

Melvin Roads Post 1231

Post 1231 Newsletter

September October 2016



Upcoming Events:

- **September 11th Patriot Day Ceremonies**
- **September 15-19, Washington Park, Vietnam Travelling Wall**
- **September 16th POW/MIA Recognition Day**
- **September 17th 100 Mile Poker Run**
- **September 25th Pancake Breakfast Fund Raiser**
- **November 11th Veterans Day**
- **November 12th Comedy Night**

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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 have opened up the Post meetings for anyone from any entity to participate in. We are also looking to involve everyone in the Post Committees. There are some committees that have been vacant for many years and are important to the mission of our Legion. As our numbers dwindle, we all need to work together as a family to continue the honored traditions of the American Legion. To date, there has been little interest so if you or anyone you know are interested please let me know.

I encourage everyone to support our many events coming up soon; September 11th, Patriot Day, and November 11th, Veterans Day. Other events are listed in this newsletter, so take a look

at what is going on and come on down!!

I would like to take a moment to talk about the bingo program that we rely on to support the Post. We are looking to find a new bingo chairman and assistant chairman. We are also looking for people to sit on the bingo committee which is separate from the continuous request and search for people to work bingo. Working bingo involves giving up an evening four times a month. However, if we were to get enough volunteers, maybe two times a month. I do want to thank everyone that has given their time to support the bingo program; the Post and its officers appreciate every hour that you donate. Anyone interested in getting involved please give your name and number to the attendant at the bar or come any Wednesday night and talk to someone at Bingo.



Commander Joe Finn

As we continue to support our veterans and their families, let us know of any events happening in the community where we can assist. We are always looking for new ideas to promote and assist our veterans.

We look forward to seeing you at the Post soon. Take care and God Bless.

*Joe Finn
Commander*

15th Anniversary September 11th Ceremonies Set

September 11th, 2016 has been designated by our President as a National Day of Service and Remembrance—Patriot Day. Melvin Roads Post 1231 will honor the memories of those who died 15 years ago with ceremonies at the Post beginning at 12Noon that Sunday. The Post Legion Family invites the wider community to join them along with our veterans, distinguished guests, dignitaries, firefighters and law enforcement in honoring the memory of those lives lost September 11th, 2001.

The presentation of the day's speakers will remind us of the brave men and women who stepped forward and gave the ultimate sacrifice that fateful day. The Clinton Heights Fire Department will solemnly toll the bell in remembrance of the firefighters and emergency personnel who died that day and following. The Post Color Guard including members of the SONS will present the colors for the playing of Taps. Following the ceremonies, all are invited to a light lunch in the Post Lounge.

Melvin Roads Ladies Auxiliary

Hello Unit Members,

Let me begin with just a little reminder that dues notices have been sent out so please make your payment. In that light this year's theme is "WE ARE FAMILY", so I would like all Auxiliary members to contact former "family" members and encourage them to rejoin. Let us also increase awareness of our organization by wearing our organization clothing with our emblem displayed and let's make a concerted effort to advertise our events in our local papers. Let's together make our goal 100% membership this year.

I want to thank the Unit for sending me to the Department Convention this past summer; I learned a

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



great deal and was voted in as 3rd District Vice President. Also we congratulate **Pat Hennessey** who was voted in as our new **Department 1st Vice President.**

I encourage all members not to forget our Unit's programs and if you do anything that may fall under one of our programs, please write it down so I may report it.

Also our Unit along with the SONS will be holding an **all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast** as a fund raiser for Kristen Cramer-Sanchez who is fighting Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The date is Sunday, **September 25th** from 8am to 1pm. Adults \$8.00, \$5.00 for children 6-12 years old (under 6, no charge).

Finally, don't forget our meetings are the first Tuesday of the month beginning Tuesday September 6th where I hope to see you all there.

*Yours for the Auxiliary,
President Lori McFarland*

Fall Line Dancing Classes have been scheduled for Monday nights at Melvin Roads Post, beginning September 12th. They will run for six weeks. Time is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Cost is \$40 up front for all six classes or \$8.00 per session. For further information contact Cheryl at the Post: 462-7006!

Sons of the American Legion

The SONS of Melvin Roads Post 1231 Squadron will be celebrating their 40th anniversary in 2017. Plans are underway to hold an event to recognize this milestone. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters and on our website,

www.melvinroads1231.org.

Bring any ideas you might have to the monthly meetings held the second Tuesday beginning at 7:00pm or contact me at

KevinMRSQ1231.aol.com.

*Kevin Harrington
Commander*

Melvin Roads Post Riders

The Melvin Roads Riders' monthly meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month, beginning at 7pm. All members are urged to attend to set programming for 2016-17.

Also, the weekly ride night has been changed to Wednesday's, 6pm (weather permitting). Kick stands up at 6:30pm from the Stewart's Shoppe on Columbia Turnpike. Destination/route will be determined at that time.

