

Spring

Melvin Roads Post 1231

Post 1231 Newsletter

April May 2015



Commander's Message

Dear Legionnaires:

First, thank you to all who helped out with the Legion Birthday and St. Patrick's Day Dinner; it was a successful event again this year.

Spring brings more than nice weather; it is also the time for the election of Post Officers. There will be a committee appointed to take nominations. If you are interested in running for a position, please come to the April meeting and let us know. The Installation Dinner will be held on Saturday, June 6.

This year, we are the lead Veterans organization responsible for the Memorial Day Parade to be held on Saturday,

May 23rd. I would love to see as many able bodies as possible marching this year. This is a great way to show our respect for those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. We will also need volunteers to help with the activities of the day, please let myself or Post Adjutant Michelle LaRock know if you can assist.

There have been many upgrades and improvements made to our Post, please stop in and visit. We still have a need for Bingo workers, we can find something to do for anyone.

The Post meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm and the Board of Directors meet the third Tuesday at 7pm. We need everyone's



Commander Bev Baker

voice to be heard and assist in making decisions for the good of the Post and the American Legion!

As always, I look forward to working with the Post Family and serving our veterans.

Bev Baker

CALLING ALL MEMBERS - MELVIN ROADS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Melvin Roads Post 1231 has been a valuable fixture in the East Greenbush Community for seventy-five years. We now need your help to keep it strong and vibrant for another seventy-five. As the Post membership grew—particularly after WWII—so did the building we maintain on Columbia Turnpike. Activities in the banquet hall, lounge, and our weekly bingo provided sufficient revenue to keep the building in good order and support the Veterans community

for many years. But recently that activity has not been able to keep up with expenses. For the past three years the post has lost money, largely due to a combination of reduced activity in the banquet hall and the lounge along with ever rising costs for utilities, insurance, and general maintenance.

Over the past several months the post officers and board of directors, along with the Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders have made a number of

changes that have addressed our financial viability considerably. For example, we have aggressively marketed and increased the number of events in the hall and added a full time chef to provide food offerings for any number of occasions.

We have added weekly attractions such as Country Line Dancing, an ongoing Pub Poker Tournament, Pool and Dart Leagues—all having a very positive affect on our bottom line. (cont'd page 2)

Upcoming Events:

- **May 16th Capital District Patriot Flight**
- **May 16th Armed Forces Day**
- **May 23th Memorial Day Parade hosted by Melvin Roads**
- **June 6th Annual Installation and Service Awards Dinner**
- **June 11th Flag Retirement**

Inside this issue:

- Auxiliary, SONS, Riders News **2**
- Bingo Report **2**
- Veterans Exemption **3**
- Installation Dinner **3**
- The Staats Family Reunion **3**
- For those who serve...and served **3**
- Post News Notes **4**

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron #1231 wish to thank everyone who once again helped to make our Annual Fish Fry Fridays a success. We would also like to thank everyone who made the Cabin Fever party that was put on by the **Melvin Roads Ladies Auxiliary** and the Sons— another great success!

This year the Sons plan on continuing with our mission to help our veterans and their families. This past winter we were able to donate 37 new pairs of sneakers, 58 pairs of Thermal underwear and 62 pair of insulated winter socks to local homeless veterans. At this time it looks like our mission for the 2015-2016 winter season will be to donate new and “gently used” winter coats to veterans and their families that need them. As time draws near I will be seeking donations for this worthy cause.

Squadron #1231 will once again be sponsoring our own Adjutant Jim William’s race car as he goes for back to back championships in the 4 Cylinder Single Cam Class at Lebanon Valley Speedway. I am so happy that the American Legion Family is continuing to work with each other to make our post and our missions towards veterans and our community the great programs that they are. Thank you and we look forward to a prosperous year ahead of us.

Bill Baker, Commander:
Squadron #1231
Melvin Roads Sons of the American Legion.

