

Melvin Roads Post 1231

Post 1231 Newsletter September/October 2015



Post Commander Bev Baker

Upcoming Events:

September 11th
Patriot Day

September 19th
POW Remembrance

September 26th Post 75th
Anniversary Celebration

October 16th
Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner

October 17th,
Riders' Memorial Ride

October 18th SONS
Pancake Breakfast

November 17th Riders'
Annual Comedy Show

Looking to Give Back?

Support your American Legion Melvin Roads Post 1231

Support/Volunteer



Auxiliary
President
Lori McFarland

Post Functions

+ *St. Patrick's Day Dinner*

+ *Members Christmas Party*

Bingo

+ *once a month*

Fundraisers

+ *Fish Fry Fridays*

+ *Pancake Breakfast*



SONS'
Commander
Bill Baker

We can't do it without you!



Riders' President Steve Shannon

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75th Anniversary Celebration of Melvin Roads Post

On Saturday, September 26th, the Melvin Roads Post Family will formally acknowledge its 75th Anniversary! On May 23rd, 1940, this Post was designated a permanently chartered American Legion unit. And it has been going strong ever since!

The day's program begins at 12Noon with a picnic atmosphere: hot dogs and hamburgers from the grill, chips, soda, beer along with games, prizes and 50/50's during the afternoon. And there will be a dunk tank! At 6pm a Chicken dinner will be served to all. There will be a DJ from 1 to 5pm and entertainment will be offered in the lounge that evening.

All activities will take place on the Post grounds.

The cost per person will be \$25/member, \$30/non-member payable in the Post lounge until September 20th. Those planning to attend are asked to register at this email address created for the event: melvinroads75th@yahoo.com. You may also register simply by calling the Post at 462-7006.

On May 23rd, 1940, Adjutant Ernest Heyman presented the charter to our first Commander, Benjamin Pearsall, 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 was signed in 1918. Our post is named in honor of this World War I hero.

**POW/MIA
Recognition Day
September 19th**

Ladies Auxiliary
President Lori McFarland offers this update: We've all had a wonderful summer and look forward to a busy fall calendar! Our **first meeting** will be Tuesday September 1st at 7:00 pm; please come and see our newly renovated Auxiliary meeting room! Dues are due so please get your dues in. I want to thank everyone who has volunteered their time in the past; it is much appreciated by all.

Our Melvin Roads Post will be celebrating its **75th Birthday** at 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*



picnic on Saturday Sept. 26, 2015, and we look forward to a good turnout from the Auxiliary.

Our Melvin Roads Auxiliary Unit had **100 % membership** this year; THANK YOU all who sent in your dues early.

The County Auxiliary will be holding a **Spaghetti Dinner** on Friday October 16, 2015. It will be a fund raiser for Pat Hennessy who will be going in as 2nd Department Vice President. We're going to need volunteer's to help with dinner, so please watch for details.

SONS Squadron 1231 members attended New York State's 41st annual Detachment convention in Buffalo. At the convention Joseph L. SantaC-roce Jr was elected as our new Detachment Commander. Also at the Convention the New York State Press Association awarded our own Kevin Harrington two awards: 1st place for the Melvin Roads Post Website and 2nd place for the Melvin Roads Son's Squadron website. Post Commander Beverly Baker and myself, Squadron Commander Bill Baker were privileged to have been asked to participate in the awards ceremony.

Coming up in October the Sons will be holding their annual fall **Pancake Breakfast and photos with Santa** is scheduled for December. I am looking into having the United States Marine Corp Toys for Tots place a donation box at the post for this year's holiday season so please keep an eye out for this.

The Sons will also be looking for **donations of new and cleaned-slightly used coats** that will be donated to area veterans and their families who may be homeless or just not in a position financially to have a warm coat during the colder months.

We desperately need members from all of the legion family entities to step up to the plate and assist with our programs. Our biggest need right now is **BINGO workers**. BINGO pays a significant number of bills that keep our doors open. We are asking for volunteers one Wednesday a month to work from 6pm – 10pm. Please contact either Paul Rossello or Bob Doherty by leaving a message at the post 462-7006 or send an email stating which Wednesday you can help.

**2015 Patriot Day
Ceremonies Set**

Melvin Roads Post 1231 will once again host the National Day of Service and Remembrance—Patriot Day—Ceremony at the Post on Friday, September 11th, 2015 at 12 Noon. The wider community is invited to join with our veterans, distinguished guests, dignitaries, firefighters and law enforcement honoring the memory of those lives lost September 11, 2001.

The presentations of the day's speakers will remind us of all 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 firefighters and emergency personnel who made the supreme sacrifice 14 years ago. 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. Members of the Melvin Roads family are encouraged to attend and bring along family and friends.

