



Ten-FortyTimes

The American Legion - Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post 1040 - Delmar NY

May - June 2012

Taps more than a bugle in the distance

Contributed by Lenore Smith from her friend Kathy Mangold

If any of you have ever been to a military funeral in which taps was played; this brings out a new meaning of it. Here is something Every American should know.

We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, 'Taps...' It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Elli heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status.

His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born.

The words are:

*Day is done. Gone the sun. From the lakes. From the hills.
From the sky. All is well. Safely rest. God is nigh.
Fading light. Dims the sight. And a star. Gems the sky.
Gleaming bright. From afar. Drawing nigh. Falls the night.
Thanks and praise. For our days. Neath the sun.
Neath the stars. Neath the sky. As we go. This we know.
God is nigh.*

I too have felt the chills while listening to 'Taps' but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought I'd pass it along.

I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before. Remember those lost and harmed while serving their country. Also remember those who have served and returned; and for those presently serving in the Armed Forces.



Final Salute

Joseph Simon

**BLOOM'N
GREEN**



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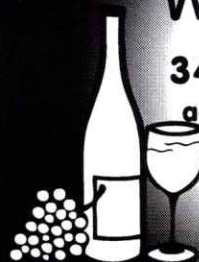
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From The Commander

Seems strange to be thinking about summer already since I'm still waiting for winter. What the heck happened? Welcome back to the snow birds.

As we get ready for Memorial Day things at the Post are moving along nicely. My thanks to all who volunteer their time and talents. Without you this post wouldn't be showing the growth that we have enjoyed the past few years. A special thank you goes out to PJ McKenna who you may have heard recently began a new job with the Ravena Police. We wish PJ the best and thank him for what he brought to the Legion as our Bar Steward and Bartender. You will be missed.

Monday May 7th we need the support of all our membership. We are going to change our By-laws for a quorum. Currently we need 20 members in good standing for us to conduct business. We have not had a quorum in quite some time and it gets hard to conduct the business the Post needs to conduct. Our By-law change is a Quorum will consist of 3 Elected officers of the Post and 10 members in good standing. And the catch is we need a quorum to enact that change. So you can see where and why we need you to attend this meeting. Also will be the election of the next slate of officers for your Post and a quorum is needed for that as well. Refreshments and food are served after the meeting. Hope to see you there.

Time for Elections for the next slate of officers to serve your post. Currently we have:

Commander - Steve Riedel
1st Vice Commander - Steve Corson
2nd Vice Commander - Todd Rosenfield
3rd Vice Commander - Jeremy Martel
Sgt at Arms - Peter Gilbert
Chaplain - No nomination
Board of Directors
1. Tom DeRouville
2. Phil Giacone

The election will take place at the general membership meeting May 7th at 7:30.

The 20 Week club Dinner was excellent. As a reminder you need to get your payment in to John Rees for the next 20 week club. We do have a waiting list to get in so not paying is a sure way to be excluded from the next club.

The Past Commanders Dinner was excellent. Bob Wagner and his crew did an outstanding job once again. I was pleased to be able to present the Legion Diamond pin to Mark Wahl for his work for the Post. But I was more pleased to present the Legionnaire of the Year award to Phil Giacone for the work he has done to help us turn this Post around. Phil will be the first to tell you it was a team effort and he's right but he was the keystone that held it and kept it together. Congratulations to both Mark and Phil on a job well done.

Al Hofaker has been selected to be the Grand Marshal of this years Memorial Day parade. Congratulations to Al, well deserved honor for your many years of service to the Post.

We once again are supporting our community by a donation to the Boy Scouts to ensure that there is no Scout left behind for summer camp. Also We are sponsoring Little League teams and a Babe Ruth team as well as our continued support to American Legion Baseball. Not to mention our sponsorship of the men's Softball team which last year took home first place. We are also returning to Bethlehem Central High School with a Scholarship for a senior who promotes Americanism. As well as many other organizations throughout the community.

