Homes, as well as donations to the (Hearing-Impaired Children's Project). The overall objective will be to improve the veterans' facilities and to enhance the quality of life for the residents. One of the veteran's homes will be our local Paramus facility. The project will provide six (6) bed scales, comfortable seating in the residential television viewing areas; and new carpeting in the Chapel; and a Juke Box in the recreational area. Our squadron is very proud to be able to touch our local Veterans through this great project.

We thank State Detachment Commander Page for his efforts, and it shows, our hard work goes to great causes.

Our new 2018 membership period is still ongoing, and we ask that all Squadron members pay their 2018 dues as quickly as possible and pick up your new cards.

We ask that you "Save the Date" of Saturday March 10th for this year's St. Patrick Day dinner/ dance party. The price will remain the same (\$25.00) and we promise that a good time will be had by all. Tickets will be available in the Dugout in early February.

Our monthly meeting date is the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM in the upstairs hall. All Squadron members please attend.

For God and Country

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

BOY'S STATE

At our November 2017 Post meeting we had the privilege of inviting back to speak with us one of our Boys State Delegates who had missed our October Meeting.

Luke Brouwer of St. Joseph's Regional High School shared with us his great Boys State experience.

Luke managed to hold two elected positions during his week at Boys State and also wrote the City Manual for his City/State. The manual was judged to be the best written manual in Boys State this year.

Luke was also afforded the opportunity to actually introduce legislation on the floor of the State Capitol in Trenton, NJ.

Luke is applying to the United States Military Academy at West Point and has already completed his Academy interview and has also completed his Congressional Interview. We wish much success to Luke in his quest for an Appointment to West Point. He is very grateful to all of us for affording him the Boys State Experience.



REHAB

The monthly Bingo party at the Paramus Veterans Home was held on October 25, 2017. Jim Donovan reports that his team consisted of Legionnaires Joe Collery, Al Quackenbush, Jerry Alexander and Andy Demes and Auxiliary members Annie Whitney, Kerry Bertoli, Pat Donovan and Maureen Demes. Also helping were our volunteers Sal Buda and Dakota Klinger. The caller was Holly Padula. The 57 residents were served bananas.

The monthly Bingo Party at the Paramus Veterans Home was held on November 22, 2017. Jim Donovan reports that his team consisted of Legionnaires Al Quackenbush, Jerry Alexander and Andy Demes, SAL member Vinny Alfano and Auxiliary members Annie Whitney, Dee Mackey and Maureen Demes. Also helping were our volunteers Sal Buda and Pat Fullam. The caller was Holly Padula. The 50 residents were served bananas.

FINANCE OFFICER'S CORNER:

POST REVITALIZATION 50/50 EVENT

The next 50/50 cocktail party/drawing event will take place on Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 7-11PM.

Only 100 tickets will be sold in the Dugout at \$25 each. Prizes will be 25%, 15% and 10% of proceeds.

Each ticket gets entry to the event along with a free beverage of your choice. Non Ticket holders may attend for \$10.00.

Our first event sold out quickly and was judged to be a social and gastronomical success. Proceeds from this event will fund our monument project.

Buy your ticket now!
You have to be in it to win it !!!!

BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts went to Camp NoBeBoSco for their November camping trip. Despite the torrential rains a good time was had by all. Saturday dinner featured a lavish thanksgiving meal including two deep fried turkeys.

Please mark your calendars for the Troop 334 pasta dinner scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2018.



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.

VETERAN'S NJ STATE TAX EXEMPTION

Military veterans who live in New Jersey are eligible for a \$3,000 exemption on their 2017 state tax returns if they were honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active duty on or any time before the last day of the tax year.

To receive this benefit, you must provide official documentation showing you were honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active duty. The most common form of documentation is to provide a copy of your DD214. You must also complete a Veteran Exemption Submission Form, which is available on-line at the state's secure web site. Copies of the form are also available in the Dugout at the Post.

If you use the on-line format, you can submit your form on-line. You can also mail a copy of the form and your DD214 to the new Jersey Division of Taxation, Veteran Exemption, PO Box 440, Trenton, NJ 08646-0440.

You may also fax your documentation to (609) 633-8427.

You should also provide a copy of the form and your DD214 to whomever prepares your taxes.

You will receive a letter of receipt confirming your eligibility after January 1, 2018.

Further information is available at state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/military/vetexemption.shtml.

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 your 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)

HEROIC ACT

On December 11, 2017, New York City was once again the target of a terror attack. This time, it occurred in the NYC Subway system in a corridor near 42nd street. The attack only injured the terrorist as a bomb attached to his chest exploded but with small force. Four Port Authority police officers immediately rushed to the man and discovered the wounded terrorist was attempting to detonate a second device on his body. These four brave men disarmed the bomb before it could detonate. The second bomb would have killed or seriously injured far more people had it exploded according the men who disarmed the bomb. Three of the four heroes were ex-military and they

all said their success was due to their military training and experience. One of these men is Drew Preston who is the son-in-law of the late John Ramagnano, a long time member of our Post and Linda Ramagnano, a member of the Auxiliary. Drew was a 13 year combat veteran of the US Army and was a member of our Post until he, his wife Christine and his daughter Victoria moved from the area.

VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY

On Saturday, November 11th, Veterans Day, American Legion Memorial Post 153, Park Ridge, honored all American veterans. According to Dick Bozzone, a past commander and chairman of Saturday's event, the 99th anniversary of the end of World War 1 in 1918 was commemorated. Pictured (left) is Kazuo Yamaguchi and Dick Bozzone.

Mr. Yamaguchi of Montvale is a second generation Japanese American who are called Neisi, was born in Queens, New York. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1942 and served in France, Germany and Austria. His 442nd infantry regiment, an all Japanese unit, whose officers were white, was one of the most highly decorated units in the US Army. His outfit was one of the US units that helped liberate a Nazi death camp at the end of the European War in May, 1945. He holds several decorations including the combat infantryman badge.

Bozzone served in the US Air Force during the Korean War Era. They are pictured following the annual event by the cross that was part of the ceremony.



Photos courtesy of Dorothy Bozzone

AUXILIARY UNIT 153, PARK RIDGE

Every month two members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 153, Park Ridge, visit residents of the Paramus Veterans' Home. Craft items that have been made by members are given to all the women residents and each January all residents as well as many staff members receive a calendar. Pictured (left) Maureen Demes and Pat Molina (right) looking at the items for November, December and January.

photo by Dorothy Bozzone



We Proudly Support Post 153

ALDAN PRESS

Stationery
Business Cards
Brochures
Newsletters
Flyers

Menus
Invitations
Posters
Journals
Logos

Direct Mail
Booklets
Digital Printing
Offset Printing
Color Printing

57 Bardonia Rd, Bardonia N.Y. 10954
(845) 627-0328 • Fax (845) 627-0329
Email: aldanpress@optonline.net

CPL. JEDH C. BARKER MEMORIAL POST 153

AMERICAN LEGION

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



BACK IN TIME

(left to right) Korean War vets who are members of Post 153 visited Veterans' Park to place a wreath honoring deceased members.

Dick Bozzone, a past commander, Jerry Ritz, Larry Morgan, Bob Bramley, John Valerio and George Mayer.



Photos courtesy of Dick and Dorothy Bozzone



Enjoying the annual Christmas some years ago. (front row, left to right) Dot Bozzone, Barbara Musso, a past auxiliary president, and Mary Badame. (back row, left to right) Maureen Demes and and Kerri Bertoli and Connie Luhmann.