*Steve Shannon
President*

100 Mile Poker Run Scheduled by Melvin Roads' Riders

The Melvin Roads Post **American Legion Riders** have scheduled their second annual 100 mile Poker Run for Saturday, **September 17th**. Registration is set for 9:00am that morning at Melvin Roads Post, 200 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush.

The Ride will begin at 11:00am. All should be returning to the Post after the run which will include visiting the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall at Washington Park, Albany. Cost is \$20 per Rider, \$10 per passenger.

Funds raised in this effort will go toward programs that offer Veterans' support. Like last year if you pre-register 7 days ahead you receive an extra card (to draw best 5 from).



Comedy Night Planned

Looking ahead...

The Annual Adult Comedy Night has been set for Saturday, **November 12th**.

Cost is \$25 per ticket which includes two well drinks or two domestic beers. Doors open at 7pm, Show begins at 8pm.

Further details in next Newsletter.



Boys' State 2016

Melvin Roads Post was honored to once again sponsor two delegates to the New York State American Legion Boys' State program held at Morrisville College this past June. Dylan Fletcher, a student at Maple Hill High School was joined by Nate Demmer, an incoming Senior at Columbia High. Dylan is a member of Melvin Roads SONS and they were proud to underwrite his tuition.

Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War. Sadly, this conflict has had many unresolved consequences, not the least of which is the lack of closure for many veterans of the era. To address this issue, Melvin Roads Post is inviting Vietnam Veterans to join us on **Veterans Day, November 11th, 2016** and present a display of their remembrances of their experience. Those interested will be given a poster board to place their mementoes, photos, reminiscences of their time there. The displays will be open to the public and the vets will be happy to explain their experience/understanding of the effort. Viet Vets are invited to email Ed Pratt for further info. He can be reached at boxtop318@icloud.com.



In Memoriam

This past summer, not only the Melvin Roads Post, but the wider community lost one of its most selfless volunteers. During the week when we celebrated our Independence, Anthony J. Rossello Sr. was called to his eternal reward. And reward it will be as Tony gave so much of himself first to his family and church, his volunteer fire department and this American Legion Post.

Tony's contribution to the Melvin Roads Post are legendary. For 14 years he was the Post Adjutant (never running to be Commander). For even more years he was a member of the Board of Directors and its President for a decade. Then there was Tony's ever dependable presence at the entrance to our weekly Bingo event. But more than anything else was his cheer-leading aimed at getting more members involved with the Post and its programs. His own example spoke volumes to what he hoped for in others. A tribute to his memory would be for each of us to get more involved in Legion activities!

All of us feel a solemn void about the Post. Tony is no longer among us. But all of us take consolation in knowing he is enjoying Post Everlasting.

Chaplain's Corner

Let Us Pray:

Loving God, you are the source of all that is good, all that is right, all that is holy. As we acknowledge the changing seasons and welcome the beauty of the fall weather, You encourage us to step aside from our busyness to contemplate the falling leaves, the magnificent colors of the trees and foliage, the crisp feel that begins to touch our senses. Such simple things cause us to stand in awe and realize this magnificence is authored by Your infinite Wisdom and Your Loving Hand.

So we pray that You give us a renewed spirit that encourages us to step aside more often and appreciate the simple, yet marvelous miracles that life and love and holiness offer us each day. Amen.

Chaplain Ed Pratt

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 let us know:*

Vincent Catalfamo
George Corbari
Scott J. Collins
Nick Monuteaux
Joshua Stickle
Mark Becker
Dan Yates, Jr.

Michael Burdette
Kyle Anderson
Spencer Boyd
Michael Sciarino
Alicia Howard
Danielle Richardson
Robert Kleamoviich
Caroline Cleveland
Glen Roberson

May They Rest In Peace
Paul K. Albertine
George A. Shuhart Jr.
Donald Stuart Macintyre
Anthony J. Rossello Sr.
Henry C. Finn
Al Goodwin

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Clinton Heights
Rensselaer, New York 12144

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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, Fri, 11:00am to 3:00pm
and we now have Bar Fare Wed-Fri 5-8pm!*

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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.*
- And speaking of **Bingo**, we are pleased to report that our efforts have been paying off. For the months of July through mid-August, we have had ___ players, gross receipts of \$ ____, Post bills paid amounting to \$ _____.
- 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.

- **Dues notices for the 2017 Legion** year have been mailed to all members. Dues collected this year is \$45. This is strictly due to an increase by National. *Our local post only receives \$5.00 of the total collected!* This is a minimal amount but we need to use it to offset just the cost of processing membership dues for those who are Post paid and Life Members. We urge everyone to pay their dues and keep Melvin Roads one of the most active Posts in the region.
- **The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall**, a 3/5th scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC will be on display in Albany's Washington Park, from September 15th through September 19th, 24 hours a day. Beginning at 11:00am

on September 15th the names of all the fallen will be read continuously until 6:00am on the 19th. On this 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, all should make a concerted effort to visit this Memorial.



**POW/MIA
Recognition Day
September 16th**



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