



# SPOOKY

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

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Publication: MAY - June 2023

May 1 8:30 am	Albany City's HAV Ceremony at Zaloga's Am Leg Post 1520
2 7 pm	TCCVEV's Gen'l Mtg at Zaloga's Am Leg Post 1520
8	V-E Day in 1945 = War ends in Europe
8 8:30 am	Rensselaer Cty's HADV Ceremony at 99 Troy Rd., a New Location (the old Rose & Kiernan Ins. Bldg.)
9 10 am	East Greenbush's HAV Ceremony at East Greenbush Town Hall at 225 Columbia Turnpike
10 7 pm	Capt. Wm. D. O'Brien's USMC Gen'l Mtg at Zaloga's Am Leg Post 1520
14	Mother's Day - take her out. Zaloga Post is having their Annual Breakfast.
15	Armed Forces Day
16 10:30 am	TCCVEV's Board Mtg at Catherine St.'s Bldg
20 8:30 am	TCCVEV members will place flags at Calvary Cemetery's Headstones
23 4-7 pm	Please Remember Me Foundation's Fundraiser at Trustco Bank for Brooks BBS "Drive Thru" Dinner
24 NOON	Gold Star Mothers' Memorial Svc at Labor Dept's Campus Bldg 12
24 6 PM	Colonie Crossings Memorial Service
25 6 pm	Scotia Memorial Parade - Grand Marshall is "Legacy" Larry Zeglen
26 6:30 pm	Rotterdam Memorial Parade
26 7 pm	Memorial Svc at Robert L. Weininger VFW Post 8692 off Route 155
27 TBD	TCCVEV members will place flags at the National Cemetery's Headstones
28 8:30 am	TCCVEV members will place flags at the Our Lady of Angels Cemetery's Headstones
29 9:30 am	Albany's Memorial Parade
29 2:30 pm	Memorial Svc at Rotterdam Town Hall

June 3 5-7 PM	Robert L. Weininger VFW Post 8692's 75 Diamond Anniversary Party
5 8:30 am	Albany City's HAV Ceremony at Zaloga's Am Leg Post 1520
6	D-Day - Normandy Invasion in 1944
6 7 pm	TCCVEV's Gen'l Mtg at Zaloga's Am Leg Post 1520 - LAST meeting until September
9 6 PM	ROTC Awards for the Henry Johnson Battalion at Albany HS
12	Women's Vets Day
12 8:30 am	Rensselaer Cty's HADV Ceremony at 99 Troy Rd., a New Location (the old Rose & Kiernan Ins. Bldg.)
14	FLAG DAY - Fly "Old Glory" & show respect for the "Red, White & Blue"...many died for those colors.
14 7 pm	Capt. Wm. D. O'Brien's USMC Gen'l Mtg at Zaloga's Am Leg Post 1520-LAST Mtg until September
20 10:30 AM	TCCVEV Bd Mtg at CATHERINE ST.

President Joe Pollicino's Column: May is National Military Appreciation Month & POPPY Month. The VFW & American Legion Members will be everywhere (stores & corners) - SUPPORT them by donating for the FREE Poppy. Many wreaths & flags will be displayed at many cemeteries. TCCVEV visit many with members but we'll need assistance to remove the flags. Please volunteer where you can for either assignment. On May 24th, 2 events: 1) NOON for the Gold Star Mothers Memorial Service at Labor Dept.'s Campus Bldg 12 and 2) Colonie Crossings has their 6 PM Event. On May 29th, Albany's Parade starts at 9:30AM at Central Ave & Ontario St.; with Grand Marshall John Sacca leading the way. Also, there's the Scotia (24th - 6 PM) and the Rotterdam (25th - 6:30 PM) Parades - attend or march! Support Please Remember Me FOUNDATION with their Fundraiser on May 23rd, a Brooks BBQ at Trustco Bank's 34 Wolf Rd. location. Drive-Thru ONLY Dinner from 4 to 7 PM..



Colonel "Charlie" Johnson's  
Testimonial Dinner on  
April 27, 2016



Dear God, We thank you for the freedom you have given to us, and for the price that was paid by Christ so that we could live free. We remember today, the cost of it all. The great sacrifice for freedom.

We thank you for the brave men and women who have fought and continue to fight, so courageously for our nation. We ask for your covering and blessing over them and their families. We pray that you would be gracious and encircle them with your peace. We pray for your great favor and goodness to be evident in their lives.