The Legion does sell American Flags and the bronze Legion grave markers. We usually try to stock 3' X 5' American flags and they go for \$20. we have them on the pole for \$25. If you need one bring your old flag by for us to dispose of and pick up a new one. These are not the real flimsy flags you can get at the discount stores for \$10/15. these are quality American made flags that last for a long time. I change mine out every Memorial day and it still looks good.

On a final note and the most important, remember the true meaning of Memorial Day. Take a moment from your weekend of family and friends and give thanks to all those that have given their lives to keep this country the greatest in the world. May they all rest in peace

For God and Country

Steve Riedel

Commander American Legion
N.A. Blanchard Post 1040

**Take an hour, once a month and
do something nice for a Veteran!**



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MEMBER**

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Sons of the Legion News

Dear SAL Members:

I would like to start this letter by saying Thank You to all the members of Post 1040 for their support, thoughts and prayers when my nephew Jeff Wagner passed away.

Now! March was a very busy month and I need to thank all of the SAL members who helped with the three fish fry dinners, making and serving corned beef sandwiches on St. Patrick's Day and with the 20 Week Club Dinner. All events went very well. We ended the month on March 31st, with great music from Hair of the Dog.

I am writing this letter sitting on the bus heading to Mohegan Sun for the day (42 people on the bus). On Sunday April 22nd the SAL will be cooking the Past Commanders dinner for about 60 people.

At he 20 Week Club Dinner two of our members received the prestigious Diamond Pin for their outstanding volunteer work. A salute goes out to Butch Levine and Barry Bedrosian. Our next SAL meeting is on May 9th 7 p.m. at which time we will hold the election of officers and vote on a proposal to increase dues. Hope to see you all there.

Coming attractions on SAL calender will be a Drive thru Chicken BBQ and a SAL fund raiser featuring Playin' With Fire. More info will be sent by e-mail so make sure your e-mail is on file by sending a note to nabpost1040@gmail.com and asking to be placed on the SAL e-mail list.

Robert Wagner
Commander

*Sons of the American Legion
Paying Tribute to the Service of our Fathers*

Sons of the Legion Officers

Commander.....	Bob Wagner
1st Vice Commander.....	Neal Brady
2nd Vice Commander.....	Barry Bedrosian
3rd Vice Commander.....	Danny Williams
Adjutant.....	Don Geurtze
Treasurer.....	Don Buist
Historian.....	Mike Coffey
Sgt. at Arms.....	Butch Levine
Chaplain.....	Steve Haggerty

Legion Auxiliary News

Spring is in full bloom! Hope everyone is in the best of health.

We have a few things going on: Doris Watters is looking for volunteers to help distribute Poppies – please contact Doris or leave a message at the Post. We will also be marching in the parade and would like to have as many Auxiliary members as possible. If you can't walk with us, how about helping with the food prep and serving hotdogs, soda, beans...and more. We are also sponsoring the Youth Patriotism and Respect contest for marching youth organizations/schools. Elisa Futia is chairing this event. Please contact her for information.

We just completed the Sunday breakfasts along with the Legion and SAL. We also shared the Friday Fish Fries with SAL. All proceeds will go to support our National, State, County and local Veterans' programs. Big thanks to all who helped make these fund raisers successful. We can always use more volunteers; the Auxiliary was a few people short on a few of the dates. Let's do better.

We are giving a donation to Hannah VanWie, just a token of our appreciation for her hard work in getting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of American back into BCHS. Thank you, Hannah! Our Girls State delegate, Erin Landy is a junior at BCHS. She will be a great representative for Auxiliary Unit 1040 and our community. We wish her luck!

May is election month for the Auxiliary – all positions are open. Nominations are currently being accepted by our secretary, Dale Lukatschat. Voting will take place at the May meeting and the new officer(s) will take over with the June meeting. As always, volunteering for our veterans and their families is crucial for us to continue to offer the services that aren't available through the VA. Please help make a difference.

