



# SPOOKY



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

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### PUBLICATION for May & June 2024

|      |    |              |   |
|------|----|--------------|---|
| May  | 5  | 2 pm         | Loyalty Day Ceremony - Weinger VFW Post 8692 - Colonie        |
|      | 5  | 1 - 5 pm     | Hometown Heroes Comm. Day @ Rotterdam Elks @ 2157             |
|      | 6  | 8:30 am      | Albany County Honor-A-Vet at Zaloga Am Leg Post 1520          |
|      | 7  | 7 pm         | TCCVEV's General Mtg at Zaloga Am Leg Post 1520               |
|      | 8  | 7 pm         | Capt. Wm Dale O'Brien's Gen'L Mtg at Zaloga Am Leg Post 1520  |
|      | 12 |              | Mother's Day  |
|      | 13 | 8:30 am      | Honor-A-Deceased-Vet, 99 Troy Rd.'s Cty Ofc Bldg              |
|      | 14 | 7 pm         | Am Legion 1520's General Mtg at Zaloga Am Leg Post 1520       |
|      | 17 | 7 pm         | Post Memorial Ceremony - Weinger VFW Post 8692 - Colonie      |
|      | 18 |              | Armed Forces Day.....Thank You Veteran for our Freedom        |
|      | 18 | 8:30 am      | Placing Flags at Glenmont's Calvary Cemetery                  |
|      | 19 | 8:30 am      | Placing Flags at Albany's Lady of Angels Cemetery             |
|      | 21 | 10:30 am     | TCCVEV's Board Mtg at Catherine St.'s Office                  |
|      | 21 | 4 - 7 pm     | Please Remember Me's Brooks BBQ - Trustco Bank @ Wolf Rd      |
|      | 21 | 6 pm         | Colonie's Memorial Svc - Vets Mem'l Pk @ Crossings of Colonie |
|      | 22 | Noon         | GSM Memorial Day Service @ Labor Dept. (Bldg 9 - Campus)      |
|      | 23 | 6:30 pm      | Rotterdam Mem'l Day Parade = Mohonasen HS to Town Hall        |
|      | 25 | 9 am         | Placing Flags at Saratog's National Cemetery                  |
|      | 27 | 8:30 am      | Placing a wreath at Albany's Lady of Peace Memorial           |
|      | 27 | 9:30 am      | Albany's Memorial Day Parade                                  |
|      | 27 | After Parade | Lafayette Pk. for both VN Mem'l & Gold Star Family Mem'l Svcs |
|      | 27 | Noon - 3 pm  | Open House @ Joseph E. Zaloga Am Legion Post 1520             |
|      | 27 | 10 am        | Watervliet's Mem'l Day Parade                                 |
|      | 27 | 2:30 pm      | Rotterdam Town Hall's Memorial Day Services                   |
|      | 29 | 7 pm CBA's   | "Mother's Review" (Rain Date - next day, Thurs. the 30th)     |
| June | 3  | 8:30 am      | Albany County Honor-A-Vet at Zaloga Am Leg Post 1520          |
|      | 4  | 7 pm         | TCCVEV's General Mtg at Zaloga Am Leg Post 1520               |
|      | 6  |              | D-Day - Albany HS Band invited to be in Normandy, France      |
|      | 7  | 6 pm         | Albany HS's JROTC Awards Ceremony @ AHS                       |
|      | 10 | 8:30 am      | Honor-A-Deceased-Vet, 99 Troy Rd.'s Cty Ofc Bldg              |
|      | 11 | 7 pm         | Am Legion 1520's General Mtg at Zaloga Am Leg Post 1520       |
|      | 12 | 7 pm         | Capt. Wm Dale O'Brien's Gen'L Mtg at Zaloga Am Leg Post 1520  |
|      | 14 |              | Flag Day....FLY "Old Glory" with pride!                       |
|      | 16 |              | Father's Day  |
|      | 18 | 10:30 am     | TCCVEV's Board Mtg at Catherine St.'s Office                  |
|      | 20 |              | Summer  |
|      | 28 | 8:30 am      | Boys State's Bus leaves @ Joseph E Zaloga Am Leg Post 1520    |

FROM Pres. Pollicino: Happy Memorial Day! Congrats to TCCVEV's Sect'y, George LaMora on being selected for 2024 Albany Memorial Day Parade's Grand Marshal; please participate or just attend the parade(s) in the area. Visit a Vet at a cemetery, to show honor, respect & place a flag.

\*\*\*\*\* Please, SUPPORT the "Poppy" Programs of the American Legions & the VFW \*\*\*\*\*

## Chaplain's Prayer by Rev. Charlene "Char" Robbins GSM

Soon we will gather to honor those who have served and died under the flag, we hold so dear. We pray to remember that our flag is a "song of upward looking men and women. It is a garden, where from a nation grew, watered by the pure blood of its heroes".

