

Melvin Roads Post 1231

Post 1231 Newsletter

September/October 2013

**Upcoming Events:**

**September 2nd, Labor
Day Holiday**

**September 11th,
Patriot Day**

**September 20th, POW/
MIA Remembrance Day**

**September 27th,
SONS Lobster Dinner**

**October 13th, SONS
Pancake Breakfast**

**October 14th,
Columbus Day Observed**

**November 11th,
Veterans Day**

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Commander's Message

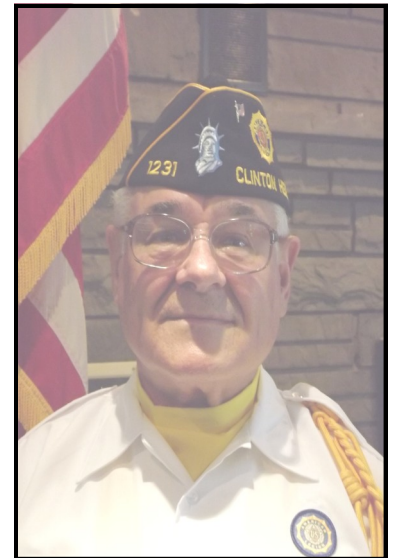
Dear Legionnaires:

We are coming into our busiest time of the year and there are a few changes for the good of the Post worth noting. We've changed Bingo to Wednesday nights, a luncheon menu will be offered M-F starting in October, and new pricing at the bar all should help improve our finances and allow us to move on to better times.

Patriot Day is next month

and our ceremony at Noon on September 11th will involve local dignitaries and the Clinton Heights Fire Department. We should always remember their contributions for the welfare of our Town. As always, you are encouraged to volunteer at our many activities. We'd love to see you at the Post so we can welcome you and say "hello."

Patrick J. Vallee, Commander



Board of Directors Begins Pro Active Promotion of Post Offerings

At a meeting called by the Board of Directors in April, the officers of each branch of the Legion family came together to hear a comprehensive financial report of the Melvin Roads Post. The Board report points out MR is running a serious deficit and significant changes must be put into place if we want to continue to see our programs *in this building* survive. All were reminded that over and above the ceremonial programs offered by the Post, we really are running over a half million dollar business and last year we ran a deficit of

well over \$25,000. The current year is fairing worse. In that light several steps are being taken to increase revenues while at the same time reducing costs. Among those efforts is a renewed effort to promote the banquet hall, "the best kept secret in East Greenbush." Also, a short order meal menu will be offered at noon hour M-F and hopefully, some evenings. Already, a new payroll service has been engaged and Bingo has been moved to Wednesday night when there is less competition in the area. Contracts for cleaning and

other outside services are being reviewed and the bar prices have been raised for the first time in many years. What is especially disheartening is the lack of member-volunteers coming forward to help out especially at Bingo. The editorial in the last edition of this newsletter rallied only a few to the cause! Board Chair, Tony Rossello, Sr. put it simply "we need to have more members frequent the Post and use our lounge and banquet hall if we want to maintain our beautiful facility. Time is running out!"

The Ladies Auxiliary's has announced its new officers for 2013-14: President, Loriann McFarland; 1st Vice, Leslie Millhouse; 2nd Vice, Lynn Rossello; Secretary, Barb Fonda; Treasurer, Merrybeth Scott; Chaplain, Helene Reed; Sgt-at-Arms, Cheryl Cramer; Historian, Danielle Connors.

The **MR SONS Squadron #1231's** new officers: Commander, Kevin DeRusso; Vice Commanders, Bill Baker, Dan Holmes, Bill Holman; Adjutant, Jim Williams; Treasurer, Dennis Helmes; Historian Tom Grago; Chaplain, Dom Indelicato; Ass't Chaplain, Nelson Kwazneski; Sgt at Arms: Dave Unser, Sr., Wayne Holt; Web Site, Kevin Harrington; Squadron Mom, Ann Harrington. Kevin



Harrington was also elected Commander, Rensselaer County Committee Sons of The American Legion and Bill Baker, one of the Vice Commanders.

The **Legion Riders** have elected as Commander, Francine Kroll; 1st Vice President,

Todd Wiley; 2nd Vice President and Chaplain, Bill Baker; Treasurer, Vicky Wiley; Secretary, Barbara Fonda; Sgt--at--arms, Walter Fonda; Road Captain, Adrian "Bunny" Mather; Historians, Kevin and Anne Harrington. Kevin is also Webmaster.

