



Ten Forty Times

MEMBER
NATIONAL
AMERICAN
LEGION
PRESS
ASSOCIATION

NATHANIEL ADAMS BLANCHARD POST NO. 1040

Twenty-third Year

Delmar, New York

JUNE 1978

Veterans' Preference – An Echo From The Past?

COMMENDER'S CORNER

Fellow Legionnaires:

To say that it is a great honor to have been elected Commander of the most prestigious Post in Northeastern New York is the understatement of the year. It would not have been possible, of course, without the support of those who nominated me and those who voted me into office. Putting it as simply as possible, I am most thankful to all of you and I assure you that I will do all I can to merit the confidence you have placed in me.

There are those of you who do not know me or my background, so here is a thumb nail autobiography. I am 27 years of age and a veteran of the U. S. Army of the Vietnam era, having served with the 101st Air Cavalry. My family moved to Delmar from Albany when I was 2 years of age, and I have lived here ever since, attending the Bethlehem school system from Kindergarten through high school graduation. I am married to Kathy, have a seven month old son, Kevin, and am employed by the New York Telephone Company. As a member of Blanchard Post for seven years I have served as Sergeant-at-Arms, Adjutant and Vice Commander.

With that I'll call a halt to my first "Corner" and hoping to see many of you at my first meeting as Commander on June 5.

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer. Our first meeting of next season will be on Tuesday, September 5.

Art Blanchard, Commander

Lest We Forget

JANUARY 21, 1977

*The Date of Pres. Carter's
Amnesty for Draft Dodgers*

FROM YOUR EDITOR

With this issue we close the 1977-78 year of the 1040 Times. It has again been a very interesting and satisfying experience in putting this paper together for another year. My sincere thanks go to all who have made contributions which have helped to make it a successful year. The Lord willing I will again be around as editor in September. I wish all of you the best until then, with the knowledge that the new year will bring that same cooperation for which Blanchard Post members are famous.

ART BLANCHARD NEW COMMANDER

The election at the Annual Meeting on May 1 voted into office the entire slate of candidates for Post offices proposed by the Nominating Committee. Thus Art Blanchard now succeeds his father as Commander and in so doing has given Blanchard Post its first Father-Son happening in the Top Spot.

The entire slate is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Commander | Arthur P. Blanchard |
| Senior Vice Commander . . . | Joseph A. Marino |
| Vice Commander | Milton F. Andre |
| Vice Commander | Ernest A. Viele |
| Adjutant | William J. Blanchard, Jr. |
| Finance Officer | Daniel G. Lantz |
| Chaplain | Rev. Charles H. Kaulfuss |
| Judge Advocate | George F. Wenger |
| Service Officer | Frank Zini, Jr. |
| Historian | George J. Butman |
| Sergeant-At-Arms | John J. Brady, Sr. |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Three Years: | Robert J. Smith |
| | Francis A. Futia |
| | Warren D. Moessner |

COUNTY DELEGATES:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| John J. Brady, Sr. | William Mitchell |
| Kenneth J. Burns | Harvey Hasen |
| Robert J. Smith | Oliver H. Palmer |
| Patrick Iggoe | James Blanchard |
| | William J. Blanchard, Sr. |

ALTERNATE COUNTY

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| DELEGATES: | Hugh Stowers |
| | William Alwell |
| | Ernest Gall |

The best of everything to all of them in the coming year.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — National Headquarters has asked that we publish this editorial).

Our nation used to call them heroes... showed compassion for their sacrifices. Now the word veteran and veterans' preference apparently means nothing to the current administration which has already proposed to reduce veterans' preference in federal employment. The purpose of the reduction in veterans' preference, according to the President, is due to "current rules which often impede the hiring of qualified women, minorities and the handicapped by giving veterans a lifetime advantage under Civil Services laws."

The enactment of the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944 culminated years of work by the major veterans' organizations, the Civil Service Commission and Congress. These groups sought one common goal -- to give genuine veterans' preference in federal employment to our country's war veterans with the idea that when a person is selected by the country to serve in battle and give his life, if need be, for the preservation of this country and its institutions, that same person is certainly entitled to some degree of preference for positions in government departments and agencies serving his country in peacetime.