We pray to remember that our flag is a "home, where free men & women live. It is a battlefield where honor strikes its blow for the cause of God, consuming injustice and withering the hosts of wrong".

We pray to remember that our flag "is a voice that speaks with the eloquence of graves, where lie the Fallen, who died to ensure that the benefits of freedom remain available to all.

We pray as we stand beneath this noble banner, to open our hearts with compassion, to fill our minds with understanding and to give our spirits to the guidance of God, as we honor those who served courageously to preserve the ideals of liberty and justice for all.

Corinthians, 13:13 - Now abide Faith, Hope and Love, these three, but the greatest of these is Love.

**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 Region INFO:

- 1) Am Legion: a) #1520 Zolga (Alb.) = 459-1520, b) #1040 Blanchard-Cuney (Delmar) = 439-9819  
 c) #1231 Melvin Roads (E. Gmbush) = 462-7006, d) #1530 Bucco-McTague (Albany) = 463-1475  
 e) #1610 North Albany = 465-4800 and f) #1256 Colonia Post = 456-7794  
 2) AMVETS = "E J" Knapik Post 35, P.O. Box 4152, Schdy 12304 = Kathy Van Idenstyne = 356-1474  
 3) DAV: a) # 88 (Schenectady = 649 - 7455 and b) # 85 (Troy) = 816-2787  
 4) TCCVEV (Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans) P. O. Box 11100, Albany 12211 = 465-6829  
 5) USMC Dets: a) Capt. O'Brien (Albany) = 237-17123; Schenectady = 355-2746 & Troy = 728-6494  
 6) VFW Post: a) #6776 Sheehy-Palmer (Albany) = 465-9349, b) Boyd-Hilton (Altamont) = 861-8323  
 c) #8444 Wm. F. Wigand (Albany) = 465-6962, d) Robert L. Weininger (Colonie) = 456-7794

Gold Star Mothers just had a successful NY Convention in Auburn, we keep them ALL, in our prayers. Also, remember the Gold Star Wives; any questions - call: Elaine Falzano - (518) 424-3890.

2 Navy VN Vets' 2024 Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshals: 1) George LaMora (Albany), was born in Cohoes & is a 1969 Cohoes HS & a St. Rose 1980 Graduate with a Degree in Social Work. He served our country proudly, as a Navy Operations Specialist 3rd Class (69-73) and had 2 Vietnam Tours: during 1970 and from September 1972 to June 1973, on the Aircraft Carrier, USS Enterprise.

After his Honorable Discharge, he worked for 39+ years at various NY State Agencies; such as, Division for Youth, as a Counselor. Also, Dept. of Social Svcs and Office of Children and Families Services, as a Child Protective Specialist (CPS). In retirement, he volunteered at Albany's Stratton VA Hospital, accumulating approximately 2,600 hours of volunteer service.

Happily married to Laurel (Wilkie), for 48 years (she's a retired Rehab Nurse, with 45+ years at Albany Medical Center. They have 2 sons (Scott (Marlena) & Sean (Alyssa); also, 2 Granddaughters (Amelia Laura & Luna Blu). George's a Member of Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans, as their Secretary & is on the Honor Guard-Firing Detail. Also, Troy's DAV Chapter 38, Albany's Joseph E. Zolga American Legion Post 1520 and the National Veterans of Foreign Wars.

2) Jim Blesser (Rotterdam), was born in Belview Woman's House on 1/6/39, Schenectady and graduated from Guiderland HS, in the mid 1950's and served in the Army National Guard's 727th. Jim was the eldest of 4 brothers, he and Jeff, went to VN; "Jud" was a VN Era Vet. Jim was a Navy Navigator Assistant & Quartermaster 1st Class (1957-'67). Been on Aircraft Carriers: Forrestal, Intrepid, Lexington & Wasp... plus a Carrier for the Post Ofc for 25 years. After service, he & his wife, the late Judith (Bradley) were married over 60 years, prior to her passing on 9/1/23. They had 1 son, the late James Blesser. Jim has Schenectady Vet Mbrships: "E J" Knapik AMVETS Post 35, DAV Chapter 88, VFW Hilderbrand Davis Post #1895 and the American Legion Post #1005.



SPOOKY (May-June's Pg 3) "Many have died for the RED, WHITE, BLUE. Be proud & Fly "Old Glory"

Watervliet hosted their 70th Little League Anniversary Opening Day Parade & Ceremony at the Louis W. Kemp Memorial Park, in "Brotherhood Park". Also, Home of "Tut' Razzano's Tee-Ball site. Many attended the event & a few 1954 Ballplayers threw out the First Ceremonial Pitch. Great City!

**H E L P! H E L P!** Capital Region needs YOU to register Family or VET Friends AND to keep the "Honor-A-Veteran" programs in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga & Schenectady Counties' active.

