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American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

July 2018

American Legion Post 1758,
alpost1758-ny.org

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Respect is earned. Honesty is appreciated. Trust is gained. Loyalty is returned.

Our next meeting will be August 14, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the **Old East Fishkill Town Hall**, Rte. 52, next to the Police Station. Please try to attend.

At our June meeting we made a decision to donate \$200.00 to the Castle Point team that will be participating in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games held in Orlando at the end of July. The check has since been mailed and let's cheer for the Castle Point Team.



Special Notice: If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call this toll-free number

1-800-273-8255

available 24/7, and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential.

Welcome

To our newest member **Victor Geller** who is a transfer from NY Post 0001. Vic can be found most days enjoying senior activities at the East Fishkill Community Center.

WASHINGTON — The [National Desert Storm War Memorial](#) will be located on the National Mall just steps away from the Lincoln Memorial and [Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall](#), after a federal commission approved the site on Thursday.

The move ends a debate of more than three years over where the newest combat memorial should be located. Supporters have been advocating for a site on the National Mall for years, and earlier this year that plan got support from the National Capital Planning Commission.

But the prominent location still needed approval from the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts to finalize the plan, an agreement that was not guaranteed given that space on the 146-acre site in the center of the nation's capital is closely managed. The panel gave its approval on Thursday.

Scott Stump, the Desert Storm Marine veteran spearheading the memorial project, said his team at the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association was “very pleased and very relieved” by the commission's decision.

“It's in close proximity to the National Mall and the other memorials and commemorative works to where a person could actually access it, could walk to it, easily,” Stump told Military Times. “We felt like if you have something that's the most beautiful memorial in the world, but it takes a lot of work for people to get there and people aren't going to visit, then it kind of defeats our purpose.”

The spot is located at 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C., just north of the Lincoln Memorial and a short walk from the well-known Vietnam memorial site. It's also less than a half-mile from the World War II Memorial and Korean War Veterans Memorial.

When Stump's team initially began scouting memorial sites, there were more than 100 locations in the mix. Three years later, Stump said he is ready to move into the design and construction phases.

“It's been exhaustive,” he said. “The average person has no idea the level of work, time, wear and tear that is involved. It's just a grueling process that we've endured.”

Stump's team already has some design plans in the works, but the final design will once again require approval from the National Park Service, National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

Stump said the time and labor required to get the memorial off the ground is well worth it to accomplish the ultimate mission: honor the troops who served in operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield and educate the public on the continued significance of that war.

“I hope obviously that if they don't know the story, that they will learn about it,” Stump said of future visitors to the memorial. “If they kind of remember the story, maybe it will jog their memory and remind them that this was not the 100-hour war that it's so erroneously referred to so many times. This was a big deal – it affected 700,000 people, and it was also one of the most overwhelmingly successful military operations in history.”

Nearly 700,000 American troops were deployed during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s. Combat missions took the lives of nearly 400 U.S. service members.

The estimated cost of the memorial project is expected to top \$25 million, all coming from private donations. To date, the effort has raised just under \$2 million.

Stump said his team is on track to meet their goal of completing construction by 2021, the 30th anniversary of the first Gulf War.

He emphasized that when complete, the memorial will have a distinct feel compared to the other war memorials surrounding it.

“It's not a place of mourning,” he said. “Yes, remembering our people is of utmost importance, but it's not the only aspect. There are some good points that are going to be remembered, like the coalition of 34 countries.”

Picnic

Date: Sunday, July 22nd.

Start time: 11:30 AM

Location: East Fishkill Recreation Park, at the pavilion, next to the stage

The Post is providing hamburgers, hot dogs and rolls.

You are asked to bring a dish to share. So far we have folks providing:

Deviled Eggs

2-cakes

cookies

Hot wings

chips& pretzels

potato salad

pie

pasta salad

vegetable platter

macaroni salad

chips with dip

water melon

Commander Reynolds will provide plastic wear, paper plates, condiments, and table cloths along with Water, soda, and diet soda

Join us even if you don't regularly attend meetings, we'd like to see you.

If you plan on attending and were not at the July meeting please contact Jim Reynolds and let him know how many people will be joining us and what you would like to contribute. RSVP by 7/19/18

Please keep attendees to immediate family. Jim's number ..845-221-7273

email: reynoldsjamesd@aol.com

Looking forward to having some fun and camaraderie outside our meetings.



Membership: As of July 10th we have had 20 members renew their memberships for 2019, 6 online and 14 by mail. In addition to the 16 Paid Up for Life (PUFL) members we have a total of 36 members renewed, about 1/3 of our membership. Not bad for this early in the year. Please renew your membership, either by returning the card you received in the mail or by renewing online. You can renew online at: [Online Renewal](#)

Congratulations to **Claude Wuytack** for becoming our latest PUFL member. You can also become a PUFL by clicking on this link:

[PUFL application](#)

Rates are based on your age and they are currently running a \$100 Off promotion. Payment may be made spread over 12 months if you wish.