It is our opinion that the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944 reflected the feelings of a grateful nation toward its war veterans. We find it hard to believe the attitude of the American people has changed that dramatically. In fact, it is amazing how in time of peace the fervor for the welfare of veterans, that is demonstrated in all quarters of the government in time of war, so visibly diminishes.

What does the Veterans' Preference Act provide? Five preference points are added to the passing scores of honorably separated veterans; ten points are added to the passing scores of those with compensable service-connected disabilities, as well as to other spouses, widows or (continued on page 2)

BLANCHARD POST

Phone (518) 439-9819

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 Sergeant-at-Arms John J. Brady, Sr.
 Public Relations Robert J. Smith
 Editor, 1040 Times Charles J. O'Hara

MEMBERSHIP

With the installation of our new officers on May 19 we now look forward to another year of great progress for Blanchard Post. However, if we are to maintain our position in the "Top Ten" of the State we are going to have to do another bang-up job for 1979, particularly in recruiting new members. We lost quite a few members through death this past year, we had to suspend 20 for non-payment of dues and lost others who moved out of the area. A program of continuous recruitment is vital to sustain and strengthen an organization, and ours is no exception. So let's all make a resolution to get out and sign up new members.

Our final membership report for 1978 shows a paid-up total of 884. We thank you all for helping us to reach that very fine figure.

The County Membership Chairman informs us that the dues cards for 1979 will be available the latter part of July. We welcome and encourage early payment of dues during the summer months when business slows down at the "Oasis". In fact, as of press time, we already had four really early birds who had paid their 1979 dues, to wit, Charles Acker, Vincent Compione, Ben Pearsall and Vern Walker. Needless to say, they would welcome others to the fold. So, if you can see your way clear to doing so, make your early return to me at Box 9028, Albany, 12209.

We have one new member since our last report, Morris J. Estrade, and a reinstatement, William Cathen, Sr. Welcome to you both.

Have a safe, happy, enjoyable and healthy summer season.

Until September

Milt Andre, Membership Chairman

TAPS

Porter W. Howard, a 47 year member of the American Legion, on May 16 passed away at his home in Delmar. Commander Blanchard expressed the sympathy of the Post to the family. May he rest in peace with his comrades.

EDITORIAL (Continued from page 1)

widowers and mothers of veterans, when qualifying. The names of all eligibles are then listed in order of their scores, including any points for veterans preference on registers, with the exception of veterans with a compensable service-connected disability of ten percent or more, who are placed ahead of the names of all other eligibles. The Civil Service Commission then makes up registers of those scoring highest, from which appointing officers are to select from the top three available eligibles. The Veterans' Preference Act also provides veterans with the right to appeal adverse actions, a right which was later extended by executive order to other federal employees.

Why is the administration pushing so hard for these revisions? The answer is simple: many people believe in myths about veterans' preference. Myths such as that "lifetime preference" is hindering the federal hiring and job advancement of women and minorities. The opposite is true, i.e., well over forty percent of the new federal hires in 1977 went to women while veterans were picked 28 percent of the time. Second, promotions are not effected by veterans' preference and third, should these provisions become effective October 1, 1980, 26 million veterans will lose their veterans' preference entitlement, approximately one million of them minority veterans and six million of the eight million, Vietnam-era veterans.

The American Legion has testified before Congressional committees, pointing out wide evasion of veterans' preference and urging that the Civil Service Commission be required to tighten up on its procedures instead of further weakening the benefits of veterans' preference. In the proposed system, the Office of Personnel Management of the new system would have complete authority to establish any sort of employment preference through the power to establish any kind of referral and selection processes it wishes, thus transferring from Congress, the elected representatives of the people, the authority to establish employment preference. This would, in actual practice, water down the veterans' preference still available to the disabled veterans and the limited preference other veterans would be entitled to.

The American Legion has pointed out that the limiting of veterans' preference to ten years after discharge would be a particular hardship on women veterans, many of whom have been returning to the labor market when their home responsibilities have lessened.

America today can still believe in heroes. Veterans' preference must not be allowed to become an echo from the past. The American Legion must be ready to

stop the administration's attacks on veterans' preference in federal employment. Now is the time for all Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, relatives and friends to contact their senators and congressmen to remind them that the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944, passed when the entire nation was united behind the war effort, was a contract between the government and those serving in that war. It is not a contract to be broken during peacetime. We must inform our Congressional leaders of our opposition to S 2640 and HR 11280, particularly those parts of it related to veterans' preference.