I would like to take this time to thank each and every one of you that helped make my two years as President so productive and positive for Auxiliary Unit 1040. Thank you and have a wonderful summer. God bless us all and God Bless America.

Fondly,

Francine Waldron
President, Auxiliary Unit 1040

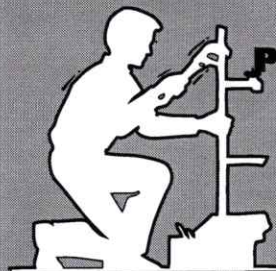


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At the SAL
Annual Mtg.
on May 9, a
vote will be
taken to
increase dues
from
\$15 to \$20.















THE 1040 LOUNGE
IS OPEN ALL SUMMER
ENJOY



OPEN AT
3PM ON WEEKDAYS
NOON ON WEEKENDS

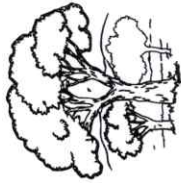
May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA	1	2	3	4	5 Boy Scouts Car Wash 9am-2pm 
6	7 7pm - Post Affairs 7:30pm - Legion Meeting 	8	9 7pm - SAL Meeting 	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 SAL Chicken BBQ \$10 4pm-7pm 	19 8pm - Karaoke w/ Marie 
20	21 7pm - Board of Directors Meeting 	22 7pm - Auxiliary Meeting 	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day Parade Steps off at 11am 	29	30	31	 	

LEVINE'S LANDSCAPING

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Save the Date!

Saturday June 23rd 1-7 PM
CONCERT FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY THE SAL
FEATURING: PLAYING WITH FIRE

Funds raised will benefit:

Combat Vet Tech Sgt. Joe Wilkinson

Go to www.home4joe.com for more info

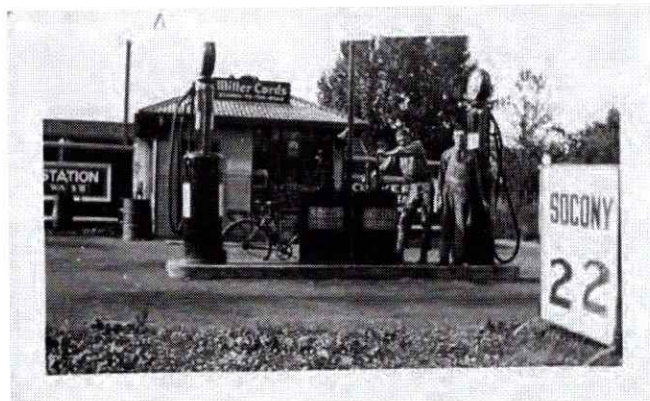
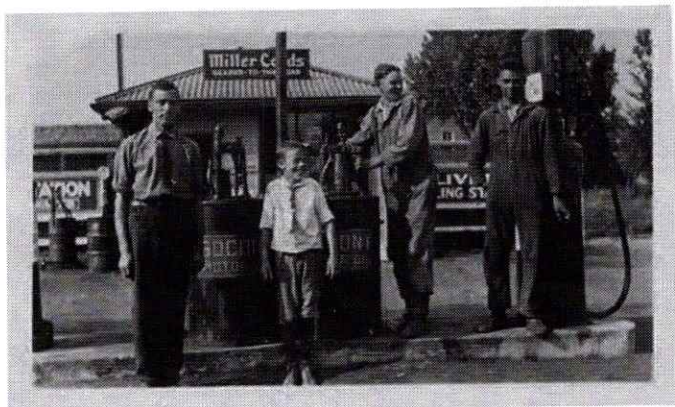
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June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 7pm - Post Affairs 7:30pm - Legion Meeting 	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 7pm - SAL Meeting 	14	15	16 8pm - Karaoke w/ Marie
17	18	19 7pm - Auxiliary Meeting 	20	21	22	23 1pm - SAL Fundraiser to benefit Combat Vet Tech Sgt. Joe Wilkinson
24	25 Annual Golf Outing at Thunderhart Get info by e-mail 	26 7pm - Board of Directors Meeting 	27	28	29	30