Please be with all those who wear the uniform, who serve our communities and nation, every single day. We ask that you provide your protection, that you would be their guiding force who leads the way and their rear guard who keeps safe from behind. We ask that you would draw them to yourself amidst the dangers they face in a dark World, for you are the Truth, you are the Way, you are the Light.  
(by Debbie McDaniel)

**Capital Region: ALBANY** County's "Honor-A-Vet" Application: Contact Ken Secor, Albany Cty Veterans Svc. Bureau, Director at: (518) 447-7710; Email = [Kenneth.secor@albanycountyny.gov](mailto:Kenneth.secor@albanycountyny.gov) or mail: 100 Heritage Lane, 5th Floor, Albany, NY 12211. You may check the following Albany County 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 (Rensselaer Cty Vets Svc Agency's Specialist) at: (518) 270-2760 or email: [lwarrington@rensco.com](mailto:lwarrington@rensco.com). View the following 2 Rensselaer County internet Links for additional INFO:

1) [http://www.rensco.com/vet\\_hav.asp](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 at (518) 884-4115 or email at: [veterans@saratogacountyny.com](mailto:veterans@saratogacountyny.com)

**SCHENECTADY** County's "HAV" Program for Deceased or Living Veterans, is held Quarterly at St. Luke's Pastoral Center, 1247 State St., Schenectady. For INFO; contact County Veterans Officer, Jesus Santiago at (518) 377-2423 or email Jesus at: [jesus.santiago@schenectadycounty.com](mailto:jesus.santiago@schenectadycounty.com)

**EAST GREENBUSH** The TOWN has continued their "HAV" Program for Deceased or Living Veterans. Scheduled events at 10 am, when advertised. Contact Bobbie Reno, Town Historian at (518) 477-4869.

**NOTE:** Every veteran is eligible to have this ceremony & family members may apply for the veteran at any CAPITAL REGION location.

**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 Idersteyne = 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 Comments:** I attend many veteran events & 2 things that I am truly glad to see is "Old Glory" & saying 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 Cadets from Albany HS - Henry Johnson ROTC and C.B.A. These future leaders of tomorrow have the insight to make our country better. They show us veterans, respect & they honor our background. It's great to view their actions. AHS' Maj. David Erickson & the CBA faculty, do a great job! Just watch the cadets at "Honor-A-Veteran" Ceremonies & Vet events. Also, they go to "Boys State".

Also, how many veterans have traveled to DC via the "Honor Flight" Programs? Well, I made my 1st trip with Patriot Flight's Sean & Jennifer Lyons and staff on Friday, April 21st. What an experience! This weekend, Leatherstocking is headed there. I thought it was just a trip to see many memorials but to my surprise, it was more than that. How the staff honored and cared for us veterans, is amazing. A professional operation, that's for sure. My son, Gene Jr., was my Guardian & yes, he pushed me in the wheelchair, which I really needed - like the other veterans. But most of all, he witnessed the 4 AM "Fanfare", when arrived at Albany's Airport AND at almost midnight, upon our return. A date that will be remembered in our lifetime. For future INFO: [patriotflight.org](http://patriotflight.org) OR [leatherstockinghonorflightny.org](http://leatherstockinghonorflightny.org) (Chair's Greg Furlong or Vet's Coordinator: Liz Reinhart).

**Today's Quote:** It's better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak out and remove all doubt.



**TAPS:** Prayers and sympathy for Life Member, Carlos Figliomeni and his Family. Rest in Peace, FRIEND.

**MEMBERSHIP:** To date: **36** Members have paid for 2023 & Life Membership stands at 185 (A great gift - only one \$150). Any questions on dues or Issues, call Jerry D'Amelia, at: (518) 281-3885 OR email me: [gdameli1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:gdameli1@nycap.rr.com)

**NY's FUN FOR THE FALLEN** has run it's last course, at NY's Capital. Starting the weekend of June 8-11, the runners will make their run's path thru Schenectady, Rexford, Clifton Park, Mechanicville & Stillwater areas and skip Albany's Lafayette Park's Albany County Vietnam Veterans Memorial site; for Schuylerville's Gerald B. H. Solomon National Cemetery's Flagpole by arriving at approximately 3:46 PM, on Sunday, June 11th (4th and final day). LINK: [newyork.usarunforthe fallen.org](http://newyork.usarunforthe fallen.org)  
It was great to watch them run past NY's Capitol, on Eagle Street & head to the park for the ceremony and Mayor Sheehan's, along with others, the "22" push-ups. Those who have experienced this event will have to journey up north. Linda & I, have taken photos of this event, since coming to Albany. Our first site was at the Guilderland Fire House intersection for Clark's, For their son, Todd. Then, hustling to Lafayette Park for our inaugural event. Met many friends and one regular, was a fellow AMVETS, Joe Ballas from the Nassau Post 797, will be missed (passed away April 11th).