Patriot Day Event is Scheduled

Our Melvin Roads American Legion Baseball Team ended their very successful season with a record of 29 wins, 9 losses, 1 tie. They won second place in the prestigious Coopers Cave Tournament and were Third District Champions! In the State Championship Games they won 1 and lost 2, thereby suffering elimination. The Post sends our Congratulations and thanks!

Heroes Banquet Hall

Are you planning a family get together, or is your office beginning to think "holiday party?" Please consider using our Heroes Banquet Hall or Lounge for such gatherings. Our prices are most reasonable and the setting attractive! And should you have need for a gathering space after a funeral/burial, our lounge has been used very reasonably for such an occasion.

Melvin Roads Post 1231 will once again host a **National Day of Service and Remembrance—Patriot Day—Ceremony at the Post on Wednesday, September 11th at 12Noon.** The community is invited to join with our veterans, distinguished guests, dignitaries, fire fighters and law enforcement honoring the memory of the lives lost September 11th, 2001.

The presentations of the day's

speakers will remind us all of the brave men and women who stepped forward and gave the ultimate that fateful day. The Clinton Heights Fire Department will solemnly toll the bell in remembrance of the fire fighters and emergency personnel who gave their all. The Post Color Guard including members of the Sons of the American Legion will present the colors for the playing of Taps. Following the ceremony, all are invited to a light luncheon in the Post Lounge. Plan on attending.

Those who serve.... And served

In each newsletter we are proud to publish the names of those from our community who are currently serving in the military of the United States. *If you know of anyone else or if you know what follows is incorrect, please email us*

Robert Brockley
Vincent Catalfamo
George Corbari
Alicia Howard
Chris Whalen
Scott J. Collins

Glenn Robinson
Danielle Richardson
Caroline Cleveland
Josh Spath
Nick Monuteaux
Robert Kleamovich III
Jim Rosencrans
Glen Stagnitta
Brittany Hellwig
Justin Edberg
Kyle Anderson
Mark Becker
Grant Staats

Michael Burdette
Spencer Boyd
Matt Raymond
Sean Markham
Joshua Stickle
Michael Sciarrino

Rest In Peace:

*Tony Cipollari
Lawrence E. Taylor
Tony Toth, Jr.*

MR Youth Programs Flourish: Boys State, Legion Baseball

MR Boys' State Participation

Melvin Roads Post continues to take a leadership role in its youth programs. Once again this year, two delegates were sponsored by the Post at the annual Boys' State Program held at Morrisville College in late June. Jake Schultz from Columbia and Judsen Hoffman from Maple Hill were in attendance. Jake (JS) was interviewed recently and offered his thoughts on the program.

Q: What was your most memorable experience? JS: *The people I met. The guys I*

But he got us marching and we really were great at it. He eventually earned our respect. It rained every day and at one point he just had us run from one event to another; only problem was he had us run to the wrong building!

Q: So, your overall impression? JS: *The program really built up my self confidence. I would highly recommend it to anyone who has an interest in how government works. I learned a lot. I'm fluent in Mandarin and Arabic and hope to go to college majoring in linguistics. MIT has a great program and I'm looking at it seriously.*



MR Baseball Player Gabe Lozada and boys from Boca Chica, DR



Jake Schultz and Commander Pat Vallee

roomed with were so diverse, one was from Valhalla, New York, another from Staten Island. We were members of the [Boys' State] City of Keiser in McMealy County. Further, the American Legion Counselors were amazing. Since Boys' State, I've been emailing back and forth and sending facebook messages with the guys. We said we'd try to keep in touch and so far we have.