Pictures of Oliver's Filling Station, Second Ave. in Albany. *Supplied by Merle Oliver*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Legion - Constance Weis, John Hartnett, Alexa Sutton and Thomas Wind

SAL - Mark Crounse, Michael Perrotto, John Polnak, Mark Silvernail, Kurt Chandley, V. John Anastsis, Christopher Flagg, Bruce Plotsky, John Nardacci, Thomas Rooney, Brandon Carkner and Zach Pieper

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

DRIVE THRU Chicken BBQ



May 18 from 4pm-7pm
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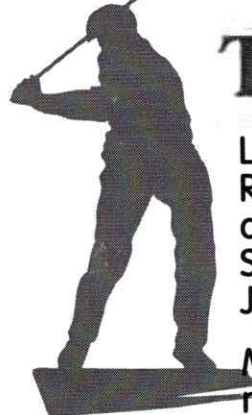
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
TELL YOUR FRIENDS

American Legion Officers

Commander.....Steve Riedel
 1st Vice Commander.....Al Hofaker
 2nd Vice Commander.....Todd Rosenfield
 3rd Vice Commander.....Jeremy Martelle
 Adjutant.....Steve Corson
 Finance Officer.....Joe Vandeloo
 Chaplain.....Merle Oliver
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Pete Gilbert
 Historian.....Ollie Palmer

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

June 25, 8am Shotgun



Thunderhart
 at SunnyHill

Lunch at the course.
 Return to the Post
 around 5pm for dinner.
 Sign-up by 6/15 with
 John Rees or at the Lounge.

More details by e-mail, so
 make sure you're registered.



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Around the Post

Spring is upon us, and The Blanchard Post year is coming to an end. With the help of many, the Post had a very successful year. There are many new improvements added to the Post this year, with the most needed and important was the walk-in cooler upstairs.

The recent Mohegan Sun trip was full, and a great time was had by all. The next trip will take place in the fall on Nov. 18th. The over fifty softball league was won by the Blanchard Post, and the trophy can be seen in the lounge. The trophy goes each year to the league champion, however, Mark Wahl presented commander Riedel with a plaque to be kept permanently.

A very special thanks to the SAL and Ladies Auxiliary for putting on two great dinners at The Twenty Week Club and The Past Commanders Dinner. The next Twenty Week Club dinner will be on Sept. 29th with roast turkey and all the trimmings. Please get your 20-Week dues in. Your thirty dollar dues, includes you in all the drawings and a fantastic meal. John Rees is the 20-Week Chairman and assures me of a great time.

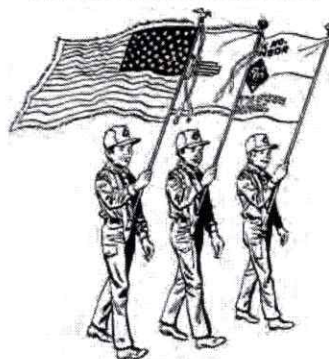
The Past Commanders Dinner was also a huge success. Although Harriet Minick was not there, she was awarded the Diamond Pin. This will be presented to her at the Welcome Back Party which will be held on Sept. 9th. Commander Riedel presented a Diamond Pin to Mark Wahl, and I was honored the Legionnaire of the Year Award. I thank the post very much for this award.

Also, thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary, President Waldron presented the Legion with a check for \$200. The next Post event will be The Memorial Day Parade, with Al Hofaker serving as Grand Marshal. As always the hot dogs, beer and soda will be compliments of the Post. The annual Post Golf Tournament will be in June, see ad for all the details.

