

# Melvin Roads American Legion

## Post 1231 Newsletter

### September/October 2011

#### Upcoming Events:

- Labor Day  
September 5th  
Lounge Closed  
No Bingo
- Patriot Day, 1:00pm  
September 11th
- Murder Mystery Theatre/Spaghetti Diner  
September 24th, 6PM
- 2011 Capital Region  
Stand Down  
October 1st
- "Sock Hop"  
October 1st, 7PM
- Pancake Breakfast  
October 16th, 8-12AM
- Spaghetti Dinner  
October 21st
- Comedy Night  
November 5th, 8PM
- Veterans Day  
November 11th

#### A Word From the Commander...

Hello Legionaries:

I'm Dan Yates the new Commander for Melvin Roads. First, let me say that it is an honor and privilege to be elected Commander by the members.

I want to preface my remarks with a very big "Thank You" to Bob Doherty for his two years of great service to the Melvin Roads Post as Commander and helping us get on the right track toward accomplishing our ultimate goal of serving the veteran community and our members.

We have several certified veterans service officers including myself to help you wade through the murky red tape that is the VA. All vets have benefits but most have no idea they are entitled to such benefits which range from property tax exemptions, education for

combat veterans from Vietnam to the present Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, just to name a few.

An important upcoming event is Patriot Day September 11th. We will be having a remembrance ceremony at 1:00pm (see article below). We have had a fairly good turnout in the past but this year being a weekend we would like to have an even larger showing. I urge all members and their families to gather with us as we offer our respects to the men and women that lost their lives on that terrible day ten years ago.

The monthly meeting for the Post is the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Please make an effort to attend. We want everyone's voice heard while we make decisions for the good of the Post. Bring a friend, a fellow veteran so



**Commander Dan Yates**

we can continue as the largest post in Rensselaer County. Thank you again for this opportunity; I wish every one a safe and happy year.

*Dan Yates*

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#### Tenth Anniversary of September 11th at Melvin Roads

Melvin Roads Post 1231 American Legion will host a National Day of Service and Remembrance—Patriot Day—Ceremony on Sunday, September 11th at 1:00pm on the Post grounds. As has been the tradition these past ten years, the community is invited to join with our veterans, distinguished guests, fire fighters and law enforcement honoring the memories of the lives lost September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. In preparation for this event, Post Commander Dan

Yates remarked, "Along with our invited dignitaries, this September 11<sup>th</sup> will allow myself and all the opportunity to recommit our fellow Americans to the qualities that have made us a strong nation even in the face of adversity."

Among the presentations of the day's speakers will be the reading of Governor Cuomo's Proclamation for this anniversary. Also the Clinton Heights Fire Department will be present to hold the solemn

tolling of the bell in remembrance of the fire fighters and emergency personnel who gave their all ten 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. Melvin Roads Post is located at 200 Columbia Turnpike across from the Hampton Avenue entrance to the Manor.



## Ladies Auxiliary

Ladies Auxiliary President, Linda Doherty reminds members that ***the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 7th, 2011 at 7PM.*** The October meeting will be on Tuesday, October 4th, again, at 7PM.

The Auxiliary continues to support our active military troops and MWR Facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan. Donations

to be sent to the troops can be dropped off at the Post lounge. Greatly appreciated are toiletries (such as moisturizing soap, chap sticks, hand and body lotion, tooth brushes, tooth paste, disposable razors) individually wrapped hard candy, powdered drink mix (singles that go in a water bottle), puzzle books with pens. Always appreciated are letters, cards and messages of support. Any monetary donations should be noted "troop fund." Please attend our meetings and help plan for the year.

## Legion Riders News

The Riders are hosting two upcoming events. A Murder Mystery Theatre put on by the Spotlight Players is set for September 24th at the Post. At 6PM a spaghetti dinner will be served with the show beginning at 7:30pm. Cost is \$20.00.

Also, plans are underway for the second annual comedy night, November 5th. This year there will be a new host and new comedians. Watch for further details in the next newsletter.



