



LAKE ONTARIO POST 313
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

June 5, 2016

Dear Fellow Veterans:

"The British are coming, the British are coming..." How many of you remember Paul Revere's ride at the time of the Revolutionary War, but do you also remember what he said the end of this ride? (Answer at the end of this Newsletter.)

"THE HUEYS ARE COMING, THE HUEYS ARE COMING", The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #313 and the American Huey 369 Museum Association from Peru, Indiana presented a very special and an emotional tribute to Veterans, both passed and living from the Vietnam War.

On the afternoon of Friday, May 27th at approximately 4:30 p.m., the constant "whoop", and the sound of the rotors, brought an emotional pleasure to those who witnessed the Bell UH-1 Iroquois Helicopter landing on the soccer field near the Officer's Club at Fort Niagara State Park. This event in commemoration of Memorial Day Weekend was a joint effort between the American Huey 369 Museum and Youngstown VFW Post #313. This event was also part of Old Fort Niagara's "Soldiers through the Ages" Program held over Memorial Day Weekend.

According to event Co-Chairman Ed Jackson (who served with the U.S. Army First Infantry Division in Vietnam 1968-1969), "To the Soldier the Huey was the life artery to the ground troops in the field. They would bring the needed supplies, ammunition, water and the occasional letter from home to these troops. To the soldier in the field just the sound of the rotors and the constant 'whoop', was a pleasure to their ears, for good things were going to happen when these 'choppers' arrived."

Ray O'Keefe, Co-Chairman, Vietnam Veteran, and former Executive Director of the Niagara Aerospace Museum, also played a vital part in this event and echoed Ed's comments by saying "These particular helicopters represented the sound of hope."

Over the weekend, the Public and Veterans had the opportunity to view, take a ride, and become members of this GREAT Huey 369 Organization. Membership cost \$100.00 and gave you the opportunity to ride in one of these Huey Helicopters, just like the troops in Vietnam did during the war. The ride was open, with a flight crew that escorted you to the helicopter, buckled you in for safety, and talked to you about the experience aboard the Huey. The Huey took 6 passengers at a time and was stationed in the soccer fields near the Officers Club in Fort Niagara State Park. After the ride many pictures were taken and for those who did not wish to ride, they still got a close up look at the Huey and were able to take pictures on the soccer field.

On site, Post members, wives, and friends had a Tim Horton's Coffee and Timbits refreshment stand, along with other goodies for the public to enjoy as they were waiting for a ride or just being a spectator at the event.

The Huey 369 History Museum also had a very informative display where they explained the mission of the museum, while also accepting donations for the museum and answering questions on the Huey. It is with saying "The true price of this history preserved is not the cost of a brick and mortar building, but the number of lives that were exchanged for it!" Donations may still be made to: www.gofundme.com/americanhuey369.

Recap of the Events of Memorial Day Weekend May 27 – May 30

May 27th – "Music to your Ears" – Huey arrives at the Fort Niagara State Park with a round of applause and an emotional scene to those who witnessed the landing.

May 27th – Welcoming Reception by VFW Post #313 and the Committee at the Stone Jug. Good Food, Beverage, and a GREAT concert provided by Co-Chairman Ray O'Keefe's Band.

May 28th – Viewing and rides for Veterans and the Public on the Huey Helicopter. VFW Post #313 and the Committee hosted a catered dinner by the Village Diner at the Officers Club.

May 29th – Viewing and rides for Veterans and the Public on the Huey Helicopters.

May 30th – In tribute to Memorial Day, the crew of the Huey Helicopter did three (3) flyovers of the Post. To those who witnessed this emotional event; we waved, saluted, and wished them nothing but the very best.

In summary, it was a Weekend that VFW Post #313 will never forget, a weekend that the Village of Youngstown will be talking about for years to come. It may be possible that we will see them again, and what a great way to celebrate Memorial Day Weekend of 2016.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE POST:

Our thanks to Col. Dickinson, Col. Kurt Mieth, DuWayne Brabec, John Moore, Chris Seimbert, John Moore, Mark Harrigan, and John Mac Arthur for taking the time to participate in our Annual Outdoor Spring Clean-up at the Post on May 7th.