At this moment in history we hope that our concern for veterans' preference might be manifested by a tremendous ground swell of American public opinion at a level sufficient to guarantee the preservation of federal employment for *all* of our war veterans.

JUNE CALENDAR

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| June 5 (Mon) | Regular Post meeting, 8 p.m. Come meet your new officers |
| 6 (Tue) | D-Day 1944 |
| 13 (Tue) | WW I luncheon at noon at LaCasa Restaurant |
| 14 (Wed) | Flag Day |
| 15 (Thu) | WW II luncheon at the Post at noon |
| 19 (Mon) | Post Affairs Committee meets at 8 p.m. |
| 22 (Thu) | County meeting |
| 26 (Mon) | Board of Directors meets at 8 p.m. |
| 30 (Fri) | So-long until our next issue in September. Let's have a good turnout at our first meeting after the summer on Tues., September 5. |

Wednesday Bingo on
 June 7, 14, 21 and 28

The Board of Directors continues to meet during the summer on Monday, July 31 and Monday, August 28.

GOLF TOURNEY

Looking ahead a bit, we learn that Vic Maki, one of our congenial overseers in the Lounge will coordinate this year's arrangements for our annual Post Golf Tourney. Vic reports that the event will be held early in September, probably on Wednesday the 6th. More on this in our September edition, but in the meantime Vic will be the one to contact for further information.

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Lillian Blanchard

President Carol Cummings
First Vice President Lillian Blanchard
Second Vice President Rose Mary Blanchard
Recording Secretary Rose Ann Levy
Corresponding Secretary Marie Burns
Treasurer Celeste Blanchard
Assistant Treasurer Anna Mae White
Sergeant-at-Arms Kathy Quinn
Historian Gayle Cummings
Chaplain Lenore Smith

Once again I must apologize for an omission on our "thank you" list. I failed to include Ronnie and Warren Moessner among the workers for the 3rd and 4th District Conference. Awfully sorry, thank you both.

The members have voted to donate a second color television set to the V.A. Hospital. Our Bingo proceeds made this possible. Many thanks to all the girls who have worked on Wednesday evenings. A very special thank you to Ronnie Moessner and Anna Mae White who are working every week. Thank you also to our telephone team of Rosemary Blanchard and Joan Stowers.

June looks like quite a busy month in which to end our current year.

June 6 is the date of the Albany County Committee, Legion Auxiliary, meeting at Blanchard Post. The time is 8:00 p.m. and all members are invited to attend.

On June 11 we will host the Girl's State Tea from 2-4 p.m. Come and meet Jennifer Stringham who is our Girl Stater for 1978.

We will have another off-station party for V.A. Hospital patients on Saturday, June 17, from 12-4. Ronnie Moessner will again chair the affair and Grace Viele will assist. Ronnie can use your help, and if you can't be at the Post, can you make a pie? Call Ronnie at 439-2288 and offer your assistance.

The last business meeting of the year will be on June 20. As in the past this meeting will be preceded by a covered-dish supper. Bring your favorite dish (no desserts please) and your place setting. This will also be your chance to get to greet your new officers. Plan to attend and show your support for your unit for the coming year.

The following were the members of the nominating committee charged with the responsibility of naming a slate of nominees for Auxiliary offices for the year 1978-79: Chairwoman Ronnie Moessner, ably assisted by Marcia Turner, Lee Hurley, Rose Mary Blanchard,

Barbara Palmer, Gloria Broom and Barbara Whitney. Their proposed slate was presented at the meeting of May 16 at which time the annual election was held and the slate as proposed was voted into office. The newly elected officers are those shown at the head of this column.

Note of appreciation from Pauline:

"As my term of office expires, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my officers, committee chairwomen, auxiliary members and the men of the Post for your assistance and the support you have given me this past year. Your splendid cooperation helped make a very outstanding and successful year for the Auxiliary and a rewarding and memorable one for me.

To the new officers of the Auxiliary and Post, my sincere congratulations and best wishes for the coming year."

