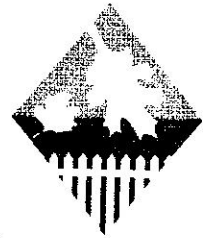


Kells-Grennie Post #316



# The Patriot

November/December, 1999

November/December, 1999  
Kells-Grennie Post #316  
2750 Amboy Road  
Staten Island, NY 10306-2140  
(718) 351-9233

## OFFICERS

Commander.....	Pat Miserendino
Vice-Commanders.....	Andy Procopio
.....	Gene Ramirez
.....	John Crowley
.....	Sal Bastiani
Treasurer.....	Emery Chagnon
Adjutant.....	Elias Arout
Judge Advocate.....	Ferdie Salvatore
Chaplain.....	Tom Simonetti
Sgt-at-Arms.....	Jerry Quinn

## Committees

Americanism.....	John Crowley
Bar & Lounge.....	Leo Milham
Boys State.....	Frank Triolo
Children & Youth.....	Sal Bastiani
Graves Registration.....	William Bonelli
Hall Rentals.....	Gene Ramirez
Historian.....	Lester Modelowitz
Honor Guard Captain.....	Emery Chagnon
Hospital Visitations.....	Vincent Zangari
Houseman.....	Gene Ramirez
Membership.....	Dennis J. Conroy
Post Editor.....	Dennis J. Conroy
Post Parties.....	Sal Fulicinelli & Rocco Valenti
POW/MIA.....	Lester Modelowitz
Program Chairman.....	Elias Arout
Publicity.....	Elias Arout
Service & Welfare.....	Leo Milham

## The Commander's Message

I urge all of you to read the article in this newsletter concerning the VA's policy switch toward veterans who file a disability claim. This change is an **outrage** and **The American Legion** is leading the charge to correct this injustice. Why is this happening? Why are veterans organizations like ours constantly battling with our own government over veterans rights and benefits? The answer is simple. Out of 28 million veterans in this country, only 10% of them are members of a veterans organization. When the government sees this type of apathy and non-participation, they reason, and rightfully so, that veterans just don't care anymore. As our membership numbers dwindle down, so will our benefits. Wake up, people. Get out there and sign up new members, before it's too late.

Remember that Thursday, November 11 is Veteran's Day. Come join us at the Staten Island Mall (lower level, JC Penney) at 10:00am, with the rest of the Island's American Legion Posts in honoring all veterans.

On a happier note, the holiday season is almost upon us. Over the next two months we will be celebrating Thanksgiving, Hanukah and Christmas. Plans are already in the works for our annual Post members and Children's Holiday parties. (see *newsletter for dates and times*). I hope that all our members participate in these joyous events, especially the Children's Holiday Party. Don't deprive your children or grandchildren by missing this event. It's the best party around.

(Continued on page 4)

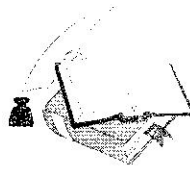
## In Memory of

On Friday, October 29th, Past Post Commander Richard Reichart, age 62, passed away after a lengthy illness. Throughout his twenty-four years as a member of the American Legion, he devoted countless hours of his time to the Kells-Grennie Post. Richard served this Post as a Commander, Captain of the Honor Guard (which he founded), Judge Advocate, President of the Board of Directors, and many other positions and chairmanships to numerous to name. In addition, he also found the time to serve on the County level in various posts, and finally as the County Commander of the American Legion of Richmond County in 1992-1993.

Ironically, Richard was to be a Guest of Honor at this year's *Honors and Awards Night*. His passing has denied his fellow legionnaires the opportunity to personally honor him and thank him for all his accomplishments and achievements. He will still be honored, but now in memory. In an era when most men give nothing to an organization, Richard gave it his all.

His dedication and devotion to **The American Legion**, has and will always be, an inspiration to us all.

He will be missed. Rest in peace, comrade.