## SAL ready for another year of programming

Commander Kevin DeRusso reminds the SONS that 2012 **membership cards** are in; all are requested to stop in at the September 12th meeting to pick them up or send \$18.50 to Bill Baker, 15 Breigle Ln, West Sand Lake, 12196, or leave it in an envelope for Bill at the Post. The first big event is **Patriot**

**Day**; let us not forget and always remember the sacrifices made by this country and its members. At the Binghamton Convention Treasurer **Tom Thibault** was elected State Historian. **Tommy Thibeaut** has been appointed State Commander's Aide and **Kevin DeRusso** to a 2nd term as State Ass't Sgt-at-Arms making three

Melvin Roads and Rensselaer County SONS State office holders. The SONS are sponsoring an "**Old Fashion 50's Sock Hop**" October 1st at the Post beginning at 7PM. \$5.00 Cover. Also, the **Sunday Pancake Breakfast** is October 16th and Friday night **Spaghetti Dinner**, October 21st. Mark your calendar now!



## Boys' State 2011 Program well received

"I'll be old enough to vote in November 2012 and because of Boys' State I am very interested in the federal electoral process." So says John Stanley who along with Alex Lynch represented Melvin Roads at Boys' State this past June. Both John and Alex begin their Senior Year at Columbia High School this month. Melvin Roads Post sends two delegates to the American Legion NYS Boys' State each June.

"While I learned a great deal about how government works, I was also made aware of abuses in the electoral process," cites Alex who was upset that his

vote—along with other delegates—to abstain from voting for a particular candidate were none-the-less-counted in favor of that candidate. "But it was cool how everybody worked together even though they were representing different counties." Asked what they take with them as they assume the role of American citizenship, both John and Alex agree that they are much more informed and aware of what goes into a candidate's run for an elected office. Both would recommend the program to other prospective Juniors.

John and Alex have grandfa-

thers who were veterans. Alex's was a member of the American Legion in Utica. John noted his was a WWII pilot. They each had a different take on the presence of the Marines who assist the Legionnaires in coordinating the program at Morrisville. "I really liked the Marine I was assigned to; he was a great role model," states John. Alex said that he got along "pretty good" [with his Marine] but felt the Legionnaires should be more in charge. Alex' drill team received an outstanding rating among the various counties. Alex and John will appear at a fall Post meeting.

***Our Banquet Hall has several open dates and is an ideal location for family, business or community gatherings. Call our hostess Ginny Brockley and learn more. Ginny can be reached at 527-4278.***

## Melvin Roads Legion Baseball Ends Successful Year

The Melvin Roads American Legion Baseball team completed a very successful 2011 season. The team compiled an overall record of 24 wins and 11 losses. This group of fine young men were led by Coaches Marc Peluso, Matt Murphy, and Curtis Nobles. These coaches all played and coached on previous Melvin Roads Championship teams. The character of this team fed off the determination and desire of the coaching staff. The players never quit as evidenced by their several come from behind victories. The players meshed into a very cohesive unit showing respect on and off the baseball field.

Significant highlights for the season included a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the prestigious Blue and Gold Tournament. The team compiled a 5-2 tournament record falling in the championship game to

Gibbsboro, New Jersey 11-6. Another second place finish in the Saratoga Coopers Cave Tournament with a 6-2 record left Melvin Roads still searching for a tournament championship. Lastly, the team participated in the New York State District 3 Tournament in late July. Once again, the team fell just short of a tournament championship by losing the championship game to Kingston 10-8.

This year's team was led by Christian Brown with a .438 batting average. Christian played 2 seasons with Melvin Roads and will now take his baseball skills to Ithaca College. The team's primary catcher, Matt Kasper, hit .358 and was a defensive stalwart behind the plate.