Sincerely,
Pauline Ouderkirk
President 1977-78

THE LAST DUSTING Or So Who Cares

. . . and a great pleasure to chat with all the lovely ladies at the bowling banquet like Helen HAKER, Ruth BURNS, Millie KARINS, Alice JOHNSTON, Kathy BUKER and all the others . . . 'n a great job by the Lads & Lasses of the Post in putting on the Jr. Bowling Banquet — if youse need an M.C. - Toastmaster George TEN EYCK is yer man! He's right up in the super-star class with Georgie Jessel and Dick Dalton! . . . and tis always a pleasure to converse with Liz & Will SCHRAA (and that Liz is some Irish jigger, that's what!) . . . 'n congrats and best wishes to Jeff (Alfred Tech) VOORHEES on his new business venture . . . and with the mix up on Fed-State Holidays & half the people having to work, I think that it will be a pretty small firing squad . . . Nice picture of Prez Pauline OUDERKIRK and Ch. Dot LANTZ in the local journal . . . and how about those back-to-back home runs scored by Ronnie MOESSNER in the 20-wk dept. . . . 'n whatta super-duper dinner-party the bingleers enjoyed . . . Vi and Steve MAYZEL, Earl HOFFMAN looking fine and dandy out at the Post . . . Freda SHERMAN, Bob BLOOM and others reporting on a dandy AHS reunion party (Pat IGOE, how come you & I weren't invited or dontcha think that they wanna remember us?) . . . ya think

that AL is for middle-aged folks? - ya shoulda been down to the Post on Fri-Nites in April with that Rock band 'n all the Vogel gals and guys, Mr. & Mrs. Bob SCHENK, and a load of other young people !!! . . . May & Don SMITH really getting, "fenced-in!" . . . and a nice chat with that ever-affable Life Member George WENGER a while back . . . and best wishes for a speedy recovery to Marilyn PICARAZZI . . . 'n windy Ken BURNS trying to take u-no-who's place at Post Meetings, that's what! . . . Joe VON RONNE winning the super-salesman dollar from that other guy . . . and twas nice ta see Margaret and Earl MC GUIRK ta other week er so . . . 'n always a pleasant greeting from Jean VOGEL, that's who! . . . and Al YEZZI, the Baskin-Robbins mogul busier than ever these days, but always has time for a friendly greeting! . . . 'n I wonder if all Warrens are engineers ala MOESSNER & BOUTELLE? . . . 'n Grace & John BENSON sporting a fine auto (Johnny sez it's a thirsty bugger though.) . . . Editor Charley gave a good story to me, but do youse think that I can remember it? nay! nay! . . . Ken HAVILL takes 1 look at a members dog and sez, "Where didya get that big, black ant???" . . . and some of these Pressure Groups are like some drivers — they not only want their side of the road, but ½ of yours!!! . . . and always a nice couple are Mr. & Mrs. Bob GLASTETTER . . . 'n big congrats to Barb & Ollie PALMER on the "X" wedding anniversary. The "X" is 'cause I don't know which one it is??? . . . BUT I can say unequivocally with no fear of reverberations — great big congrats to Joan & Hugh STOWERS on their 25th Wedding Anniversary!!! 'n y'all have a fine summer with plenty of fun! If I have ever offended anyone it was unintentional and I'm truly sorry - so let's hope that I never have given cause for anybody to take umbrage! A nice going to the retiring officers and a good luck - best wishes to the new officers!!! Gee-Whiz it seems that I've been writing this nonsense for 88 years BUT as long as you put up wit it!!!

Auf der tag,
The Gutter Duster

BOOK COVERS

This year we will again be able to distribute free book covers to the school children of our Town when school opens in September. This is a project which we unfortunately had to suspend two years ago because of financial reasons but which we are now able to revive through the medium of our Bingo program. More on this in our September edition.