Chaplain's Corner

Dear Friends, you couldn't help smiling recently watching the antics of a young boy named Carlos who unwittingly stole the show of Pope Francis at a recent audience. Carlos wandered up onto the platform where the Pope was speaking and hugged the Pope. His Holiness, patted the child on the head and kept speaking to the 150,000 in attendance. It reminds me of the scripture, "Unless you ... become like little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Peace always. *Brother Robert-Francis Matthews, FSD*

Boys' State Delegates Report Back

"Caring for veterans after they come home!" That was one of the issues raised by the members of Boys' State 2015 as they gathered to discuss issues of importance, learning the ins and outs of governing," so said Stephen Reilly, one of two

out that "All the guys were broken down into 10 counties [or platoons, as the marines called them] of 100 delegates. There was a counselor for each county, one for each of the three cities in each county, and a junior counselor for the entire county; the junior counselors were all recent



most interesting explaining how the marine band works. "Team effort, and the value of knowing we were 'all in this together'", was something that the Marines instilled in the delegates, so reported Stephen Reilly.

Both young men were more than appreciative of the experience, and as a token of their gratitude, presented Melvin Roads Post with a new American flag and POW flag. And they look forward to coming to a Post meeting in the fall to personally thank the membership for sponsoring them at Boys' State 2015. We look forward to that!

PHOTO: COMMANDER BAKER WITH STEPHEN AND DAVID BEFORE LEAVING FOR BOYS' STATE 2015

delegates sponsored by Melvin Roads Post. David Sills, the other delegate of MR, said he was impressed by the thoughts presented by the many speakers from various roles of government in New York State. He said he gained a much better view of how government actually works.

Stephen and David met with us shortly after their trip to Boys' State to share their initial reactions of the experience. "No cell phones, no news [they knew nothing of the Dannemora crisis], just marching and drilling in the rain from one event to another!" David said he felt at times like they were living in a world of 200 years ago! But that's one of the benefits of Boys' State. Quality time without distractions kept the 1,100 young men focused on their mission. David pointed

Boys' State alumni themselves. Each county had a Sergeant from the Marines who guided them through PT and the daily drilling."

Asked what they have taken away from this experience, Stephen, who plans to apply for the Naval Academy, felt that discipline and integrity were among the qualities that impressed him the most. David, who is traveling to Germany this summer, felt that the ability to adapt, to have an open mind were values he felt made an impression on him.

And how about the marines! "Lots of push-ups... in the rain! It didn't matter," reported David. But he also was very impressed with a Staff Sgt. Kyne. As a member of the Marine Corps Band, he was present to assist the Boys' State marching band. David had brought his clarinet to play in the Boys' State Band and said that Staff Sgt. Kyne was very informative and

Update on Service Members from our Melvin Roads Post

Melvin Roads member **Keenan Krenzer** joined the US Navy this past November completing basic training at Great Lakes. Today, Keenan continues his service as a member of the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, Charleston, South Carolina. Petty Officer 3d Class Krenzer just completed Nuclear A School and is an Electricians Mate.

Melvin Roads member **Dan Yates Jr** is a 19k armor crewman stationed at Fort Irwin, California with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, per his proud dad, Past Commander Dan Yates.

Our best wishes go out to these service men as we thank them for their service.

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
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 Andres
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:

William Whyland
May 29, 2015
Richard A. Dacey
June 23, 2015
Jack Stanton Utter
July 1, 2015
Wray E. Tibbetts, Sr
July 6, 2015
Howard Adams Jr
August 16, 2015
Terrence (Terry) Reilly
August 16, 2015
Bertha Hannet

200 Columbia Turnpike
Clinton Heights
Rensselaer, New York 12144

Phone: 518-462-7006
Fax: 518-462-5250

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

**2015 marks the 50th Anniversary
of the beginning of the
Vietnam War**

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

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

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Post News Notes.....

- **Wednesday is Bingo Night** at Melvin Roads. *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.*
- The **Town of East Greenbush** has prepared a large display found in Town Hall which recognizes all town residents who are veterans. You are invited to speak to Jessica Lansing, Director of Community & Recreational Services to have your name added; she may be reached at 477-4194.
- The Riders' remind their members and friends that two big events are coming this fall: on October 17th a **Ride in memory of Richard Fonda** is scheduled; and on November 17th, the **annual Comedy night** is on the books! Mark your calendars now!
- Our **Melvin Roads on-line events calendar** is available two ways: on our website at www.melvinroads1231.org, and on Google Calendar either on computer or android devices. Take note that you can add the Melvin Roads calendar to your google calendar so you can keep updated on events at Melvin Roads Post. Our thanks to web master SON Kevin Harrington for overseeing the Post and SONS websites.



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