- A > Albany County's Monthly "Honor-A-Veteran" (Posthumous) Program: Director, Scott Leslie; Albany County Veterans Service Bureau - 100 Heritage Lane., 5th Fl, Albany, NY 12205  
<1st Monday of the Month > (518) 447-7710 veteransbureau@albanycountyny.gov
- B > Rensselaer County's Monthly "Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran" (Posthumous) Program:  
<2nd Monday of the Month> - 99 Troy Road, East Greenbush, NY 12061 (518) 270-2760  
Director, Kevin Miller <https://www.rensco.com/374/Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran-Ceremony>
- C > Saratoga County Vets Service Agency's Monthly "Honor-A-Veteran" (Deceased or Living) Program: 2144 Doubleday Ave, Suite 15; Ballston Spa, NY 12020 (518) 884-4115  
< 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2 PM > Director, Frank McClement  
<https://www.saratogacountyny.gov/departments/veterans-service-agency/>
- D > Schenectady County Vets Service Agency's "Honor-A-Veteran" Quarterly (Deceased or Living) Program: 797 Broadway, Schenectady, NY 12305-2704 (518) 377-2423  
<https://www.schenectadycountyny.gov/veterans> Director, Jesus Santiago
- E > East Greenbush (Town) - "Honor-A-Veteran" (Deceased or Living) <Periodic> Program:  
225 Columbia TnPk; Rensselaer, NY 12144 John Conway, Town Supvsr; (518) 477-4775  
Questions, contact Bobbie Reno, East Greenbush's Town Historian at (518) 477-4869.

Notes: 1) Every Veteran is eligible to be honored with a HAV Ceremony, at these locations. So, family members would need to file the paperwork. Must have the needed documents (i.e. = Application, DD-214, discharged under conditions other than Dishonorable from the U. S. Armed Forces, Birth or Residence Proof and the veteran's Obituary).

Please Remember Me's flags will be raised soon by the National Grid Lineman, on Route 9 in Latham & Loudonville. They'll fly freely until after Labor Day, when they'll be retired. It's an Annual Event since 2013. Also, we will have our Second Annual Brooks BBQ Chicken Take-Out Fundraiser at Trustco Bank's Wolf Road location on Tuesday, May 21st from 4 to 7 PM. Please support us.

China Beach's Annual Event will be Sunday August 11th, from 12 Noon - 5 PM (Rain or Shine), at Albany's Polish American Citizens Club of America (110 Commerce Ave). Tickets are \$30; kids 6-12 are \$13 & kids 5 & under = Free (INCLUDES food and beverages). Food Served from 12:30-3:30pm  
Need more Raffle Tickets: CALL, Al Diacetis at (518) 466-8771; it's TCCVEV's biggest Fundraiser.  
Note: Notice that our CB's Flyer is from the 1979 movie, "Apocalypse Now", when Lt. Col. Kilgore & crew of helicopters, descends on a Vietnamese village from the air while playing Richard Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" & Kilgore (Robert Duvall) says, "I love the smell of napalm in the morning"

For 10 years, ShopRite has been our "Best Friend", donating to TCCVEV for the community and it's veterans. On April 17th, at their Hudson ShopRite store, they presented their largest check to TCCVEV.....\$60,000. WOW!!!!!! We & all the community, thanks you. Sorry that you had to leave.

Editor's Comment: On behalf of the Vincent P. Loparco Family - thank you for attending my dad's April 1st "Honor-A-Veteran" Ceremony at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post # 1520. Peace.



Dues for 2024 are trickling in, but very slowly. Please check your status and send it in, if you haven't already done so. Better yet, become a LIFE MEMBER. 1 Payment of \$150.00 and you're done with dues, FOREVER! Presently, 28 members have paid for 2024 & Life Members are at 177, with the addition of our newest Life Member, Andrew S. (Doc) Berry. Welcome Home, Doc! As always, if there is a financial problem with paying your dues, please contact me and we can make arrangements. Our Mbrs, are valuable to us. Jerry = (518) 281-3885 OR gdameli1@nycap.rr.com

2024 Regular Dues are \$15 Annually - Join or RE-Up now! OEF & OIF Vets are welcomed!

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

Anyone who served SINCE, 7 May 1975 or is still serving on Active Duty in the US Military

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS are NOT Requested to have Served in the Military

CIRCLE ONE NEW RENEWAL ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$150

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the APP, mail with your DD214 (not for Assoc. Mbrs) & your \$15 or \$150 CK, to:

TCCVEV, PO Box 11100; Albany, NY 12211 "We few, We Happy few, We Band of Brothers"

Questions for the Editor, Gene? Call: (518) 265-0242 or Email: loparco88888@yahoo.com

Remember our Veterans, Home & Abroad! God Bless America! God Bless the Veterans!



*ShopRite's  
\$60,000  
check to  
TCCVEV  
in Hudson*