LEGION BASEBALL SEASON TO OPEN

Ernie Gall will have his Post Baseball Team off and running in their opening game against Voorheesville on Sunday, June 4 at 5 p.m. at Legion Park in Albany. With high hopes for a successful season, here is the schedule that Ernie and his boys will face, a total of 16 regular season games. Good luck gang.

| Date | Opponent | Site | Time |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Sun., June 4 | Voorheesville | Legion Park | 5:00 p.m. |
| Wed., June 7 | Ravena | Bethlehem Central H.S. | 6:00 p.m. |
| Sat., June 10 | Fort Orange | Bleecker Stadium | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun., June 11 | North Albany | Bleecker Stadium | 5:00 p.m. |
| Thurs., June 15 | Scully | Legion Park | 6:00 p.m. |
| Sat., June 17 | Coxsackie | Coxsackie | 2:00 p.m. |
| Sun., June 18 | Zaloga | Legion Park | 2:00 p.m. |
| Tues., June 20 | Voorheesville | Legion Park | 6:00 p.m. |
| Sat., June 24 | Ravena | Legion Park | 5:00 p.m. |
| Sun., June 25 | Fort Orange | Legion Park | 2:00 p.m. |
| Wed., June 28 | North Albany | Legion Park | 6:00 p.m. |
| Sat., July 1 | Scully | Bleecker Stadium | 2:00 p.m. |
| Sun., July 2 | Coxsackie | Bethlehem Central H.S. | 2:00 p.m. |
| Tues., July 4 | Zaloga | Legion Park | 5:00 p.m. |
| Sat., July 8 | Ravena | Bleecker Stadium | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun., July 9 | Zaloga | Legion Park | 2:00 p.m. |

The County Play-Offs follow from July 15-26 (top 4 teams) and then the Albany County Invitational from July 29 - August 4.

Once again - good luck.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

A proposed scholarship award project, proposed last fall in conjunction with American Education Week, was announced at our May meeting as having reached a stage where it will be finalized in time for this year's graduating class at Bethlehem Central Senior High School. Gene Fitzpatrick, a Post member and a Guidance Counselor at the High School, is coordinating the project for the Post and the school. There will be two \$100 awards to members of the senior class, a boy and a girl, to be used only toward the costs of higher education. The basis of the awards will be character, participation in school activities, interpersonal relationships with faculty and fellow students.

MOUNTAIN CAMP

We have talked all year about the American Legion Mountain Camp at Tupper Lake and now that time of the year is here when we should be thinking about visiting the Camp and discovering what we've been missing. It's an experience that you will greatly enjoy, one that would be difficult to duplicate elsewhere at their rates. Ollie Palmer, our Camp Chairman, will be glad to fill you in, or you may want to pick up some of the descriptive material on the Camp which is available in the Lounge.

DOWN THE ALLEY

The annual Bowling Banquet on Saturday, April 29 rang down the curtain on the 1977-78 bowling season.

Any member who would like to sign up for the 1978-79 season, which starts

on Friday, September 8, should call Milt Andre, Secretary, at 434-6904, and leave name and phone number. Have a safe summer everyone.

BINGO REPORT — APRIL

Four Occasions — 834 Players

Receipts \$6,686.80

Prizes 4,000.00

Gross Profit \$2,686.80

Expenditures:

Equipment

and Supplies \$794.80

Services 242.00

License fees 110.12

1,146.92

Net Profit \$1,539.88

In view of this being the last edition of the 1040 Times until September it is appropriate that we bring the membership up to date on the continuing participation of Blanchard Post in the community affairs of our Town. In the spirit and the traditions of the American Legion we have provided assistance to recognized charities and needy cases through our Bingo program. Donations in the past year include the following:

American Legion baseball
Veterans' Administration Hospital
American Legion Mountain Camp
Memorial Day band
American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shop
VAVS Shrine Circus
Parents Assn. Hearing Impaired Children
Assn. of the Blind Diabetes Association
Little Sisters of the Poor
Alhambra Drive for Retarded Children
Cystic Fibrosis Toys for Tots
Danny Mallery Fund Boy Scouts
Elsmere Fire Co. Delmar Fire Co.
Slingerlands Fire Co. Selkirk Fire Co.
Cerebral Palsy Drive Indoor Sports Club
Babe Ruth Baseball Pop Warner Football

And, as a reminder, Bingo will continue through the summer months, every Wednesday night during June, July and August. "Additional volunteer help is needed during the summer to provide replacements for those on vacation. Call Dick Dalton (phone 439-3458) if you can volunteer."

Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post No. 1040

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DELMAR, NEW YORK 12054

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
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Permit No. 4
Delmar, N. Y.