## Highlights of the *"Minutes of the Meeting"*

**September 10** Our guest speaker tonight was Steven Marchi who represented our Post at this year's Boys State Convention. Steven, a senior at Monsignor Farrell High School, said that he thoroughly enjoyed his stay at the convention. He described how all the participants had to arise at 5:15am every morning, to the sound of Marine Corps Sergeants screaming instructions to them. After breakfast, each company of Boys Staters had to participate in close-order drill. Each day they attended classes on American Government and the Constitution. They held their own Political conventions and elected their own leaders. He said that the convention gave him a better understanding of how our government really works. Steven said that this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and thanked the membership for sponsoring him.

Vice-Commander John Crowley read the membership a newspaper article about Hepatitis-C. The article stated that 350,000 veterans have acquired this disease, which is four times the national average. Most cases involve Vietnam veterans who contracted this illness through blood transfusions. Since Hepatitis-C (which attacks the liver), can remain dormant for many years, the VA recommends that all veterans take a screening test to determine if you are inflicted with this deadly virus.

The United Staten Island Veterans Organization will hold its Sixth Annual All Veterans Ball at the Staaten Restaurant on Sunday, October 17th. The cost is \$55.00 per person. To help defray the costs of this Ball, the Post donated \$50.00 for a journal ad.

The Post also finalized their plans tonight to participate in this year's Columbus Day Parade on New Dorp Lane. This year the parade will be held on Sunday, October 3rd at 1:00pm. Our Honor Guard will lead our contingent followed by Post Officers, members of the Post and a contingent from the *Sons of the American Legion*.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Walter Pearson. Congratulations, Wally.

**September 24** Tonight's regular meeting was suspended in order to hold our annual Installation of Officers. County Commander Frank LaMarsh presided over the ceremony and formally installed our elected Post Officers for the 1999-2000 term. The new Officers of the *Sons of the American Legion*, were also installed. After the ceremony was over, the members and their guests enjoyed the collation that was supplied by the Post.

**October 8** Vice-Commander John Crowley reported that the New York Naval Association will hold a special ceremony at 1 Police Plaza in Manhattan, to celebrate the 224th birthday of the United States Navy and World War II veterans. The gala event will be held on Friday, October 15th at 10:00am. All USN and WWII veterans are cordially invited.

Hospital and Visitation Chairman Vincent Zangari reported the following: Post member Phil Frazetto is currently in the hospital. Maury Grosso was transferred from the VA hospital to the Sunrise Home in East Brunswick, NJ. Andy Smith is convalescing at home and Sal Gallo returned to the Post tonight after his illness. Robert Helburn is currently at home recuperating from his surgery. The Post welcomes the return of Sal Gallo and wishes the other ill members a speedy recovery.

On Sunday evening, November 14th at Carnegie Hall, Pershings "own" US Army band, will conduct a "Salute to Veterans" concert starting at 8:00pm. Tickets to this event are FREE. Contact the Post for more details if you're interested in attending.

Due to a scheduling conflict, our annual *Honors and Awards* night, originally scheduled for October 22nd, has been postponed until Friday, November 12th at the Post. Letters of invitation to those members being honored will be mailed later this month.

The Marine Corps is not the only one looking "for a few good men". Our Honor Guard Captain, Emery Chagnon is looking for Post members to join our Honor Guard. The Post supplies the uniform, boots, and insignias at no cost. If you're interested, please contact the Captain at the Post.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was John Crowley. Congratulations, John.

**October 22** Acting Commander John Crowley announced that the Richmond County American Legion will hold its annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Staten Island Mall on Thursday, November 11th at 10:00am. All members of the Post are encouraged to attend the memorial event.

After constant pressure from the American Legion, the United States Postal Service has finally agreed to issue a postage stamp honoring WWII Medal of Honor hero Audie Murphy. The stamp will be issued in the spring of 2000.

Tonight the Post welcomed back member Bob Helburn who has fully recovered from his illness. Welcome back Bob. It was also announced that Post member Joe Dietrich will undergo knee surgery next week. The Post wishes Joe a speedy recovery.

The Post members Holiday Party will take place on Friday, December 10th at 8:00pm at the Post. All members are invited to attend.

A motion was made that the Honor Guard report directly to the Commander of the Post. For the last two years it was the responsibility of the Captain of the Honor Guard to decide which ceremonies and events the Honor Guard would participate in. The motion was passed unanimously and now the Post Commander will make these decisions.

In a related matter, another motion was made that the Honor Guard will carry only the Post Colors at all events. This motion was also passed unanimously.

