



SPOOKY



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

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PUBLICATION: NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2022

***12 9-4PM VETS PROBONO AT ALBANY LAW**

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| NOV 1 | 7 PM | TCCVEV's General Meeting, at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520 |
| 3 | 10:30 am | Albany County's Distinguish Vets Ceremony at Crossgates Mall for Mike Breslin-Jim Haas-Leo Falconio |
| 5 | 2 PM | Westerloo's First Baptist Church - "Hometown Heroes" Banner Closing Ceremony |
| 7 | 8:30 am | Albany County's HAV at Blanchard - Currey Am Leg Post 1040 |
| 7 | 10:30 am | Beltrone's Vets Day Luncheon |
| 7 | 2:30 PM | Rotterdam Town Hall's Vets Day's Laying of the Wreaths |
| 8 | | ELECTION DAY.....please, go out & vote....many veterans died for that freedom |
| 8 | 10:30 am | Zaloga American Legionnaires will have a Vets Day Ceremony at the Attria (has a new name) |
| 9 | 7 PM | Capt. Wm. Dale O'Brien USMC Det 241's meeting, at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520 |
| 10 | | USMC's Birthday |
| 10 | | Key's for Progress Program, vehicles given to 3 needy Veterans - Broadway, Albany |
| 11 | 9:30 am | Lady of Peace - Laying a Wreath by TCCVEV & GSM |
| 11 | 11:11 am | Albany's Veterans Day Parade, Grand Marshal is fellow TCCVEV member - Navy VN Veteran, John LaFalce |
| 11 | After the... | Laying a Wreath by TCCVEV & GSM in Lafayette Park at Albany County Vietnam Veterans' Memorial |
| 11 | ...Parade | Laying a Wreath by GSM & TCCVEV, in Lafayette Park at the Gold Star Family Memorial |
| 11 | 1:30 PM | Gold Star Mothers' Vets Day Luncheon, at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520 |
| 11 | 2:30 PM | Rotterdam Town Hall's Vets Day's Laying of the Wreaths |
| *11 | 5-7 PM | FREE Spaghetti Dinner at Robert L. Weininger VFW Post 8692 (Colonie, off Route 155) |
| 13 | 10 AM | FREE Vets Breakfast at Schenectady's Sons of Italy Lodge 321 (2984 Hamburg St) |
| 14 | 8:30 am | Rensselaer County's HADV @ Troy's LOB (DMV Bldg) |
| 15 | 10:30 am | TCCVEV's Board Meeting will be held at Catherine St.'s Office |
| 24 | | Happy Thanksgiving.....enjoy the gatherings with loved ones. God Bless America! |
| 29 & 30 | 2 Days | VET-CON at Colonie's Desmond |
| DEC 5 | 8:30 am | Albany County's HAV at Zaloga's Am Leg Post 1520 |
| 6 | 7 PM | TCCVEV's General Meeting, at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520 |
| 7 | 9 AM | Pearl Harbor Ceremony, at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520 with a Navy Breakfast |
| 10 | 1 PM | Schenectady County's HAV at St. Luke's Church on Union Street |
| 12 | 8:30 am | Rensselaer County's HADV @ Troy's LOB (DMV Bldg) |
| 20 | 10:30 am | TCCVEV's Board Meeting will be held at Catherine St.'s Office |
| 25 | | Merry Blessed Christmas.....Peace on Earth and all good will to mankind |
| 31 | | New Year's Eve.....Drive safely. If, drinking - have a "SOBER" Designated Driver or call a Taxi |

Chaplain's Column

by

Rev. Charlene Robbins GSM

In the past 247 years, men and women from all walks of life have proudly worn the uniform of America's military. They served with commitment, honor and courage; running toward dangers of the battlefield rather than away. They stand for the Flag and kneel for the Cross (God). They have shown a resilience and a relentlessness in the face of challenges unimagined by those of us on the home front. Let's pause....in gratitude for their actions preserving and protecting America's ideals of *freedom*, liberty and justice. Remember, it's because of America's Military that there is a United States of America!