East Fishkill Community Day

Community Day will be held this year on September 15th.

The parade steps off at 2:00PM, our marchers will line up on Trinka Lane at 1:30. Tom Masch and Norm Dauerer will line up their jeeps with other vehicles on Palen Road.

We will have a table in the Veteran's Tent along with other Veteran Organizations. Currently our plans call for handing out small American Flags and selling Memorial Blocks for \$10.00. The blocks will be labeled with the person's name and branch of service logo and an American Flag will be inserted through the block.

We will need marchers, at least a color guard, for the parade. In addition we need help at our table to disseminate legion information, hand out the small flags and sell the memorial blocks.



Kevin Hathorn had our American Legion marching flag dry cleaned. It was looking pretty shabby and we don't know if it's ever been cleaned before. It looks pretty darn good now. Next step is to get it mounted back on the pole along with our membership banners.



Home Before Morning, A Memoir of a Vietnam War Army Nurse

Lynda Van Devanter Buckley was an Army nurse in the Vietnam War. However, her heroism extended long beyond her time served at war. While her life's chronicles have been published, inspired a TV series, and [featured in the New York Times](#), her legacy lives on through her incredible daughter who many of you may know as the blogger behind [Still Being Molly](#), Molly Stillman. As we celebrate Military + Public Servants this month, we are honored to share Lynda's incredible story of advocacy and bravery.

Lynda served as an Army nurse in the Vietnam War from 1969-1970. She was stationed at the 71st Evac Hospital in Pleiku, Vietnam. In her book, *Home Before Morning*, Lynda describes her alarming experiences, watching so many overburdened nurses and medics desperately trying to numb the pain of the blood and casualties experiences on a daily basis. "Her experience was so alarming to her that the most pleasurable work she could later recall was her assignment to help a leper colony of Vietnamese." (NYT)



The effects of the war, and the criticism Vietnam veterans received, were so painful that she never even told her therapist she was in Vietnam. As her own personal form of therapy, and a way to own the war, without it owning her, she decided to write her book, which served as an outlet for so many who experienced the same tragedies during Vietnam.

Lynda established the Women's Project at the Vietnam Veterans of America, even testifying before congress on behalf of the over 7,400+ women Vietnam veterans. She continued to fight, until the day she died, for the rights, recognition, and benefits of women veterans.

Unfortunately, in 2002, Lynda passed away from complications from a disease she contracted because of her exposure to [Agent Orange](#) in Vietnam. Agent Orange was often called "The Silent Killer" because so many veterans have died years after their time of service because of their exposure to the chemical.

"She was truly a pioneer and someone who just didn't take no for an answer. She refused to let her illness define her, beat her, or control her. My mom was truly an American hero – even though if she were here today, she'd just say she was doing her job." - Lynda's daughter Molly

We are so honored to share the stories of brave Women and Men like Lynda, who have dedicated their entire lives for our country, and for the support of others who have also served. #BecausePeopleMatter



We are adding a new section to our newsletter to celebrate members birthday's. We will announce upcoming birthdays by month and day only. Here are August's upcoming birthdays. May this be one of the best birthday's ever:

- Tony Nicolas - August 1
- Gary Davis - August 9
- Juan Alfonso - August 17
- Bill Meyer - August 21
- John Volkmann - August 3
- Simon Kaufman - August 16
- Jim Broughton - August 18

The National database does not have birthday's listed for the following members.

<i>Nicholas Russo</i>	<i>Daniel Oberhauser</i>	
<i>David Dimilia</i>	<i>Joseph Varacek</i>	<i>Ralph Schwartz</i>
<i>Francis Connolly</i>	<i>Daniel Lalor</i>	<i>John Polasko</i>
<i>Robert Logan</i>	<i>Bruce Coneeny</i>	

Please contact Jim Reynolds with your birthdate so our records can be updated.



Good of the Legion:

Lance Ashworth's name was pulled for the Pot Of Gold Drawing. Unfortunately Lance was not in attendance so the money is added to the Pot. The "Pot" is closing in on \$600.00. When we finally have a winner in attendance he/she gets half of the pot. It's been a while, I'm guessing about 2 years since we've had a pay out.

How about sharing a date with other Veterans, visit the Replica Vietnam Memorial Wall and have a free BBQ provided by the Pleasant Valley Fire Department? Contact Jeff at the number on the bottom of the flyer.



VETERANS WANTED

Come Visit

THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER

★

Newburgh, New York

Saturday, August 4th, 2018

Bus Leaves Pleasant Valley Fire Department at 9 am
BBQ Lunch upon return to Fire House
Reservations are Required by 7/20/18.

Sponsors:

Hyde Park Central School District
Valley Custom Sign Shop • Legislative Chairman Gregg Pulver
Albrecht's Auto Repair



For reservations or more information contact Jeff: 845-416-0569