Bingo Report

Bingo continues to be a major source of funding for our Post. Here are the figures for the **first quarter of 2015**:
Number of Events: 12

Number of Players: 1,426

Gross Income: \$41,134

Prizes awarded: \$31,200

Post bills paid: \$9,754.66!

Balance Mar 31: \$1,338.25

Volunteers are critically needed for our continued success; please help!

If you are considering your estate, why not include Melvin Roads Post 1231 in your remembrances. We are a 501(c)(19) charity per the IRS.



75th Anniversary

Did you know that 2015 is the 75th anniversary of Melvin Roads Post? On May 23rd, 1940, we were designated a permanently chartered unit. The formal presentation was made on that date in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Orange Roads, the parents of Melvin Roads who was killed in action in France the day before the Armistice. Adjutant Ernest Heyman presented the charter to our first Commander Benjamin Pearsall. The American flag which originally was placed on the grave of their son in France was given to the post by Mr. and Mrs. Roads. Our hero’s body now lies in Greenbush Cemetery, off Hayes Road. Plans are under way to look at how to celebrate our 75th.

Capital Campaign cont'd

At the same time we continue to support the community by making space available for events like Red Cross Blood Drives and Veterans Job Fairs. We are now covering our operating expenses. Unfortunately, that is not enough. In order to keep the building up to date and efficient to operate we need to make some major renovations and improvements and we need your help to do that.

Over the next three years we hope to upgrade our meeting rooms, remodel the banquet hall, replace outdated heating and air conditioning equipment, and remodel the lounge to make it more competitive. We have already replaced the carpeting in the lounge with tile and added flat screen TVs over the bar area - two improvements that have been well received. As we consider these proposals, we would also like to hear from you about any improvements you think we should make.

The Post has initiated a Capital Campaign with a goal of raising \$100,000 over the next three years - and we're asking all of our Melvin Roads family - both members and the community - to help however one can.

In the next few weeks in the mail, you will be receiving further information about this campaign along with avenues you can use to positively respond. As our Post is a 501(c)19 non profit, your contribution is tax deductible. Please give thoughtful consideration to this campaign.



Having a family get - together in the future? Or maybe a wedding or baby shower? Or looking for a venue for an after-funeral gathering?



Look no further than our own Melvin Roads Heroes' Banquet Hall For all your catering needs Call our hostess Leslie Millhouse 518 462-7006

Post Hosts Veteran Staats Family

On March 6th, the Staats family of Schodack held a family get-together at Melvin Roads Post. The Post was honored to host the family and guests for this very special occasion. Grant S. Staats enlisted as a sailor in 1977. From there he completed Basic SEAL training and was assigned to SEAL Team One. Grant took time out from his active military career to teach at the college level. In 1992 he was given a direct commission and has served in Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Germany and Uganda.

But this gathering wasn't about Grant. His son, Evan Staats, began basic training in the Navy's Great Lakes program on March 24th. He has applied for and has been awarded a Navy SEAL contract.

Local men complete basic

In the September 2014 Newsletter we ran an article on local men who have joined the military services. Air Force Airman **Jake K. Schultz** (one of our Boys' State candidates) has graduated from basic training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio.

E-3 Fireman Electricians Mate **Keenan Krenzer** now attends the Navy's Nuclear Power School in Charleston, S.C. Once this assignment is complete, he'll attend Nuclear Prototype School. **Tim Ryan** and **Michael Woods** are in military programs in college and **Derek Mazurek** is in the Army National Guard.

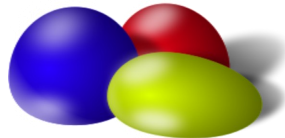


Grant, Evan and Kathy Staats

Evan's dream is to complete basic and then begin a career as a Special Operations Warrior.

Grant was proud to share the fact that theirs is an ancestral history in the military services dating back some 300 years!

Kathy and Grant Staats are the proud parents of five sons. Evan was joined during the evening with Chris Urmston of Newburg who became friends during their earlier training program.



