



The Legion-Air

Ted Balbierz
Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor



thelegionair@gmail.com

(716) 852-6500

Fax: (716) 852-4664

December 2023

Commander's Message:

First order of business is to congratulate the Gabriel Rodriguez Post for being one of the first of two Erie County Posts to surpass their 2023 Membership Goal by achieving 105% and I would also like to recognize 4 Star Post who is at 100%! Currently 16 of 35 Erie County Posts are at or above Department December 6th 75% membership goal. Please keep up the great work!

I would like to extend many Thanks to Auxiliary President Cheri Hahn and the entire Erie County Auxiliary Staff, Past Detachment Commander Tim Van Patten II along with the members of the George F Lamm Post and all the Volunteers and participants who ensured the success of our Legion Family Oktoberfest Variety Club fundraiser. On Sunday October 22nd members of our Erie County American Legion Family came together and raised just shy of \$5300 to be donated at the upcoming Variety Club Telethon in March. If you were unable to attend or participate and would still be interested in supporting the very worthy cause, I would encourage all those Posts, Units, Squadrons & Riders to send any Children and Youth donations payable to the Erie County American Legion; 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, NY, 14202. (Attn: Oktoberfest Donations) since we have several months to add to this donation before February. Thank You All for your support!!!

On Thursday November 2nd, I along with the Erie County American Legion Staff were welcomed by Erie County Auxiliary President Cheri Hahn and the Erie County American Legion Auxiliary at their November monthly meeting at the Niagara Frontier Post 1041.

On Friday November 3rd, your Erie County American Legion Staff attended the Western New York Heroes 2023 Gala Fundraiser at Seneca Niagara Casino in Niagara Falls. During the Gala, Adjutant Bojanowski and I had the

Membership: VC Jerry Kowalski

I hope everyone had a "Thankful" Thanksgiving Day. As the year 2023 is coming to a close, keep membership your number one objective. Continue to reach out to members in Post 1, and encourage a transfer into your Post. Continue to keep them aware of the programs we have for our Veterans, members, and community. Remember to use MyLegion.org for help with everything that is offered through the American Legion "Be the One". If any Post needs more help or information contact me for assistance.

Special Activities – VC Pat Murphy

We are heading into the end of the year and the Holidays are upon us. So to all you last minute Christmas shoppers, BUY A FEW CALENDARS, THEY ARE GREAT INEXPENSIVE GIFTS. If you don't give them away, you have multiple chances of winning. Plus the fact that you are helping the American Legion, because monies raised are used to fund good and needed activities in our area. Please help us help you. Calendars can be picked up at the next County Meeting or contact me by email at murphy8693@gmail.com or by phone at 716 289 4143 to make other arrangements. Make sure your stubs are filled out correctly. All sold stubs must be returned before the New Year to be valid.

Department Leadership Dinner

The Erie County American Legion Family will host Department American Legion Commander Timothy J. Collmer, Department Auxiliary President Karen St. Helaire, and SAL Detachment Commander Peter J. DeAngelis on Friday, February 16, 2024.

The Dinner will be held at the Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217. Cash Bar Cocktails will be at 5:30 PM and the Dinner at 6:30 PM. Dinner cost is \$35. Ticket deadline will be Wednesday February 7, 2024 thru the County Office or pay at the County meetings.

Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

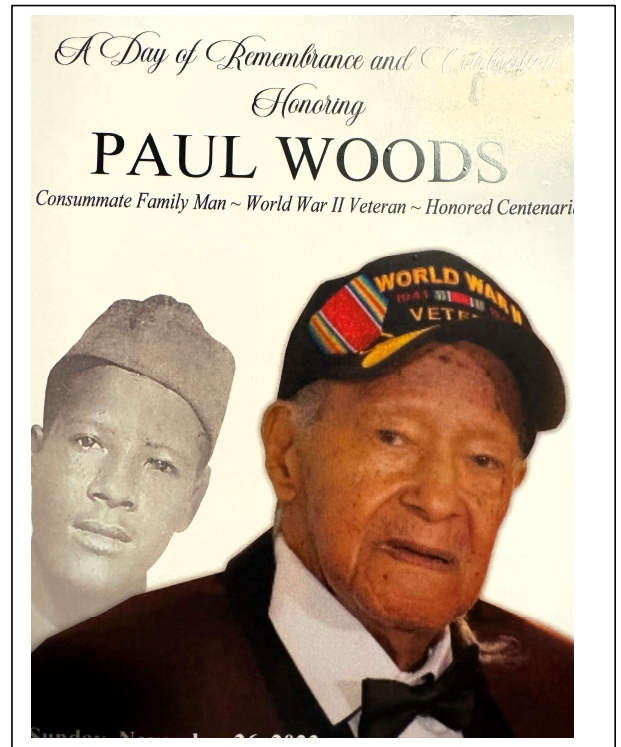
Pearl Harbor is a harbor on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, USA. It's best known for the surprise military attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy on the morning of December 7, 1941, which marked the entry of the United States into World War II.