As we approach Veterans Day, take the time to thank a veteran, offer a kindness to them, and be sure to support those in leadership roles, who support veterans -- of ALL eras. Let's have their backs, as they have watched ours. God bless America's military.

"Finally, brothers and sister, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace, will be with you".....2 Corinthians 13:11

MESSAGE from the President, Joe Pollicino: A beautiful letter was received from one of our Scholarship Recipients. We didn't copy & paste her letter due to protecting her name, Email and photo. So, Gene retyped her letter, as follows:

"TRI-COUNTY VIETNAM ERA VETERANS AND GOLD STAR MOTHERS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was created by the "Tri-County Council of Vietnam Era Veterans and Gold Star Mothers. To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must complete the FAFSA.

2022-2023 RECIPIENT.....(NO Last Name or Email)

KAISHA & her.....Program: Certificate in Chemical Dependency Counseling

ASPIRATIONS

I was always very scared of college. Where my friends tried their hands at it, not even finishing their first semesters and racking up the student loans in the process. So I threw myself into my daughter. That is until she turned 21 yrs old, moved out and convince me that she was fine and that I could now chase my own dreams.

That was scary. I had a long conversation with myself and, with the encouragement of my daughter, significant other, and colleagues at work, I marched into the school and signed up.

What I did find was professors that understood me. They did not care that I was older or not as intelligent or that I hadn't been in school since 2000. They cared that I was trying to do my best participating in class and being truthful when I did not understand something. I found that this was better than high school.

My goal as a SUNY Schenectady student is to do my absolute best! To maintain my 3.43 GPA or higher and graduate with my Associates Degree. I was the first in my family to graduate from high school and I've made up my mind to be the first to graduate from college. I would like to be a Chemical Dependency Counselor and finally be able to help people like the ones that I've grown up around because I understand that there's more to their situation than just drug and alcohol use, and I would like to be a part of their recovery. Kaisha.

ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS I my last semester, the biggest honor/shock that I have received was making the Deans List!

GRATITUDE

I work at Ellis Emergency Department as a Patient Access Representative. It's rewarding and fast paced. I love my coworkers and meeting new people. Having to deal with people who have mental and emotional illnesses and people with drug use are further preparing me for my career but it also stunts my study time. Being awarded a scholarship will allow me to work part time for the remainder of the time that I am at SUNY Schenectady. Being able to study without worrying about my finances would help me keep my GPA up and help me in another step toward my goal of being a Chemical Dependency Counselor.

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Tri-County Vietnam Era Veterans and Gold Star Mothers Scholarship. Thank you for your generosity, which has allowed me to work less and focus more on my studies as I complete my education at SUNY Schenectady. I am very thankful for receiving your thoughtful gift. Because of your scholarship, I feel less anxious about going into a new term, knowing that I do Not have to work as many hours as I did last semester.

Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift.

ONE MORE THING...

Kaisha is a first-generation college student, single mother, and child of a veteran. She shared, "Addiction has affected my life in many ways. Your amazing gift will help me realize a life long dream."

Comment for Kaisha: Now this is an example of what people try to accomplish in life when they get a break, assistance from family or in this case - OUR Scholarship. All that's needed, is a chance! Good Luck, Kaisha. Set your sights.....HIGH!

Pres. Pollicino's Column: Thanks to TCCVEV members who volunteer for Labor Dept.'s "Hot Dog" Luncheon, we received a \$4,000 check. Also, to Tommy Marinello & Duncan Stewart for correcting the slates at Lafayette Park's Flag pole base-grounds. Nice being present for the Gold Star Mothers' Exhibit Event in Albany Int'l Airport, on 9/25. Election Day is November 8th, please vote - it's your right and a very important freedom. See you all at the Veterans Day Parade, we'll support of member, Grand Marshal John LaFalce. Also, laying of wreaths, prior to & after the parade (SEE: info in DATES). To all our members, families and friends - Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Blessed Christmas. Let's hope that 2023 is a safer and healthier year for ALL of us. God Bless.