On May 21-22, and 28-29, thanks to Commander Gary Zanardi, Col. Dickinson, DuWayne Brabec, Walt Stevenson, John Moore, Chris Seimbert, Ed Jackson and John Mac Arthur for collecting Poppy Donations at Melloni's Food Market, and Old Fort Niagara. We netted approximately \$900.00.

On May 30th, VFW Officers and Members celebrated Memorial Day at the 1812 Cemetery in Fort Niagara State Park. A reception was held at the Post following the celebration. Our thanks to Lou Custode (the Bugler), the Old Fort Niagara Guard, and soloist Bill Siddall, for making this Memorial Day a success. Also, thanks to Tops Supermarket for donating the donuts for the reception.

On June 1st, Members of VFW Post #313 attended the Annual Veteran's Appreciation Dinner at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church North Ridge (Town of Cambria).

On June 4th, Commander Gary Zanardi, Walt Stevenson, Ralph Borelli, and Will Hartly assisted the Town of Niagara in a cleanup at the Town of Niagara Veterans Memorial Park.

FUTURE EVENTS: (Mark Your Calendar!)

June 13, regular Post Meeting 7:00 p.m. – installation of officers.

June 14, Flag Day Celebration at the Lew-Port Intermediate School. Reception at 8:45 am, followed by the Flag Day Celebration at 9:30 a.m.

July 11, Post Community Picnic, 6:00 p.m. PLEASE BRING a Dish/Dessert to pass. SPECIAL GUEST: State Senator Rob Ortt will be in attendance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Our SPECIAL THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO: Co-Chairmen Ed Jackson, Ray O'Keefe, and Ray's wife Garda, for the OUTSTANDING JOB they did in getting the American Huey Helicopter and Huey 369 Museum, from Peru, Indiana to Old Fort Niagara State Park to take part in the Memorial Day Celebration. AND OUR VERY BEST THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO the American Huey 369 Museum for a GREAT EVENT in recognition of Memorial Day in the Village of Youngstown.

Our THANKS AND APPRECIATION to Vietnam Veterans Chapter #77, for the rental of the M-16 statue and Vietnam era items, the Village Diner for the food and beverage for the Dinner (IT WAS DELICIOUS!!) the Stone Jug for hosting the Reception and for providing dinner and beverages, on the evening of May 27th, the Ray O'Keefe Band for musical entertainment on May 27th, GREAT JOB!!, the Lockport VFW for their Items that they donated for the event, VVA (Vietnam Veterans Association, and other groups and organizations who donated to this event, including District 7 VFW, the Youngstown Fire Hall for providing Ice, VFW Shirts from Wilson, the Placemats from Graphics in Wilson, thanks to Melloni's Food Market, and Village Diner for allowing us to have donation buckets at their stores, to Tim Hortons Franchise Owners (Mr. and Mrs. Burns) for their donation of Coffee and Timbits, and the Old Fort Niagara Association (Mr. Robert Emerson, Executive Director). Please forgive me if I forgot someone.

Our THANKS AND APPRECIATION to Commander Gary Zanardi and his wife Lynn, Officer in Charge of our VFW Stand Col. Dickinson, Chris Seimbert, Mitchell Seimbert, Lisa, Molly, Hannah, DuWayne Brabec, John Moore, Walt Stevenson, Sarah Mac Arthur, Auxiliary President Vicki Suitor, Marie Stevenson, her Mother Ann, and all others (who I may have forgotten) for volunteering their time, THANK-YOU.

Until Next month, have a safe, and healthy summer.

JOHN H. MAC ARTHUR, POST ADJUTANT.

P.S. Answer to the Trivia Question **WHOA!!**



**Please Join the Lewiston-Porter
Intermediate School's Flag Day Celebration as
We Honor the
"Stars and Stripes" of America!**

When: Tuesday, June 14th 2016

**Time: 8:45- Coffee and doughnut reception in the cafeteria for all
veterans and their guests**

9:30- Ceremony begins in the auditorium

Place: Lewiston-Porter Intermediate School

(Please check in at the office)

RSVP: Regrets only at 754-8281, ext.3218 Joy Khatib