Finally, I want to thank all the Post Officers going out and wish the best of luck to the new ones coming in. The Legion elections will be on Monday May 7th. Please plan to be there, as your vote is important. As always refreshments will be served after the meeting. I want to wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer, and I will see you at the welcome back party in September. Thank You to everyone who made my term as Chairman a success. Again, Thank You,

Phil Giaccone
Chairman of the Board

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



**MONDAY
MAY 28**

**STEPS OFF
AT 11AM**

REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW

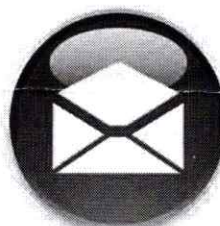
Board of Directors

Clark Zeh
Dick Drew
Steve Riedel
Steve Corson

George TenEyke
Joe Vandello
Al Hofaker
Phil Giaccone - *Chairman*

Larry Justice
Mark Wahl
Joe Giaccone

So, You Didn't Hear About It?



That's because we don't have your e-mail. So, get over to your keyboard right now and send your name and organization name to us at nabpost1040@gmail.com. The next 1040 Times will not be published until 9/1.

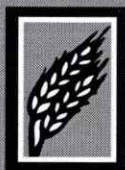
We will continue to keep you informed of Post happenings via e-mail. So, please register today. Oh, and by the way, if you do register, you may receive a free drink in the lounge, so register today!

Legion Auxiliary Officers

President - Francine Waldron
Vice Pres. - Harriet Minick

Treasurer - Tracy Risko
Secretary - Dale Lukatschat

Thanks to our Veterans for their service!



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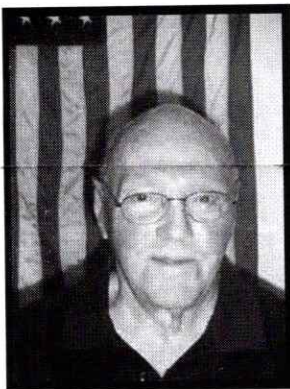
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members who have
not paid dues have
now had lounge
privileges suspended
until their dues
are paid in full.
PLEASE PAY TODAY!

Merle Oliver has been an active member of the N.A. Blanchard Post for over 47 years. Currently serving as Post Chaplain, Merle has also served at Vice Commander and ran the 20-Week Club. He was born in Albany, educated in the Albany Public Schools and graduated with a degree in Accounting from the Albany Business College. After college Merle served 3½ years in the Army.

He attended basic training at Ft. Dix where he received training as a medical technician. He entered the Army Medical Corps. and served his tour of duty in Australia, New Guinea and Manila. With his degree in accounting Merle was assigned administrative management duties of running an Army hospital. He recalls how poor the people of New Guinea were and how grateful the children were when U.S. soldiers would hand out candy to them. While in New Guinea, Merle and his comrades were deployed to find a missing G.I. in the jungle. While searching for the G.I. they encountered a tribe of natives who assisted them by cutting down trees and bushes and built them a raised hut to take shelter in. It was amazing to what they wield their machetes to slash vines and brush.

Merle returned to Albany in December 1945 and went to work at the family business, Oliver's Filling Station. His dad operated the Mobil Station on Second Avenue in Albany and Merle worked there for over 20 years with his brothers Norman and Clarence. (See old-time photos inside this issue) At 47 he semi-retired and then began driving a school bus in Bethlehem for 15 years.

Merle met his wife Miriam on a blind date. They moved to Bethlehem in 1951. They were married for 63 years when she passed away in September 2010. They have three children; Bruce, a retired police officer, Nancy, the current Received of Taxes in Bethlehem and Gary, a business entrepreneur.

Some of Merle's best memories are of the German Nights at the post. The Bavarian Bands that came up from the Catskill's were just wonderful. He also recalls Gus Williams' Italian Nights that required firm reservations because they often sold out. Merle enjoys bicycling and swimming, talk radio, politics, high school sports, his family and the Blanchard Post. He sings in the Bethlehem Senior Chorus.

Find the Oliver Filling Station photos inside this issue and the next time you see Merle, ask him if he's got any of that 22¢ / gallon gasoline left!