Please Remember Me FOUNDATION is inviting anyone who would like to carry one of our new American made Flags in Albany's Vets Day Parade. We meet at the Central Ave. & Partridge St.'s corner parking lot (Opp. Burger King & Post Ofc.) AT 10 am - "First come, First serve". We'll march in the First Division, behind the Gold Star Mothers & Family. Any Gold Star Family Member, Military, Political Leaders are welcomed. We honor 1,900, men & women from the Capital Region, since World War One - who made the supreme sacrifice for our freedom.

Wreaths Across America 2022: Bill Schaaf, Ray Sestak & the rest of the Patriot-Guard Riders, THANK YOU for the past orders. Like in 2021, you order 2 and will receive 3 by using the "NY0057" code. These few steps to do but mainly, to get the PDF file - GO to Bill's Email (pgrnysc@gmail.com) FOR ORDERING....INTERNET Orders: For those who wish to order a wreath on-line please use the following procedures - quick and easy....Start at: wreathsacrossamerica.org AND you'll see the Following: SPONSOR WREATHS.....Local Sponsorship Group....Wreath Sponsorship Group page....order wreaths, etc. MAIL IN Form: You'll see on the order forms that the appropriate cemetery designation for G. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery is "NYGSNS" but just as important-the Sponsoring Group ID# is "NY0057" for the Patriot Guard riders. Just complete the form & mail in check with your order & our sponsorship code will be credited with matching wreaths.

Capital Region: ALBANY County's "Honor-A-Vet" Application: call (518) 447-7710 or mail: Albany Cty Veterans Svc. Bureau, 162 Washington Ave (7th Fl), Albany, NY 12210. You may CK the following internet LINK for ceremony information and applications, at: <http://www.albanycounty.com/Government/Departments/VeteransServicesBureau/ProgramsandServices/HonoraVeteran.aspx>

RENSSELAER County's "Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran" Application: call Lonnie (518) 270-2760 (Rensselaer County Vets Affairs' Committee Sec'ty) or email Lonnie at: LWarrington@rensko.com. View the following 2 internet Links for info:

1) http://www.rensco.com/vet_hav.asp and 2) <http://www.rensselaercounty.org/Honor%20A%20Veteran%20Ceremony.htm>

SARATOGA County's monthly HAV Ceremony is held on the 3rd Tuesday at 40 McMaster St., Ballston Spa - in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room = Contact Frank McClement, County Veterans Director for any INFO pertaining to future steps @ (518) 884-4115 or email = veterans@saratogacountyny.com **SCHENECTADY** For INFO; contact County Veterans Director, Bill Frank at (518) 377-2423 or email Bill at: William.Frank@schenectadycounty.com NOTE: Every veteran is eligible to have this ceremony and family members may apply for the veteran at any of the 4 CAPITAL REGION Counties - call for any info, applications or general news.

Important Notice: Many returning GI's are seeking a connection with local organizations and if, YOU have the opportunity to assist ANYONE - please, do so. Here's some (518) Capital District organization's INFO:

- 1) AMERICAN LEGION Posts: a) #1520 Zaloga = 459-1520; b) #1040 Blanchard-Currey (Delmar) = 439-9819;
- c) Melvin Roads #1231 (Rensselaer) = 462-7006; d) Bucci-McTague #1530 = 463-1475 & e) N Albany #1610 = 465-4800
- 3) AMVETS (American Veterans) - Post 35 in Rotterdam = contact = Doug Van Iderstynne = 356-1474
- 6) TCCVEV (Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans) - see: SPOOKY's Front page for ALL the information
- 7) USMC Detachments: a) Albany (Capt. O'Brien) = 237-1712; b) Schenectady (Electric City) = 355-2746 c) Troy 728-6494
- 8) VFW Area Posts: a) #6776 Sheehy-Palmer = 465-9349; b) #7062 Boyd Hilton (Altamont) = 861-8323; c) #8444 Wm. F. Wigand = 465-6992; and d) #8692 Robert L. Weininger (Colonie) = 456-7794.