Veterans School Tax Exemption Approved

At their monthly meeting, January 28th, the East Greenbush School Board adopted the alternative veterans exemption for 2015 school taxes at the maximum levels of \$6,000 war-time, \$4,000 combat zone, and \$20,000 disability. The Board also adopted resolutions to include Gold Star Parents and relocation of an exemptee (within the same town) as also eligible. It is our understanding that the assessors office should be transferring existing veterans exemptions for the town to school taxes.

Chaplain's Corner *Let us reflect on the season where we empty our souls and refill them with the positive love of our Lord and all throughout the world. I like to use the expression to "walk above the clouds" and enjoy the peace within our hearts. One day as I was preparing a service for all veterans of the Korean War I asked my friend Rabbi Paul Sifton to join all the clergy from the Capital District at St. Peters Church in Albany. He kiddingly said "you're not going to pull any of this Jesus stuff on me?" It turned out that he really enjoyed it! We became great friends for many years. Whoever stands next to us can become good friends and brothers in peace and Love.*
Brother Robert Francis, Fsd

Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner set for June 6th

The **Annual Installation and Service Awards Banquet is scheduled for Saturday evening, June 6th.** All newly elected officers for the Post, Board of Directors, Ladies Auxiliary, Legion Riders and Sons of the American Legion will be installed during the formalities of the evening. Service Awards will be presented to those who have continuous service to the Legion; Certificates and pins will be presented to several members who have 25, 40 and 60 years

of continuous membership.

The menu, and tickets prices have yet to be set as of this writing. Watch for details at the Post and online!

Life Members and Past Commanders are entitled to one free ticket for themselves. Entertainment will follow. We hope to see many of our members from throughout the Legion Family at this most important Post function.



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:*

Vincent Catalfamo
Grant S. Staats
Evan Staats
Chris Urmston
George Corbari
Alicia Howard
Chris Whalen
Scott J. Collins
Josh Spath
Nick Monuteaux

Robert Kleamovich III
Sean Markham
Joshua Stickle
Michael Sciarrino
Alicia Endres
Jarrod Dolan
Derek Mazurek
Keenan Krenzer
Jake K. Schultz
Mark Becker
Dan Yates, Jr.
Matt Raymond
Tim Ryan
Michael Woods

May they Rest In Peace:

February 8, 2015
Robert J. Dumas

February 11, 2015
Donald L. Van Wormer

Melvin Roads Post 1231

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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 is now being offered at Melvin Roads
Heroes' Lounge, Wed—Fri, 11:30am to 2:00pm
And we now have Bar Fare Wed-Fri 5-7pm!*

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April May 2015

Post News Notes.....

- **Wednesday is Bingo Night** at Melvin Roads. There has been a steady increase in attendance with total prize money at \$2,700 not including the two casinos. Members of the Post Family are encouraged to stop by anytime after 5:30pm to assist. There is always a job for anyone who can offer their time. Bingo is a critical source of funding for the Post; it cannot be taken for granted.
- The **Memorial Day Parade** has been set for May 23th starting at 10AM. Melvin Roads is taking the lead this year so the parade route will be down Columbia Turnpike from the bowling center to Melvin Roads Post. We look for a good turnout of American Legion Post members!
- Members are requested to **send their email address to the Post** so we can

send along notices as well as this newsletter. Send that information to:
melvinroads@nycap.rr.com.

- **Paid Up For Life** membership may be easily obtained by going online:
www.legion.org/join/pufl.
- Critical to Melvin Roads ongoing operations are the **volunteers that step forward** and assist with projects that otherwise would be an additional financial burden. In that spirit, **we extend a thank you to Joe Faranda, Reggie Bonner, and Gerry Buldoc** who donated their time and labor to assist us this past month. And we also send a thank you to our friend **Barbara Fonda**, who without any fanfare tidys up the entrance way around the canopy.
- American Legion **Riders** Post 1231 are

planning a Poker Run this summer. At press time the proposed date is July 25th. Watch for further details in the next newsletter.



**Melvin Roads Post 1231
200 Columbia Turnpike
Rensselaer, New York 12144**