Captain Emery Chagnon reported that member Bill Kuntz has joined the Post Honor Guard. Congratulations, Bill.

The Post would like to thank member **James Carlson** for becoming a paid-up-for-life member. James has been a member of *The American Legion* for 52 years. Congratulations James for your decision and dedication to the Legion.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Leo Milham. Congratulations, Leo.



*Fly the Colors*

Post Adjutant, Elias Aroust is selling American Flag Kits at discounted prices. These kits contain the following: an American Flag (3 feet x 5 feet), a two-piece aluminum pole with an American Eagle, and all hardware for just **\$20.00**. Proceeds from the sale of these flag kits will go towards our 3rd annual Essay Contest for Sixth Grade Children. It's the perfect Holiday gift for that veteran or non-veteran in your family. Just come down to the Post on any meeting night and purchase your flag kit.

### **Membership Report**

Our membership goal for 2000 is 375 members. As of the end of October we have 241 renewals, or 64.3% of our goal. If you haven't sent in your 2000 renewal notice, please do so now. We have until May 30th of next year to attain our goal.

The Post welcomes new transfer Frederick J. Ivany. *Welcome Aboard.*

### *News You Can Use*

## **Veterans Up in Arms Over Change in VA Policy**

Describing itself as "outraged", the American Legion has filed a lawsuit against the Department of Veterans Affairs to correct a major policy shift. Legion lawyers claim it will cause "irreparable harm" to those who served in the Armed Forces.

At issue is how much help veterans receive when they file a claim for disability compensation. For decades, the VA has made it official practice - following existing law - to assist claimants from the outset with such things as government-paid medical exams, extensive record searches and advice on how to traverse the bureaucratic maze of federal health care.

About six weeks ago, the VA quietly circulated an internal order to claims officers in its 58 regions around the country. Withhold all such help until the vet shows his or her claim is "well-grounded" - VA language for officially plausible, the order said.

The VA did so without public notice or call for comment required of federal agencies for such major policy changes.

The American Legion - largest of the nation's veterans service organizations with 2.8 million members, is petitioning the federal appeals court to block the new order because it would violate federal law, ample judicial precedent, and the VA's own regulations.

VA officials contend they had to change the regulations because of a little-noticed July ruling by the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, a three-judge panel created a decade ago when Congress reformed the VA structure.

*(Editors note: This article appeared in the October 17, issue of the Asbury Park Press. I thank Post member Sal Bastiani for bringing this article to my attention)*



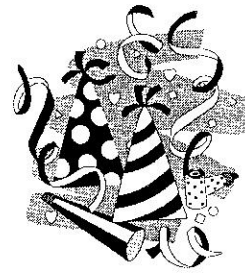
**Ho Ho Ho Ho Ho Ho Ho Ho Ho Ho**

## Children's Holiday Party

On Sunday, December 19th at 1:00pm, the Post will hold its annual *Children's Holiday Party*. As always **Santa Claus** will arrive at the Post on the **40&8 Locomotive and Caboose**, and will take the children on rides through the neighborhood. At the Post, there will be face painters, games, raffles, music, gifts, candy, food and soda for all. Of course, admission is **FREE**.

**Important** - If you want your child/grandchild to receive a gift from Santa himself, you must bring a wrapped gift, with your child's name on it, to the Post. We will put the gift in Santa's bag. So come on down and watch your kids have a ball. Just call the Post, give us your name and how many children you're bringing and we'll do the rest. There's no better children's holiday party than ours.

**Ho Ho Ho Ho Ho Ho Ho Ho Ho Ho**



## Post Holiday Party

This year's Holiday Party for Post members will take place after our regular Post meeting on Friday, December 10th. So come on down for a good time. See old friends or make new ones. Eat, drink and be merry (but not too merry, *hic*).

## Military Collectibles Show

On Saturday, November 20th, from 9:00am to 3:00pm, there will be an All Military Collectibles Show at the Labetti VFW Post in Grasmere (390 Hylan Blvd). There will be 90 dealers tables showcasing insignias, books, flags, edged weapons, helmets, documents, etc.. Admission is \$5.00.

BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY ENGAGEMENT RETIREMENT

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The Post has a modern hall facility that can accommodate from 40 to 100 people. The rental fee is \$450.00 (\$400.00 to Post members\*) for 5 hours usage (One hour to Set-up, Four hours to party).

#### Included in the price:

Soda (Coke, Diet Coke, Ginger Ale, 7-up, Tonic Water, Club Soda, Red Birch Beer and Water), Soda Cups, Ice Cubes, Coffee, Sanka, Tea, Decaffeinated Tea, Milk, Sugar, Sugar Substitutes, Stirrers, Coffee Cups, a Bartender and Clean-up Person.

Come on down any Monday or Friday night after 8:00pm and see it for yourself. Just ask for Gene. He'll be happy to show you around. You'll be glad you did.

#### Why pay more and get less?

\*With 2+ years membership with our Post.

## The Commander's Message

*(Continued from page 1)*

On a somber note, the Richmond County American Legion will hold its annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Service on December 7th, at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal at 9:00am. Please join us to pay homage to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Since this is the last newsletter for the year, I want to wish all of our members and their families a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas. In addition, I also want to wish you a very happy and healthy New Year as we enter a new millennium.

In closing, I want to especially thank Mrs. Rosemarie Cordes for her generous contribution to our Post. I'd like Rosemary to know that her donation will be used to help next year's Essay Contest for Sixth Grade Students. All our members salute you Rosemarie. Thank you and may God bless you.

Yours for the Legion,  
*Pat Miserendino*

**Post Commander**

## TAPS

**William B. Ready**

9/27/98

**Edward A. Mistler**

10/1/99

**Edward J. Nutley**

10/22/99

**Richard Reichart**

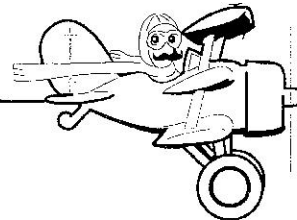
10/29/99

*May They Rest in Peace*

## Korean War Commemorative Medal

It took the Department of the Army almost 50 years, but it finally approved the **Korean War Commemorative Medal, 1950-1953**. All veterans who served in this war are eligible to receive it. For more information, contact the Korean War Veterans Association.

## Calendar of Events



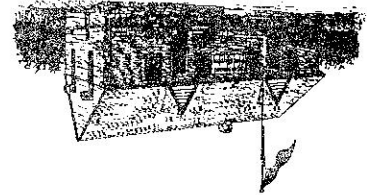
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|------------------------|-----------------|---|
| <b><u>November</u></b> | 2th, Tuesday    | - <b>Election Day.</b> Get out and vote.  |
|                        | 10th, Wednesday | - <i>United States Marine Corps</i> Established (1775).                               |
|                        | 11th, Thursday  | - <b>Veterans Day.</b> * American Legion ceremonies at S.I. Mall, 10:00am.            |
|                        | 12th, Friday    | - <b>Honors and Awards Night</b> at the Post, 8:30pm.                                 |
|                        | 19th, Friday    | - County Meeting, 7:30pm to be held at the Cespino-Russo Post in South Beach.         |
|                        | 24th, Wednesday | - <i>Sons of the American Legion</i> , Membership Meeting 8:00pm at the Post.         |
|                        | 25th, Thursday  | - <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> *   |
|                        | 26th, Friday    | - Membership Meeting, 8:30pm at the Post.   |
| <b><u>December</u></b> | 4rd, Saturday   | - First day of <b>Hanukkah</b> .  |
|                        | 7th, Tuesday    | - National <b>Pearl Harbor</b> Remembrance Day. * Ceremony at the S.I. Ferry, 9:00am. |
|                        | 10th, Friday    | - Membership Meeting, 8:30pm at the Post.   |
|                        | 17th, Friday    | - County Meeting, 7:30pm to be held at the Joseph Merrill Post in West Brighton.      |
|                        | 22nd, Wednesday | - <i>Sons of the American Legion</i> , Membership Meeting, 8:00pm at the Post.        |
|                        | 25th, Saturday  | - <b>Christmas Day</b> *  |
|                        | 31st, Friday    | - <b>New Year's Eve.</b> Official End of World War II (1946).                         |



\* Fly the Flag



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