The future is very bright for the Melvin Roads baseball team as they prepare for 2012. Ten players return led

by Rookie of the Year, A.J. Maney who compiled a .396 batting average and a 6-0 pitching record. The team will also welcome back fleet footed center fielder John Stanley .353 batting average and multi-talented Jonas Godell who compiled a .347 batting average and a stellar 3-0 pitching record. First baseman Ian Bennett will be looked upon to continue his strong hitting and steady first base performance. The defense will rely on sure handed Zeb Gaston and Greg Ruddy. Matt Raymond and Christian Maldonado will anchor a very talented pitching staff.

The team thanks Melvin Roads for their continued support of the baseball program as they look forward to greater accomplishments in 2012.



Melvin Roads Post American Legion Baseball Team is welcomed on Opening Day to Legion Field by Albany Mayor Gerald D. Jennings.

*Congratulations to  
Royce David Duda  
Boy Scout Troop 41  
Who Advanced to  
The Eagle Scout  
Court of Honor  
July 15, 2011*

Congratulations to **Edward R. Lupian, Jr.**  
Of Gerald O'Neil Post for being named  
**New York State Legionnaire of the Year!**

## Those who serve... And served...

In each bi-monthly newsletter we are proud to publish the names of those 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 via email to [melvin-roads@nycap.rr.com](mailto:melvin-roads@nycap.rr.com). Robert Brockley, Vincent Catalfamo, George Corbari, Joshua Getz, George Lovely III, Patricia Bor-

deau, Alicia Howard, Chris Whalen, Scott J. Collins, Glenn Robinson, Danielle Richardson, Dawn Denton, John Rossello, Caroline Cleveland, Jason Sanabria, Josh Spath, Nicholas Monuteaux, Robert Kleamovich III, Jim Rosencrans, John Clements, Glen Stagnitta, Jason Nopper, Brittaney Hellwig, Fredy Tellocastillo, Tyson Quink, Tera Quink, Aaron Bentley.

### May They Rest In Peace...

*Peter D. Menetti  
Kenneth Van De Wal  
James L. Mitchell  
Joseph T. Lynskey, Jr.  
George A. Gaspard  
Edward P. O'Connor  
Calvin G. Foster  
Randy R. Brogden  
Ronald James Davis*



**POW/MIA We Will  
Never Forget**



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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!  
[www.melvinroads1231.org](http://www.melvinroads1231.org)**



## Melvin Roads Post 1231 Newsletter September/October 2011

### News Notes....

- A **Murder Mystery (Spaghetti) Dinner Theatre** is scheduled for September 24th beginning at 6PM Price is \$20.00 All are welcome. Sponsored by the Riders
- The SONS will be holding an **"Old Fashion '50's Sock Hop"** on Saturday, October 1st in the Post Hall. Time is 7-11PM with a cover charge of \$5.00. Drafts will be \$.50 and Hot dogs, \$1.00. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.
- The Riders are sponsoring their **2nd Annual Comedy Show** at the Post, November 5th beginning at 8:00pm. New host, new comedians. More details to follow.
- **Post Membership Dues Notices** have been sent to all active members by National. Melvin Roads Post Members are encouraged to return their notice to this Post with their annual dues of \$32.00.
- All members are requested to send their **email address** to us (see email address above) so that this newsletter may be mailed via the Internet (as many will receive this issue). This will save on postage and besides, the internet version is in color!
- Melvin Roads begins this new 2011-2012 year with 419 active members. If you are in arrears, please send your dues promptly so our records can be adjusted accordingly.
- During the summer months on Friday evenings we've been having a lite fare served from our kitchen to lounge patrons. We'll be doing the same in October! Drop by and join us!
- **Bob Doherty, Bingo Chair**, reports that Bingo has greatly improved the last several weeks, having realized over \$1,000 each of those weeks. Anyone who can spare a few hours on Monday nites is requested to show up and lend

a hand. The tasks are not hard! Bingo supports our Legion Baseball (see page 3) as well as any number of post bills. Thanks!

From Chaplain Brother Robert:  
*Heavenly Father, One Grace we beg of you that a day does not pass that we do not forget the price that is being paid each day for the freedom we take for granted, we ask you to bless those who mourn.*



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