**CHINA BEACH** (Sunday, August 13th (Am Polish Cntr) tickets are available via Darlene Stanton (518) 470-7310. THX.

**VFW Post 8692** (Colonie's Robert L. Weininger), is celebrating their 75th Diamond Anniversary, June 3rd. Look for invites. Congratulations to Commander Dennis Spielman, Past-Commander Jim Haas; ALL members and AUXiliary, a job well done!

**Albany's 2023 Memorial Day Parade** is Monday, May 29th & "Kick-Off" is 9:30am with John Sacca as the Grand Marshall.

**HAV Ceremonies** are nicely done by the Veterans Directors and attended by many family members, friends and veterans. Speakers include the US Congress, NYS Senators & Assembly Members, Mayor, County Executive, Elected Officials, Family Members and the Watervliet Arsenal Commandant. One of the positives, is that our local CADETS from the Albany HS Henry Johnson Battalion's jROTC, CBA and/or Troy's LaSalle Institute attend. It's to honor those who served our country proudly and continued in life, after service to lead good lives at home and at work. Whether, in business or as an official in state, city, town or village. This Capital Region displays the support of veterans, on a regular basis. Let's not forget the Patriot Riders, too.

**Please Remember Me FOUNDATION** invites the Community to their Fundraiser Event: Brooks BBQ "Take-Out" ONLY Dinner; at Trustco Bank - 34 Wolf Rd., Albany on TUESDAY, May 23rd from 4 - 7 PM. PRE-Sale tickets may be purchased at <https://bit.ly/PleaseRememberMeBBQ> There'll be a limited number of tickets available for the \$20 MEAL, on that day.

**China Beach** **LZ-30**

For Tickets Call Darlene ~ (518) 470-7310  
Al ~ (518) 466-8771

**To benefit returning Veterans & Veterans of all eras and their families**  
Drawing held Sunday – August 13, 2023 at the Polish American Citizens Club of America  
110 Commerce Avenue, Albany, New York - 12 Noon – 5 PM (Rain or Shine)  
Tickets \$25.00, (kids 6-12) \$13.00, Kids 5 and under free (Includes food and beverages).  
Food Served from 1pm to 4pm  
\$10.00 Per Raffle Ticket – Only 4,000 Tickets Available  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$5,000.00 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$2,500.00 5-3<sup>rd</sup> Prizes \$500.00 ea.

 



**2023 Regular Dues are ONLY \$15 Annually ---- Join or RE-UP NOW! OEF & OIF Vets are Welcomed!**

Membership is opened to Vietnam Era Veterans (1 May 1957 to 7 May 1975)

Also, anyone who served *SINCE*, 7 May 1975 or is still serving on Active Duty in the US Military.

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

**CIRCLE ONE:**      NEW      RENEWAL      ASSOCIATE      **LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$150**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH & PERIOD OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

MILITARY UNIT SERVED WITH \_\_\_\_\_

MOS (military Occupational Specialty) \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Type of Discharge (Include DD214) \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

Remember OUR Veterans      Complete the APP, mail with your **DD214** (not for Associate Mbrs) & your \$15 or \$150 check, to:

TCCVEV, P.O. Box 11100; Albany, NY 12211      "WE few, We Happy few, We Band of Brothers"      God Bless America

Any Questions for the EDITOR, Gene Loparco? Call (518) 265 - 0242 OR Email: [loparco88888@yahoo.com](mailto:loparco88888@yahoo.com)



*Lafayette Park ~ Albany*





**The Please Remember Me Foundation**  
Buys New Flags to Honor Our Fallen from the Capital Region!

**Fundraiser Event:**  
***Brooks BBQ Dinner***

Trustco Bank on Wolf Road  
34 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

*Please Remember Me*



4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**Only \$20 Per Meal!!**



Scan for pre-sale tickets

Pre-sale tickets

<https://bit.ly/PleaseRememberMeBBQ>

There will be a limited number of tickets  
available for purchase the day of.