Editor's Opinion: I attend many veteran events & one thing that I am truly glad to see is "Old Glory", while we say the "Pledge of Allegiance". Sometimes we take for granted the everyday sites without realizing that many men and women, made the ultimate sacrifice for us ALL. Former Congressman, Michael McNulty uses a statement that I've used with his permission: "Everyday when I awake, I'm thankful for two things: 1st, Thank God for my life and 2nd, the Veteran for my way of life". It's too bad that today's children aren't educated on the History & Military Events that shaped the world. The past 10 years, I've seen & done many things that realize that our youth embrace both issues. Both the C.B.A. Cadets and Albany HS - Henry Johnson JROTC's Cadets. These future leaders of tomorrow have the insight to make our country better. They show us veterans respect and they honor our background. It's great to view their actions. Major David Erickson and the CBA faculty, do a great job. Just watch them at Events and the "Honor-A-Veteran" Ceremonies. Also, they experienced "Boys State".



Election Day - 11/8 Please VOTE.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING & MERRY CHRISTMAS

John LaFalce, 2023's Albany Veterans Day Grand Marshal (a Navy Vietnam Vet)



TAPS: Since our last "Spooky", we have lost member Chuck Alger; our sympathy and prayers to his family. Also, Peter Goebel, A West Point Grad & Renns. Cty. Vet Svc Dir. - Passed away on September 10th - Rest in Peace.

Membership News:

2022 Dues are past due....re-up or join now....Paid Membership for 2022, stands at 42, with our newest member in Tri-County, James Carter...., "Welcome Home". Thanks to all of you who have sent your dues in. Unfortunately, this is the lowest number paid for this time of year in the 20 years since I've been Membership Chairman. I hate to be negative, but "it is what it is".

Life Membership, stands at a healthy 188 Members & our newest Life Members are: Tracy DuShane, Robert W. Smith and Daniel McCoy....WELCOME to Life Membership in Tri-County. We encourage our members to consider Life Membership, remember, one \$150 payment and you are done with dues....FOREVER!). 2022 Regular **DUES** are \$15, Annually

Note: if, you are not sure if your dues are paid,check your address LABEL on this newsletter. After your name, if your #, starts with a number, less than # 22 - you are **NOT** paid for 2022. (Ex: # 21-1234; the PREFIX # 21, indicates the LAST YEAR (2021), you paid your dues). Also, any "DUES" or "Life Membership" status - please contact JERRY D'Amelia (Membership Chairman), at: gdamel1@nycap.rr.com or CALL him at: (518) 281-3885. I will always be ready to help a brother or sister member.

MEMBERSHIP is opened to Vietnam Era Veterans (1 May 1957 - 7 May 1975). ALSO, anyone who served SINCE, 7 May 1975 or is STILL serving on Active Duty in the US Military. *** OEF & OIF Veterans are Welcomed! ***

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS are **NOT** Required to have Served in the Military

CIRCLE ONE: NEW RENEWAL ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$150

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (Home) _____ (Work) _____ DATE _____

Branch & Period of Service _____

Military Unit Served With _____

MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) _____

Date & Type of Discharge (Include DD214) _____

Referred By _____

COMMENTS _____

Email Address _____

Complete & MAIL the above application; along, with your **DD214**..... (NOT for Associate Members)

AND your \$15 or \$150 check, to: **TCCVEV**, P.O. Box 11100, Albany, NY 12211

NOTE: Any questions or comments; concerning "SPOOKY"? Email: Gene (Editor): Loparco8888@yahoo.com

God Bless Americal

Remember OUR Veteran!