In the 1930s, tension between Japan and the United States grew due to Japan's expansionist policies in Asia. The United States imposed trade embargoes on Japan in response to its invasion of China in 1947. Japan viewed the embargoes as a threat to its military operations and decided to launch a preemptive strike.

On 12/7/1941, a fleet of Japanese aircraft carriers launched a surprise air attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor. The attack targeted battleships, cruisers, destroyers, aircraft, and military facilities. The attack on Pearl Harbor resulted in the deaths of 2,403 Americans, including 68 civilians, and the injury of 1,178 others. The U.S. Navy lost eight battleships, three cruisers, four destroyers, and various other ships and aircraft. The attack shocked and angered the American public, leading to the United States declaring war on Japan the following day.

The attack on Pearl Harbor remains a significant event in American history and is remembered as a symbol of resilience and determination. It led to a united effort by the American people and military to win the war against Japan. The U.S. Arizona Memorial was built over the sunken battleship to honor the lives lost in the attack.

During the upcoming Christmas Holidays, let us not forget about our Veterans who may be facing dark Holidays due to medical issues, homelessness or may not have a family. This is an opportunity for each County Post to keep the "Be The One" and the "Buddy System" in mind to contact or visit any veteran that you haven't heard from in a while to check on their welfare and wellbeing. Perhaps even make dinner to take to them. I'm sure they would be more than happy to know that we care.



Beloved WWII Veteran & Coordinator Paul Woods has transitioned from this present life. His dedication and service to our country will be remembered and honored.



Jesse Clipper Post 430 Honor Guard member Richard Hill, Compliance Officer Donald Paulk, Past Commander Dr. Kanasha Blue, Commander Elder Howard Patton III, Past County Commander Fred Pask, Past Commander Rev. Eugene Pierce, County Adjutant James Bojanowski, Sgt-at-Arms Perry Civils.

Past Jesse Clipper Post 430 Commander Paulette Woods thanks all who paid their respects to her Father Paul Woods who was with us for 100 years.

An additional picture is on the next page.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY





Past Jesse Clipper Commander Rev. Eugene Pierce, Bennett Wells Post Commander Henry Jernigan and 1VC Walter Cole, Jesse Clipper Post Commander Elder Howard Patton III, Past Commander Paulette Woods, and Legionnaire Fred Eckels at the wake service for Paul Woods.



Lynn Riker Director of Community Outreach of Hospice & Pallative Care Buffalo presented Erie County Commander Ted Balbierz with a recognition certificate for his address and help with US Flag decoration at their facility for Veterans Day.



A Department of New York Law and Order Award was presented to the Cheektowaga Police Department by Joseph Porempski, 8th District Commander Nelson Oldfield, Cheektowaga Chief Brian Coons, Jerry Kowalski & Bob Mann.

Commander's Message Continued:

had the honor of presenting the leadership of WNY Heroes with the Department of New York American Legion, Red, White & Blue Award in recognition of establishing and managing a Veterans Food Distribution Program between April 2020 thru June 2023, whereby 1 Million pounds of food was distributed, preventing food insecurity for over 100,000 WNY Veterans... The Gala raised well over \$400,000 to support WNY Heroes programs and as a side note, I wish to Thank WNY Heroes for their having donating the Flat Screen TV that was raffled at our Oktoberfest.

On Monday November 6th, I assisted in the planting approximately 800 Flags along the driveway at the Buffalo Hospice Campus on Como Park Blvd in Cheektowaga and also joined with PC Fred Pask & VC Paul Wackowski on 11/9 for Hospice Veterans Day Ceremony.

On Veterans Day morning I joined with the County Staff and conducted Veterans Day ceremonies at Forest Lawn Cemetery. I continue to be impressed by all of the Student Groups that assist with the planting of well over 7100 flags. At 11 am, I had the honor of joining Milton J Brounshidle Post 205 and National Executive Committeeman Tim Van Patten as we participated in the Kenmore/Town of Tonawanda Veterans Day Ceremony. Students/Musicians from all Kenton High Schools participated. Huge thanks go out to ROTC Vice Chairman Jeff Cippola and Anthony Deaville from the WNY Maritime Charter School, PCC's John Siefert, Nelson Oldfield, & Jim Bojanowski for all their efforts in coordinating this year's Forest Lawn Services. Flags were successfully retrieved.