Q: Were you elected to any office? Had to give any speeches? JS: *I was appointed Fire Chief at first, then later I ran for Superintendent of Highways. It was at that point I had to give a speech. My party supported me and I won their nomination but I lost in the election. We were members of the Gold—Nationalist Party. The other was the Blue—Federalist Party. At the end, the election for Attorney General really became competitive and got everyone involved. There were only three votes separating the two candidates, it was that close and exciting!*

Q: How about the Marines? JS: *Sgt Thomas was my Marine and right away, it seems, he picked on me! I had to make my bed in front of everybody and he tore it apart three times!*

MR Baseball Player Visits the Dominican Republic

It is not often that an incoming high school junior is scouted out and selected to become a member of an international traveling baseball team. Yet that was the recent, exciting experience of **Gabe Lozada**, a student at Lansingburgh High School, Troy and **a member of the Melvin Roads Post 1231 American Legion Baseball Team**. Gabe explains, "I was contacted by a California based baseball organization called "Team Avenue Aces" to join 24 other boys ages 12 to 18 to go to the Dominican Republic to play a series of games against boys of comparable ages."

His trip extended for two weeks with him flying out of JFK on June 22nd. When he arrived he was selected to join the older of three age groups—the 16 to 18 year olds—and begin a "road trip" of 10 games from one end of the island to another.

The Dominican boys "live for baseball," states Gabe. "From early in the morning through late afternoon, all they do is play the game and go through rigorous training to be fit for baseball; I joined them in their early am exercises once and was absolutely exhausted afterwards. They go to school for eight hours on Saturday and train and play the other six days. Once they turn 16, it is the goal of most to be drafted to attend a baseball academy."

Gabe said he was particularly struck by the poverty these boys experience every day. "What I saw put a lot of things in perspective for me. Here [in the USA] we complain if we don't have the most expensive [baseball] gear. There, the kids are very happy playing the game using whatever they can find for equipment; it wasn't unusual to see them batting with sticks and using rocks

or bottle caps as their 'baseball'".

Gabe just this year joined the Melvin Roads American Legion Baseball team at the invitation of Coach Curtis Nobles. He is the youngest player on the team. When Gabe's Melvin Roads Manager, Marc Peluso heard about his trip, he donated some used baseball equipment, namely gloves and catcher's gear. One particular day when Gabe was not playing a scheduled game, he joined a group of boys playing ball in the City of Boca Chica. He brought the equipment with him and asked who wanted it. "The boys just charged me asking for the gloves... I had never seen smiles that big!"

Asked about the Major League Baseball players from the Dominican Republic, he noted that "David Ortiz and Robinson Cano are especially held in high regard, not only for their baseball abilities but for their not forgetting their roots. Both Ortiz and Cano have made countless donations and built parks all over for the kids back home."

Gabe returned home to the States on July 3rd and rejoined his Legion team as they continued what has turned out to be a winning season. He is left handed and plays first base. He also is a left-handed relief pitcher when needed. "It is my hope to play baseball in college and who knows, maybe the majors someday!" Whatever his goals, it is obvious he will never forget the impression this trip left him with... "I had never seen smiles that big!"

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**Honoring the men and women
of the United States Army,
Navy, Air Force,
Marines, Coast Guard,
Merchant Marines**

**Look! We're on the web at :
www.melvinroads1231.org**

***Lunch will be offered at Melvin Roads' Lounge,
M—F, 11:30am to 1:30pm beginning c. October 1st!***

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Other Post news notes:

- We've given a new name to our banquet hall: **Heroes Banquet Hall**. There are a number of renovations being planned for the hall and kitchen to make it even more attractive for public events.
- In that regard, **Heroes Banquet Hall** has many open dates for gatherings. Call our hostess Ginny Brockley (527-4278) for further information. A trifold brochure promoting the hall is available.
- **And... we will be offering Lunch M-F at the Post beginning in October! Watch for details.**
- Auxiliary Member **Lynn Rossello**

and new Veteran-member **Patrick Roden** have volunteered to work with **Kevin Harrington** on our web site as well as addressing our need for social media contacts. Thanks all

- **Bingo is now on Wednesday night.** Members are encouraged to let their families and friends know of this offering which could be raising significantly more funds for the Post.
- A big round of applause and Thanks is extended to **Historian Jim L'Esperence** for repainting the large "American Legion" emblem found on the west side of the building as well as the smaller one near the lounge entrance. Jim actually made those signs many years ago.

- On September 27th, the **SONS** are holding a **Lobster Dinner** from 4-7pm that Sunday. It includes 1 to 1 1/4lb lobster, dozen clams, sausage, corn and potato. Cost is \$25 (pre-sale tickets only). Take out available
- The **SONS** will also be holding a **Pancake Breakfast** on Sunday, October 13th, 8am to Noon. \$8.00.



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200 Columbia Turnpike
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