I thank the Sardinia Post 1131 & Lorenzo Burrows Post 78 who extended and hosted my Commander Visitations on 11/9 & 10. I am asking Post Commanders and Adjutants to reach out to coordinate dates and times for my Post visitations at tedb06@verizon.net Please spread the word through your actions by "Being the One" to all Veterans who are interested in continued commitment to service above self and camaraderie. May God Continue to Bless you and your families through the upcoming Holiday Season and keep you all well! Thank you for your Continued Service and Support of your American Legion! In Continued Service for God & Country.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 located at 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, NY 14225. The Post will be serving a Turkey dinner feast starting at 6 PM. Cost is \$10.

Thanks go out to the 17 Posts that attended the September County Meeting, 63, 64, 205, 430, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 880, 900, 1320, 1528, 1586, 1626, 1672, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County at the next meeting.

Future County Meetings:

January 25, Niagara Frontier Post #1041
February 29, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205
March 28, David McKeever Post #64

Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

2024 submissions will be due in April. The exact date will be forthcoming. Let's recognize our outstanding legionnaires. All Posts have at least one person who always steps up the plate to help out. Let's tell those folks we appreciate all they do for the Post and the American Legion. The candidate submission guidelines will be on line by the end of the year.

**Erie County American Legion, 609 City Hall,
65 Niagara Square, Buffalo NY, 14202
Veteran14202@verizon.net 716 - 852 -
6500**

Department of New York website -
<https://nylegion.net>
National American Legion website -
<https://www.legion.org>
Erie County American Legion website -
<http://www.eriecountyal.org>

Merry Christmas to ALL!!!



SUBMISSIONS
For the January
"The Legion-Air"
Due December 22
thelegionair@gmail.com



Iroquois Post 1587 Color Guard at the Buffalo Bills game on 11/19/2023 led by Ronald Cook, US Army Iraqi Freedom War Vet / Post CDR, Daniel Huff US Army Afghanistan War Vet, Sandra Redeye US AF Gulf War and James Pappas US Army Vietnam Vet

Saturday December 9, Army/Navy Game at 1500 hrs. at the Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave, Kenmore. \$8 Pizza and Wings, \$2 Taco in a Bag.

Saturday December 9, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga is having a "A Christmas Carol Play For Two". Doors open at 6pm Cash Bar. Dinner at 7pm Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad and Bread. Showtime 8pm Tickets \$30 per person pre-sale at Bar. Call 716-896-3346. Please bring unwrapped toys to the Donovan Post and drop in the Toys for Tots box.

Sunday December 17, ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd. Swormville, 14051. From 8 AM to 12:30 PM. Fresh, hot, buttermilk pancakes, "Egglands Best" eggs, link & patty sausage, juice & coffee or tea. Adults \$10, children under 12 \$4, children > 5 free.

Newell Faulkner Post #880, 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 14057. Normal Hours: Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 3 to 9 PM, Fri. 11 am to 9 PM & Sat. 11:30 am to 9 PM. DINE - IN OR TAKE OUT, Tuesday Taco Night, Wednesday 10 for \$8.50 Wings special, dine in only, Thursday Steak Night, Friday Fish Fry & Specials, Saturday Pizza & Wings and Sandwiches. www.post880.com

Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1956 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218, serving Wed, and Friday 2-8 PM, Fish Fry's, Seafood, Burgers & weekly specials, Wednesday 75 cent wings and \$3 Tacos.

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga. Come and joins us for our Fish Fry Friday's. Dinners from 4-8pm with a live Band from 8-11pm. Dine in or take out available. Call 716-896-3346.

Hamburg Post 527, 2 Memorial Drive. Thursday's Spaghetti Dinners now have Indoor Seating and To Go Dinners. Serving 4:30-6:30 PM. To/Go Order, call after 2:00 PM at 716-649-4667 or order at door. \$9 for Regular Size and \$11 for Large Size, with a \$.50 charge for To Go containers. No Dinners on Dec. 7 and Dec. 28.

South Buffalo Post #721 will be having food from 5:00 - 7:00PM - Friday's Dec 1st, 8th & 15th Beef & Wings, Meat Loaf Dinners will be served on Monday's - Dec. 4th & 18th and Spaghetti or Rigatoni will be on Monday Dec. 11th. The post is located at 136 Cazenovia Street, Buffalo NY 14210. For more information or take out please call the post at 716-825-9557.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 12/22 for the January 2024 edition. Jim Bojanowski Editor